

## Index Page

### Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Session No. : 18

Consolidated e-file name : IPD-1-e1.docx

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<a href="#">CEDB137</a>	2501	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	78	(-) -
<a href="#">CEDB138</a>	1173	IP LAU Suk-yea, Regina	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property
<a href="#">CEDB139</a>	0806	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property
<a href="#">CEDB140</a>	0805	MA Fung-kwok	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2501)**

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) -  
Programme: (-) -  
Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in the Budget that for the past 3 years, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) granted an average of more than 10 000 standard patent registrations each year, involving industries such as research and development (R&D), cultural and creativity, design services, and brand licensing. The Government plans to submit to the Legislative Council in the first half of this year amendments to the Inland Revenue Ordinance, which will reduce the tax rate for profits derived from intellectual property (IP) to 5% so as to encourage IP commercialisation transactions. In addition, the Government has set aside \$45 million to support the Hong Kong Productivity Council in establishing and operating the World Intellectual Property Organization Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) to provide services such as patent search and analysis. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the respective numbers of grants of patent registrations involving R&D, cultural and creativity, design services and brand licensing in the past 3 years? Please give a breakdown by type.
2. Please specify the types and values of IP commercialisation transactions relating to the cultural and creative industries (CCI) in the past 3 years.
3. If the tax rate for profits derived from IP of the CCI is reduced to 5%, what will be the outcomes and impacts?
4. Please explain the expenditure of \$45 million on establishing and operating the TISC and provide the detailed breakdown and the funding period.
5. Please explain how the TISC will promote IP trading, including cultural and creative products.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

### ***Patent registrations and relevant statistics for the past 3 years***

**Patents** provide legal protection for scientific inventions (i.e. products, substances or processes which are new, inventive and susceptible of industrial application), which mainly protect research and development (R&D) outcomes. As for the products and services relating to the cultural and creative industries (CCI), which can cover original literary, dramatic, artistic and musical works, and other works such as sound recordings, films and broadcasts (all of which are protected by **copyright**), they are also susceptible of industrial application, brand marketing, and other activities of intellectual property (IP) trading and commercialisation through **trade marks** and **designs**.

Copyright is an automatically granted right. Copyright works, upon creation, are protected by the laws of Hong Kong without the need for local registration, whereas trade marks and designs may obtain protection through registration.

In the past 3 years, the numbers of registrations of standard patents <sup>Note</sup>, short-term patents, trade marks and designs in Hong Kong are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Standard patents</b> <sup>Note</sup>	14 662	11 602	10 866
<b>Short-term patents</b>	684	535	516
<b>Trade marks</b>	32 719	30 630	25 332
<b>Designs</b>	4 206	3 319	3 390

Note: Including standard patents by re-registration and standard patents by original grant

Being intangible assets, IPs are embedded in various products and services, and are tradable by different means. Conventional statistics generally do not separately calculate the business receipts of the IPs embedded in goods and services. According to the report “Hong Kong Trade in Services Statistics” released by the Census and Statistics Department, the statistics on charges for the use of IP in the 3 years from 2020 to 2022 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2020</b> <b>(HK\$ million)</b>	<b>2021</b> <b>(HK\$ million)</b>	<b>2022</b> <b>(HK\$ million)</b>
<b>Charges for the use of IP – Exports of services</b>	5,442	5,555	5,777
<b>Charges for the use of IP – Imports of services</b>	13,651	15,837	16,338

### ***“Patent Box” Tax Incentive***

It was announced in the 2023-24 Budget that the Government would introduce a “patent box” tax incentive to provide tax concessions for qualifying profits sourced in Hong Kong and derived from eligible IP created through R&D activities. The 2023 Policy Address and 2024-25 Budget have announced that the relevant profits tax rate will be reduced substantially from 16.5% (i.e. the existing normal profits tax rate in Hong Kong) to 5%. This incentive aims to encourage enterprises to devote more resources to R&D and conduct

commercialisation transactions making use of patents and other IP protections. The Government already introduced into the Legislative Council in April this year the proposal to amend the Inland Revenue Ordinance with a view to implementing the “patent box” tax incentive. It is expected that this tax incentive, upon implementation, will encourage the industrial and innovation and technology (I&T) sectors, creative industries and IP users with profits sourced in Hong Kong to forge ahead with more R&D activities and create more IPs with market potential as a catalyst for promoting I&T and IP trading activities (such as IP buying/selling and licensing, as well as development of new products and services), with a view to maintaining Hong Kong’s competitiveness as a regional IP trading centre.

As a member of the Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Hong Kong is obliged to apply the nexus approach as promulgated by the OECD in determining the extent of IP income that is entitled to preferential tax treatment under its “patent box” tax incentive. Under the nexus approach, eligible IP assets are limited to patents and other IP assets that are functionally equivalent to patents, and do not cover other IP rights such as copyright, trade marks and designs as more commonly found in the goods and services of the CCI.

### ***Technology and Innovation Support Centre***

Under the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) dedicated programme, WIPO will support participating member states to establish TISCs which serve to provide consultation services to researchers and innovators on a range of information including patent utilisation, search analysis, technology transfer, IP management and commercialisation, etc. The TISC can support researchers and innovators at different stages of the innovation cycle, helping them make use of the IP system (especially by means of patents) to protect their inventions and guiding them to bring the technology to markets.

More than 100 TISCs have been established in the Mainland under this dedicated programme. We will respond positively by making a recommendation to the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) for establishing a TISC in Hong Kong, thus enabling Hong Kong to better integrate into overall national development.

The establishment of TISC requires the approval of WIPO and CNIPA. During this year, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) will liaise closely with CNIPA and the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) so as to let the HKPC commence the preparatory work in accordance with the prevailing implementation procedures on establishing TISC promulgated by CNIPA. Upon the evaluation and granting of the WIPO TISC status by WIPO and CNIPA, it is anticipated that Hong Kong’s TISC will commence operation by 2025 the earliest.

The IPD has conducted preliminary discussions with the HKPC on the resources required for the establishment and operation of the TISC in the first 3 years. The Government’s commitment to the project for the 5 financial years from 2024-25 to 2028-29 is approximately \$45 million according to current estimates. The funding is reserved for the various expenses for the establishment and operation of the TISC, including salaries, rent, office equipment, infrastructure building (including development of information technology systems and websites, connection to databases, etc.), consultancy fees and other administrative expenses. The IPD will further discuss with the HKPC in order to prepare the recommendation

documents, as well as to formulate and finalise the overall work plan and detailed implementation arrangements, including the manpower involved, detailed service content, resources borne by the HKPC, timetable for the establishment and key performance indicators, etc.

Upon its establishment and operation, the TISC is expected to provide local small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups and entrepreneurs with high-quality IP (especially patents) information and services, and assist them in exploring their innovation potential on the one hand, and creating, protecting, managing and commercialising their IP on the other hand. It will not only protect R&D outcomes, but also promote IP trading, thus consolidating Hong Kong's position as a regional IP trading centre. Local I&T talents can also make use of the services provided by TISC and apply the professional knowledge they acquired to various innovation processes such as R&D, patent application, and transformation of outcomes. Separately, the services of the TISC require staff to possess specialised technical credentials and background, as well as IP knowledge (especially on patents). While the HKPC is responsible for the deployment and recruitment of the necessary manpower, the IPD also plans to deploy its patent examiners to the TISC to work with TISC staff to promote patent knowledge and assist in providing relevant information on patent application strategies, operation of the industry, I&T trends, etc., so that the patent examiners can better understand the market trends and needs. This will be greatly beneficial to the exchange of professional knowledge on patent examination and industry support.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CEDB138**

**(Question Serial No. 1173)**

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) -  
Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property  
Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Paragraphs 159 to 161 of the Budget Speech mentioned the development of Hong Kong into a regional intellectual property (IP) trading centre. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the respective numbers of training courses and practical workshops offered, as well as practitioners who had received training under the Intellectual Property Manager Scheme PLUS (the Scheme) in 2023-24;
2. the expenditures and staffing provisions involved in the implementation of the Scheme with a detailed breakdown;
3. the numbers of promotional and educational activities organised by the Government for enhancing public awareness of IP rights, as well as the expenditures and staffing provisions involved in the past 5 years with a detailed breakdown;
4. whether the Government has assessed the effectiveness of the above initiative; if yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

It has long been an important task of the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) to promote and to support the industry to make better use of the intellectual property (IP) regime. The IPD launched the IP Manager Scheme for small and medium enterprises in May 2015 with a view to enhancing their IP manpower capacity and boosting their competitiveness through IP management and commercialisation. To meet the development needs of different industries, the IPD launched the IP Manager Scheme PLUS in October 2020 to provide more comprehensive and in-depth IP training courses and practical workshops. In 2023-24, the

IPD organised 13 training courses and practical workshops with the participation of more than 1 550 practitioners. The overall response was enthusiastic and positive. According to the feedback from the course evaluation, over 96% of the participants found the training very good or outstanding.

The IPD also attaches great importance to raising public awareness of and respect for IP rights, and continues to carry out promotional and educational work through various channels and media, including organising various activities and making TV promotional videos to reach out to the general public. The major promotional and educational activities for enhancing IP literacy of the public and the younger generation in the past 5 years are summarised as follows:

- continued to organise territory-wide campaigns, including the “No Fakes Pledge” Scheme and the “I Pledge” Campaign to advocate the selling and buying of genuine goods among Hong Kong retailers, tourists and local consumers. On average, there were over 1 500 retail merchants and 7 000 outlets/online shops participating in the “No Fakes Pledge” Scheme organised by the IPD each year;
- continued to organise promotional activities to celebrate the annual World Intellectual Property Day. For example, in 2023, the “Let’s Protect Intellectual Property” Exhibition was held at the Central Market and roving exhibitions on mobile promotion vehicle were held at various districts across Hong Kong;
- organised over 650 sessions of the school visit programme and the interactive drama programme for primary and secondary schools, as well as talks for tertiary institutions, targeting the younger generation. Besides, the IPD also collaborated with the law schools of the 3 local universities to organise the IP Ambassador Programme for law school students to join as IP Ambassadors and participate in various IP-related activities such as conferences, lectures, seminars and exchanges with IP practitioners organised by the IPD. Other promotional and educational activities included the IP Literacy Concert, Inter-School Online Intellectual Property Quiz Contest, and a number of events organised in collaboration with organisations of the right-holders and youth, such as the “Respect Copyright” Campaign. These activities attracted over 176 000 students and received positive responses from the vast majority of the participants;
- to strengthen the promotion of the national support for Hong Kong to develop into a regional IP trading centre under the National 14th Five-Year Plan as well as Hong Kong’s competitive edge, the IPD has worked with Radio Television Hong Kong since 2022 to produce a television series named “IP: New Opportunities” with a total of 18 episodes in 2 seasons. Another new season of the television programme promoting IP trading is being planned for broadcasting in 2024-25.

The IPD has all along been keeping in touch with the industry and stakeholders, conducting regular surveys on public awareness of IP protection, and collecting feedback from participants of the relevant promotional and educational activities, in order to assess the effectiveness of the relevant activities and draw up more effective promotional and educational strategies and programmes. In overall terms, the IPD’s promotional and educational work has received general support from the public, the industry and stakeholders.

Carrying out promotional and educational programmes for the public, the industry and stakeholders as well as promoting IP trading are part of the overall work of the IPD, the expenditure of which is subsumed under the overall estimates and is executed by existing manpower. It is therefore difficult to quantify the expenditures and manpower involved separately.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0806)**

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 include forging ahead with the preparatory work for implementing the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the details of the latest work progress? What are the details of the timetable for implementation in Hong Kong?
2. What were the details of the promotion and education activities, with emphasis on intellectual property protection, management and commercialisation, organised for small and medium enterprises in the past financial year? What were the level of participation and feedback from the enterprises? What are the work plan and estimated expenditure for organising activities in 2024-25?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

To enable the early implementation of the international trade mark registration system under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol) in Hong Kong, the Government is pressing ahead with the necessary preparatory work. On the legislative front, the Government briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology in April 2023 on the legislative proposals for the related subsidiary legislation, and received support from the Panel. Other local preparatory work includes formulating the workflow for processing applications for trade mark registration filed under the international registration system, preparing for the roll-out of the required information technology system, arranging manpower training, etc.

Since the Madrid Protocol is an international treaty, we need to seek the formal agreement of the Central People's Government to apply the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong. The

Government will continue to maintain communication with the Mainland authorities to further discuss the detailed arrangements for implementing the international trade mark registration system in Hong Kong.

The Intellectual Property Department (IPD) has been organising intellectual property (IP) training courses and practical workshops for Hong Kong enterprises including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and providing them with free IP consultation services. The IPD has also worked with different stakeholders to promote IP protection, management and commercialisation through various activities. Details are as follows:

- the IPD launched the IP Manager Scheme for SMEs in May 2015 with a view to enhancing their IP manpower capacity and boosting their competitiveness through IP management and commercialisation. To meet the development needs of the enterprises, the IPD launched the IP Manager Scheme PLUS in October 2020 to provide more comprehensive and in-depth IP training courses and practical workshops. As at end-February 2024, about 7 700 practitioners had participated in such training. According to the feedback from the course evaluation, over 91% of the participants found the training very good or outstanding. The IPD will continue to enhance the above Scheme and training courses to provide IP training to different sectors. It is expected that the training courses and practical workshops will continue to attract more than 1 000 participants in the 2024-25 financial year;
- the IPD has continued to provide free IP Consultation Service for SMEs. From the pilot launch of the initiative in December 2014 to end-February 2024, a total of 662 SMEs participated in the initiative. Since January 2023, the Law Society of Hong Kong has increased the number of lawyers on the team providing the service and extended the duration of each consultation session. According to the feedback from the evaluation, over 98% of the participating enterprises were satisfied with the consultation service;
- the Government has continued to co-organise the annual Business of IP Asia Forum (BIP Asia Forum) with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. The 2023 Forum, which resumed physical participation in full, was held on 7 and 8 December and attracted over 2 500 participants from 35 countries and regions, including leaders of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the China National Intellectual Property Administration, as well as IP experts from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The IPD will continue to support the BIP Asia Forum with the addition of new features to provide an excellent platform for IP authorities, experts, practitioners and trading partners from different regions around the world to exchange views on IP-related issues and explore more opportunities for co-operation and development. The 2024 Forum will be held on 5 and 6 December 2024;
- to strengthen the promotion of the national support for Hong Kong to develop into a regional IP trading centre, and to promote Hong Kong's competitive edge in developing into a regional IP trading centre under the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the IPD has worked with the Radio Television Hong Kong since 2022 to produce a television series named "IP: New Opportunities" with a total of 18 episodes in 2 seasons. Another new

season of television programme for promoting IP trading is being planned for broadcasting in 2024-25;

- over the years, under the framework of the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights, the IPD has been collaborating with various cities in the Guangdong Province in organising a variety of activities to support the business sector (including SMEs) in strengthening IP protection and management for their Mainland operations, including the annual Guangdong/Hong Kong Seminar on Intellectual Property and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises. The seminar invites expert speakers from Hong Kong and the Mainland specialising in different fields (including arbitration and mediation) to deliver speeches in cities in the Guangdong Province, with a view to assisting the business sector (including SMEs) in developing effective IP management, exploitation and commercialisation strategies, let them have a better understanding of and capitalise on the opportunities offered by the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, thus promoting innovative development of the enterprises and enhancing competitiveness.

Promoting the development of IP trading is part of the overall work of the IPD. It is therefore difficult to quantify the resources required for such efforts separately.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0805)**

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, it is mentioned that:

1. “The Intellectual Property Department (IPD) will continue to work with stakeholders to develop and promote Hong Kong as a regional intellectual property (IP) trading centre in accordance with the National 14th Five-Year Plan”. In this regard, apart from planning for the establishment of a World Intellectual Property Organization Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) in Hong Kong, and setting aside \$45 million to support the Hong Kong Productivity Council in establishing and operating the TISC (as mentioned in paragraph 161 of the Budget Speech), what work has been commenced or is prepared to be launched by the IPD? Which stakeholders are in collaboration with the IPD?
2. What are the most common difficulties encountered by the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on the Protection of IP Rights in assisting the Hong Kong business sectors in strengthening their IP protection, management and commercialisation in the Mainland (including the Greater Bay Area)? What are the industries and mediation involved? Are there any staff deployed to the Mainland offices at this stage? If yes, please provide the details; if not, what are the reasons?
3. In 2023-24, how many cases of non-compliance with “No Fakes Pledge” Scheme were received by the IPD and how were they handled in the end?
4. Paragraph 159 of the Budget Speech mentioned that for the past 3 years, the IPD has granted an average of more than 10 000 standard patent registrations each year. Please list the types of applications for patent registration, the number of patents granted and the number of unsuccessful applications in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

*Promoting the development of Hong Kong as a regional IP trading centre*

The HKSAR Government has been implementing a series of short-, medium- and long-term measures (including strengthening IP protection, building capacity and promoting widely) to further develop Hong Kong as a regional IP trading centre for boosting Hong Kong's competitive advantages in developing IP trading in the region, thereby dovetailing with the important national strategy to develop IP and integrating into the national development. The Chief Executive has announced in the 2023 Policy Address that the Government will leverage our advantages in legal, taxation and professional services to develop Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre. The major measures introduced or to be launched by the IPD include:

*Strengthening IP protection*

- The latest amendments to the Copyright Ordinance came into force in May 2023 to strengthen copyright protection in the digital environment. We will conduct consultation within this year to explore further enhancement of the Copyright Ordinance regarding protection for artificial intelligence technology development, so as to ensure that Hong Kong's copyright regime remains robust and competitive.
- The fees chargeable by the Designs Registry has been reduced by 10% to 70% to encourage the trade to register designs in a timely manner for transformation and application. The new fees came into effect on 1 March 2024.
- A review of the registered designs regime is initiated in 2024 with a view to commencing consultation in 2025 on the way forward in updating the regime, so as to ensure that the regime closely follows the mainstream international practices and meets future local industrial development needs.
- The IPD will continue to forge ahead with the preparatory work for implementing the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks in Hong Kong, and strive for the implementation of the international trademark registration system as soon as possible.

- The IPD will continue to strengthen and enlarge its patent examination team. As at March 2024, IPD's original grant patent (OGP) examination team had a total of 29 examiners, with its establishment covering the 3 major technology fields of electricity, chemistry and mechanical engineering. An additional funding of about \$84 million in total has been allocated to the IPD for the 3 financial years from 2022-23 to 2024-25 for employing and nurturing more patent examiners to progressively enhance the capability for substantive examination under the OGP system, with the medium-term goal of expanding the patent examination team to about 40 examiners in 2025. In the long run, the IPD will strive to progressively build a team of about 100 examiners and acquire institutional autonomy in conducting substantive patent examination by 2030. The IPD will sustain its efforts in staff recruitment and training, enhancement of case examination, institutional establishment and enhancement, etc. is ongoing. With respect to technical support and staff training, it will maintain close liaison with the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) to, amongst others, arrange for training of its patent examiners by the CNIPA in the Mainland.
- The Government will allocate an additional funding of about \$12 million in total to the IPD over the next 3 financial years (i.e. from 2024-25 to 2026-27) for taking the lead in discussing with stakeholders to plan for the introduction of regulatory arrangements for local patent agent services, covering professional qualification requirements and registration, as well as the regulatory model and framework, with the aim of enhancing service quality and nurturing talents, in support of the development of the OGP system. The IPD has commenced the relevant preparatory work, including reviewing the key issues relating to introduction of the regulatory arrangements, forming a work team and liaising with stakeholders etc.

#### Implementing the "patent box" tax incentive

- The Government submitted to the Legislative Council in April 2024 amendment to the Inland Revenue Ordinance with a view to implementing the "patent box" tax incentive, which will substantially reduce the tax rate for profits derived from qualifying IP to 5%. This incentive aims to encourage enterprises to devote more resources to research and development, and conduct commercialisation transactions making use of patents and other IP assets.

#### Building capacity

- The IPD launched the IP Manager Scheme for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in May 2015 with a view to enhancing their IP manpower capacity and boosting their competitiveness through IP management and commercialisation. To meet the development needs of the enterprises, the IPD launched the IP Manager Scheme PLUS (Scheme) in October 2020 to provide more comprehensive and in-depth IP training courses and practical workshops. As at the end of February 2024, about 7 700 practitioners had participated in such training. The IPD will continue to enhance

the Scheme and training courses for provision of IP training to different sectors. It is expected that the training courses and practical workshops will continue to attract more than 1 000 participants in the 2024-25 financial year. Moreover, the IPD has been providing free IP consultation services for SMEs. From the pilot launch of the initiative in December 2014 to February 2024, a total of 662 SMEs had participated in the initiative. Since January 2023, the Law Society of Hong Kong has increased the number of lawyers on the team providing the services and extended the duration of each consultation session.

### Promoting widely and education

- The HKSAR Government has been co-organising the annual Business of IP Asia Forum with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. Held on 7 and 8 December 2023, the 2023 Forum returned to a fully physical format and attracted over 2 500 participants from 35 countries and regions, including leaders of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and CNIPA, as well as IP experts from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The 2024 Forum will be held on 5 and 6 December 2024.
- To foster regional collaboration with the ASEAN economies in promoting IP commercialisation, the IPD, pursuant to the “ASEAN – Hong Kong, China Free Trade Agreement” framework and in collaboration with the WIPO, organised an ASEAN Session at the Business of IP Asia Forum on the topic of trademark and brand licensing in December 2023. The session was attended by representatives of IP authorities from 10 ASEAN economies and attracted over 180 participants. The IPD will continue to seek co-operation with the ASEAN countries in the IP fields.
- To strengthen the promotion of the national support for Hong Kong’s development into a regional IP trading centre under the National 14th Five-year Plan and our competitive edge in IP trading, the IPD has worked with Radio Television Hong Kong since 2022 to produce a television series entitled “IP: New Opportunities” with a total of 18 episodes in 2 seasons, and plans to launch a new series of television programme to promote IP trading in 2024-25.
- In February 2023, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and the Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone of Shenzhen Municipality jointly promulgated the “16 Co-operation Measures for the Development of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Intellectual Property and Innovation Hub” (the 16 Co-operation Measures) which covered co-operation in IP protection, exploitation and transformation, exchange and study, promotion and education, and IP trading, etc. The IPD will continue to work closely with the IP authorities of the Mainland to promote IP protection, management and trading under various collaborative frameworks such as the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on the Protection of IP Rights (the Expert Group), the Pan-Pearl River Delta IP Co-operation Joint Conference and the 16 Co-operation Measures. To enhance cross-boundary co-operation in IP trading and services, the IPD also plans to strengthen the IP co-operation programmes relating to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), and encourages GBA enterprises to make use of Hong Kong’s professional

services, such as IP agencies, management and consulting, legal services, arbitration, mediation and accounting.

- The IPD will continue to collaborate with IP authorities in the Mainland and overseas to promote IP trading and IP commercialisation, including participating in conferences and seminars organised by international and regional IP organisations such as the WIPO and the Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group of the APEC.

### ***Guangdong-Hong Kong co-operation in IP protection***

Under the framework of the Expert Group, the IPD has been collaborating with various cities in the Guangdong Province in organising a variety of activities to support the business sector (including SMEs) in strengthening IP protection and management for their Mainland operations, including the annual Guangdong/Hong Kong Seminar on IP and Development of SMEs. The seminar invites various expert speakers from Hong Kong and the Mainland specialising in different fields (including arbitration and mediation) to deliver keynote speeches in cities in the Guangdong Province, with the aim of assisting the business sector (including SMEs) in developing effective IP management, exploitation and commercialisation strategies, so as to better understand and capitalise on the opportunities offered by the development of the GBA as well as promote the development of innovation and enhance the competitiveness of the enterprises. The feedback indicated that nearly 70% of the participants considered the seminar be conducive to strengthening SMEs' awareness of IP protection. With the Mainland's vigorous strengthening the protection of IP rights and optimizing the environment for innovation and business operation, the IP protection issues encountered by the Hong Kong commercial and industrial sectors when running business in the Mainland have been significantly reduced. So far, no report on the Hong Kong commercial and industrial sectors encountering enormous difficulties in IP protection, management and commercialisation in the Mainland (including the GBA) has been received by the Expert Group. The Economic and Trade Office set up by the HKSAR Government in Guangdong also provides support covering IP-related aspect to Hong Kong enterprises in the Guangdong Province.

### ***“No Fakes Pledge” Scheme***

In 2023-24, no cases of members of the “No Fakes Pledge” Scheme breaching the code of conduct of the scheme were recorded by the IPD.

### ***Standard patent applications and registrations*** <sup>Note 1</sup>

The number of standard patent applications by technology fields, and the respective numbers of standard patents granted and unsuccessful applications handled by the IPD in the past 3 years are set out as follows:

<b>Number of standard patent applications by technology fields</b>			
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Electrical engineering	8 008	5 892	4 548
Instruments	2 700	2 613	2 429
Chemistry	8 045	8 993	8 370
Mechanical engineering	1 480	1 403	1 331



Other fields	1 482	1 047	881
Unidentified <sup>Note 2</sup>	228	216	225
<b>Total number of standard patent applications</b>	<b>21 943</b>	<b>20 164</b>	<b>17 784</b>

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Standard patents granted</b>	14 662	11 602	10 866
<b>Unsuccessful standard patent applications</b> <sup>Note 3</sup>	5 370	4 640	5 088

Note 1: Including standard patents by re-registration and standard patents by original grant.

Note 2: Because the applicants had not provided any patent specifications, the Patents Registry was unable to categorise the applications by technology fields.

Note 3: Reasons for unsuccessful applications included applications being refused due to non-compliance with the statutory requirements, applicants failing to pay the required prescribed fees, and applicants withdrawing their applications of their own accord. Over 90% of the unsuccessful patent applications were attributed to applicants' failure to make maintenance applications or pay the maintenance fees.

- End -