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➤ **SIPO 2017 Major IP Statistics Released**

Recently, SIPO released major IP statistics for 2017.

It shows that in 2017, there were 1.382 million invention patent applications, an increase of 14.2%. A total of 420,000 invention patents were granted, of which 327,000 were domestic invention patents with an increase of 8.2% over the same period of last year. By the end of 2017, the total number of invention patents in China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) totaled 1.356 million.

In 2017, the top 10 enterprises with the most granted invention patents (excluding Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan) are China State Grid Corporation (3622 pieces), Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. (3293 pieces), China Petrochemical Corporation (2567 pieces), BOE Technology Group Co., Ltd. (1845 pieces), ZTE Corporation (1699 pieces), Lenovo (Beijing) Co., Ltd. (1454 pieces), Zhuhai Gree Electric Appliances Co., Ltd. (1273 pieces), Guangdong Opal Mobile Communications Co., Ltd. (1222 pieces), PetroChina Company Limited (1008 pieces) and Semiconductor Manufacturing International (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. (862 pieces).

During 2017, SIPO received 51,000 PCT applications, an increase of 12.5%. Among them, 48,000 are from domestic applicants, an increase of 12.5%. There are seven provinces (incl. autonomous regions and municipalities) with over 1,000 PCT applications, which are Guangdong (268,000), Beijing (5,100), Jiangsu (4,600), Shanghai (2,100), Shandong (1,700), Zhejiang (1,400) and Hubei (1,300). The above-mentioned seven provinces and municipalities account for more than 90% of the domestic PCT applications.

The data also shows that in 2017, 5608 Chinese patent applications were published in the Belt and Road countries / regions (excluding China), an increase of 16.0%, while 4,319 patent applications from Belt and Road countries / regions were filed in China, an increase of 16.8%. The number of countries applying for patents in China reached 41, an increase of 4 over 2016. In addition, SIPO also released the data such as of the nationwide patent administrative enforcement cases, patent pledged financing, patent review requests and invalidation claim cases, as well as the data concerning patent agencies. (Source: sipo.gov.cn)

➤ **SAIC: More than 20,000 Trademark Infringement Cases Handled in 2017**

According to the State Administration of Industry and Commerce (SAIC), the AIC system nationwide focused on curbing bad-faith pre-emption of trademarks and cracking down on trademark infringement in 2017. From January to November 2017, 21,000 cases of trademark infringement or counterfeiting were handled, involving a total value of 273 million yuan and a fine of 365 million yuan.

At the same time, China Trademark Office takes active measures to advance trademark monitoring and protection, by sorting out applications with typical bad-faith intention, conducting expedited and consolidated examination with stricter criteria, and issuing ex officio rejection. In opposition procedures, bad-faith registrations in violation of the principle of good faith are resolutely prevented. As of now, the Trademark Office has rejected numbers of bad-faith applications, which sets example for curbing all kinds of bad-faith registrations of trademarks.

(Source: China Business News)

➤ **5+ Million Trademark Applications filed in China in 2017**

In 2017, 5.748 million trademark applications were filed in China, an increase of 55.7% over the previous year, making the new highs in both the filing amount and the growth rate.

By the end of 2017, China had had 27.842 million accumulated trademark applications, 17.301 million accumulated registered trademarks, 14.92 million effective registered trademarks, ranking first in the world for 17 consecutive years.

Chinese brand influence has also increased around the world simultaneously. The 2017 World's Top 500 Brands published by World Brands Laboratory includes 37 brands from China, an increase of 150% over 2013. Last year, China applicants filed 4,810 Madrid international trademark registration applications, an increase of 59.6% over the previous year, ranking third among the member states.

Cases in Spotlight

➤ **LAFITE Recognized as Well-Known Mark for wine by Beijing High Court**

Recently, Beijing Higher People's Court issued final judgement on the dispute over TRAB decision concerning invalidation of trademark "卡斯特拉斐 CASTEL LAFITE" registered by Xinji Futai Leatherware Co., Ltd. on January 14, 2013 in respect of clothing in Class 25. The Court found that the prior trademark "LAFITE" registered by Chateau Lafite Rothschild (The Plaintiff) in respect of alcoholic goods in Class 33 enjoys high reputation among the public and thus has constituted well-known trademark; that the disputed mark fully incorporates the prior well-known mark "LAFITE" and one of its corresponding Chinese 拉斐, and has constituted copy, imitation or translation of the cited well-known mark, damaged the fixed connection between the cited mark and its labeled product, diluted the distinctiveness of the cited mark, and may have impaired plaintiff's interest. Beijing Higher People's Court issued final judgement to revoke the judgement of the first instance and the decision made by Trademark Review and Adjudication Board (TRAB) and ordered TRAB to issue anew decision on the invalidation case.