

The 3rd meeting of Guangdong/HK Expert Group on the Protection of IPRs

The Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights agreed to step up cooperation to promote the “No Fakes Pledge” to combat intellectual property infringements at its third meeting held in Hong Kong today (December 21).

At the meeting, the two parties reviewed the latest development of intellectual property in the two places and concluded the intellectual property cooperation items completed. New initiatives for the first half of next year were also discussed, which included enhancing the “No Fakes Pledge” in Guangdong and Hong Kong; organising a new seminar on intellectual property and the development of small and medium enterprises in Guangdong Province; and enriching the website content of the Intellectual Property Database for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao (website: www.ip-prd.net).

Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, the Deputy Director of Intellectual Property, Mr Peter Cheung said, “Since its inception in 2003, the meeting has successfully built up a close partnership between the IP-related departments in the two places. With the increasing economic cooperation between Guangdong and Hong Kong, we have to maximise this cooperation platform to combat intellectual property infringements and promote the use of intellectual property assets.”

The leader of Guangdong delegation, the Director General of Guangdong Provincial Intellectual Property Office, Mr Li Zhong-duo, said, “We have had a very constructive meeting this morning. We have reviewed various cooperation items and are satisfied with the present progress and the outcomes achieved so far. We have agreed to start on a number of initiatives, including a training and information sharing programme to be held in Guangdong for Hong Kong enterprises, lawyers and trademark or patent agents.”

During the press conference, a ceremony was held to launch a new TV Announcement of Public Interest (API) “No Fakes Pledge”, which will start broadcasting simultaneously in Guangdong and Hong Kong tonight.

Mr Cheung said, “This promotional video is a joint production by the two parties and is simply one of the successful examples of our cooperation projects.”

The Expert Group, set up after the Sixth Plenary of the Guangdong/Hong Kong Cooperation Joint Conference held in August last year, aims at enhancing exchanges and cooperation on various aspects of intellectual property, including promotion and education, training, enforcement and information dissemination. The Guangdong delegation is led by the Director General of Guangdong Provincial Intellectual Property Office, Mr Li Zhong-duo, and comprising officials from the Administration for Industry and Commerce, the Copyright Bureau, the Public Security Bureau, the Foreign Trade & Economic Co-operation Department and the Guangdong Customs. The Hong Kong delegation is headed by the Director of Intellectual Property, Mr Stephen Selby, and comprising officials from the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau and the Customs and Excise Department.

The fourth meeting of the Expert Group will be held in Guangdong Province in June 2005.

A summary of the cooperation items is posted on the website of Intellectual Property Department at www.ipd.gov.hk.

Ends/Tuesday, December 21, 2004

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