

FS Congratulates the First Generation of E-filers

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The Intellectual Property Department (IPD) had successfully upgraded its customer-oriented e-services to the community with the launch of an electronic filing system for trademark, patents and designs, the Financial Secretary, Mr Henry Tang, said today (February 28).

Speaking at the Intellectual Property Department Open Day First Generation of E-filers presentation ceremony, Mr Tang said the next wave of e-government had gone beyond putting information online and would offer e-options to the delivery of government services in e-corporations, e-citizens in a customer-oriented environment.

"The first generation of IPD E-filers is a success story of partnership between the Government, private sector service providers and customers from the legal services industry. The vision and determination of these pioneers have provided encouragement and inspiration to the Government in further developing and delivering e-government," he said.

Aiming at serving customers with speed, convenience and accuracy, IPD and its outsourcing contractor have developed a web-based end-to-end electronic filing and back-end system for trademarks, patents and designs. Customers can interface with IPD 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Since its launch in December, 2003, the migration rate had reached 12% at end of 2004. It is expected that the rate will further rise to 30% in 2005-2006.

The IPD held its second Open Day today during which 20 e-filers were awarded the First Generation of E-filers plaques at a presentation ceremony in recognition of their active support and participation over the past three years in IPD's electronic services.

The awards were presented by the Financial Secretary, the Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Commerce and Industry), Miss Denise Yue, and the Director of Intellectual Property, Mr Stephen Selby.

About 160 guests participated in the Open Day. They included the major stakeholders in IP industry (legal community and related IP associations), academics, Mainland (Guangdong) government officials, consulate generals and other representatives from the public sector.

For details of the Open Day, please visit the IPD's website at [www.ipd.gov.hk](http://www.ipd.gov.hk)