

# **The Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners**

## **Annual General Meeting 30 October 2019**

### **President's Report 2018/2019**

I am very pleased to present this Report to mark the completion of my two years' term as President of the Institute.

I am grateful to all Council Members for their great support in organizing and participating in the activities run by the Council over the past year. Nick Horvath, Serena Lim, Theresa Mak, Barry Yen and Cynthia Houngh are the lead persons in charge of this meeting and dinner afterwards.

During the course of last year, apart from the regular bi-annual meetings, Council Members attended various ad-hoc or special topic meetings organized by the IPD to discuss issues arising from the new IP laws and systems, with some of these events in joint force with representatives of the Hong Kong Law Society IP Committee and the APAA Hong Kong Group.

Our campaign to recruit new blood in the profession to join the Council has some success. This year we are going to have 2 new members joining the Council. We welcome and are excited to have them on board to bring us innovation and inspiration.

I would also take this opportunity to give our highest attribution to three of our long standing Council Members who will retire from Council this year, namely Charmaine Koo, Winnie Yue and Ruby Chan, who have served on the Council for a significant number of years. We are grateful to have your contribution over these years and are certain you will continue to support the Institute in the same way as before.

### **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 12 November 2018 and 10 May 2019 respectively. A summary of the matters discussed in the first meeting has been published in our December 2018 Newsletter, and issues discussed at the second meeting will be published in our upcoming Newsletter.

The next Bi-Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place on 27 November 2019. Members are encouraged to contact us on any IP legal or practice issues for discussion or lobbying with the IPD during this meeting.

### **Submissions to Consultations**

In the course of the year the Institute participated in the following consultations: -

1. 23 January 2019 – Submissions to the IPD in response to draft Practice Direction for the IP List to be set up in the Court of First Instance
2. 13 February 2019 – Submissions to the IPD on Possible Framework for the Regulation of the Trade Mark Profession
3. 15 April 2019 – Submissions to the IPD on Section 46(2B) of Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill 2019 – regarding addition of house mark registered by consent
4. 20 May 2019 – Submission to the Department of Justice in response to Consultation Paper No. 2 on 2018 Draft Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements

### **Invitations and Events**

Members of the Council attended or participated in a number of meetings, discussion sessions and events including:-

1. 14 November 2018 – Meeting with The Shenzhen Municipal Public Security Bureau Economic Crime Bureau – we had an interactive discussion with a delegation of 20 officials on IP enforcement issues
2. 6-7 December 2018 – BIP Asia Forum to which the Institute is a supporting organization
3. 25 March 2019 – Meeting with IPD and IP Committee of Law Society at IPD regarding IPD update on the New Integrated IT System
4. 7 May 2019 – Exchange Programme on Brand Development in Guangdong co-organized by the IPD (Benjamin Choi)

Taking place on 5-6 December 2019 the Institute will once again be a supporting organization of the BIP Asia Forum.

### **HKITMP Lunchtime Seminars**

1. On 30 January 2019, Sebastian Hughes, Barrister-at-law, gave a presentation on the topic of "The important of pleadings in trade mark opposition matters"
2. On 4 June 2019, Stephanie Wong, a part-time Lecturer (Non-Clinical) at the Department of Law of the University of Hong Kong gave a talk on "The curious case of a fraudulent website – non-judicial and judicial solutions"

### **Social Events organized by the HKITMP**

1. Spring Dinner on 27 February 2019 at Taiwan Night Market
2. Summer event on 29 August 2019 at Sideways Driving Club – Car Racing in Simulators

### **Newsletters**

Our last newsletter was issued in December 2018 and the next edition is currently being compiled. Thanks to Ruby Chan, Justin Davidson and Helen Tang for their time and effort in producing the newsletter.

### **Membership**

Our membership currently stands at 96 including 4 new members admitted since last AGM: -

1. David Wu
2. Liu Chi Kei Charlie (Student member)
3. Chan Kit, Katie (Student member)
4. Emma Chung

### **Council Meetings**

For the year 2018-2019, we have 7 Council meetings on the following dates:-

1. 29 November 2018
2. 16 January 2019
3. 20 February 2019
4. 13 March 2019
5. 10 April 2019
6. 8 May 2019
7. 25 September 2019

We thank Council Members 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 2018-2019 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. Jacqueline Chu
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 patent related matters.

Council members retiring this year are: -

1. Winnie Yue
2. Andrea Fong
3. Peggy Cheung
4. Charmaine Koo
5. Theresa Mak
6. Helen Tang
7. Nick Bodnar-Horvath
8. Ruby Chan

Andrea Fong, Peggy Cheung, Theresa Mak, Helen Tang, Nick Bodnar-Horvath are now re-elected.



Davina Lee, David Wu and Valerie Suen are elected pursuant to the applications for nominations received by 18 October 2019.

### **Awards**

This year the Institute has given awards to Kan Ka Yi from The Chinese University of Hong Kong to recognize her academic achievement in the Intellectual Property law subject.

This concludes my President's report.



**Benjamin Choi**  
**President**  
**The Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners**