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30 May 2013

Mr Peter K F Cheung
Director of Intellectual Property
Intellectual Property Department
The HKSAR Government
25th Floor, Wu Chung House
213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong

By Email and by Post
(patent_agency_consultation@ipd.gov.hk)

Dear Mr Cheung

Consultation on Regulation of Patent Agency Services

Thank you for your letter dated 20 March 2013 to our Vice-Chancellor and President inviting our views on the proposed regulation of patent agency services in Hong Kong.

In general, we agree to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee that a regulatory regime for providers of patent agency services should be established in Hong Kong. The proposed regulation of patent agency services should enhance the development of a local patent profession and expedite the introduction of an original grant patent system and refinements to the short-term patent system. All these will contribute to the promotion and development of Hong Kong as an innovation and technology hub.

We support the recommendations to regulate provision of patent services that merely involve technical expertise at the initial stage and to adopt the UK model that the use of titles, such as "patent agents" and "patent attorneys" should be restricted to those who are qualified. With respect to the possible interim measures, we do not have any comments on the detailed implementation. We consider that any interim measures and long term plan should encourage local public research institutions to build up their capacities of knowledge transfer by providing high quality professional services and a wider range of choices of patent profession. This will ultimately benefit the community.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned on 3943 1557 (email: sharontam@cuhk.edu.hk) if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Tam (Ms)
Director, Knowledge Transfer Office

cc Prof Joseph Sung, Vice-Chancellor and President, CUHK
Prof Fanny Cheung, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, CUHK

