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## Latest News

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### ▶ TIPO expands the IPR Action Plan section on its website

### ▶ TIPA runs training courses for IP practitioners

## TIPO News & Events

## Enforcement

### ▶ TIPO wraps up the backlog reduction project

### ▶ TIPO updates its e-learning materials concerning the use of the patent search system of mainland China

### ▶ TIPO updates its Cross-strait Concordance List of Similar Group Codes (Corresponding to Nice Classification 11th edition, Version 2018 (NCL 11-2018))

### ▶ Application for the service of TIPO's IPR Protection Service Group in 2018 is now open

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With the MOU in place, the two offices will be able to enhance mutual understanding and work even more closely together, which will certainly bring substantive benefits to industries and applicants in Taiwan and Europe. It will also pave the way for more future cooperation, making it possible for the two sides to develop stronger strategic partnership, create an environment more conducive to IPR protection, and provide better services to applicants in general.



## TIPO expands the IPR Action Plan section on its website

TIPO has expanded the IPR Action Plan section on its website to include more materials such as IPR Action Plans of different periods of years, law enforcement results and statistics of competent authorities, statistics on the investigation of counterfeit offences, court rulings on IPR infringement cases, as well as IPR awareness campaigns and related reports. By so doing, it is hoped that the public will have a better knowledge about measures Taiwan has taken to curb piracy through its IPR Action Plans.



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## **TIPA runs training courses for IP practitioners**

To improve the capacity of professional IP practitioners, TIPO has commissioned the Taiwan Intellectual Property Training Academy (TIPA) to run a series of training courses designed for IP professionals, starting in March 2018. Classes covered in the program include: (1) IPR Basics; (2) the Writing of Patent Specifications; (3) Patent Examination Guidelines; (4) Patent Application Process Control and Management; (5) Patent Search Analysis and Value-added Application; (6) Trademark Application and Management; (7) Patent Litigation; and (8) Patent Infringement Assessment. All of the above classes put a strong focus on real-world practices. In addition, TIPO will also hold certification exams for intellectual property professionals in July and August this year. Also with a major focus on real-world practices, these will be the only certification exams designed to test the professional capacity of IP practitioners in Taiwan.



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## **TIPO wraps up the backlog reduction project**

Under the auspices of the Executive Yuan, TIPO has since 2010 been carrying out a patent backlog reduction project, which has been completed recently at the end of 2017, with a total of 431,255 cases being examined and closed, exceeding the original target of 413,316 by 17,939 cases. Among them, the backlog of pending invention patent applications had dropped to about 44,000, a great achievement by the office.

With regard to patent pendency, in comparison with the Five IP Offices (IP5), in 2016, the average patent pendency at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) was 25.6 months and the European Patent Office (EPO) 26.5 months, both longer than that of TIPO (19.8 months). In 2017, the figure in Taiwan was further reduced to 16 months, improving opportunities for applicants to expand their patent portfolios around the globe and enhancing Taiwan's industries more competitive as a whole.

In addition, TIPO provided training to examiners with fixed-terms as well as R&D substitute service draftees involved in the backlog reduction project. As such, in addition to helping reducing backlogs during their services at TIPO, they will be able to bring their skills to other private entities or businesses after the project is closed, allowing them to continue providing patent-related professional services. In other words, the project has also helped cultivate professional talents specializing in patents.

In the future, TIPO plans to continue striking a balance between the number of patent applications and that of cases examined, in the hope of preventing backlogs from taking place again. In addition, it will follow examples of advanced countries, in the hope of further improving patent examination efficiency and quality while providing better services.



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## **TIPO updates its e-learning materials concerning the use of the patent search system of mainland China**

TIPO has updated its e-learning materials concerning the use of the patent search system of mainland China in the section dedicated to promoting the commercialization of patents on TIPO's website. The new operation interface is easy to use, and the materials are equipped with clear examples, which would certainly help make learning more efficient.

For more information, please visit:

<https://pcm.tipo.gov.tw/PCM2010/PCM/Course/MainPage.aspx?id=143>



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## **TIPO updates its Cross-strait Concordance List of Similar Group Codes (Corresponding to Nice Classification 11th edition, Version 2018 (NCL 11-2018))**

As the 2018 version of the 11th edition of the Nice Classification (NCL) of WIPO has come into force, TIPO has updated its Cross-strait Concordance List of Similar Group Codes (corresponding to NCL (11-2018). By so doing, it is hoped that the list can serve as a reference point when people try to identify the classification of designated goods and/or services or to carry out a search for similar trademarks already pending or registered, thereby affording users across the Taiwan Strait an opportunity to develop better advance planning before they file trademark applications.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=659796&ctNode=7127&mp=1>



## Application for the service of TIPO's IPR Protection Service Group in 2018 is now open

Every year, TIPO would recruit IPR experts and scholars and form the IPR Protection Service Group, which would tour the country giving promotional talks. The talks are interactive, allowing participants to gain a better knowledge about IPR matters in a lively manner. Businesses, schools, and government agencies are welcome to apply for such service if they have a crowd of 30 people (20 people for businesses). Applicants could also decide on the date and the topic. The two-hour talk would be totally free, and application for the service this year is now open.



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Intellectual Property Office  
Ministry of Economic Affairs R.O.C.

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