

**The Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 29 September 2010**

President's Report 2009 / 2010

The past year continued to be a challenging one for many firms and practitioners. However, the economic challenge motivated many members to examine different aspects of our practices, and to reinvent ourselves so to remain efficient and competitive while providing high quality service to clients. With a proactive and positive attitude, the Hong Kong IP community will continue to excel and remain competitive amongst our Asian neighbors as the economy continues to improve.

The Council of the HKITMP kept busy throughout the past 12 months advancing the interests of the IP community.

Committees

The following are special Committees set up to address specific areas of the IP practice:

1. **Copyright** – Steven Birt, Charmaine Koo, Winnie Yue, Barry Yen
2. **Trade Marks** – Peggy Cheung, Benjamin Choi, Sandra Gibbons
3. **Patents and Designs** – Jeffrey McLean, Deanna Wong
4. **Functions** – Ruby Chan, Nick Horvath, Philip Tsang (retired mid-year), Deanna Wong

I wish to thank all the Council members and also the volunteers of the above Committees.

We must not forget to thank our Secretary Ruby Chan, Membership Secretary Justin Davidson and Treasurer Andrea Fong for their commitment and contributions during the year.

It is only with everyone's contributions and support that the HKITMP successfully completed another productive year. I also wish to thank all the members who contributed to the various submissions made to the different government bodies. I encourage all members to continue to support the HKITMP by voicing any issues and concerns to Council to enable us to effectively serve you.

Bi-Annual Meetings & Working Meetings with the IPD

As in past years, the Council Members met with the IPD twice a year. Two Bi-Annual Meetings were held, on 1 December 2009 and on 27 April 2010, to discuss about various policy and working issues. Following the efforts of these discussions, the IPD made various amendments to the relevant procedures and made clarifications in the relevant chapters of the Practice Manual.

Some notable results include the setting up an IPD trial hotline for enquiring about status of opposed trade mark applications, and the acceptance of the first defensive trade mark under the current Trade Marks Ordinance (Cap.559) since it took effect in April 2003.

Details of the issues discussed at these meetings were reported to members through the Christmas report sent in December 2009, and the Summer report sent in June 2010.

The HKITMP also worked closely with the Law Society IP Sub-Committee and the APAA Hong Kong Division to coordinate on issues concerning the local IP community, such as possible revision of scale fees.

Copyright

The HKITMP Copyright Committee made submissions regarding the Copyright Tribunal Rules in October 2009. The consultation concerned the government's proposals to formulate a new set of concise and user-friendly rules to modernize the practice and procedure of the Copyright Tribunal.

In August 2010, the HKITMP also reviewed and made submissions on the Companies (Amendment) Bill 2010.

Education & Prizes

The HKITMP sponsored an IP Prize scholarship for the respective graduate program at the Chinese University and the Hong Kong University.

The Chinese University nominated Ho Wing Ying, a Jurist Doctorate candidate, for attaining the highest grade in the IP study. I am pleased to welcome Ms. Ho to an award presentation at the AGM dinner.

The Hong Kong University has also recently made its nomination of its prize recipient, and Council is reviewing the nomination and will present the award at future HKITMP event.

Reports & Communications

Through the past year, the HKITMP endeavored to keep members informed of the latest IP issues and events through emails, and Christmas and Summer Reports. We welcome your feedbacks and suggestions.

Please notify our membership secretary Justin Davidson of any changes of your email address or other contact information.

Membership Invitations

Members were invited to a number of events and seminars organized by various IP bodies during the past year. Below are some of the events attended by representations of the HKITMP:

1. Deanna Wong represented HKITMP at LESHK/TDC joint seminar - "Intellectual Property Developments in China – an Introduction to the Revised Patent Law of China" on 13 November 2009.
2. Emmy Chow represented the HKITMP and spoke on capitalizing on IP assets at the Guangdong/Hong Kong Seminar on Intellectual Property & Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (Guangzhou) on 25 June 2010.
3. Jeffrey McLean represented the HKITMP at a meeting with Hon. Samson Tam on 13 August 2010 to discuss about specific areas of interest relating to patent registration and protection in the mainland.

Social Events

Thanks to the Social Committee, Peggy Cheung and Helen Tang, we had two fantastic social events for members during the past 12 months.

We had our 2010 Spring Dinner at the Dynasty Club on 3 March 2010 to celebrate the Chinese New Year when individual hot pots were back by popular demand from the previous year.

We also had our 2010 Horse Racing Night at Happy Valley on 2 June 2010. following the hard work at the INTA Annual Meeting in Boston. Special thanks to those who faithfully studied the horses and generously shared your insights, everyone had an enjoyable and fun evening.

Special thanks to all those who supported these events. I encourage all members to participate and to invite your friends to future social events. These are casual and friendly opportunities to acquaint ourselves with other IP practitioners.

Suggestions for future social events are very much welcomed.

Membership

We have five new members in the past 12 months:

Ordinary Members

1. Angeline Lee of Baker & McKenzie (1 May 2010);
2. David Ma of Woo Kwan Lee & Lo (1 May 2010);
3. Queenie Wong of Baker & McKenzie (4 August 2010);
4. Cyril Yeung from Leung & Lau (4 November 2009);

Student Member

5. RYANNE LAI HIU YEUNG of Mayer Brown JSM (4 August 2010).

Council Meetings

Council Members usually meet once a month, unless that month clashes with major holidays, or conferences. In the past year, 8 Council Meetings were held on the following Wednesdays:-

1st - 4 November 2009

2nd - 9 December 2009

3rd - 27 January 2010

4th - 3 March 2010

5th - 28 April 2010

6th - 2 June 2010

7th - 7 July 2010

8th - 4 August 2010

I wish to thank all the participating firms for generously hosting these Council Meetings. Every Council Member is busy, and everyone's participation in these monthly meetings reflects his / her dedication and commitment to the IP community.

Council Members

We have 17 members serving on Council during the past 12 months:

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| 1. Patsy Lau | - | President |
| 2. Helen Tang | - | Vice President |
| 3. Andrea Fong | - | Treasurer |
| 4. Ruby Chan | - | Secretary |
| 5. Justin Davidson | - | Membership Secretary |
| 6. Steven Birt | | |
| 7. Peggy Cheung | | |
| 8. Benjamin Choi | | |
| 9. Lindsay Esler | | |
| 10. Sandra Gibbons | | |
| 11. Nick Horvath | | |
| 12. Charmaine Koo | | |
| 13. John Slater | | |
| 14. Philip Tsang | | |
| 15. Deanna Wong | | |
| 16. Barry Yen | | |
| 17. Winnie Yue | | |

Each year, half of the Council members will retire from Council. This year, the Council Members who retired but stood for re-election are:

1. Steven Birt
2. Benjamin Choi
3. Lindsay Esler
4. Sandra Gibbons
5. Nick Horvath
6. John Slater
7. Barry Yen
8. Winnie Yue

All of them will serve on Council for another 2 years.

Philip Tsang retired in April 2010 to pursue his love for photography. We thank Philip for his tireless efforts in serving on Council, and recommend that you visit Philip's website to see his amazing portfolio.

As a result of Philip's retirement, we had one vacancy. Other than the 8 nominations we received from the 8 retiring Council Members, we received one nomination for Cynthia Houng. We wish to extend our warmest welcome to Cynthia.



I look forward to another productive year, and thank you in advance for your support of the HKITMP to ensure that the IP community and the HKITMP will continue to prosper.

Patsy Y. Lau
President
29 September 2010