

Outline of China's patent development

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Since the 16th National People's Congress convened in 2002, patent applications and grants in China have been growing rapidly and the important role played by enterprises in creating innovations has been more revealing. Over the past ten years, many breakthroughs were made in boosting patent development by domestic creators and innovators keenly seeking the protection of their fruits.

Soaring patent applications and grants

During the past ten years, patent development in China has gone through three major phases.

In 2003, China's domestic invention patent applications surpassed those filed by foreign entities in China for the first time, signaling an increasing patent protection awareness of local entities.

In 2009, China's domestic invention patent grants exceeded those obtained by foreign entities in China for the first time, reflecting a focus shift of patent applications from quantity to quality.

As of the end of 2011, China has held as many as 351 thousand issued domestic invention patents, outpacing the figure held by foreign entities in China for the first time.

Since 2001, China's annual average growth rate of invention patent grants has reached up to 26.8%.

In 2011, China had a total of 172,113 issued invention patents, up 27.4% on a year-on-year basis, almost 11 times more than that of 2001.

Among invention patents issued in 2001, those filed by domestic applicants accounted for less than one third, while the proportion increased to nearly two thirds in 2011, which demonstrates that domestic applicants have filed more submissions than their foreign counterparts.

In addition, China saw the proportion of service invention patents jump from 50.0% in 2000 to 84.8% in 2011.

"During the past ten years, I become busier and busier and I feel the expectation for patent review quality is much higher than ever before," said a senior reviewer who started working in the State Intellectual Property Office from 2001, adding that the public innovation enthusiasm has been greatly stimulated which helps spur the growth of domestic patent applications and grants in terms of both quantity and quality.

Obvious regional advantages in patent achievements

With prosperous economic development and the promotion of IPR strategies, some regions with prominent IPR advantages are constantly emerging.

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