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Implementation of Automatic Electronic Exchange of Priority Documents between SIPO and USPTO

As of October 8, 2014, the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) implements automatic electronic exchange of priority documents with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

This electronic exchange service will benefit patent applicants at SIPO and USPTO by reducing the administrative costs of ordering certified copies of priority documents, and will provide priority documents to the office of second filing in a timelier manner.

To qualify for this service, which is free of charge and not subject to any formalities on the part of the applicant, the U.S. patent application or the Chinese patent or utility model application claiming priority from a first filing in the other office must have been filed on or after October 8, 2014.

Previously, the SIPO has established the same program with Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and European Patent Office (EPO) already.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201409/t20140926_1015339.html

New Policies to Focus on Small Business Growth

To optimize the IP development environment for small businesses, a range of new policies to support innovation and growth of micro businesses are released by the SIPO.

The new policies focus on improving public services and helping startups increase capabilities in innovation and using IP.

It is said that the new policies, which are part of the central government's efforts to back small businesses, provide a framework and direction, which will be followed by a series of specific initiatives and details soon.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201410/t20141016_1022404.html

Supreme People's Court Soliciting Public Comments for Determination of Trademark Rights

On October 15, the Supreme People's Court of China (SPC) released a drafted judicial interpretation *Several Issues Concerning the Trial of Administrative Cases Involving the Authorization and Determination of Trademark Rights for public comments*. The deadline for submitting comments is November 15, 2014.

<http://www.chinacourt.org/law/detail/2014/10/id/147963.shtml>

The Fifth China International Copyright Expo Successfully Concluded with over 2 Billion Yuan for Transaction

Recently, the Fifth China International Copyright Expo (the Expo) was successfully concluded in Chengdu.

By hosting 12 key activities and more than 100 supporting events, the Expo attracted the participation from over 10 international organizations including the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, as well as many well-known firms and institutions from more than 20 countries, such as France and Canada.

During the Expo 2014, 17 copyright projects were signed with a total transaction amount of over 2 billion yuan. The number of both the signed projects and the transaction amount significantly increased.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7292>

Shanghai Trade Zone Gets an Intellectual Property Office

An unveiling ceremony for the (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone's new intellectual property office was held on September 26, 2014.

In addressing the gathering, Deputy mayor Zhao Wen said that the office shows the level of awareness of intellectual property rights in the zone and is an important step in its

reforms and opening-up and keeping up with international development.

Even though this office is not all that big, it is China's first office of its kind to handle this form of law enforcement on its own and is solely responsible for managing patents, brands, and copyrights and was established with Shanghai government approval in line with national and regional strategies.

There was also an intellectual property protection forum after the ceremony, with people from the city's Intellectual Property Bureau, High Court, and Tongji University to discuss the current international and domestic situation in intellectual property management and protection.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7313>

Tire Design Database to Prevent Patent Disputes

China's first design patent database for tire tread that supports image searches was released at an international arbitration forum in Qingdao, Shandong province on October 17, 2014.

Industry insiders said the specialized database, which was jointly developed by the Intellectual Property Publishing House and Qingdao Rubber Valle Intellectual Property Co Ltd, will reduce the frequency of patent infringement cases and enhance Chinese tire manufacturers' ability to self-protect, reported People's Daily.

The new database includes 80,000 tire tread design patents and 520,000 related pictures from China, Japan, South Korea, the United States and the European Union, and will be updated regularly, which is expected to help Chinese companies better deal with overseas lawsuits and have improved access to patent information.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7312>

30.9 Thousand IP Cases Were Tackled by SAIC in the First 9 Months of This Year

Statistic shows that, in the first nine months this year, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) handled a total of 443.3 thousand cases on disturbing a fair market competition order, in which 30.9 thousand were on intellectual property violations.

Zhang Mao, head of the SAIC, said that the authority would take the enforcement on unfair competition as a priority, in particular for those on false propaganda, commercial fraud and commercial bribery. Serious cases would be made public to create a sound market environment.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7336>

The Case of Apple Suing SIPO Heard in the Beijing Higher People's Court

Apple is sued for infringing the patent right of Xiaol Robot in June, 2012 and was lost in the

first trial handled by the First People's Court of Shanghai.

Apple arrests the judgment and files an administrative appeal before Beijing Higher People's Court.

According to the announcement released by the Beijing Higher People's Court, the administrative appeal filed by Apple was held on the afternoon of October 16th.

Analysts believe that the results of the above trial will play a significant role in the fourth trial for Incesoft Technology Co., Ltd. (known by its intelligence Xiaol Robot) suing Apple Siri of the software infringement, which will be tried on October 21st in Shanghai.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7324>

China Intellectual Property Index 2014 Released, Beijing, Jiangsu and Shanghai in the Top Three

The China Intellectual Property Index 2014 (the Index) was released in Beijing on October 13th. According to the Index, the top ten regions with the most powerful IPR comprehensive strength are: Beijing, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Tianjin, Shandong, Liaoning, Fujian, and Chongqing. Among the above regions, Beijing has headed the list for years.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7326>