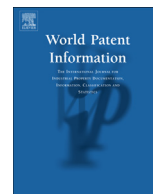




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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/worpatin

News from China

1. New changes of China PAQE registration method

The 2014 National Patent Agent Qualification Examination of China (PAQE) has been opened for registration since May 27th. It is reported by the official of Legal Affairs of State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) that, for the candidates' convenience, some new changes have been made in this year's PAQE, including requirements for signing up, examination time and place etc.

According to the official, there are three main changes for this year's examination. Firstly, the register requirements are relaxed, the first-year masters with science and engineering college diploma or above is qualified to take the exam this year. Secondly, the registration time is prolonged to three weeks, from May 27th to June 16th, while the registration qualifications on-site review time is from June 3rd to June 24th. Thirdly, the number of test site is increased from 20 to 23, Shijiazhuang, Nanchang and Kunming is newly added to test site cities.

http://www.sipo.gov.cn/zscqgz/2014/201405/t20140528_956434.html.

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2. The report for publication of the 2013 National Patent strength status

April 26, 2014 is the 14th World Intellectual Property Day, on this very day, the Intellectual Property Development Research Center of the China State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) issued the 2013 *National Patent strength status report*, which shows that in 2013, the quality of patent creation, patent utilization, patent protection, patent management and patent services has achieved significant progress.

In the report, the top ten regions in China are Guangdong, Beijing, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shanghai, Sichuan, Shandong, Hunan, Hubei and Anhui. It is worth mentioning that, compared with the 2012 patent sort of comprehensive strength index, in 2013, Guangxi is ranked with three places put upward, Shaanxi with three places, the top three of comprehensive patent strength are Guangdong, Beijing and Jiangsu. In the middle region of China, the top three are Hubei, Hunan and Anhui. And in the west region, Sichuan, Chongqing and Shaanxi stand out.

In terms of creation, the top three are Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong. In terms of protection, Guangdong, Shandong and Hunan stand out. In terms of management, Guangdong, Jiangsu and Tianjin rank top. In terms of service, Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong rank first three.

The report monitors and analyzes the patent comprehensive strength in various regions of China from aspects of patent creation, utilization, protection, management as well as service etc. The

patent strength indicator system includes five first-grade indicators and 34 secondary indicators. The five first-grade indicators are patent creation, utilization, protection, management and service, which in order accounts for 21%,20%,21%,22% and 16% in the indicator system.

http://www.sipo.gov.cn/zscqgz/2014/201404/t20140425_939490.html.

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3. China SIPO making the application for PCT new system online

On 31 March, 2014, the China State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) launched a new online system (CE-PCT) for filing international applications with SIPO as receiving office. WIPO's PCT-SAFE electronic filing software, used at SIPO for online submission of PCT applications prior to the launch of the new system, will continue to exist in parallel. However, when the PCT-SAFE system is used for filing an international application, the applicant will have to submit the relevant intermediate documents in printed form.

The CE-PCT system, which is developed by the SIPO, consists of receiving subsystem, processing management subsystem, searching preliminary examination subsystem and searching statistics subsystem and E-application subsystem. And the E-application subsystem is used for applicants who submit PCT applications during international phase, including submission of new applications and intermediate documents, case management, information search, receipt of notification, and online payment.

http://www.sipo.gov.cn/zscqgz/2014/201404/t20140411_931261.html.

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4. The 3rd Beijing Invention Patent Award Ceremony

The 3rd Beijing Invention Patent Award Ceremony was held at Beijing Convention Center on 15 May, 2014. There were total thirty-six invention patents won the invention patent awards: one for grand prize, five for first prizes, ten for second prizes, and twenty for third prizes. "Expansion tank for coolant system of engine and engine coolant system" of Beiqi Foton Motor Co., Ltd. won the grand prize. Nuctech, Beijing Rechsand Science and Technology Group, Tsinghua University, Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and University of Science & Technology Beijing, were awarded the first prizes. Beijing Oriental Electronics, UCWEB, Founder, and other seven companies or

institutes got the second prizes. Lenovo, Tencent, Aigo and other seventeen companies, universities or institutes were given the third prizes.

The thirty-six awarded patents present six features as follows:

1. All the awarded projects have significant economic benefits as well as strong market competitive abilities.
2. Nine of the thirty-six awarded projects are from universities or institutes covering 25% of all the awarded projects, three of which won the first prizes, accounting for 60% of the first prizes.
3. The awarded patents are all at the top level in their respective fields, mastering the core technologies through long-term research.
4. All the awarded projects have been put into use in a wide technical field, twenty-two of which have been self-implemented, and the rest of the fourteen projects have been implemented in license mode.
5. Nineteen awarded projects have made overseas layout, accounting for 53% of the total.
6. The awarded projects are closer to people's livelihood than before and have remarkable social benefits. Among them, there are ten awarded projects accounting for 28% of the total awarded projects related to people's livelihood, such as health care, food safety, urban construction, communications, etc.

http://www.sipo.gov.cn/zscqgz/2014/201405/t20140516_950294.html.

http://www.zhongguancun.com.cn/yqdt/yqxw/201405/t20140516_612041.htm.

http://www.sipo.gov.cn/dfzz/beijing/xwdt/ywdt/201405/t20140516_950593.htm.

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5. China State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) deploying the work involving information disclosure of patent administrative law enforcement cases

SIPO announced "Notification about concrete matters concerning information disclosure of patent administrative law enforcement cases" ("Notification") on April 21, 2014 to arrange the work involving information disclosure of patent administrative law enforcement cases entirely. The "Notification" consists of six parts, including subjects and authority of disclosure, contents of disclosure, time limits of publication, methods of publication, work specification, and supervision and guidance to publication. The "Notification" gives explicit provisions on these six parts.

The "Notification" requires local intellectual property offices (LIPOs) to disclose the information of punishment of counterfeiting patents and handling of patent infringement cases legally within twenty working days since the day of making decisions of administrative penalties or administrative sanctions. LIPOs should publish the information on the official websites, or through other media such as newspaper, radio, television, etc. Disclosing the information of patent administrative law enforcement cases legally will help to promote public confidence of patent administrative law enforcement, keep a fair and competitive market, and protect the public and patentees' rights to stay informed about, participate in, and oversee government affairs.

Next, SIPO will guide and supervise the work of LIPOs involving information disclosure of patent administrative law enforcement cases. Meanwhile, the performance of work will be evaluated annually to ensure that the contents of "Notification" will be fully implemented.

http://www.sipo.gov.cn/zscqgz/2014/201404/t20140429_941749.html.

http://www.sipo.gov.cn/tz/gz/201404/t20140429_941745.html.

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6. Seven measures for improvement of the work of patent law reinforcement and right protection

State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) communicates with local intellectual property offices (LIPOs) via e-mails, messages, telephone calls and announcement on the Internet in working days to guide and supervise the work of LIPOs concerning patent law enforcement and protecting rights. Recently, SIPO has developed seven measures to guide the work of patent law enforcement and safeguarding rights in detail via above media.

1. The special actions and work of law enforcement should be strengthened. The special action "Escort" for law enforcement will be carried forward. The intensity of supervision for circulation should be increased, focusing on mediation of patent infringement dispute. The long term mechanism of law enforcement should be established.
2. The ability of administrative law enforcement should be improved, that is, the working ability of law enforcement officials should be improved pertinently with more uses of performance appraisal. More trainings and encouragements will be given to excellent law enforcement officials. The information level of law enforcement should be heightened.
3. The mechanism of patent law enforcement in the field of electronic commerce should be innovated. LIPOs will communicate with local e-commerce platforms actively to explore the working mechanism of patent law enforcement and right protection in the field of electronic commerce together.
4. The mechanism involved in safeguarding rights and complaints should be improved. The construction of right protection and complaint platform "12330" must be strengthened. The work of fast safeguarding rights should be developed methodically. The consulting mechanism of judging patent infringement should be improved. The mechanism of coordination and delivering accusation and complaint cases among equality centers should be improved to show the equality centers as important roles in supporting and assisting law enforcement.
5. The service station of accusations, right protection and complaints will be established at large-scale exhibitions to perfect the mechanism of handling patent cases at the sites of exhibitions.
6. The work of disclosing and delivering the information concerning administrative enforcement should be improved, that is, the information of law enforcement must be delivered according to relevant provisions of the state in time, normatively and entirely.
7. The effect of propaganda concerning law enforcement and right protection should be enhanced. LIPOs will publicize the telephone number for patent cases and information of main activities via official websites, primary local media and websites. The special actions and measures to intensify law enforcement ability will be reported in time, as same as their results and examples, to spread the experience of administrative enforcement and create the ambiance of strengthening patent law enforcement and right protection.

SIPO requires LIPOs to draw up working plans and speed up the process of their work based on local conditions. Next, SIPO will

reinforce supervision and guidance to LIPOs' work concerning patent law enforcement and safeguarding rights to ensure that all tasks of law enforcement will be fulfilled.

http://www.sipo.gov.cn/zscqgz/2014/201404/t20140414_932382.html.

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