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- ▶ TIPO publishes its 2016 Annual Report on April 26, 2017. The Chinese version of the report is available on its website and an English translation will be ready soon.
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convenient and efficient PPH service to respective applicants. To access request form and detailed information on PPH procedures, please refer to TIPO's website (<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/lp.asp?ctNode=6716&CtUnit=3227&BaseDSD=7&mp=1>) or JPO's website (http://www.jpo.go.jp/torikumi_e/t_torikumi_e/japan_taiwan_highway_e.htm).



TIPO updates its Cross-strait Concordance List of Similar Group Codes (Corresponding to Nice Classification 11th edition, Version 2017 (NCL 11-2017))

As the 11th edition of the Nice Classification (NCL) of the WIPO (11-2017) has come into force this year, TIPO updated its Cross-strait Concordance List of Similar Group Codes (corresponding to Nice Classification 11th edition, version 2017 (NCL 11-2017)). By so doing, it is hoped that the list can serve as a reference 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 of cross-strait the opportunity to develop better advance planning before they file trademark applications.



TIPO updates its classification list and search information of goods and services for the purpose of trademark registration

To keep its services up to date, TIPO has reviewed its current classification list of goods and services for the purpose of trademark registration, and edited and added 33 items, deleted five items, and amended five titles or remarks of similar groups. The change has taken effect from July 1, 2017.



TIPO publishes its 2016 Annual Report on April 26, 2017. The Chinese version of the report is available on its website and an English translation will be ready soon.



Over the past year, colleagues at TIPO have worked together to improve examination quality, provide timely and much-needed support to businesses, and promote international cooperation and exchanges, resulting in a sound environment highly conducive to IPR protection in Taiwan. Details of these achievements are available in TIPO's 2016 Annual Report. With regard to patent examination, TIPO has eagerly carried out its backlog reduction project in 2016. As a result, the average first OA pendency for invention patent applications has dropped to 12 months and the average disposal pendency reduced to 20 months, a record close to that of more successful countries. At the same time, the average first OA pendency for trademark applications has maintained its record, standing at about 5.4 months. As for examination quality, the current examination review mechanism has been improved, with a higher percentage of cases being reviewed today, so as to avoid possible blind spots in the examination process. In addition, a more attentive standard operating procedure has been established to support the mechanism while a new task force has also been set up, dedicated to drawing up short-, medium- and long-term planning for the mechanism and carrying out the reviews. In terms of support for industrial transformation and development, TIPO has held a series of information sessions, in an effort to tap into the innovation strengths of SMEs and educational institutions in IPR field while encouraging them to commercialize their research results. In addition, TIPO has provided patent portfolio and patent trend analysis for companies in the Fintech and green energy sectors, with an attempt to boost growth in relevant industries. Moreover, TIPO keeps updating its online IP SME corner, in the hope of making it easier for SMEs to find government counsel and funding support. With regard to international cooperation, the priority document

exchange (PDX) program between Taiwan and South Korea has come into effect on January 1, 2016. In addition, patent prosecution highway (PPH) programs between Taiwan and the US, Japan, and South Korea, and the PDX program between Taiwan and Japan are all running smoothly, bringing Taiwan's patent examination process in line with international standards while allowing cross-border applicants to get their rights protected in a more speedy manner. More project results and relevant data of TIPO are available in the annual report. For more information, please visit: <https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=483190&ctNode=6950&mp=1>.



Guidelines for the examination of patent applications involving traditional intellectual creations of indigenous peoples comes into effect on June 26, 2017

The indigenous peoples in Taiwan are very unique in terms of their religious ceremonies, music, dance, songs, sculptures, weaving, patterns, clothing, folk crafts, and any other expression of the cultural achievements. To respect their traditional culture and protect the intellectual property rights of their creations, TIPO has recently drawn up a set of guidelines for the examination of patent applications involving traditional intellectual creations of indigenous peoples. By so doing, it is hoped that the prior art in relation to indigenous skills or craftsmanship that have been publicly disclosed will not be neglected during the examination process and judgements made by examiners will become more consistent. The guidelines have come into effect on June 26, 2017. In the future, when examining relevant cases, in addition to using all types of search tools available to look for prior art, TIPO examiners will also seek help from the Council of Indigenous Peoples if necessary, in the hope of providing more comprehensive protection to intellectual creations of indigenous peoples.



TIPA offers training and strategic courses designed for IP practitioners and IP managers

To improve the quality of patent applications and equip businesses with the ability to defend themselves when get involved in IP litigation, the Taiwan Intellectual Property Training Academy (TIPA) has been running a training course for IP practitioners such as law practitioners, engineers, and IP personnel in businesses. This year, in addition to continuing providing this training course, the TIPA will offer a new strategic course designed for IP managers and other executives in businesses. The courses are believed to be of great help in improving participant's expertise in intellectual property. In fact, according to a follow-up survey conducted by TIPO, 82.8% of participants of the 2015 class believed that the training is helpful for their job-seeking or job-changing endeavors; 69.4% thought that it is useful for their future promotion or performance evaluation; and 28.3% said they have had a pay rise since they took part in the training—showing the impressive results of the courses. For more information about relevant courses, please visit the website of TIPA.



The 2017 Taiwan-EU IPR Working Group video conference takes place in May

The 2017 Taiwan-EU IPR Working Group video conference took place on May 3. In the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and shared information on a variety of topics, including law amendments, IPR policies and practices, law enforcement results, and IPR cooperation efforts. Both sides agreed that many positive results have been achieved and mutual relationship on IPR cooperation will become closer in the future.



Members of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) pay a visit to TIPO

On May 8, 2017, members of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) paid a visit to TIPO, and briefed TIPO patent examiners on a number of topics, including the inter partes review, patent subject matter eligibility, and relevant litigation cases, before

they had more discussions together.



TIPO conducts a public hearing on May 16, 2017, to discuss the establishment of two more music copyright CMOs

Currently, there are two collective management organizations (CMOs) managing music works in Taiwan: the Music Copyright Society of Chinese Taipei (MÜST) and the Music Copyright Intermediary Society of Taiwan (TMCS). However, many rights-holders of songs in a number of native languages, such as Taiwanese, Hakka and Aboriginal languages, are just not members of these two CMOs, making it difficult for potential users, such as TV stations, radio stations and karaoke bars, to get authorization. It is against the backdrop that the Association of Original Music Copyright Taiwan (AOMT) and the Asia-Pacific Music Creators Alliance (APMA) applied to TIPO in 2016 to establish CMOs, dedicated to facilitating the authorization of classic songs in Mandarin, Taiwanese, and other non-mainstream songs. A variety of issues need to be taken into consideration before a CMO is established. For example, is the current authorization of intangible economic rights for insubstantial use of works, such as public broadcasting, effective enough? Do users find it difficult to get licensing under the current scheme? Do the two applicants have the capacities needed to run CMOs? And is there still room in the market for another CMO? Therefore, on May 16, 2017, TIPO conducted a public hearing to discuss the abovementioned issues with relevant stakeholders, including rights-holders, music production companies, record companies, radio stations, TV stations, KTVs, karaoke machines providers, as well as online video platforms (OVP).



TIPO hosts a workshop entitled “Why not join a CMO?” on June 5, 2017

To give music creators a better understanding about copyright CMOs and how they function, and to encourage rights-holders to join these CMOs, thereby creating a more favorable environment for copyright licensing, on June 5, 2017, TIPO held a workshop entitled “Why not join a CMO?”. In the event, TIPO officials gave an introduction about the CMO system in Taiwan. In addition, renowned musicians were invited to talk about why they joined a CMO, what were the benefits to join a CMO, stories about their music creations, and the development of the music industry as a whole.



TIPO holds a meeting to discuss the patent term extension and relevant examination guidelines on June 20, 2017

To further improve the system governing the patent term extension, TIPO is conducting a comprehensive review of relevant provisions in the Patent Act, in particular Article 53, and considering whether to impose a ceiling on the total length of patent terms after a regulatory approval has been granted. With regard to the examination practice of patent term extension, people from different circles have expressed their concerns about certain examination guidelines, such as the definition of an active ingredient noted on the first regulatory approval; whether the criteria of first regulatory approval should be relaxed; the harmonization of starting and ending dates for domestic and international clinical trials; whether the preliminary review period for agricultural pesticides should be regarded as part of their formal examination period; and the scope of application of Article 9 of the Regulations governing the patent term extension. TIPO held a meeting on June 20 to consult people from different circles their opinions on the abovementioned topics.



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

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