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ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

submitted by

CHINA

An annual series of reports on the trademark information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

Annual Technical Reports on Trademark Information Activities in 1999 CHINA

I. Evolution of registration activities

- Changes experienced in terms of application filings and registrations with respect to the previous year.

In 1999, the Trademark Office totally received 170,715 applications for registration of trademarks and service marks, an increase of 13,032 as compared with that of 1998, of which 140,620 were domestic applications, standing 82.4% of the total; 18,883 were foreign applications, 11.1% of the total; and 11,212 were territorial extension of the international registration of marks under the Madrid system, 6.5% of the total applications. In respect of the domestic applications, those classes for which a good number of applications had been filed were still Classes 25, 9, 30 and 5, with the applications respectively being 17,770, 15,019, 12,197 and 9,268. Also received were 34 applications for the registration of certification marks, 18 for collective marks and 126 for special marks.

In 1999, the Trademark Office totally examined 166,866 marks, modified 21,480 registered marks, assigned 15,237 registered marks, renewed 8,692 registered marks, annulled and/or cancelled 2,030 registered marks, recorded 12,000 trademark license contracts, reissued 1,530 registration certificates, handled 3,144 trademark oppositions, including 239 of service marks. That year, the Trademark Office approved 122,401 registered trademarks. Up to the end of 1999, the total number of registered trademark in force reached 1,091,228.

- Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year.

In 1999, applications for trademark registration filed at the Trademark Office experienced an increase of 13,032 compared with that of 1998.

In 1999, Phase II of the Automation System of Trademark Registration and Administration progressed smoothly. By the end of 2000 the Phase II project would be finished and put into use.

In 1999, the Trademark Office issued application-software for local trademark agencies. The software helps to standardize all trademark applications filed from local agencies. It will lay a sound foundation for the automation project.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information, i.e., trademark gazettes:

- Publishing, printing, copying techniques.

Introduced advanced equipment for printing, and copying.

- Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of trademark information.

The Trademark Gazette, published on a weekly basis.

- Mass storage media and microforms used.

High-capability disk array for the storage of data; and high-capability tape for backup.

- Word processing and office automation.

Word-processing and office automation have been finished on the whole.

- Techniques used for the generation of trademark information (printing,

recording, photocomposing, etc.).

The development of The Trademark Gazette typesetting system has been finished and put into use. CD-ROM based electronic bulletin system is under development.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of trademark information:

- Classification and reclassification activities; Classification systems used, e.g., International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Classification), International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks (Vienna Classification), other classification (please state whether goods and services for the registration of marks and whether the figurative elements of marks are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification(s) is (are) used).

The Trademark Office uses the Nice Classification and further reclassify goods and services for users' convenience.

The Trademark Office uses the Vienna Classification, also for trademark image search.

- Use of electronic classification systems to check the classification symbols furnished by an applicant and which are contained in the lists of goods and/or services.

The Trademark Office had built electronic classification systems to help user searching.

- Obligation for applicants to use pre-defined terms of the classification applied.

We are of the opinion that applicants have the obligation to use prescribed terms for goods and services. This is helpful for computer-aided management. However, in most of the applications filed via the International Bureau, descriptive instead of prescribed terms are used. Such irregularity is not in line with the automated administration as propounded by the International Bureau.

- Bibliographic data and processing for search purposes.

To facilitate trademark search, databases have been established, and software developed.

IV. Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep

- file building.

The archives division of the Office is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of documentary archives.

- Updating.

Staff of the division update the documents every day.

- Storage, including mass storage media.

Original documents are scanned and stored on multi-GB hard disk array. The electronic archives are also backed up on CD-ROMs.

- Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file.

Documents from other Offices are not kept except where registrations in China are concerned. Other information is not specially managed since communications are not large.

V. Activities in the field of computerized trademark search systems

- In-house systems(online/offline).

An in-house search system has been established, with over 200 terminals.

- External databases.

It is estimated that, by 2001, retrieval service for outside users will be ready.

- Administrative management system (e.g., register, legal status, statistics, administrative support, etc.).

Documentary database concerning the register and other original documents has been established.

- Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), carriers used.

The server used is SUNE6000, with 128GB hard disk, and 4GB memory.

VI. Administration of trademark services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, registering trademarks, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts) :

- Planning, administration, automation, security.

When Phase II is functional, the whole workflow can be automated, including the filing of applications, and the search for registration.

- Collection management, preservation.

A division is responsible for the collection, management and maintenance of documents.

- Information services available to public (including computerized services and search files contained in libraries remote from your Office and trademark information posted by your Office on the World Wide Web).

Libraries of a certain scale have the relevant material. Some of them offer computerized service. The Office is constructing a website for the publication of information on the Internet.

Trademark Office
State Administration for Industry and Commerce
CHINA
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