

I. Progress in Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Cooperation of the State Intellectual Property Office

1. The Implementation of the PPH Cooperation Project

The State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) has launched the PPH pilot project in November 1, 2011, and since then, this project has been carried out smoothly. By the end of 2016, SIPO has initiated PPH pilot cooperation with patent administrative authorities of 20 countries or regions, and the PPH foreign cooperation network has already taken shape. By June 30, 2016, SIPO received a total of 17,278 PPH requests, and Chinese applicants filed 3,397 PPH requests abroad.

2. The Promotion of PPH

In order to enable applicants, representatives and the public to know the updated developments of PPH, SIPO has carried out PPH promotion events in several provinces and cities in China. It also participated in the PPH promotion events held by the Offices of Germany, Denmark, etc., to provide patent users with an overview of PPH services, and PPH application and examination practices of various Offices.

3. Common PPH Request Form

To reduce applicants' burden of submitting differently-formatted PPH request forms to different Offices, in recent years, SIPO made a proposal of Common PPH Request Form under the platform of IP5 Offices and the PPH plurilateral platform, expecting all PPH participating Offices to use a request form with unified format and items. The draft of this form, after being introduced in 2013, was widely supported by PPH participating Offices, and through several rounds of development and revision, it was finalized at the end of 2014. To date, the common PPH request form has been adopted by Offices of Sweden, Finland, the United Kingdom, China, EPO, Austria, Israel, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Norway, the United States of America, Australia, Russia, Canada, Denmark, Republic of Korea, and Japan. After the common PPH request form, under the lead of SIPO, IP5 Offices completed the drafting of the Common Instructions for the IP5 PPH Request Forms. With common filling instructions, users can submit PPH request to several Offices according to unified requirements and in the same format. This would facilitate the filing of PPH requests for users and improve the user-friendliness of PPH. Authorized by the Heads of the IP5 Offices in 2016, the Common PPH Request Form and the Common Instructions for the IP5 PPH Request Forms have been published on the website of IP5 Offices.

II. Progress in PCT Collaborative Search and Examination Project

Collaborative search and examination is a new pilot project under the PCT platform in recent years. It means that examiners of Offices in various regions and using different languages complete the international search and examination of one PCT application collaboratively, establish one search report, and one examiner of the main Office is responsible for drafting the written opinion.

At the IP5 Heads of Office meeting in 2016, IP5 Offices agreed on the cooperation framework of jointly conducting the third phase pilot of PCT collaborative search and examination, and planned to carry out the third phase pilot in future. Currently, led by EPO and greatly supported by WIPO, IP5 Offices are working together to conduct the consultation and preparatory work before the launch of the project.