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Latest News

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► Taiwan-Japan Economic and Trade Consultation Meeting on IPR Work Successfully Concluded

TIPO News & Events

- Elite Symposium on Patent Trends and Patent Litigation Analysis in the Communications Industry
- Winners of the 2014 National Invention and Creation Award
- International Symposium on Patent Application and Litigation Practices

Campus Awareness

- Activities of the Campus IPR Assistance Team for the Year 2014 Successfully Conducted

Enforcement

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Taiwan and Japan have had a long history of close economic and trading relation. Japan outnumbers other countries in biological deposits made in Taiwan for patent applications. Over the past 20 years, that number has reached 600 cases, second only to those made by Taiwan nationals. Once the program is in place, the biological materials of a patent application filed with TIPO that have been

deposited in a designated international depository in Japan may be furnished upon request by any party. As such, Taiwan is the first country not party to the Budapest Treaty with which Japan has signed a memorandum for the purpose of mutual recognition of deposits of biological materials.

Under this program, applicants are allowed to make only one deposit at a designated depository either in Taiwan or in Japan. In other words, applicants are no longer burdened with the inconvenience and cost of having to make a deposit in both countries. As a result, the program can significantly benefit domestic industries and academic institutes of biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and food sciences, such as the GenMont Biotech Inc., Bio-Ray Biotech Co., Ltd., and Academia Sinica. By the same token, this program meets the expectation of relevant sectors in Taiwan with the country's food science institutes now being recognized as equally eligible depositories capable of furthering cooperation with depositories in Japan.



Taiwan-Japan Economic and Trade Consultation Meeting on IPR Work Successfully Concluded

The 39th Taiwan-Japan Economic and Trade Consultation Meeting was convened on November 19-20 in Taipei. During this two-day event, the IPR working group meeting was also held, with representatives exchanging views on bilateral IPR cooperation. Taiwan and Japan have had fruitful exchanges of patent, trademark and design examiners. Both sides at the meeting exchanged views on extending applicability for novelty grace period, implementing patent rights involving computer software, indirect infringement, design patent rights, and the problems facing Taiwan applicants applying for trademark registration in Japan



Elite Symposium on Patent Trends and Patent Litigation Analysis in the Communications Industry



The Elite Symposium on Patent Trends in the Communications Industry and Patent Litigation Analysis was held by TIPO at NTU's Tsai Lecture Hall on November 18-19, with a total of 450 communications professionals in attendance. The issues covered at the symposium included: the environment for innovation in communications technology and industry, changes in the marketing trends for 4G LTE products, analysis of LTE standards-essential patent portfolios of global manufacturers, exploring 5G patent technologies and trends, strategies and factors for consideration of corporations participating in organizations for standardization, strategies for corporations negotiating with tech giants over patent licensing, how can the US's 2014 legislative changes help corporations win patent lawsuits, as well as disputes over determining the necessity of standards-essential patents and restrictions in exercising the rights. An expert panel discussion on the breakthrough strategies used by Taiwan corporations facing patent lawsuits was held, with TIPO's Director General Wang, Mei-hua as chair and MediaTek Inc.'s Vice President and General Counsel Wei-fu Hsu, Asustek's General Counsel Vincent Hong, Acer Inc.'s General Counsel Lydia Wu, AU Optronics Corp.'s Wu Tai-kang, and Finnegan LLP's attorney and partner Ming-gao Yang in attendance. This elite symposium focused on patent trends and the importance of patent litigation analysis, serving as useful reference for SMEs engaging in matters related to patent portfolios and coping with patent lawsuits.



Winners of the 2014 National Invention and Creation Award

Following four months of examination and reviewing procedure, TIPO announced the winners of this year's National Invention and

Creation Award. With the prize money totaling NT\$8.8m, the Award selected 44 winning patented creations from a pool of 414 eligible competitors. Of the winners, six golds and twenty silvers were conferred for the Invention Award. For the Creation Award, six golds and twelve silvers were conferred. This year's winning creations cover areas such as energy conservation and carbon emission reduction, Medicare involving biotechnology, and smart living. Uniquely innovative and highly applicable, many of these patented inventions are the results of industry-academia R&D efforts. In patent commercialization, the rate of technology transfer or licensing patent rights to domestic and foreign corporations peaked at 98%. With derivative effects possibly hitting billions of dollars, these inventions present significant market potentials and ginormous business opportunities. In the Invention Award, the patented "Display method for reducing color separation of LCDs" jointly developed by AU Optronics Corp. and National Chiao Tung University can effectively reduce energy consumption of LCD TVs. The output volume of LCD TV sets equipped with such technology totaled 36m in 2014; the energy thus saved is equal to the generation capacity of a nuclear power plant (9 billion kWh) for an entire year. In addition, the patented "Proline Derivatives" developed by the research team of the National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) are novel small molecule inhibitors of hepatitis C virus NS5A having strong inhibition and excellent curing effects for battling against hepatitis C virus. In the Creativity Award, the winning entries include electronic locks, electric lawn mower, lateral-driven skateboard, and collar and lapel structure. Of these, the lateral-driven skateboard combines the kinetics of a snake board and a skateboard, enabling riders to move forward by twisting the body and shifting the center of gravity. Made of unibody polypropylene, this lateral-driven skateboard is light, recyclable, has been certified with the European CE marking, and is gradually taking off in the EU market.



International Symposium on Patent Application and Litigation Practices

On November 13, 2014, TIPO held the International symposium on patent application and litigation practices, inviting experts from the US, Germany, and Japan to lecture on the remedies available to the owner of the right to apply for a patent, principles for explaining the scope of the claims of a patent, and determining infringement. These experts introduced and explained provisions in the US and Japan governing administrative and judicial remedies available to the owner of the right to apply for a patent whose inventions have been usurped and used to apply for a patent. Other issues concerning determining patent infringement were also analyzed from the perspective of relevant provisions in Japan and Germany. A total of over 90 people comprising judges, patent attorneys, patent agents, lawyers, the industrial sector, and patent examiners attended the symposium. Through in-depth discussion from theoretical aspects and experience sharing, the participants were able to clarify practical issues concerning the person not being the owner of the right to apply for a patent, the remedies available to the owner of the right to apply for a patent, and patent infringement.



Activities of the Campus IPR Assistance Team for the Year 2014 Successfully Conducted

To inculcate correct values of IPR protection in the elementary, junior high, and senior (vocational) high school students, TIPO annually trains college and university students to form the Campus IPR Assistance Team. The Team uses lively activities and short skits to promote proper IPR concepts and is very popular among teachers and students. From May to November of 2014, the Assistance Team comprising 133 students from 24 universities and colleges went to 110 elementary, junior high and senior (vocational) high schools across Taiwan, with a total of 30,881 students participating in the activities. A survey reveals that students participating in the activities have learned about the correct IPR concepts. Over 90% of the students in the survey said that TIPO should continue with the Assistance Team activities. This result shows that such activities can significantly help inculcate in the elementary, junior high, and senior (vocational) high school students the correct IPR concepts.



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

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