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MOEA convenes the 1st IPR protection interagency coordination meeting of 2015

On February 26, the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) convened the "1st IPR protection interagency coordination meeting of 2015." At the meeting, TIPO and the Industrial Development Bureau respectively reported on "fair use in distant learning" and the "Taiwan Intellectual Property Management System (TIPS)." The attending agencies also exchanged feedback on the results of the "IPR Action Plan" of 2014. Following the addition of criminal liability in the amendment to the Trade Secrets Act of 2013, there have been a number of major crimes involving former employees usurping or leaking trade secrets of former employers. These crimes have not only caused ginormous economic losses to relevant corporations but also impacted fair marketing competition. Addressing the issues over trade secret misappropriation, TIPO has exchanged views with officials from the Ministry of Justice and National Police Administration of the Ministry of the Interior on how to strengthen trade secret enforcement, and has proposed tangible measures including a standard procedure for more comprehensive investigation and adjudication, strengthening training for enforcement officers, and facilitating interaction between public and private sectors, as well as cooperation across borders.



TIPO releases the list of top 100 patent applicants of 2014

According to TIPO's statistics on patent applications and patent certificate issuance in 2014, Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., Ltd. once again took the lead with 1,210 applications and 2,070 approved patents. Among foreign corporate applicants, Nitto Denko (469) and Sony Corp. (467) topped the charts in the number of applications and patent approvals, respectively. In 2014, TIPO received a total of 78,014 patent applications. Of these, applications (45,868, or a 9.6% decrease from 2013) by Taiwan nationals dropped to the lowest point in ten years. Applications (32,146) by foreign nationals saw a slight 1.1% decrease from 2013. Nitto Denko (469), the world's giant manufacturer of polarizers, climbed four notches to clinch the top spot for the first time. Applied Materials Inc. (455), the leader in precision material engineering, and LG Chem Ltd. (419), jumped to the 2nd and 3rd places, respectively. According to the list, the number of patent applications in 2014 was 25.0% less than in 2013. This overall slump was caused by a 31.4% decrease in the number of invention applications (6,105, or 2,709 less than in 2013), with corporations now being more cautious in their selection and portfolio of patents. In addition, academic and research institutes were becoming conservative patent applicants due to budget cut in government funding and an increasing emphasis on the results of technology transfer. For more information, go to <http://www.tipo.gov.tw/lp.asp?CtNode=6722&CtUnit=3232&BaseDSD=7&mp=1>



TIPO continues review of amendment to IPR provisions

On February 25, 2015, TIPO held a meeting on the draft amendment to the Copyright Act to exchange views with scholars and experts on whether public presentation and public performance should be combined, copyright registration, the enjoyment of economic rights of performers of audiovisual works, and whether compulsory licenses are required to produce music midi files for karaoke machines.



TIPO simplifies paperwork for patent application

Previously, patent applicants submitting priority documents were also required to also submit a copy of the first page plus two copies of Chinese translation of the first page of the priority documents. However, most of the priority documents issued nowadays by other IP offices comprise English translation of the first page. Considering this, TIPO has revised related regulations requiring that applicants now submitting priority documents no longer need to submit a copy of the first page and its Chinese translation. If necessary, applicants will be notified to submit priority documents along with said copies.



TIPO conducts training sessions for radio stations using the database of CMO-administered works

On January 1, 2014, TIPO began a pilot run of the database of CMO-administered works. This database enables radio stations and CMOS to access and compare the number of works being used. It also serves as a fair source of reference to those determining royalty rates of use. During this pilot run, TIPO added several features based on user and CMO feedback, including service records, export of service records, records of confirmed use, user account management, and newly-added types of service record formats. This database has begun its official operation starting January 2015. Three training sessions were held by TIPO on January 21, 22, and 26, 2015 in Taipei, Taichung, and Kaohsiung to familiarize radio stations with the database and its new features. Another training session for CMOS was held on February 10, 2015.



IPR Trends Q4 2014: Patent and Trademark Statistics

According to TIPO's latest IPR statistics, a total of 20,635 new patent applications were filed in Q4 2014, accounting for an 18.74% increase over the preceding quarter but a 9.37% decrease from Q4 2013. Of these, invention applications (12,465) saw a 10.39% decrease due to a slump in the number of invention applications (5,482, or -13.56% from Q4 2013) filed by Taiwan nationals. Invention applications filed by foreign nationals totaled 6,983, also seeing a 7.73% decrease from Q4 2013, while the number of overall applications remained unchanged for the year 2014. The top three invention filing countries are Japan (2,926), the US (1,876), and South Korea (496), all seeing a dip compared to Q4 2013. Mainland China (446, +17.68%), ranked 4th, is the only top five invention filing country seeing an increase in the number of applications. The year 2014 was a successful year in terms of TIPO's clearing up backlogs of invention patent applications. As of December 2014, the number of pending invention applications was down to 100,041. The average disposal pendency dropped to 29.68 months; first OA pendency was lowered to 21.16 months. TIPO hopes that the average disposal pendency can be lowered to 26 months by the end of 2015, and 22 months by the end of 2016. In addition to expediting examination, TIPO will continue to improve its in-person application counseling service, telephone communication skills, and substantive review of patent examination. In trademark, applications (19,116) were 2.60% less than in Q4 2014. Of these, applications filed by Taiwan nationals (14,130) and foreigners (4,986) respectively saw a decrease of 2.69% and 2.35%. The US (978) occupied the top spot, followed by Japan (908). Mainland China, placed 3rd, saw a 22.94% increase with 879 applications. Near the end of 2014, TIPO conducted a survey to seek opinions from experts and different sectors on the changing trends in patent application in Taiwan. In the work project of 2015, TIPO has planned out measures targeting four major areas including enhancing examination quality and efficacy, expanding IPR international and cross-strait exchanges, facilitating conveniences in the environment for patent application, as well as providing assistance to corporations to enhance their IPR capacity and value. These measures are aimed at creating an ideal environment for creation, helping corporations enhance their IPR capacity and value so that they will become better equipped to meet increasing international competition and challenges. For more information, go to [http://www.tipo.gov.tw/lp.asp?](http://www.tipo.gov.tw/lp.asp?CtNode=7123&CtUnit=3195&BaseDSD=7&mp=1)

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