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TIPO presents the 2016 National Invention and Creation Award on April 25, 2017

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comparison with previous years, there is a higher percentage of patents that have been put to commercial use, either via technology transfer or by granting licensing to companies home and abroad, showing progress in the government's efforts to push for cooperation between industry, academia, and research institutions, and the fact that inventors today are placing greater emphasis on putting their patents to commercial or industrial use. Winners of this year span a wide spectrum of fields, such as green technology, biotechnology and medicine, and smart machines. They are not only innovative and highly practical, but also have considerable market potential and are capable of creating tremendous business opportunities.



TIPO Director General Shu-min Hong visits Tokyo and Osaka and gives talks to Japanese businesses

To promote IPR exchanges and cooperation between Taiwan and Japan, TIPO Director General Shu-min Hong visited Tokyo and Osaka and gave talks to Japanese businesses on the systems for geographical certification marks and geographical collective trademarks in Taiwan, on March 20-24, 2017, at the invitation of the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association. In addition, the Taiwanese delegation also briefed on Taiwan's examination practices for trademark squatting cases as well as paid a visit to the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA) and the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property of Japan (AIPPI JAPAN). During these meetings, the two sides exchanged views on a number of issues, including IPR events around the world, as well as Taiwan's plans and timetables for the amendment of its IPR-related laws, such as the Patent Act, the Trademark Act, and the Copyright Act, in which the Japanese businesses have expressed a great interest.



Taiwan and the US signs an MOU to strengthen cooperation on combatting intellectual property infringement and trade fraud crimes

On February 22, 2017, Taiwan and the US signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Washington D.C. to strengthen cooperation on combatting intellectual property infringement and trade fraud crimes. The two sides agreed to facilitate cooperation between law enforcement authorities and to work together to share best practices, techniques, and information. The signing of the MOU marks the advancement of mutual cross-border, cross-discipline, and cross-department cooperation between Taiwan and the US authorities, which is indeed an important milestone for Taiwan-US IPR cooperation. After the signature, prosecution, police, investigation, and customs authorities in Taiwan, such as the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Investigation Bureau of the MOJ, the National Police Agency of the Ministry of the Interior, and the Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance, will be able to work even more closely together with their counterparts in the US, on investigations of cross-border and new types of crimes. They will also be able to better share relevant techniques and practices, thereby allowing them to fight against IPR offences in a more effective manner. The MOU will also support law enforcement capacity building, which may prompt more effective IPR law enforcement and the creation of an environment more conducive to industrial innovation and cultural creations.



On May 5, 2017, a public hearing on draft amendments to the Trade Secrets Act is held

On May 5, 2017, TIPO held a public hearing on draft amendments to the Trade Secrets Act. Decisions made at the meeting are as follows: 1. Punishments for extraterritorial offences will remain offences indictable without complaint. 2. To promote international trade and encourage multinational companies to invest in Taiwan, it was added in the draft amendments that an unrecognized foreign juristic person may serve as a subject of litigation, in the hope of providing greater protection for their rights. The addition was referred to relevant regulations in the Trademark Act, the Copyright Act, and the Patent Act. 3. It was decided that protective orders would apply at the investigation stage. As for whether such an amendment should be included in the Intellectual Property Case Adjudication Act or the Trade Secrets Act, and whether the protective orders should be issued by the judge or the prosecutor, more discussions will be held by TIPO, the Judicial Yuan, and the Ministry of Justice. 4. It was added in the draft amendments that, if a foreigner's country of origin and Taiwan are both members of a multinational treaty on trade secrets protection, or if there is a trade secrets protection agreement in place, concluded by and between organizations or institutions, and approved by competent authorities, then relevant trade secrets should also be protected thereof.



An amendment to the Patent Act has come into effect on May 1, 2017

An amendment to the Patent Act was promulgated on January 18, 2017, and has come into force on May 1, 2017. More lenient requirements regarding the grace period were introduced in the amendments. Major revisions to the Patent Act include: 1. The grace period for invention and utility model patents is extended from six to 12 months preceding the domestic filing date. 2. Limitations based on the grounds of types of disclosures are removed. The grace period will now apply to the disclosures of invention, utility model and design patents with or without the applicants' intent. 3. Requirements for applicants to claim the grace period at the time of filing a patent application are removed.



TIPO IPR Statistics for the first quarter of 2017

In the first quarter of 2017, TIPO received a total of 17,670 applications for invention, utility model, and design patents, a 6 percent increase from the same period last year; and a total of 18,976 trademark applications, a 5 percent increase from the same period last year. 1. Patent applications (1) The first quarter of 2017 saw a total of 17,670 applications for all three types of patents, a 6 percent increase from the same period last year. Among them, there were 11,174 inventions, 4,659 utility model, and 1,837 design patent applications, representing an increase of 8, 2, and 3 percent from the previous year, respectively. (2) Among invention patent applications, by citizenship of applicants, 3,769 applications were filed by Taiwanese nationals while 7,405 ones filed by foreigners, representing an 8 and 9 percent year-on-year increase, respectively. By nationality of applicants of foreign origins, Japan topped the list with 3,540 applications, followed by the US (1,604), mainland China (425), Hong Kong (417), and South Korea (401). 2. Trademark applications (1) The first quarter of 2017 saw a total of 18,976 applications for trademarks, a 5 percent increase from the same period last year. (2) By citizenship of applicants, 14,097 applications were filed by Taiwanese nationals while 4,879 ones filed by foreigners, representing a 9 percent increase and a 5 percent drop from the previous year, respectively. (3) By nationality of applicants of foreign origins, mainland China topped the list with 934 applications, followed by Japan (877), the US (802), South Korea (304), and Hong Kong (296).



TIPO Director General Shu-min Hong met with Wakata Toshihide, Chief Commissioner of the IPR Commission of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Taipei

On April 11, 2017, TIPO Director General Shu-min Hong met with Wakata Toshihide, Chief Commissioner of the IPR Commission of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Taipei and received the fifth edition of a collection of trademark rights cases, a book compiled by the Chamber. Also attending the meeting was Gokan Toichiro, Director of the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association.



TIPO website stops supporting Windows XP and IE8 (or below), starting in June 2017, and TIPO urges users to upgrade the operating systems.

Starting in June 2017, TIPO will stop using the Triple Data Encryption (3DE) Algorithm, due to security concerns, and operating systems such as Windows XP or browsers such as IE8 (or below) will not be able to access TIPO website, including the official website and its TIPO Net, as a result. Therefore, TIPO urges users to upgrade their operating systems to Windows 7 (or above), and to access TIPO website via browsers such as Chrome, Firefox, or IE9 (or above).



TIPO's management system for copyright inspection certificates will shut down on May 28, 2017

As guidelines on the inspection of copyright inspection certificates in the event of exporting audiovisual works or OEM audio CDs have been repealed, TIPO's management system for copyright inspection certificates has stopped accepting applications from March 1, 2017. The whole system shut down on May 28, 2017.



Registration for the 2017 Taipei International Invention Show and Technomart starts

To boost innovation and encourage the integration of inventions, innovation, and investment, the 2017 Taipei International Invention Show and Technomart will take place on September 28-30 at Exhibition Hall 1 of the Taipei World Trade Center. Registration for the event starts now. There will be two exhibition areas for this year's invention show: the invention competition area, where innovative products will be displayed, and the technology transaction area, where technologies can be traded and information be exchanged. An invention competition will also be held at the invention competition area. Information such as guidelines for the competition and the registration form are available at the website of the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), the organizer of the event. Registration for the competition starts now. For those interested in taking part in the exhibition, please contact Ms. Lei of TAITRA by phone on (02)2725-5200 (Ext 2672). For more information, please visit: www.inventaipai.com.tw or email the organizer at invent@taitra.org.tw.



TIPO starts taking suggestions via a feedback email to improve patent examination quality

TIPO has continued working on improving the quality of patent examinations over the years. TIPO now takes suggestions from the public via a feedback email. People can email hotline@tipo.gov.tw with their ideas to help TIPO improve patent examination quality. TIPO welcomes comments and opinions of all sorts.



TIPO sets up a new section on its website, dedicated to providing information regarding geographical certification marks for the reference of applicants and the public

To strengthen protection over goods or services with a given reputation or other characteristic attributable to their geographic origin, Taiwan has made an amendment to its Trademark Act in 2011 to include regulations governing the registration of geographical certification marks in the law. As of March 31, 2017, 53 geographical certification marks and 50 geographical collective trademarks (herein referred as geographical marks) were granted. When goods or services with a given reputation or other characteristic attributable to their geographic origin are protected from being counterfeited by goods or services of other geographic origins, the rights of local producers of such goods or services will be protected, the value of local products or services will be boosted, farmers' incomes will grow, and the rights of consumers will be further strengthened. Therefore, TIPO has been promoting the registration of geographical marks for many years. On March 20, 2017, TIPO started a new section on its website dedicated to information regarding geographical marks. In this section, people can find information such as a pamphlet about the basics regarding geographical marks, guidelines on application and relevant samples, samples regarding the regulations governing the use of the geographical marks, and the list of products having registered for geographical marks. In particular, in the pamphlet, people can find information such as stats of registered geographical marks, application requirements, the application process, requirements on the applicant and relevant restrictions, as well as contents to be included in the regulations governing the use of the marks. The above information is available at the new section of the website for the reference of applicants and the public.





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Ministry of Economic Affairs R.O.C.

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