

**The Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners
Annual General Meeting
17 November 2020**

President's Report 2019/2020

Year 2020 has been quite an unusual year. I am pleased that the Institute and the IP profession at large have been able to adapt to the new norm and are able to continue as much business as usual despite the circumstances.

Committees

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

1. **Trade Marks Committee:** Jacqueline Chu, Patsy Lau, Serena Lim, Theresa Mak, Helen Tang
2. **Patents and Designs Committee:** Justin Davidson, Jeffrey McLean
3. **Copyright Committee:** Steven Birt, Benjamin Choi, Valerie Suen
4. **Seminar Committee:** Benjamin Choi, Justin Davidson, Davina Lee
5. **Social Events Committee:** Andrea Fong, Nick Horvath, David Wu, Barry Yen
6. **Website Committee:** Jeffrey McLean, Katharine Lai
7. **Newsletter Committee:** Justin Davidson, Helen Tang, David Wu

A special Committee was also set up to organize this year's AGM, given the technical issues that needs to be resolved for a hybrid physical and virtual meeting. Members of this Committee are Jacqueline Chu, Nick Horvath, Valerie Suen and Barry Yen.

Bi-Annual Meetings with the IPD

Since our last AGM, two Bi-Annual Meetings with the IPD had taken place on 27 November 2019 and 4 September 2020. A summary of the matters discussed in the first meeting has been published in our December 2019 Newsletter, and issues discussed at the second meeting will be published in our upcoming Newsletter.

Members are encouraged to contact us on any IP legal or practice issues for discussion or lobbying with the IPD during this meeting. This year, HKITMP had taken the initiative to invite the IPD to review of the scale of costs for contentious proceedings before the Registrar of Trade Marks, with a view of bring the fixed scale of costs more in line with reality.

Submissions to Consultations and Invitations

In the course of the year the Institute participated in the following consultations, meetings and discussion sessions: -

1. **Arbitration Ordinance 2017:** On 1 November 2019, HKITMP sent out Response to DOJ's request for feedback on effect of amendments to Arbitration Ordinance 2017.
2. **Madrid Focus Group:** IPD set up the Madrid Focus Group to discuss amendments to the Trade Marks Ordinance and Trade Mark Rules for the implementation of Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong. HKITMP is represented by Benjamin Choi, Patsy Lau, Serena Lim, Theresa Mak and Ben Choi and attended meetings held on 9 and 18 December 2019.
3. **Hearing Matters Focus Group:** Given the intended amendments to the Trade Mark Rules for the implementation of Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong, IPD is taking the opportunity to update the rules for hearing related matters. HKITMP is represented by Benjamin Choi, Katherine Lai and David Wu and attended meetings held on 13 January and 7 May 2020.

Events

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

1. 5-6 December 2019: BIP Asia Forum to which the Institute is a supporting organization.
2. 20 Nov 2019: The Institute was invited to and attended a breakfast meeting with IPD, together with other IP bodies in Hong Kong, where the IPD shared its brief work plan for 2020.

As with the past years, the Institute has been a supporter of the IP Ambassador programme organized by the IPD. The welcome reception for the IP Ambassador Programme 2019-2020 was unfortunately rescheduled several times. The Institute will be attending the reception when it is rescheduled again.

This year's BIP Asia Forum will take place virtually on 3 and 4 December 2020, and the Institute will once again be a supporting organization of the conference.

HKITMP Lunchtime Seminars

HKITMP Lunchtime Seminars have always been popular amongst our members. The Institute continues to organize such seminars in the form of webinars this year:

1. On 27 May 2020, Doug Clark, former Barrister-at-Law gave a presentation on "IP and Freedom of Expression".
2. On 8 September 2020 Martin Kok, Barrister-at-Law gave a presentation on "Legal principles in relation to the cause of action in breach of confidence in Hong Kong".

We plan to apply for CPD accreditation from the Hong Kong Law Society for the next webinar sessions, to benefit members who are subject to mandatory CPD requirements.

Members are encouraged to get in touch with the Institute on topics that you would be interested to hear about in future seminars.

Social Events organized by the HKITMP

Public health issues prevented the Institute from organizing large group social gatherings this year. We will organize one as soon as circumstances permit.

Newsletters

Our last newsletter was issued in December 2019 and the next edition is expected at the end of the year. Thanks to Justin Davidson, and David Wu for their time and effort in producing the newsletter.

Membership

Our membership currently stands at 95 including 5 new members admitted since last AGM. The new members are:

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|--|---|
| 1. Emma Chung of Spruson & Ferguson | 4. Tanya Prew of Shangri-La Hotel Group |
| 2. Katie Chan (Student) of Marks & Clerk | 5. Allen Chan (Affiliate) of Deacons |
| 3. Lilian Shi of Dorsey & Whitney | |

Council Meetings

For the year 2019-2020, we have 11 Council meetings on the following dates:-

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|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. 4 December 2019 | 6. 20 May 2020 |
| 2. 8 January 2020 | 7. 24 June 2020 |
| 3. 5 February 2020 | 8. 22 July 2020 |
| 4. 11 March 2020 | 9. 19 August 2020 |
| 5. 22 April 2020 | 10. 16 September 2020 |

11. 14 October 2020

Council Members

For the year 2019-2020 the following members have served on Council:-

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

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

Each year, one half of Council Members excluding the President and Vice President having served longest in office will need to retire. Council Members retiring this year are:-

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| 1. Steve Birt | 5. Cynthia Houg |
| 2. Benjamin Choi | 6. Katherine Lai |
| 3. Jacqueline Chu | 7. Patsy Lau |
| 4. Justin Davidson | 8. Barry Yen |

I would like to thank all Council Members, Co-Opt Affiliate Member and office bearers for all their contributions and services on Council and each Committees throughout the year.

Awards

Each year, the Institute grants award(s) to recognize academic achievements in the Intellectual Property Law subject. The Institute received two nominations from Hong Kong University and Chinese University of Hong Kong this year. Council will decide on the grant at our next council meeting.

This concludes my President's report.

Serena Lim
President
The Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners