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Due to lack of knowledge about the law, a lot of times businesses find it extremely difficult to seek legal remedies when their trade secrets are stolen. In addition, in the event when complicated technologies are involved in trade secret thefts, businesses will have to learn about how to respond and how to prepare materials needed—such as a checklist for reporting an intellectual property crime—in a short span of time, which is necessary to help law enforcement officers gain an understanding about what has happened right away. Such issues are all things that businesses need to have a grasp of to afford greater protection to their trade secrets.

To better support businesses on this front, TIPO will team up with the Taiwan Association for Trade Secrets Protection (TTSP) and jointly hold three seminars on appropriate confidentiality measures this summer. Law enforcement officers as well as business managers with relevant real-world experience are invited to talk about topics such as the checklist for trade secret thefts, current investigation practices, as well as measures can be adopted to ensure appropriate confidentiality. TIPO representatives will also brief the audience on the Trade Secrets Act, in the hope of supporting businesses to establish an effective system to protect trade secrets and to develop their response strategies for possible damages in the future.

Three seminars will be held this time around, in National Taiwan University (May 4), National Cheng Kung University (June 8), and the Central Taiwan Science Park (June 29). Registration for the event starts now.

To register and for details about the event, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=665222&ctNode=7127&mp=1>



TIPO is to hold four information sessions on trademark laws and relevant cases

TIPO is to hold four information sessions on April 25, April 26, May 3, and May 4, respectively, to inform the public legal opinions of the Petitions and Appeals Committee and the IP Court over disputed trademark cases. A variety of topics will be covered, such as “the eight main reasons causing trademark confusions”, “the confusion or dilution of well-known trademarks”, “the attempt to copy, imitate, or use unregistered trademarks”, and “the use of registered trademarks”. By looking at trademark cases, relevant laws, and prerequisites for the application of the laws (including the types of trademarks), TIPO aims to clarify the key points of contention in disputed trademark cases.



The Guidelines on the Hearing System for Patent Invalidity Cases will come to effect on March 30, 2018

TIPO has published contents of the Guidelines on the Hearing System for Patent Invalidity Cases on March 1 this year and made changes of wording according to public opinions collected since then. The Guidelines will come into effect on March 30, 2018. Major provisions in the Guidelines include:

- (1) Parties concerned in a patent invalidation case can make a suggestion about holding a hearing. TIPO can also decide to hold a hearing on a case-by-case basis when necessary.
- (2) Hearings of patent invalidation cases will be conducted by a panel made up of three examiners before an examination decision is made to ensure that the examination is carried out in a detailed and comprehensive manner.
- (3) Parties concerned in a patent invalidation case can make an oral statement when a point of contention is confirmed, allowing them to have all of their opinions heard, which can help clear things up and unearth the truth.
- (4) In general, hearings concerning patent invalidation cases are open to the public. In addition to stakeholders of the patent in dispute, the public can also attend and observe the hearing by making an application online, allowing the participation of a wider audience.

By introducing practices such as a panel and a public hearing—which allows greater participation of the public—to the Guidelines on the Hearing System for Patent Invalidity Cases, it is hoped that the accuracy of examination results on patent invalidity cases will improve, and that people will develop a greater trust in the decisions.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=663893&ctNode=7127&mp=1>



TIPO Director General Hong Shu-min gives talks in Japan

On March 18-21, 2018, TIPO Director General Hong Shu-min visited Tokyo and gave talks to Japanese businesses on such topics as the legal regime and examination practices concerning non-traditional trademarks, as well as new patent-related measures adopted in Taiwan, at the invitation of the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association. In the talks, real-world cases were illustrated to elaborate on Taiwan's legal regime for non-traditional trademarks as well as the IP Court. Other topics touched upon include the extension of patent terms and the introduction of the patent interview 2.0” system. By holding such exchanges, it is hoped that Japanese business will gain a better understanding about Taiwan's IP environment.



TIPO representatives attend the 46th meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG 46)

On February 27-28, 2018, TIPO officials attended the 46th meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG 46) in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. During the meeting, TIPO officials briefed on four topics, including “Trade Secrets Protective Legal Regimes and Practice”, “Measures to Enhance Patent Examination Quality” “Guidelines on the Best Licensing Practices of Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) to MSMEs” and “Measures to Help Right Holders and Advertisers Avoid Placing Advertisement on Infringing Websites”, and shared experiences with other member economies. Earlier, on

February 25, TIPO officials also attended “Trademark Infringement Determinations in a Border Enforcement Context”, a seminar held by the US in the same city, to exchange views with representatives of other countries about the determination of trademark infringement at the border.



TIPO releases an analysis report on trends regarding FinTech patents

The FinTech industry has booming in many countries, and the number of FinTech patents has been on the increase over the years. In contrast, the number of FinTech-related patents in Taiwan is relatively low, and the island lacks many of the core technologies to develop the industry. To provide support, in 2017, TIPO made an analysis report on statistics concerning FinTech-related patent applications on the international stage over the past ten years, in an attempt to find out the direction of technology development and application for the FinTech industry in the future. The report also covers patent documents of international core technologies, contents of such technologies, as well as analysis on the future trends of them. It is hoped that the report can serve as a reference point for domestic financial-related industries interested in expanding their FinTech patent portfolios.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=663332&ctNode=7127&mp=1>



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