

LEGAL DEPARTMENT E-BULLETIN



China – UK enter into bilateral relations on IP

UK and China have entered into bilateral relations on intellectual property following two-sided visits which culminated into bilateral work-plans finalised between the UK Patent & Trademark Office (UKPTO) and the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) on patents, trademark and copyright. The China–Britain Business Council (CBBC) and the Chinese E-commerce platform JD.com signed a co-operative agreement to tackle online counterfeiting. British companies would receive a preferential treatment (by way of a streamlined review process) for complaints filed through JD's protection platform.

Invasion of the Universe by robotic lawyers?

In our Vol.1 Ed. 8 we reported that more legal services will be provided through the Internet in the future. It has not been too long a wait, since the Beijing-based legal start-up [ai.Law](#) intends to create an army of robotic lawyers to serve clients' legal needs. The company plans to serve both local and overseas clients who can instantly obtain accurate, reliable and understandable answers provided by the robotic lawyers. "Lily" is the first robotic expert on marriage & divorce. "Mike" will be the second expert on visa & immigration laws. The aim is to make legal justice accessible, easy and cost effective. ai.Law intends to grow and expand to cover the whole world, not just China and the Asia-Pacific, it is reported.

Can lawyers' brains be decoded?

Yet another artificial intelligence development in this area is Meisterline, a unique science-based lawyer rating service that uses cognitive analysis to measure the expertise of legal specialists. The firm was launched in Hong Kong but work with law firms in Australia, Canada and the UK. The Meisterline Index allows lawyers and others to measure the expertise of legal specialists in ways that were not previously possible. The science behind Meisterline is both old and new. They use the cognitive modelling which is based on principles that go back to medieval times for craft guilds and the new quantitative dimension based on proprietary algorithms which can quantify meaningful metrics of expertise.

Kazakhstan amending its intellectual property law

Kazakhstan's Parliament (the Majlis) and the EU platform co-hosted a roundtable on the 9th Dec to amend the Kazakh's IP law to bring the existing legislation in line with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) standards on IP and with the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks. The main proposed amendments are a one stop shop for all IP rights and the creation of an appellate board, amongst others.

Government of Fiji and LexisNexis collaborate on legal project

LexisNexis has collaborated with the Govt. of Fiji for consolidating Fiji's laws for the first time since 1985 it was announced on 9th Dec at the 18th Attorney-General's conference in Natadola, Fiji, to make its rule of law more accessible to the public.

The E-Bulletin of the ABU Legal Dept. is a fortnightly initiative to bring news and other updates to members.

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Dates for the release of Global IP Index announced

The U.S. Chambers of Commerce has announced the dates for the release of the 2017 Global IP Index. It is slated for the 8th Feb. 2017 at the U.S. Chambers of Commerce's HQ in Washington D.C. The theme for this year's release is "*The Roots of Innovation*". The Global IP Index is one of the most comprehensive evaluation of a country's intellectual property regime. The 2017 Global IP Index will evaluate the IP framework of 45 countries around the world.

Nestlé's four-finger Kit Kat bar turn – down

Nestlé's attempt to register the four-finger Kit Kat shape as a trademark for its chocolate biscuit bar has failed. The Kit Kat shape can now be used freely by other European manufacturers for the time being. The EU court ruled that not all countries within the EU necessarily associate the shape of the bar with Kit Kat, as other brands with similar shapes were available across the Union. No "*distinctive character*" was acquired in Belgium, Ireland, Greece and Portugal. The judgement sets a high threshold for EU trademarks by requiring evidence of acquired distinctive character in all EU Member States.

Reshuffle in UK IP government role

The UK IP-community sees the departure of Baroness Lucy Neville-Rolfe from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy as damaging due to her notable contribution for restructuring UK's IP framework particularly her planned ratification of the Unified Patent Court, which is yet to be implemented.

Australian Productivity Commission (APC) recommends fair use

Australia's independent research and advisory body, APC, has recommended enlarging a fair use exception similar to the US Copyright law. It reported that they are currently too prescriptive and do not reflect modern content consumption and use and they do not readily accommodate new legitimate uses of copyright material.

IP disputes within Arbitration ordinance

Hong Kong has introduced amendments to its Arbitration Ordinance to include intellectual property disputes to be in line with its public policy regulations. The Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 2016 was introduced into the Legislative Council and was read second time on the 14th Dec. 2016.

New Year 2017 Greetings from the Legal Department

This is our last edition for 2016. Hope you have enjoyed reading them as much we have taken joy and pride writing them. We take this space to wish all our readers and members a –

