

**The Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners  
Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday, 29 October 2014**

**President's Report 2013 / 2014**

This AGM concludes the first year of my two year term as President.

We had a very busy 12 months including hosting INTA in Hong Kong, for the first time in Asia in its 100+ year history.

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.

**Committees**

We have six focused 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, Justin Davidson, Jeffrey McLean
4. **Seminar Committee** – Winnie Yue, Charmaine Koo
5. **Newsletter Committee** – Davina Lee, Serena Lim
6. **Social Functions** –Nick Horvath, Andrea Fong, Barry Yen

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, Davina Lee, our Secretary Sandra Gibbons, Membership Secretary Benjamin Choi 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 contributions to the working group on patent agency regulation and the proposed focus groups on the new patent bill that is to be introduced in 2015;
- the Seminar Committee for their efforts in organizing our lunch time seminars;
- the Newsletter Committee's help in preparing our newsletters.

### **A new Director of Intellectual Property**

Ms Ada Leung has assumed the post of Director of Intellectual Property for Hong Kong following Mr Peter Cheung's retirement. Ms Leung was previously Deputy Director of Intellectual Property. Members of Council will be attending a dinner organized jointly with APAA and the Law Society Councils on 3 November 2014.

### **Bi-Annual Meetings with the IPD**

The Council Members met with the IPD three times in the last year.

Two Bi-Annual Meetings were held, on 31 October 2013, 11 April 2014 and 27 October 2014, to discuss policies and working issues.

Some notable issues raised include:

1. More transparency on trade mark hearings with a hearing list now being published on the IPD website;
2. Amendments to the Work Manual in relation to the consolidation of joint oppositions;
3. Costs on revocation applications in the case of expired registrations (within the grace renewal period).

Please refer to our Newsletters for details.

### **Other Working Meetings with Advisory Committee on Review of the Patent System in Hong Kong**

On 6 October 2014 Justin Davidson and Jeff McLean attended, along with representatives from the Law Society, the Bar Association, APAA (HK), HK Institute of Patent Attorneys (HKIPA) and the HK Institute of Patent Agents (HIPA), a working group meeting on interim measures re the regulation of patent agents in Hong Kong. In particular was a frank discussion on the names and

titles that should be reserved pending the introduction of the new regulation. A report is being prepared.

### **Copyright Committee**

The Institute was invited to make submissions in response to IPD's "Consultation on Treatment of Parody under the Copyright Ordinance". Our Copyright Committee Members prepared and filed submissions with IPD in November 2013 and a Bill is now at committee stage and we were invited to attend the Bills Committee meetings on 25 October 2014..

### **Prizes**

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

The Chinese University Faculty of Law nominated Mr. Yuen Ming Kin Matthew for Intellectual Property in the academic year 2013/14.

We have the pleasure of having the company of Mr. Yuen 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.

### **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. Business of IP Asia Forum 2013.
2. World Intellectual Property Day Cocktail Reception on 25 April 2014.
3. HKTDC Welcome Reception at INTA on 10 May 2014.
4. UK ITMA Cocktail Reception at INTA on 12 May 2014.
5. Luncheon with UK IPO Delegation on 5 September 2014.
6. Mainland, HK and Macau IP Symposium 2014 on 11 September 2014.

7. APAA Reception celebrating 40 years of HK Group on 20 October 2014.

We will continue to sponsor the Business of IP Asia Forum this year through our association as a supporting organization and plan to run a panel again at the event.

### **HKITMP Lunch Seminars**

We continued to run our lunch time seminars series:

1. Stella Law of CBRE on IP Valuation on 21 January 2014.
2. Dr Gino Yu on New Opportunities for IP in a Digital HK on 3 June 2014.
3. Dr Po Chi Wu on the Complexity of IP on 19 October 2014.

These seminars are free for ITMP members and you are encouraged to attend if possible.

### **Social Events**

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

We had our Hot Pot Spring Dinner at the Sanxi Lou in Ceda Plaza on 27 February 2014 to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

We also had a summer bowling evening on 9 July 2014 at the Ladies Recreation Club.

Congratulations are due to Council Members Steven Birt as the Men High Scorer (159), and Serena Lim as the ladies High Scorer (130).

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

Suggestions for future social events are very much welcomed.

### **Membership**

We have 8 new members in the past 12 months:

Name	Firm	Type of Membership	Join Date
Lam Chiu Ngai	Deacons	Student	17 July 2014
Sammy Chow	Deacons	Student	17 July 2014

Deland Ji	Baker & McKenzie	Student	22 Aug 2014
Douglas Clark	Gilt Chambers	Ordinary	29 Sept 2014
Amy Yuanyuan Zhang	Hogan Lovells	Ordinary	29 Sept 2014
Sham Yiu Man Richard	--	Ordinary	29 Sept 2014
Chan Sze Wan Fanny	Deacons	Ordinary	29 Sept 2014
Michelle Yee	Norton Rose Fulbright	Ordinary	29 Sept 2014

### **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> – 27 November 2013

2<sup>nd</sup> – 4 December 2013

3<sup>rd</sup> – 15 January 2014

4<sup>th</sup> – 27 February 2014

5<sup>th</sup> – 2 April 2014

6<sup>th</sup> – 30 April 2014

7<sup>th</sup> – 9 July 2014

8<sup>th</sup> – 19 August 2014

9<sup>th</sup> – 17 September 2014

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

### **Council Members**

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

1. Justin Davidson - President
2. Davina Lee - Vice President

- 3. Cynthia Houg - Treasurer
- 4. Sandra Gibbons - Secretary
- 5. Benjamin Choi - Membership Secretary
- 6. Patsy Lau
- 7. Barry Yen
- 8. Steven Birt
- 9. Peggy Cheung
- 10. Nicolas Bodnar-Horvath
- 11. Charmaine Koo
- 12. Ruby Chan
- 13. Helen Tang
- 14. Theresa Mak
- 15. Winnie Yue
- 16. Serena Lim
- 17. Andrea Fong

We have also had the pleasure to have Jeffrey McLean as our Co-Op Affiliate Member again this year with so much happening in the patent arena.

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

- 1. Barry Yen
- 2. Nick Bodnar-Horvath
- 3. Winnie Yue
- 4. Cynthia Houg
- 5. Steven Birt
- 6. Patsy Lau
- 7. Sandra Gibbons
- 8. Helen Tang

I am pleased to report that all of them are standing for re-election.

**Summary**

The above is my report on some of the works undertaken this year by the Council members, for which I thank them. I also thank you all for your support of the Institute and look forward to another productive year.

Justin Davidson  
 President  
 29 October 2014