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**AFD China Received Positive Assessment in Recent Survey and Rankings**

In the 2017 issue of IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Practitioners, AFD China is recommended for outstanding performance in patent prosecution. Further to last year's recognition on our forward-looking and unconventional approaches, the 2017 recommendation praises the quality of our work on domestic, international and PCT applications as well as our expertise in administrative contentious proceedings.

We are also recommended for the performance in patent prosecution, patent contentious and trademark prosecution by prestigious publications, such as Asia IP and Managing Intellectual Property, in their latest handbooks.

Further, we have conducted the annual satisfaction survey this month. The results revealed that the overall customers satisfaction went up to 96%, 92% of the sampled clients would recommend AFD China to others for IP-related matters.

We will keep pursuing excellence in the future to benefit our clients with more efficient and quality services.

**SIPO Adjusts Patent Issue Fees, Certification Fee, and Integral Circuit Layout Design Protection Fee**

Effective as of July 1, 2017, the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) will adjust some of its administrative undertaking charges to be in accordance with the February announcement of National Development and Reform Commission issued an (Fa Gai Jia Ge (2017) No. 270).

With respect to patent issuance, the cost will consist of two parts: issue fee CNY200 for invention patent and CNY150 for utility model/design patent, and a newly added patent announcement and printing fee CNY50. As a result, the total cost for issuing a patent remains the same as the current standard.

Also newly added is a fee for certifying copies of patent documents, i.e. CNY30 for obtaining each copy of priority documents or patent register, etc.

With respect to integral circuit layout design protection fees, the fee for requesting reexamination of layout design registration is adjusted from CNY300 to CNY2000, and other fees remain unchanged.

[http://www.sipo.gov.cn/tz/gz/201702/t20170222\\_1308465.html](http://www.sipo.gov.cn/tz/gz/201702/t20170222_1308465.html)

### **Oral Hearing Proceedings Introduced into Trademark Review Cases**

Measures for Oral Hearing of Trademark Review Cases, released by the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of China ("SAIC"), has entered into effect last month.

When facing complex facts, relevant parties of a trademark review case may request the Trademark Review and Adjudication Board (TRAB), upon filing the review application, making responses, or within 30 days after the counter-party filed the response, to hold an oral hearing. The TRAB also may decide to arrange an oral hearing on its own initiative and ask the relevant party to confirm the presence in 10 days.

The TRAB do not charge official fees for such requests.

[http://www.saic.gov.cn/xw/yw/zj/201705/t20170508\\_264336.html](http://www.saic.gov.cn/xw/yw/zj/201705/t20170508_264336.html)

### **SAIC Thoroughly Implements Trademark & Brand Strategy**

According to the recent released Opinions on Deeply Implementing Trademark & Brand Strategy and Promoting Chinese Brands Building, China will take measures to build a more favorable domestic and international environment for China brands to go out.

China will further strengthen the construction of trademark and brand cooperation system, organize China Trademark Golden Awards with WIPO, deepen cooperation and

communication with foreign trademark departments, foreign industry associations and trademark agencies, explore to establish co-enforce mechanism with countries and areas along the Belt and Road, all to increase the support to Chinese enterprises.

Since the National IP Strategy Outline implemented in 2008, dozens of Chinese enterprises rank among top 500 global valuable brands, some even among top 100. SAIC will thoroughly implement Trademark and Brand Strategy, making "Chinese manufactured" to be "Chinese brand", and promoting China to be a brand-powerful country.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201706/t20170607\\_1311407.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201706/t20170607_1311407.html)

### **Forestry Administration Databases Reveal Growth**

China owned more than 280,000 patents in forestry as of the end of last year, including 152,000 invention patents, according to statistics recently unveiled by the State Forestry Administration.

There were 15,000 patents held by universities and nearly 5,000 by research institutions. Last year, the SFA built 15 forestry-related IP databases, including those for patents, geographic indications and new plant breeds, with a total of more than 660,000 entries.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201706/t20170615\\_1312108.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201706/t20170615_1312108.html)