



"Ambrose Ng"

29/12/2011 15:43

Please respond to
Ambrose Ng

To "patent_review@citb.gov.hk" <patent_review@citb.gov.hk>

cc

bcc

Subject Set up Patent Writers Training and Assessment Center

Urgent Return receipt Sign Encrypt

Dear Sir,

In response to your patent review consultation, I have the following suggestions:

I obtained the HK gov Patent Assistance Grant(HK\$100000) in 2006 and successfully obtained US patent, China Patent, and HK patent for my invention.

In the process, I encountered the following difficulties:

1. Very difficult to find appropriate patent agent to help me writing the patent claims: small or medium law firms do not have the patent claims writing expertise; large firms like Deacons or Masters, although they have the patent writing expertise, would politely, sometimes brutally, refused to write the patent claims for me because they reasoned that they could not earn too much money from an independent inventor like me.
2. After many long searches and personal visits to many law firms, I finally found a qualified law firm to write the patent claims for me. But their patent claims writing performance was very poor and their charges are astronomical. In the painful claims writing process I have to train up myself writing many of the claims myself by consulting books like "Patent It Yourself".

From my experience, I have the following suggestions:

1. For issuing Standard Patents, Hong Kong should recognize more countries' patent authorities like USPTO, Australia and Canada.
2. Hong Kong should have a dual-system for issuing Standard Patents, that is to keep the existing system and have another system with patent examination. The patent examination tasks should be outsourced at the beginning like Singapore is doing for cost effectiveness.
3. The principles of writing patent claims are not difficult. Books like "Patent It Yourself" are very popular and very effective in uncovering those principles. The most difficult part of writing patent claims is for the writer to understand the invention first, that is why patent attorney specialized in a particular field, say electronics patent claims writing, must have at least a first degree in electronics. The problem in Hong Kong now is because we have too few patent attorneys who must handle a diverse fields of patent writing. For example, how can you expect a patent attorney whose background is biology understand electronics invention properly and quickly so that he can start to write patent claims? One solution to the problem is to INCREASE the supply of patent

claims writers in various fields like electronics, biology, mechanical etc.. One method is for the Government to set up a patent claims writing training and assessment center. The trainee must have a first degree in a particular field like electronics, then the trainee is undergoing a brief patent claims writing training in that field for one week. Within that week, the trainee is receiving training in principles and practice claims writing. After that, if they can pass a qualifying exam, the Hong Kong Gov can award them a certificate of patent claims writing in a particular field. Then they can compete in the market place for writing patent claims for their clients. In this way, we can gradually develop and expand patent writing related professionals and subsequently speeding up innovation in Hong Kong and Greater China.

Patents are very important because they protect valuable inventions. Good protection spurs more innovations. Thus, good patent claims writing are vital in the innovation process.

SO PLEASE PLEASE THINK IN AN INNOVATIVE WAY, SET UP THE PATENT WRITERS TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER. IT IS COST-EFFECTIVE AND LOW RISK. I CAN TESTIFY FROM MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT IT CAN BE DONE. PATENT CLAIMS WRITING PRINCIPLES ARE NOT DIFFICULT.

I spent time in writing this email because I love Hong Kong, so give my suggestion a trial.

Best Regards,

NG, Chan Wai