

Intellectual property seminars staged in Shaoguan and Shunde

A seminar aimed at strengthening co-operation between Guangdong and Hong Kong on intellectual property matters, especially those concerning small and medium enterprises (SMEs), was held in Shaoguan today (November 29) and another will be held in Shunde, Guangdong Province on December 1 (Wednesday).

The "2004 Shaoguan Seminar on Intellectual Property and the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises" and the "2004 Shunde Seminar on Intellectual Property and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises" were organised by the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) of the HKSAR Government, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Guangdong Provincial Intellectual Property Office.

Hong Kong's Director of Intellectual Property, Mr Stephen Selby, said that these seminars, similar to the one organised in Dongguan in May this year, were another element in the cooperation between Hong Kong and Guangdong on promoting intellectual property protection. They come as a result of the successful co-operation programme launched by the Hong Kong/Guangdong Joint Working Group on Intellectual Property Protection.

"We shall grasp the opportunities brought about by the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) to further explore co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong Province in the areas of trade in services and intellectual property. The seminars in Shaoguan and Shunde are intended to show SMEs in both regions how to use intellectual property as a tool for wealth creation," Mr Selby said.

Shaoguan is an important heavy-industry city in Guangdong and Shunde is a well-known home appliance and furniture processing and manufacturing centre in the Pearl River Delta. Many Hong Kong enterprises have already established strong links or investment bases in these areas. These seminars, each with over 200 participants from various industries and government administrations, provide a platform for SMEs in both areas to keep abreast of the intellectual property developments in the region.

The Shaoguan Seminar was organised by the Guangdong Provincial Intellectual

Property Office, the Shaoguan Municipal People's Government, the Intellectual Property Department of the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. It was also co-organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong, the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Science & Technology and Information Bureau (Intellectual Property Bureau) of Shaoguan and the Shaoguan Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation Bureau.

The Shunde Seminar was organised by the Guangdong Provincial Intellectual Property Office, the Intellectual Property Department of the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. It was also co-organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong, the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Patent Association of Shunde Foshan, the Furniture Industry Intellectual Property Safeguard Institute of Shunde Foshan, the Science and Technology Bureau of Shunde District and the Intellectual Property Bureau of Shunde District.

For details of the seminars, please visit the IPD's website at www.ipd.gov.hk.

Ends/Monday, November 29, 2004

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