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CNIPA Deputy Commissioner Meets INTA CEO in Beijing

Lu Pengqi, Deputy Commissioner of the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) met CEO Etienne Sanz de Acedo and President Jomarie Fredericks of the International Trademark Association (INTA) in Beijing recently.

Lu introduced the CNIPA's measures on strengthening trademark protection and results achieved in improving quality and efficiency of trademark examination. He wished the two sides could maintain close contacts and welcomed more useful advice on the development of China's IP undertaking from the INTA.

Acedo highly appreciated China's achievements in IP and introduced the INTA's latest progress in the research of trademark protection and the relevant arrangements for its 2024 annual meeting in Atlanta.

The two sides also shared wisdom on the amendment of the China's Trademark Law and future cooperation. CNIPA principal officials responsible for the International Cooperation Department, Department of Treaty and Law and Trademark Office also attended the meeting.

https://english.cnipa.gov.cn/art/2023/10/17/art_1340_188043.html

Trademark Opposition Application will Go Fully Electronic from December

Starting from December, trademark opposition application in China will go fully electronic, according to an announcement released by the Trademark Office of CNIPA. The administration detailed the announcement as follows: first, from December 1, 2023, trademark agencies should, in principle, submit electronic applications through trademark online service system, and no longer submit paper materials; second, trademark agencies should make all preparations during the transition period (from the date of this announcement to December 1). Those who have no online trademark service system account should apply for registration as soon as possible.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=12814>

China Saw 253,000 Patent Applications from 115 Belt and Road Countries, Granting 112,000

Over the past decade, China has seen 253,000 patent applications filed from 115 Belt and Road countries and granted 112,000, marking an average annual growth rate of 5.4% and 9.8%, respectively, according to a report released recently by the Strategic Planning Department of the CNIPA. The

report also reveals that over the same period, China has filed 67,000 patent applications in 50 Belt and Road countries and received 35,000 grants, with an average annual growth rate of 25.8% and 23.8%, respectively.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=12815>

China-ASEAN Cooperation Forum on Intellectual Property Held in Nanning, Guangxi

The China-ASEAN Cooperation Forum on Intellectual Property, with the theme of "Intellectual Property and Sustainable Development Goals: Regional Cooperation Boosting Innovation and Economic Growth", was held in Nanning, Guangxi Province on September 16. Shen Changyu, Commissioner of the CNIPA and Miao Qingwang, Vice Chairman of People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region attended the opening ceremony and delivered remarks. Wang Binying, Deputy Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) made a keynote speech.

At the opening ceremony, the attending leaders also witnessed the launch of the ASEAN International Communication and Cooperation Center on Intellectual Property and the signing of the relevant cooperation agreement. At the forum, heads of IP offices, IP experts and scholars from China and ASEAN Member States gave keynote speeches. Eight Chinese and foreign representatives and industry experts made panel discussion on IP boosting innovation and economic growth.

Nearly 300 attendees from the WIPO, ASEAN Secretariat, IP offices of China and ASEAN Member States, industry and IP field participated in the forum.

https://english.cnipa.gov.cn/art/2023/10/8/art_1340_187879.html

14th Meeting of China-ASEAN Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Held

The 14th Meeting of China-ASEAN Heads of Intellectual Property Offices was held in Nanning, Guangxi Province on September 16. Shen Changyu, Commissioner of the CNIPA)presided over the meeting. Santisouk Phounesavath, Rotating Chair of the ASEAN Intellectual Property Cooperation Working Group (AWGIPC) and Director General of the Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR attended the opening ceremony and delivered remarks. Lu Pengqi, Deputy Commissioner of the CNIPA, Lan Quang Le, Director of the Market Integration Directorate of ASEAN Economic Community Department under the ASEAN Secretariat and heads of IP offices of the ASEAN's 10 member states were also present.

The meeting heard China's report on the implementation of the China-ASEAN IP cooperation plan for 2022-2023 and reviewed and approved the China-ASEAN IP Cooperation Work Program 2023-2024. According to the new work program, the two sides will innovate their work methods and expand cooperation in IP capacity building, protection and utilization.

Prior to the meeting, Shen held bilateral talks and signed relevant cooperation agreements with Rowel Sevilla Barba, Director General of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, Chansouk Sengphachanh, Vice Minister of Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR, Phork Sovanrith, Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation of Cambodia, and Ouk Prachea, Secretary of State of Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia respectively.

https://english.cnipa.gov.cn/art/2023/10/8/art_1340_187877.html

Shen Changyu Meets IPOS Chief Executive Rena Lee

Shen Changyu, Commissioner of the CNIPA met with a visiting delegation of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) led by Chief Executive Rena Lee. CNIPA Deputy Commissioner Lu Pengqi also attended.

Shen welcomed the visit of Lee and her delegation. He said that the CNIPA, based on the bilateral cooperation, is willing to work with the IPOS to take advantage of the China-ASEAN IP cooperation platform to share successful experience, strengthen dialogue and exchange, deepen pragmatic cooperation and better promote the development of regional IP undertakings.

Lee highly appreciated the positive results achieved from bilateral cooperation in IP, and said that the two offices has maintained friendly relations with frequent contacts for a long time and the IPOS looks forward to further deepening exchange and cooperation and sharing work experience with the CNIPA.

The two offices also held a patent examination practice workshop during the meeting.

https://english.cnipa.gov.cn/art/2023/10/8/art_1340_187876.html

CNIPA Concluded the Second Batch of Administrative Adjudication Cases of Major Patent Infringement Disputes

The CNIPA recently handed down decisions for a series of patent infringement dispute cases between Huawei and Xiaomi, marking the conclusion of the second batch of CNIPA's administrative adjudication cases of major patent infringement disputes. The parties in question have reached a cross-licensing agreement and withdrew their complaints, settling their disputes by the law.

The CNIPA has always been attaching great importance to IP protection in the information technology industry. Following the Chinese

patent law and the Measures for Administrative Adjudication of Major Patent Infringement Disputes, the CNIPA, from this January, opened a case on a series of 10 administrative adjudication cases of major patent infringement disputes between Huawei and Xiaomi, some of which involved standard essential patents (SEPs) of the telecommunications sector.

The CNIPA tried the cases in strict accordance with laws and rules, organized administrative mediation for several times and guided the two parties to conduct rounds of negotiations on licensing of patents including those SEPs. Eventually, a patent cross-licensing agreement was reached on September 14.

The trial of this series of cases has proved the administrative adjudication of patent infringement disputes to be efficient, professional and authoritative in procedures, offering valuable experience to resolve cases of the same kind.

https://english.cnipa.gov.cn/art/2023/10/9/art_1340_187897.html

EPO Upheld the Validity of an OPPO Patent, Posing Greater Threat of OPPO Patents to Nokia

On September 26, the European Patent Office (EPO) made the decision that OPPO's EP3624524 patent on "wireless communication methods, network device, and terminal device", which was challenged by Nokia at the EPO in February 2022, was valid and essential for the 5G standard.

The decision, according to insiders, poses greater threat of OPPO patents to Nokia. OPPO has filed an infringement lawsuit against Nokia in Mannheim, claiming that Nokia's base station products infringe its EP3624524 patent, and a trial is scheduled for December 5, 2023.

According to relevant reports, patent disputes between the two parties have spread to several international jurisdictions and are

gradually developing in favor of OPPO from the beginning of this year.

On January 11, the District Court of the Hague rejected Nokia's motion for a temporary injunction against OPPO.

In July, the Court of Justice of Paris issued a judgment against Nokia's EP1702486 and EP1704731, saying the patents were invalid for lack of novelty. Nokia was also ordered to compensate 400,000 euros in legal fees.

On September 14, a Swedish court declared EP2981103 and EP3220562, two standard essential patents filed by Nokia against OPPO, invalid.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=12813>

China's Market Regulators Dealt with 1,209 Internet Unfair Competition Cases in 2023

Market regulatory authorities across China have investigated and dealt with 1,209 internet unfair competition cases since the beginning of 2023, according to news released on Thursday. The transformation of business forms and modes in the Internet field gives rise to new unfair competition practices involving data crawling, traffic hijacking and varied false publicity behaviors. Since the beginning of this year, China's market regulator, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) has launched a law enforcement campaign to combat unfair competition, severely cracking down on internet unfair competition practices on a full scale. Up to now, 1,209 internet unfair competition cases have been handled nationwide.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=12812>

China Fines 12.88 Billion yuan over Unfair Competition Practices in 3 Decades

Over the past three decades, China has dealt with 757,000 unfair competition cases, with

12.88 billion yuan fined and confiscated nationwide, said the SAMR at a symposium held on Wednesday. The symposium was held to commemorate the 30th anniversary of China's first Anti-Unfair Competition Law, which was enacted in 1993 and subsequently amended in 2017 and 2019. On the same day, the SAMR also released China's Annual Report on Anti-Unfair Competition Enforcement (2022). According to the report, in 2022, the SAMR launched a special campaign against unfair competition for the fifth consecutive year, investigating and handling 9,069 unfair competition cases and imposing fines and confiscations of about 620 million yuan.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=12809>

The Global Patent War between LONGi and Hanwha Came to an End

The world's leading suppliers of solar panels, LONGi Green Energy Technology of China and Hanwha Group of South Korea have put an end to their patent infringement war, on since 2019, with patent cross-licensing arrangement. In a statement issued by LONGi on Saturday, the Chinese company said that all patent proceedings worldwide between the companies have come to an end after LONGi received the decision from a Paris court to withdraw lawsuit on Thursday. Since 2019, Hanwha has filed several patent infringement lawsuits against LONGi in the US, Germany, Paris, Holland, and Australia. On May 11, 2023, LONGi and Hanwha officially reached a patent cross-licensing agreement, in which the parties authorized each other the right to legally use their relevant patented technology and pledged to cancel all lawsuits and patent invalidation proceedings in the global scope.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=12808>

SUPPLEMENTARY ISSUE

AFD China Recognized as a Recommended Firm in Patent Prosecution and Patent Contentious by Asia IP

Recently, renowned intellectual property magazine Asia IP announced the result of its annual patent survey, wherein AFD China was recognized as a recommended firm for its outstanding performance in patent prosecution and patent contentious. Especially, AFD China was honored as a Tier 1 Firm in patent contentious. The result of this survey has been published in the September issue of Asia IP.

AFD China has been participating in the annual surveys of Asia IP for years. After surveys and researches, Asia IP determines recommended firms each year based on an evaluation of comprehensive factors such as each firm's size, number of cases, client feedback and typical cases. Our ranking as a tier 1 firm in patent contentious this year is a great recognition of our service philosophy. By continuously improving our services, we have been gaining recognition from more and more clients. We will continue to treat our clients with honesty and sincerity and keep providing timely and quality services to them.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our clients who have been accompanying and trusting us, as well as all our colleagues who have been growing and forging ahead together with AFD China. We will always stay true to our original aspiration and provide comprehensive one-stop services for protecting your intangible assets.