

**The Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners
Annual General Meeting
27 October 2021**

President's Report 2020/21

I have the pleasure of delivering my second President's Report for the Institute.

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:** Peggy Cheung, Andrea Fong, Nick Horvath, Barry Yen
6. **Website Committee:** Jeffrey McLean, Katharine Lai
7. **Newsletter Committee:** Valerie Suen, Helen Tang, David Wu

Meetings with the IPD

We had several meetings with the IPD in the year 2020/21:

1. Joint Meeting between HKITMP, APAA, Law Society IP Committee and IPD (originally scheduled for 8 December 2020 and postponed to 1 February 2021).
2. Original Grant Patent Meeting (1 February 2021).
3. National 14th Five Year Plan / IP Trading Hub Meeting (29 April 2021).
4. Online Search System Meetings (18 May 2021 and 4 June 2021).
5. Trade Mark Practice Group Meeting with IPD (joint meeting including HKITMP, APAA, Law Society IP Committee) (20 August 2021).
6. HKITMP and IPD Annual Meeting (28 September 2021).

One of the major tasks the IPD is focus on now is the implementation of the Madrid International System for Registration of Trade Marks. The IPD reported that in 2021, it would be working with the Law Draftsman to draw up the provisions of the new set of subsidiary legislation for trade marks with a view to tabling it before LegCo for negative vetting within 2022. The IPD expects to prescribe new fees for the domestic and international registration systems and will enhance the IT system to provide a new electronic communication gateway with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This communication gateway will be used for receipt of future incoming international applications designating Hong Kong and the handling of other post-registration matters. The IPD targets to launch the international registration system by 2022-23.

The IPD also shared some projections on the number of filings and requests under the new international registration system:-

- (i) some 200 applications for international registrations might be filed with the

International Bureau of WIPO through the Trade Marks Registry (as Office of Origin); and

- (ii) some 7,000 requests might be received by the Trade Marks Registry (as Designated Office) for extension of protection of international registrations to Hong Kong.

Submissions to Consultations and Invitations

The Institute received invitations to and participated in the following meetings:

1. 2021 Consultation for Policy Address [Legal and Intellectual Property Trading Services] (2021 年《施政報告》諮詢會) [法律及知識產權貿易服務] (11 August 2021).
2. The Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (invitation received to hold bi-lateral meeting).

Events

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

1. BIP Asia Forum (3-4 December 2020). The Institute was also a supporting organization for the 10th Business of IP Asia Forum.
2. Mainland and Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR Intellectual Property Symposium 2021(2 September 2021).

This year's BIP Asia Forum will take place virtually on 2 and 3 December 2021, and the Institute will once again be a supporting organization of the conference.

Webinar

Since last year, the Institute has organized online webinars in place of an in-person lunchtime seminar. This year, we had the pleasure of having Katrina Lee (barrister) speak to our members on "*Sky PLC v Skykick UK Ltd: Paving the way to "decluttering" the trade mark register?*" on 26 August 2021.

The Institute have not applied for CPD accreditation for our webinars. Members are however reminded of the Law Society's guidelines in respect of a deemed accreditation system. Specifically, a solicitor or trainee solicitor subject to the CPD Rules Cap. 159W may, out of the annual CPD requirement of 15 CPD points, claim a maximum of 3 CPD points per CPD practice year by attending courses which fulfil the accreditation criteria prescribed under the deemed accreditation system stated in the CPD Information Package.

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

Social Event

Following some relaxation of the social distancing rules, the Institute organized a Dinner / Quiz Night at the Hong Kong Club on 11 August 2021 as our long awaited summer event. The event was attended by 19 members who participated in a quiz covering topics such as Intellectual Property, Sports, Food & Beverage and Entertainment.

Newsletter

Our last newsletter was issued in December 2020 and the next edition is expected at the end of the year. Thanks to David Wu for the time and effort in producing the newsletter.

Membership

Our membership currently stands at 88 including 3 new members admitted since last AGM. The new members are:

1. Suzuko CHUNG (Student member) of Deacons
2. Janette SHAM (Full Member) of Bird & Bird
3. Dawn HUI (Full Member) of Bird & Bird

Council Meetings

For the year 2020-21, we have 11 Council meetings on the following dates:-

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. 17 November 2020 | 7. 26 May 2021 |
| 2. 4 December 2020 | 8. 23 June 2021 |
| 3. 13 January 2021 | 9. 21 July 2021 |
| 4. 24 February 2021 | 10. 11 August 2021 |
| 5. 24 March 2021 | 11. 7 September 2021 |
| 6. 28 April 2021 | |

Council Members

For the year 2020-21 the following members have served on Council:-

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

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:-

1. Andrea Fong
2. Nick Bodnar-Horvath
3. Davina Lee
4. Helen Tang

5. David Wu
6. Peggy Cheung
7. Valerie Suen
8. Jacqueline Chu

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 2 nominations from Hong Kong University and Chinese University of Hong Kong this year.

- 1) From HKU: Mr. Ye Jiaxu, who attended the course “Master of Laws in IT and IP”;
and
- 2) From CUHK: Miss Chan Wing Tung, who attended the course “Principles of Intellectual Property”.

This concludes my President's report.

Serena Lim

President

The Hong Kong Institute of Trade Mark Practitioners

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