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**Requirements for PPH in China updated**

Requirements for requesting to accelerate the Chinese patent examination based on the positive opinions made by JPO, USPTO, DPMA or KIPO are updated on our website. Applicants may obtain earlier grants for their Chinese application through such PPH projects which will speed up the examination process by allowing Chinese examiners to reuse search and examination results made by JPO, USPTO, DPMA or KIPO for the corresponding applications, and meanwhile lower costs for the prosecution of their Chinese application.

<http://www.afdip.com/practices%20areas/requirements.htm>

**SIPO Starts Patent Examination Complaint Platform**

On January 20, 2012 the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) has officially started the patent examination complaint platform in a bid to solicit public opinions about its patent examination work and improve quality of patent examination. Internet users can register in the website <http://scywts.sipo.gov.cn> or log in anonymously, and post complaints about SIPO's patent examination work. SIPO will timely accept the complaints and replies to the complainants. The registered users of the platform can follow up with acceptance and handling of the complaints.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201202/t20120224\\_646622.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201202/t20120224_646622.html)

**Sino-German Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program Launched**

According to a joint statement on Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) by China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) and the German Patent and Trademark Office (DPMA), the Sino-German PPH pilot program was launched on January 23, 2012. The PPH was established to enable an applicant whose at least one claim is patentable in the Office of First Filing (OFF) to have the corresponding application filed in the Office of Second Filing (OSF) advanced out of turn for examination while at the same time allowing the OSF to exploit the work results of the OFF.

The Sino-German PPH pilot program only involves the regular PPH, excluding PCT-PPH. An applicant may file a PPH request to SIPO or DPMA in accordance with the procedures under the Sino-German PPH pilot program. This pilot program will run for two years and ends on January 22, 2014.

For those who file PPH requests to SIPO, please visit <http://www.sipo.gov.cn/ztzl/ywzt/pph/> for relevant information, while for those making PPH requests to DPMA, please go to <http://www.dpma.de/english/patent/procedures/pph/> for relevant requirements.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201202/t20120207\\_644079.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201202/t20120207_644079.html)

### **China's Examination Pendency for Trademark Shortened to 10 Months**

Since 2011, the Chinese Trademark Office has improved trademark examination efficiency and nowadays, examination period for trademark has been shortened to 10 months. Duration for processing disputes dropped below 18 months.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201201/t20120117\\_641843.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201201/t20120117_641843.html)

### **1.633 Million Patent Applications Received in 2011**

According to the latest statistics, SIPO received a total of 1.633 million patent applications in 2011, up 33.6% year on year. Among the patent applications received in 2011, there were 526,000 inventions, up 34.5%; 585,000 utility models and 522,000 designs. SIPO also granted a total of 961,000 patents, up 17.9%, among them, 172,000 were inventions, up 27.4%, 408,000 and 381,000 were utility models and designs, respectively.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201201/t20120117\\_641841.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201201/t20120117_641841.html)

### **Registrations of software copyrights in China reach record high**

It is learnt from the National Copyright Administration on February 17 that in 2011, the registrations of software copyrights in China came up to 109,342, surpassing 100,000 for the first time, rising by 33.40% and being over 4 times more than 21,495 in 2006.

[http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/government/201202/1280132\\_1.html](http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/government/201202/1280132_1.html)

### **An Iraq Businessman Deported for Trademark Counterfeiting**

Shandong Qingdao Intermediate People's Court recently rendered a judgment on selling counterfeit

automotive brake blocks of several Japan's registered trademarks. The defendant, an Iraqi businessman was convicted of counterfeiting the registered trademark and fined 150,000 yuan on top of deportation from the country. This is the first case implemented in new model of trial for IPR cases in Shandong court, which combines trial of criminal, civil and administrative nature in one tribunal.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201202/t20120208\\_644187.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201202/t20120208_644187.html)

### **ZTE, Ericsson Settle Patent Disputes**

ZTE has settled all outstanding litigation worldwide with Ericsson, ending their nine months patent lawsuits peacefully. After extensive discussion and consultation, the companies have agreed to withdraw all patent litigation against each other including the lawsuits filed by Ericsson against ZTE in the UK, Germany and Italy, and the cases filed by ZTE against Ericsson in China.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201202/t20120208\\_644186.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201202/t20120208_644186.html)

### **LG Electronics Wins Patent Dispute with Whirlpool**

LG Electronics has won a patent dispute against the Michigan-based home appliance maker Whirlpool over technology used in refrigerators. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) ruled in favor of LG Electronics over patents on technology called water and ice dispenser used in refrigerators, citing Whirlpool's failure to prove that it invented the concept of a fridge dispenser earlier than the South Korean firm.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201201/t20120131\\_643118.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201201/t20120131_643118.html)