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▶ Amendments to the Guide to the Preparation of Design Patent Drawings is promulgated on July 20, 2017

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To this end, TIPO held a public hearing on July 17, 2017, to discuss possible amendments to the Guidelines. In the meeting, experts of a wide range of circles were invited. Topics touched upon included non-visually perceptible scent trademarks; how the trademark representation should be presented so that it meets requirements of clarity, specificity, self-containment, objectivity, durability, and easy accessibility and intelligence; how to use written descriptions of the trademark and a specimen of the trademark to facilitate examination; as well as when applicants should furnish a specimen of the trademark and how to have it well stored. A consensus was reached on the need of a more open attitude when it comes to examining scent trademarks in the future.



To comply with the Examination Guidelines on the Substantive Examination of Design Patents, TIPO has made amendments to the Guide to the Preparation of Design Patent Drawings and had them promulgated on July 20, 2017. Amendments about general principles were made in areas such as ways of drawing disclosures, views that do not claim colors, as well as the sufficient views of design drawings must contain. In addition, examples such as computer-generated icons were also added to the new version.



Taiwan-Poland PPH Mottainai program is launched on August 1, 2017

The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Mottainai program between the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office (TIPO) and the Polish Patent Office (PPO) is to commence on August 1, 2017. This is yet another achievement by TIPO, after it forged cooperation with its counterparts in the US, Japan, Spain, and South Korea on PPH programs.

For more information about the TIPO-PPO PPH MOTTAINAI program and the application form, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/lp.asp?CtNode=7556&CtUnit=3679&BaseDSD=7&mp=2> °



The Advisory Committee on Patent Examination Quality holds a meeting on April 17, 2017, to promote better patent examination quality

On April 17, 2017, the Advisory Committee on Patent Examination Quality held its first meeting this year, to discuss the following three topics: a project report on the design of the patent examination review mechanism; plans to improve the interview quality; and an analysis on the similarity of corresponding design patent cases on partial designs between Taiwan and Japan. Reports on these topics were presented and members of the committee were consulted for their opinions.

During the meeting, a number of issues have been pointed out by members of the committee, including: (1) TIPO's practice of annulling its administrative disposition on its own initiative and further issuing an office action; (2) the number of people allowed to make a statement in an interview; and (3) the predictability of examination timeline. In response, TIPO has provided explanations and put them on its website.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=630663&ctNode=7127&mp=1>



TIPO holds seminars on IPR practices for the year 2017

TIPO has held a series of seminars on IPR practices for the year 2017 at Taipei, Taichung, Tainan, Kaohsiung, and Hsinchu on June, 28, 30, July 6, 7, and 14, respectively. A total of 334 people have attended these events. Topics touched upon include patent examination practices and examples, tips about carrying out patent and trademark examinations, as well as proposed amendment issues for the Patent Act. In addition, consultation periods were arranged at these seminars to inquire audience about future amendment suggestions for the Patent Act.

Presentation slides, meeting materials, as well as TIPO's response to relevant questions at the seminars have been put on its website.

For more information, please visit:

https://www.tipo.gov.tw/lp.asp?CtNode=7127&CtUnit=3195&BaseDSD=7&mp=1&xq_xCat=Other



TIPO releases its IPR statistics for the first half of 2017, on July 26, 2017

In the first half of 2017, TIPO received a total of 35,566 applications for invention, utility model, and design patents, a 3 percent increase from the same period last year; and a total of 40,390 trademark applications, a 6 percent increase from the same period last year.

1. Patent applications

The first half of 2017 saw a total of 35,566 applications for all three types of patents, a 3 percent increase from the same period last year. Among them, there were 21,913 inventions and 3,959 design patent applications, representing an increase of 6 and 0.4 percent from the previous year, respectively. On the other hand, the number of applications for the utility model has dropped 2 percent to 9,694 in comparison with last year.

Among invention patent applications, by citizenship of applicants, 8,086 applications were filed by Taiwanese nationals while 13,827 ones filed by foreigners, representing a 9 and 5 percent year-on-year increase, respectively. By nationality of applicants of foreign origins, Japan topped the list with 6,275 applications, followed by the US (3,244), South Korea (822), mainland China (807), and Hong Kong (589).

2. Trademark applications

The first half of 2017 saw a total of 40,390 applications for trademarks, a 6 percent increase from the same period last year.

By citizenship of applicants, 30,028 applications were filed by Taiwanese nationals while 10,362 ones filed by foreigners, representing an 8 percent increase and a 2 percent drop from the previous year, respectively.

By nationality of applicants of foreign origins, mainland China topped the list with 2,082 applications, followed by Japan (1,841), the US (1,692), Hong Kong (713), and South Korea (668).



TIPO adopts the latest IPC on August 1, 2017

TIPO has uploaded the latest International Patent Classification (IPC 2017.01) on its website. Starting from August 1, new applications for patents will be classified in accordance with this latest version, which will start to apply to Taiwan's Patent Gazette and Patent Application Publication Gazette on August 21 and October 1, 2017, respectively.



TIPO is to hold a seminar on reasonable measures to maintain the secrecy of trade secrets with the TTSP

Due to lack of knowledge about the law, a lot of measures adopted by businesses to protect and manage their trade secrets do not meet the three requirements necessary for such information to be deemed as trade secrets, making it impossible for them to seek legal remedies when the trade secret is misappropriated. In addition, in the event when their rights are infringed, businesses are also in dire need to learn about how to respond and how to prepare materials needed in a short span of time – such as an explanation sheet, which can help law enforcement officials gain an understanding about what has happened right away – so as to prevent such infringements from happening again.

To provide businesses the support they need to protect their trade secrets, TIPO worked with the Taiwan Association for Trade Secrets Protection (TTSP) and jointly held a seminar on reasonable measures to maintain the secrecy of trade secrets on August 25 at the Hsinchu Science Park. Law enforcement officials as well as business managers with relevant real-world experience were invited for discussions. By so doing, it is hoped that businesses would gain a better understanding about how to establish an effective system to protect their trade secrets while coming up with their response strategies for misappropriation in the future.



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

Office Hours: 9:00~12:00, 13:30~17:30 Add : 185 Hsinhai Rd., Sec. 2, 3F; Taipei 10637, Taiwan, R.O.C

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Tel : +886-(02)-2738-0007 Fax : +886-(02)-2377-9875