

**The Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 25 October 2018**

President's Report 2017/2018

Welcome to the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners. I am pleased to deliver my first President's Report on the 30th Anniversary of the Institute.

To begin with, I am grateful to all members of the Council for their unreserved contribution and support to the Institute over the past year. For tonight's AGM and Dinner, special thanks to Nick Horvath, Serena Lim and Theresa Mak for preparing the meeting agenda and papers, and running the Council Members election process, Cynthia Houg for preparing the Institute's accounts, and Theresa Mak for organizing the dinner.

On behalf of the Council, we thank all members for attending this meeting and those who have sent their apologies.

Committees

We have 7 committees responsible for various tasks and functions throughout the year. Membership of these committees are:-

Trade Marks Committee – Peggy Cheung, Patsy Lau, Serena Lim

Patents and Designs Committee – Justin Davidson, Jeffrey McLean

Copyright Committee – Charmaine Koo, Winnie Yue, Steven Birt

Seminar Committee – Charmaine Koo, Winnie Yue, Justin Davidson

Social Events Committee – Nick Horvath, Andrea Fong, Barry Yen

Website Committee – Jeffrey McLean, Barry Yen

Newsletter Committee – Ruby Chan, Justin Davidson, Helen Tang

I would like to thank all Committee members and our Co-Op Affiliate Member for all their time and hard work.

Bi-Annual Meetings with the IPD

Since our last AGM, two Bi-Annual Meetings with the IPD had taken place, on 14 November 2017 and 10 May 2018 respectively. A summary of the matters discussed in the first meeting has been published in our December 2017 Newsletter, and issues raised at the second meeting will be available in our upcoming Newsletter.

The next Bi-Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place on 12 November 2018. Members are encouraged to contact us on any IP legal or practice issues for discussion or lobbying with the IPD during this meeting.

Consultations

In the course of the year the Institute participated in the following consultations.

1. Briefing Session on the Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill 2018 held at the IPD on 15 December 2017.
2. Joint Submission (with the Hong Kong Group of the Asian Patent Attorneys Association, the IP Committee of the Hong Kong Bar Association, and the IP Committee of the Law Society of Hong Kong) to the Judiciary on setting up Specialist IP List to handle IP litigation.
3. Consultation on Recognition of Trade Mark Agents: prevailing law and practice of the Hong Kong Trade Marks Registry - Section 88, Trade Marks Ordinance held at the IPD on 3 October 2018.

Invitations and Events

Members of the Council accepted invitations to attend or participate in a number of seminars and events including:-

1. 10 November 2017 - Welcome Reception for the IP Ambassadors Programme by the IPD and HKU, CU and CityU as co-organizing universities
2. 29 November 2017- Visit to Guangzhou IP Court, Guangzhou IP Arbitration Centre and Guangzhou Development District IP Office
3. 7-8 December 2017- BIP Asia Forum to which the Institute is a supporting organization
4. 31 January 2018 - Lunch Meeting with Mr Chen Hongbing, Director of WIPO Office in China during his visit to Hong Kong
5. 9 March 2018 - Visit to the Trademark Examination Cooperation Guangzhou Centre of the State Administration for Industry & Commerce
6. 31 May 2018 - Exchange Programme in the Bay Area co-organized by the IPD and Guangdong Administration for Industry & Commerce
7. 24 October 2018 - Welcome Reception for the IP Ambassadors Programme by the IPD and HKU, CU and CityU as co-organizing universities

Taking place in December 2018 the Institute will once again be a supporting organization of the BIP Asia Forum.

HKITMP Lunchtime Seminars

On 21 November 2017, Peter Cheung, former Director of the IPD, gave a presentation on the topic of "The New Role of Trade Mark Practitioners".

On 11 September 2018, Michael Olesnicky, KPMG Hong Kong gave a talk on "The Changing Tax Environment for IP".

Suggestions from members on speakers or topics of interests are welcome.

Social Events

The Institute hosted a Spring Dinner on 14 March 2018 at the Kiangsu Chekiang and Shanghai Residents (HK) Association Restaurant (let's say a dining club offering nice Shanghai style cuisine).

For our summer event, a Cocktail Workshop was held on 6 June 2018 at Hanamaru Japanese restaurant, and we enjoyed an evening of cocktail making as amateur bartenders.

Newsletters

Our latest newsletter was issued in December 2017 and the next edition is currently being compiled. I am grateful to Ruby Chan, Justin Davidson and Helen Tang for the time and effort that they have put into producing the newsletter.

Membership

Our membership currently stands at 96 including 2 new members:

Vivian Or
Yinjiao Zhou

Council Meetings

For the year 2017-2018, we have 8 Council meetings on the following dates:-

1. 18 October 2017
2. 22 November 2017
3. 10 January 2018
4. 14 March 2018
5. 11 April 2018
6. 27 June 2018
7. 1 August 2018
8. 5 September 2018

Thanks to firms who generously hosted the meetings in the past year.

Council Members

I would like to thank all Council members and office bearers, Vice President – Serena Lim, Treasurer – Cynthia Houg, Secretary – Theresa Mak and Membership Secretary – Katherine Lai for all their contributions throughout the year.

For the year 2017-2018 the following members have served on the Council:-

1. Benjamin Choi – President
2. Serena Lim – Vice President
3. Cynthia Houg – Treasurer
4. Theresa Mak – Secretary
5. Katherine Lai – Membership Secretary
6. Steven Birt
7. Nick Bodnar-Horvath
8. Ruby Chan
9. Peggy Cheung
10. Justin Davidson
11. Andrea Fong
12. Charmaine Koo
13. Patsy Lau
14. Davina Lee
15. Helen Tang
16. Barry Yen
17. Winnie Yue

Jeffrey McLean has been our long standing Co-Op Affiliate Member providing support to the Council on all the patent related matters.

The council members retiring this year are:-

1. Barry Yen
2. Nick Bodnar-Horvath
3. Cynthia Houg
4. Steve Birt
5. Patsy Lau
6. Katherine Lai
7. Justin Davidson
8. Davina Lee

Nick Horvath, Cynthia Houg, Patsy Lau, Katherine Lai, Justin Davidson and Jacqueline Chu (New) are now elected/re-elected. There are two remaining vacancies for Council Members to be elected from the floor after my report.

Awards

This year the Institute has given awards to Ms Ng Wing Lam and Ms Yung Ching San of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to recognize their academic achievement in the Intellectual Property law subject.

This concludes my first President's report.

Benjamin Choi
President
The Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners