

**The Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners  
Annual General Meeting  
Monday, 25 September 2013**

**President's Report 2012 / 2013**

This AGM concludes my two year term as President.

We had a very busy 12 months. We continue to be a forum to keep the legislature, the Hong Kong Intellectual Property Department ("IPD") and other bodies in Hong Kong, informed of the views of trade mark practitioners. In our efforts to promote improvements in trade mark law and practice and be a conduit between the government and other bodies to its members, we need your support not only in terms of joining us in our organized events, we would also encourage those who wish to contribute to the IP community to join us on Council. We need new blood and new voice.

**Committees**

So far, we have six special Committees set up to address specific areas of the IP practice:

1. **Copyright** – Steven Birt, Charmaine Koo, Barry Yen
2. **Trade Marks** – Peggy Cheung, Sandra Gibbons, Theresa Mak
3. **Patents and Designs** – Barry Yen, Steve Birt, Jeffrey McLean
4. **Seminar Committee** – Winnie Yue, Charmaine Koo
5. **Newsletter Committee** – Davina Lee, Theresa Mak
6. **Social Functions** – Ruby Chan, Nick Horvath, Andrea Fong

I wish to thank all Council Members and Co-Op Member for all their hard work and contributions, with special thanks to our office bearers, our Vice President, Justin Davidson, our Secretary Benjamin Choi, Membership Secretary Winnie Yu and Treasurer Cynthia Houg.

The Institute is a joint effort of all Council Members and all of you, without which we would not be here today, and would not have been able to do what we have done.

I wish to express our sincere appreciation to:

- the Patent Committee Members and our Co-Op Member Jeffrey McLean for their contribution in the preparation of the submissions made to IPD on the “Consultation on Regulations of Patent Agency Services” in May 2013;
- the Seminar Committee for their efforts in organizing our lunch time seminars;
- the Newsletter Committee’s help in preparing our newsletters.

### **Bi-Annual 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 15 November 2012 and 15 May 2013, to discuss policies and working issues.

Some notable issues raised include:

1. IPD clarifying the rates of taxation of costs;
2. The date of non-use revocation being required to be clearly stated in the Form T6;
3. IPD clarified that conceptual similarity between words in different languages will not be raised as a relative ground of refusal.

Please refer to our Newsletters for details.

### **Other Working Meetings with IPD**

Having voiced complaints over delays at various stages of trade mark application, it seems that the Registry has improved the rate at which various stages of trade mark applications are being dealt with. We have certainly seen an improvement at which cases are lined up for hearings, reducing the waiting time of three years to just over one year. We are very pleased with this progress and look forward to continuing improvement. We strongly encourage you, as our members, to inform us of any problems you see or have, whether as a policy issue or on a practical level.

### **Patent Committee**

The Institute was invited to make submissions in response to IPD’s “Consultation on Regulations of Patent Agency Services”. Our Patent Committee Members prepared and filed submissions with IPD in May 2013. A copy of the submissions is posted on our website.

## **Prizes**

The HKITMP continues to sponsor an IP Prize scholarship for the graduate program at the Chinese University.

The Chinese University Faculty of Law nominated Ms. Cecilia Chung Ming Yan as the prize winner for having achieved the highest score in the course of "Principles of Intellectual Property" in the academic year 2012/13.

We have the pleasure of having the company of Miss Chung tonight and there will be an award presentation after our AGM.

## **Reports & Communications**

We shall continue the issuance of our Newsletters to keep our members informed of the latest IP issues and events through emails. Please let us have your suggestions on improvements.

## **Seminar 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 and outside seminars attended by representatives of the HKITMP:

1. Barry Yen and Patsy Lau attended the Roundtable Meeting on IP Valuation for the purpose of setting up a Sub-Group to study this topic for IP Trading on **26 August 2013**.
2. Peggy Cheung of Jones Day is now on the Steering Committee of Business of IP Asia Forum.

We will continue to sponsor the Business of IP Asia Forum this year and will also be sponsoring tickets to the event. We will be sending notices in due course.

## **Social Events**

We had two very enjoyable social events during the past year.

We had our Spring Dinner at the Shanghai Fraternity Club in March 2013 to celebrate the Chinese New Year when we had Shanghai cuisine.

We also had our celebration for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 10 June 2013 at the Foreign Correspondents' Club when we had the pleasure of receiving many of the IP luminaries, including:

1. **Mr. Peter Cheung**, Director of Intellectual Property;
2. **Mr. Stephen Selby**, Director of IP just before Peter;
3. **The Honourable Andrew Liao**, GBS, JP and Senior Counsel;
4. **The Honourable Dennis Kwok**, a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council representing the Legal Functional Constituency;
5. **Mr. C.K. Kwong**, JP, President of the Asian Patent Attorneys Association (“APAA”);
6. **Mr. Anthony Evans**, Chairman of the IP Committee of the Law Society.

We had speeches from Mr. Peter Cheung, Mr. Stephen Selby, Nick Horvath, our past president and founding member. We also had messages from our past president Jeannie Smith and Council Member Lindsay Esler.

Special thanks to all who have helped to organize and supported the these events.

Suggestions for future social events are very much welcomed.

### **Membership**

We have four new members in the past 12 months:

Name	Firm	Type of Membership	Join Date
Liu, Oi Ling Nicollette	Marks & Clerk	Student	7 November 2012
Wong Lai Ching, Janet	Dorsey & Whitney	Ordinary	16 January 2013
Timothy Letters	Letters & Thoo Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys	Affiliate	15 May 2013
Laurence Thoo	Letters & Thoo Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys	Affiliate	15 May 2013

### **Council Meetings**

Council Members continue to meet monthly, barring clashes with major holidays, or conferences. In the past year, we had nine meetings on the following Wednesdays:-

1<sup>st</sup> – 7 November 2012

2<sup>nd</sup> – 4 December 2012

3<sup>rd</sup> – 16 January 2013

4<sup>th</sup> – 20 February 2013

5<sup>th</sup> – 6 March 2013

6<sup>th</sup> – 10 April 2013

7<sup>th</sup> – 15 May 2013

8<sup>th</sup> – 10 June 2013

9<sup>th</sup> – 7 August 2013

I wish to thank all the participating firms for generously hosting these Council Meetings.

### **Council Members**

We have 16 members serving on Council during the past 12 months:

- |                            |   |                      |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Helen Tang              | - | President            |
| 2. Justin Davidson         | - | Vice President       |
| 3. Cynthia Houg            | - | Treasurer            |
| 4. Benjamin Choi           | - | Secretary            |
| 5. Winnie Yue              | - | Membership Secretary |
| 6. Patsy Lau               |   |                      |
| 7. Barry Yen               |   |                      |
| 8. Steven Birt             |   |                      |
| 9. Sandra Gibbons          |   |                      |
| 10. Peggy Cheung           |   |                      |
| 11. Nicolas Bodnar-Horvath |   |                      |
| 12. Charmaine Koo          |   |                      |
| 13. John Slater            |   |                      |
| 14. Davina Lee             |   |                      |
| 15. Theresa Mak            |   |                      |

We also have the pleasure to have Jeffrey McLean as our Co-Op Member.

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

1. Ruby Chan
2. Benjamin Choi
3. Andrea Fong
4. Peggy Cheung
5. Charmaine Koo

6. Davina Lee
7. Theresa Mak

All of them stood for re-election and they will serve on Council for another 2 years.

There will be a vacancy on Council which will be open for nomination from the floor. Members who are interested in working on Council are invited to volunteer for election.

### **Conclusion**

The past two years have been most rewarding for me both personally and professionally. The friendship and bonding established between Council Members and the opportunity to work at the forefront of the IP field have been invaluable. I wish to thank you for all your support and the support of all the Council Members for making this possible.

I will continue to lend support to our new President and his team, and I sincerely hope that you will too.

Helen Tang  
President  
25 September 2013