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▶ TIPO Concluded Examination of over 60,000 Invention Patent Applications in 2013

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▶ IPR Infringement Cases Processed by NPA in January 2014

The NPA uncovered a total of 202 IPR infringements in January 2014. Of which, 89 are trademark related and 113 are copyright related. Copyright infringements that involved foreign cases include 10 cases involving the U.S. and 20 cases involving Japan.

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Delegation of Mainland China's Zhejiang Provincial IP Office Visits TIPO

A delegation of 14 officials from mainland China's Zhejiang Provincial IP Office led by Deputy Director General Chen Long-gen visited TIPO on January 15, 2014 to share experiences and exchange views regarding IPR affairs, legal regimes and industrial policies.



One Giant Step for Persons with Disabilities: Partial Amendment to Copyright Act Passes Third Reading

A partial amendment to the Copyright Act (Articles 53, 80-2 and 87-1) passed the third reading at the Legislative Yuan on January 7, 2014 and was later promulgated by Presidential Order on January 22. This amendment symbolizes the establishment of a better IPR regime conducive to easier reproduction and accessibility regarding accessible-format copies, thereby strengthening the rights and interests of people with disabilities accessing such materials. Revisions include: 1. For the purpose of exclusive use by the visually impaired, learning disabled, hearing impaired or other persons with a perceptual disability, works that have been publicly released may be exploited by local or central government agencies, nonprofit organizations and registered schools of all levels by means of translation, Braille, sound-recording, digital transformation, verbal imagery, accompanying sign language or otherwise. 2. People with visual or hearing impairments or their guardians are allowed to reproduce accessible-format copies for personal and nonprofit use. 3. To encourage sharing of resources and avoid waste of unnecessary reproduction, the amendment allows the said agencies, organizations and schools to circulate or import accessible-format copies for the exclusive use by people with visual or hearing disabilities.



Partial Amendment to the Patent Act Concerning Border Protection Measures Passes Third Reading

A partial amendment to the Patent Act passed the third reading at the Legislative Yuan on January 3, 2014 and was later promulgated by Presidential Order on January 22. This amendment added four border protection provisions (Article 97(1-4)) on the "request to detain" to safeguard the rights and interests of patentees. Major revisions are as follows. A patentee may request Customs to detain the imported articles suspected of infringing patent rights. The request shall be made in writing, shall state the facts of infringement and shall include a security amounting to the duty-paid price of the imported articles. The owner of the detained articles may request Customs to repeal the detention by providing a security amounting to two times the security or equivalent assurance. Where confidential information protection is not compromised, Customs may allow the requester and the owner of the detained articles to examine detained articles, thereby enabling both to gauge the severity of the infringement.



Conference on Government Efforts for Promoting the Use of Legitimate Software

A conference on Government Efforts for Promoting the Use of Legitimate Software was held by TIPO on January 14, 2014. Representatives from the Executive Yuan's Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics, the Research, Development and Evaluation Commission, the Office of Information and Communication Security, the MOEA's Small and Medium Enterprise Administration, the Ministry of Justice, National Police Agency of the Ministry of the Interior, the Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance and Business Software Alliance (BSA) were invited to the event to share their views regarding implementing measures for the use of legitimate software and promoting the use of open source software. During the 2013 Cross-strait Copyright Working Group Meeting, mainland China expressed hope to learn from MOEA's Implementation Plan for Enhancing Computer Software Protection initiated in 2004. In view of this, TIPO is willing to provide mainland China with information about the said Conference in hopes of strengthening IPR protection on both sides.



TIPO and Ministry of Culture Opening Dialogue on Operation of CMOs

On January 15, 2014, TIPO Director General Wang Mei-hua led a staff team and went to the Ministry of Culture to discuss issues regarding cross-strait copyright consultation and disposition mechanism and difficulties in the operation of CMOs in Taiwan. The participants were able to reach a consensus on strengthening guidance for cultural and creative industries and promotion of the said mechanism.



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