



Announcement about Electronic Patent Certificates and Electronic Seal

From February 17th, 2020, the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) will no longer provide the hard copy of the Notification of Acceptance for on-line patent applications. In the Notifications of Acceptance, the seal of patent application acceptance will be replaced by the seal of patent examination.

For on-line patent applications with their date of allowance announcement on March 3rd, 2020 or later, CNIPA will no longer issue hard copy of patent certificates. Instead, CNIPA will issue electronic certificates through its on-line system. However, the registered users can still request for a hard copy certificate through the on-line system, if necessary.

New Amendment on China's Current *Guidelines for Patent Examination*

The new amendment on China's current *Guidelines for Patent Examination* (hereinafter referred to as the Guidelines) has come into effect from February 1st, 2020. The amendment relates to AI, which is shown in section 6 in Chapter 9 of Part II of the Guidelines.

Section 6 Provisions relating to the examination of invention patent applications that contain algorithmic features or business rules and method features

Invention patent applications relating to artificial intelligence (AI), "Internet +", big data, and block-chain generally include the rules and method features of intellectual activities such as algorithm features or business rules and methods, etc.

CNIPA Takes Action on Trademark Applications during the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak

During the period of Novel Coronavirus outbreak, CNIPA published a notice related to trademark application matters on February 5th. It is highly recommended that relevant trademark applications can be handled through on-line filing and on-line payment. Paper documents, such as trademark disputes and appeals, can be submitted by post.

Replies on the Deadlines of Trademark Related Matters during the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak

On February 6th, CNIPA released the *Replies on the Deadlines of Trademark Related Matters during the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak* (hereinafter referred to as the Replies), informing the applicant in detail of the deadlines for handling trademark matters during the Novel Coronavirus outbreak.

The Replies clarifies that for applicant who cannot apply for all kinds of trademark matters due to the Novel Coronavirus outbreak, the deadlines shall be suspended from the date when the applicant begins to take hospital treatment or be under quarantine, and will resume on the date of the end of hospitalization and quarantine, or the date of returning to work. In this situation, the applicant shall submit a written application for the above-mentioned suspension. The written application should specify the applicant's place of residence during the Novel Coronavirus outbreak, the reason for the delay, and the resuming date, along with corresponding proof materials.

Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances Will Come into Effect

On January 28th, 2020 (Beijing time), being as the 30th contracting Party, Indonesia ratified the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances (hereinafter referred to as the Beijing Treaty), which means that in accordance with the relevant provisions, the Beijing Treaty will come into effect on April 28th, 2020 to its 30 contracting parties. The Beijing treaty, which focuses on performances recorded in "audiovisual recordings", provides a wide range of rights for performers and fills the gap left by the international treaty on comprehensive copyright protection in the field of audiovisual performances. It is worth mentioning that the treaty got its name because it was ratified by the WIPO member states at a diplomatic conference hosted by the Chinese government in 2012. After the treaty enters into force, it will become the first international treaty named after a city of China.

Newsletter from Tee & Howe Intellectual Property Attorneys

Address: Suite 5-12, 5th Floor, Tower W1, The Tower Offices, Oriental Plaza,
No.1 East Chang'an Avenue, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100738, China

Tel: (86 10) 8529 5526

Fax: (86 10) 8529 5528

Email: teehowe@teehowe.com

Website: www.teehowe.com

Wechat Account QR Code:



Beijing

Japan

Germany

Changsha