Editor's note: Due to the diligent efforts of Editorial Advisory Board member, Professor Yang Zhiping, the following contributions have been provided. We are especially grateful this time because the news column has been produced in the aftermath of the major earthquake in the Chengdu area. Michael Blackman.

1. Preferential Policies for Worst-Hit Earthquake Area

On May 12, 2008, a magnitude of 8.0 great earthquake happened in Wenchuan, northwestern part of Sichuan Province, PR China, causing desperate damage to local people. China government, relevant organizations and people from all circles of life have been swiftly carrying out relief operations. Earthquake rescue and post-disaster reconstruction are urgent.

In order to maintain the legitimate rights and interests of the parties of patent affairs of the worst-hit area and simultaneously implement the government deployment of earthquake rescue, on June 5, the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of PR China announced the Notification on Preferential Policies for Parties Concerned of the Worst-Hit Area. (Hereafter abbrev. Notification)

Notification clarifies that according to the requirement of the party (organization/individual) concerned of the worst-hit area, patent certificates, lost or destroyed because of earthquake disaster, can be reissued; notifications issued during the process of examination can be reissued too, application files, evidentiary materials and all other related files can be copied according to the impediment, legally request the recovery of his/its rights and no evidence is required. A party concerned who has delayed past the time limit due to earthquake disaster, thus resulting the loss of his/its rights, he/it may, within 2 months as of the removal of the impediment, legally request the recovery of his/its rights and do not pay recovery fees. With regard to oral hearing the request for invalidation and re-examination involving the participation of a party concerned of worst-hit area, the date for holding the oral hearing should be identified according to the specific circumstances of the party concerned.

Notification indicates that the reduction or postponement of the payment of patent fees can be implemented only if patent applicants and assignees of the worst-hit area submit their request, and no evidence is required. A party concerned who has delayed past the time limit due to earthquake disaster, thus resulting the loss of his/its rights, he/it may, within 2 months as of the removal of the impediment, legally request the recovery of his/its rights and do not pay recovery fees. With regard to oral hearing the request for invalidation and re-examination involving the participation of a party concerned of worst-hit area, the date for holding the oral hearing should be identified according to the specific circumstances of the party concerned.

Notification clarifies that patent applications involving important earthquake rescue technology can follow the procedure of accelerating examination, when the applicant has requested and submitted evidentiary material examined and approved by provincial intellectual property office. Notification prescribes that enjoyment of above mentioned preferential policies requires certificates issued by local prefecture level and upwards intellectual property office. Notification entered into force on the day of issue, and will end on December 31, 2008.


Wang Chun

2. Two IPR National Standards Carried Out Since Jun 1st, 2008

Two voluntary national standards—“Intellectual Property Documentation and Information—Essential Vocabulary” and “Intellectual Property Documentation and Information—Classification and Codes”, formulated by the State Intellectual Property Office of PR China, have been approved by General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and National Standardization Committee of PR China, and will be put into practice on June 1st. The two standards, released on Jan 14th, 2008, are the first national standards of IPR in PR China.

It is known that with the development of IPR in PR China, such problems as lacking standard basic terminology, no normative meaning become increasingly severe, greatly affecting exact exchange and utilization of IPR documentary information. Besides, no existing documentary classification schemes can efficiently provide IPR documentary information, thus impacting the process, exchange, and utilization of IPR documentary information. Therefore, it is desirable to formulate corresponding terminology standard and classification standard combined with China’s IPR practice. So, the two voluntary national standards emerged as the times require.

It is reported that 105 items of IPR are collected and normalized in Intellectual Property Documentation and Information—Essential vocabulary, with normative Chinese and English expressions. It involves four sections, that is, IPR general terms, patent terms, trademark terms and copyright terms, which are suitable for IPR documentation and information related field. While intellectual property documentation and Information—Classification and Codes classification system is shaped by adopting digital coding method, and it involves IPR front matter, patent, trademark, copyright and other relevant subjects to IPR protection, totally five classes and 139 subclasses, classification and indexing of IPR documentation and information, but not to classification of patent documentation and trademark gazette.

It is reported that the two standards have been recommended to use in the IPR system of PR China.


Zheng Ying
3. Design patent and Chinese-English machine translation system services launched

At the end of April, 2008, intelligent retrieval system for China design patent were provided on the internet by the State Intellectual Property Office of PR China (www.disc.gov.cn). The retrieval system is a graphic-based system, realizing such functions as full text search for items of description, graphic search, relevant sorting, user administration, search result treatment, search report generation and administration, and online help. In addition, dual-screen display system is provided according to the requirement of examination work, which not only enhances the search technique, but also improves working efficiency of examination, and thus fosters the development of China’s industrial design.

Almost at the same time, a Chinese-English machine translation system, developed by the State Intellectual Property Office of PR China, entered into work, which means users can get the service of translating Chinese patent information into English online. Through this system, users can search bibliography and abstract of disclosed patents at English interface, and translate the full text (including claims and specifications) of invention patents and utility patents into English through the machine translator. It will help users understand China patent information and protect the rights of China applicants more efficiently. At present, the service is still in test and users can test it, evaluate it, and give feedback, so as to improve the readability of the machine translation results.

http://www.cnipr.com/zxxz/yndt/t20080425_97951.html
http://www.cnipr.com/zxxz/yndt/t20080425_97949.html

Tian Yajuan

4. 400 CD-ROM Earthquake Rescue Patent Databases Distributed

In order to sufficiently exert the function of intellectual property and do better the work of earthquake rescue and post-disaster reconstruction, the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of PR China combined with Sichuan Province Intellectual Property Office of PR China produced and released Earthquake Rescue Patent Database recently, which mainly contains patents in five subject fields: earthquake-preparedness and earthquake-resistance, earthquake monitoring, hygiene and anti-epidemic, water purification, medical treatment and rescue. The database has a collection of 388,825 disclosed patents with items of description and abstracts from EPO, WIPO, SIPO of PR China, USPTO, IPO, UKPO, DPMA, INPI, IGE. Among them, 55139 items are China Patents and the rest 333,686 are patents of other countries. Search interfaces, technology field navigation and complete patent specifications are all included in the patent database.

Currently, 400 CD-ROM Earthquake Rescue Patent Databases have been sent to relevant cities, counties, enterprises, public institutions and relevant province departments so as to support their earthquake rescue and post-disaster reconstruction by applying patent information and technology.


Li Wenju


In early 2005, the State Council set up a national intellectual property strategy formulation Leading Group, including the State Intellectual Property Office, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the State Copyright Administration, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Commerce, and other 33 central organs working together to promote the development of strategy work.


The Compendium lists the tasks in areas of patent, trademark, copyright, business secret, new plant variety, intellectual property in particular areas and national defense IP into its special programs, and puts forward nine strategic measures in this regard, including elevating the capacity of IPR creation, encouraging transformation and utilization of IPRs, accelerating IPR legal system construction, improving IP law-enforcement level, strengthening IP administration, developing IP intermediary services, enforcing IP personnel construction, promoting construction of IP culture and expanding international exchanges and cooperation in IP sector.

The Compendium clarifies that we should take aim at constructing China into a country with comparatively higher level of intellectual property right (IPR) creation, utilization, protection and administration by 2020; and within the next five years, take measures to dramatically raise China’s initiative IP level, significantly increase IPR utilization efficiency, prominently improve IPR protection circumstances, and greatly enhance public awareness of IP throughout society.

The launch and implementation of the Compendium will be a new milestone in the history of the development of Intellectual Property System in PR China.


Chen Xi

6. SIPO Remits 1.8 Million Yuan to Disaster Regions

After the violent earthquake happened in Wenchuan County of Sichuan Province, SIPO leaders and staff members actively offer their loving care to the people suffering from the disaster in various forms. Recently, nearly 1.8 million Yuan from SIPO leaders and staff members is successively remitted to earthquake-hit regions.

Up to date, SIPO leaders and staff members totally donate 759,352 Yuan for earthquake relief work. In addition, CPC members of SIPO voluntarily pay special Party membership dues of 1,033,964.78 Yuan to assist disaster relief work.

The disaster has struck a sympathetic chord in every leader and staff member of SIPO. Every unit, from department to individual, from leader to staff member, from new employee to retired leaders, shows great enthusiasm in offering their loving care to the people in disaster regions. SIPO Party Committee has remitted four batches of money of 417,906.8 Yuan, 139,173.2 Yuan, 114,453.1 Yuan and 87,818.9 Yuan, respectively to Ministry of Civil Affairs for the people in the disaster regions.

http://www.scipo.gov.cn/browseinfo.asp?id=3063

Chen Xi
Natural disaster is merciless and we people are ready to help and the severe disaster also reflects the great love from every one. The loving care from every one of SIPO will surely encourage the people in disaster regions in their relief work and help them reconstruct their homes.

(from SIPO press release)