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Updates on Patent Prosecution Highway

SIPO Starts PPH Pilot Programs with INPI and SPTO on January 1, 2014

The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot programs between China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) and the Portuguese Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) will last for two years until December 31, 2015.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201401/t20140116_898675.html

According to the Memorandum of Understanding on the PPH Pilot Program between SIPO and the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (SPTO), the program will last for three years until December 31, 2016.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201401/t20140116_898675.html

SIPO Extends PPH Pilot Programs with DKPTO and NBPR as of January 1, 2014

The SIPO-DKPTO (Danish Patent and Trademark Office) PPH pilot program will be extended for two years until December 31, 2015.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201401/t20140116_898673.html

The SIPO-NBPR (National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland) PPH pilot

program will be extended infinitely, according to the Declaration of Intent on Extending the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between SIPO and NBPR.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201401/t20140116_898673.html

IP5 PPH Pilot Program Starts on January 6, 2014

According to the consensus reached by European Patent Office (EPO), Japan Patent Office (JPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the SIPO, IP5 PPH pilot program was launched on January 6, 2014, for a period of three years ending on 5 January 2017.

Applicants should follow respective requirements and process formulated by each Office to make PPH requests. For detailed requirements of the SIPO, please refer to

<http://www.sipo.gov.cn/ztl/ywzt/pph/zn/201401/P020140103544541451093.pdf>

In addition, current PPH arrangements in place between the SIPO and JPO, KIPO, and USPTO continue to be applicable.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201401/t20140116_898677.html

Trademark Law Implementing Regulations Open for Public Comment by SCLAO

Since the Trademark Law was passed last year, the State Council Legislative Affairs Office (SCLAO) has now solicited comments for a draft of the revised Trademark Law Implementing Regulations by the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC),

The revisions of the provisions relate to dealing with sound marks, trademark examination, regulation of trademark agents, and third party liability for trademark infringement. Comments are due by February 10, 2014.

The final Implementing Regulations will go into effect the same date as the revised Trademark Law (May 1, 2014).
<http://www.chinalaw.gov.cn/article/cazjgg/201401/20140100394542.shtml>

China Further Reinforce Patent Application Quality

The SIPO recently issued the further improvement of quality of patent application opinions, putting forward that concert efforts would be made to improve the quality of patent application and exert full role of patent system in driving development with innovation.

According to the opinion, SIPO will gradually incorporate the share of invention patent in the three kinds of patent application, the grant rate of invention patent, PCT application into the regional patent evaluation system, and

further stand out the guidance of the quality of patent application. Besides, in a bid to better play inspiration role of patent rewarding policy, the opinion also requires to reward those patentees and inventors who made outstanding contribution to technological innovation and patent commercialization.

In parallel, the opinions put forward measures in improving monitoring system, enhancing the capacity-building efforts to reinforce patent application quality, and strengthening organizational guarantee. For example, great efforts would be made to improve the utilization of patent information.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201401/t20140113_897471.html

SIPO Dealt with 825 Thousand Patent Applications on Inventions in 2013

The SIPO handled 825 thousand patent applications on inventions, up 26.3%, and granted 208 thousand invention patents, down 4.1%, according to latest statistics released by the office. Invention patent applications accounted for over 1/3 of the total applications (inventions, utility models and designs) for the first time.

Statistics also show that patent applications on inventions, utility models and designs handled by the Office recorded 2.377 million, up 15.9%, while grants on those three kinds of patents hit 1.313 million, up 4.6%.

http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/governme nt/201401/1796084_1.html

China's Trademark Applications in 2013 Exceeding 1.88 mln

According to statistics of the trademark department under the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, ended at the end of 2013, China saw its trademark applications totaling 13,241,337 with 1,881,546 newly filed last year, up 14.15% on a year-on-year basis.

Meanwhile, the authority has taken a series of measures to improve the quality and efficiency of trademark examination processes.

In 2013 alone, the trademark department reviewed as many as 1.425 million marks, up 16.09%.

http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/governme/nt/201401/1796082_1.html

China Seizes 20 mln Illegal Publications in 2013

Chinese authorities confiscated 20.53 million illegal publications amid stepped up efforts to clean up the cultural environment and safeguard cultural security.

The number represents a significant year-on-year decrease since 2011, according to a statement from the National Office against Pornographic and Illegal Publications, adding that 52 million and 45 million such publications were seized by authorities in 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Among the seized are 670,000 pornographic publications, marking a 30 percent drop compared with the figure in 2012.

Authorities also solved 10,000 such cases, including seven copyright infringement cases with each involving money up to 10 million yuan.

In addition, more than 10,000 websites were shut down in 2013.

http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/governme/nt/201401/1794360_1.html

NCAC Announced Accomplishments for Internet Copyright Piracy

The National Copyright Administration of PRC (NCAC), together with the National Internet Information Office, the National Internet Information Office, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), and the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), held a briefing on the achievement of "Sword Network Campaign" for 2013 (Jian Wang Xing Dong), which dealt with internet copyright piracy.

During this special operation, a total of 512 complaints and reports from all over the country have resulted in 190 administrative cases and 93 (presumably criminal) judicial cases. In addition, 137 sets of servers and related equipments were confiscated, and 201 websites were referred to MIIT for shut-down.

The cases show an increasing sophisticated by China's administrative agencies in handling the complex challenges posted by on-line infringements.

http://www.sipo.gov.cn/mtjj/2014/201401/t20140108_896288.html