

# W&B IP Newsletter

December of 2020, Vol. 44

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## Watson & Band News

### Watson & Band Awarded as an “Outstanding Trademark Agency for the Year 2020”

On the evening of December 4, the 12<sup>th</sup> China International Trademark and Brand Festival (the “Festival”) had its grand reception party and award ceremony at the Greenland International Exhibition Center in Nanchang, Jiangxi. At the ceremony a series of awards of the Festival were presented. The final award winners of “Outstanding Trademark Agencies for the Year 2020”, which was organized by the China Trademark Association, were also announced. Shanghai Watson & Band Intellectual Property Agent Ltd. was honored to be one of the winners.

The evaluation program for said “Outstanding Trademark Agencies for the Year 2020” was launched in early July. After submissions and nominations, preliminary review and selection and follow-up strict assessment by expert panels in accordance with the rules, the name list of finalists was published in late November. Finally Watson & Band was honored to appear on the list of final winners and received the award for “Outstanding Trademark Agencies for the Year 2020”.

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### Chambers and Partners 2021 Asia-Pacific Guide Published: Watson & Band Ranked in IP Litigation Area Again

On December 15, 2020, the international authoritative legal rating agency Chambers and Partners officially published the 2021 Asia-Pacific Guide (exclusive of Corporate/Commercial Regional Ranking). Watson & Band is again top ranked in the IP Litigation area for its outstanding performance and good reputation within this practice area.

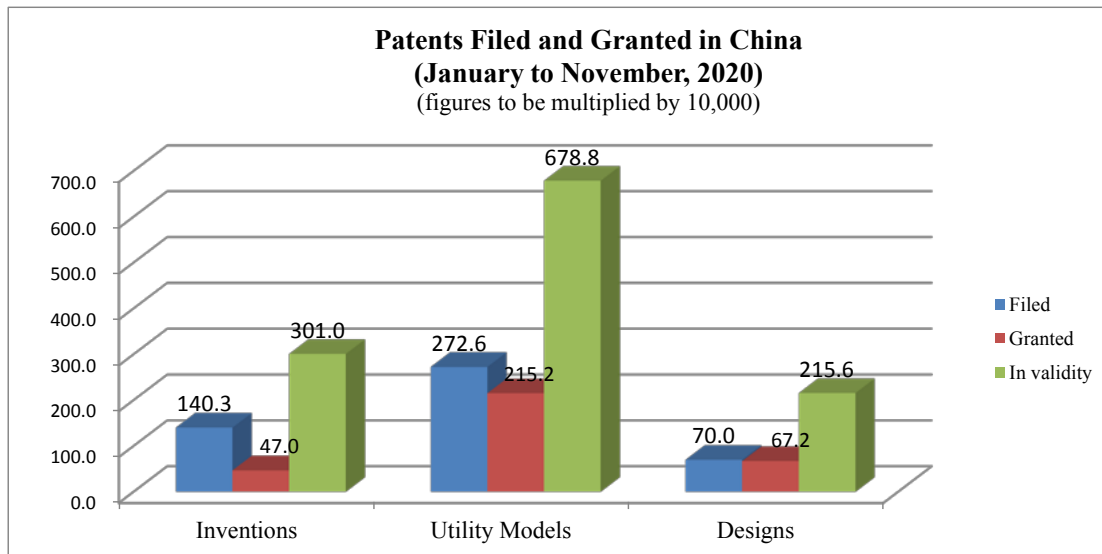


Watson & Band has been taking the lead in the IP Litigation area in Chambers and Partners Asia-Pacific Guide for years. Watson & Band’s IP litigation team received good news in recent years: our cases were selected by the Supreme People’s Court, the local Higher People’s Courts, the IP Courts, the former Patent Reexamination Board, the National Intellectual Property Administration and the China Trademark Association as Top/Typical Cases of the Year. Besides, Watson & Band’s IP services were also well recognized by other domestic and international legal media or rating agencies.

Chambers and Partners Asia-Pacific Guide is one of the most authoritative legal ranking guides in the world. It aims to honor both domestic and international law firms with outstanding performance in key countries and areas within the Asian-Pacific Region. This award reflects the remarkable achievements that the firm enjoyed over the past year including outstanding performance, distinguished development strategies and superb customer service.

## Patent

### CNIPA Publishes Statistical Data of Patents from January to November 2020



From January to November, CNIPA accepted a total of 62,000 PCT applications, of which 57,000 were domestic. CNIPA also accepted 49,600 requests for reexamination and concluded 44,900 reexamination cases. CNIPA also accepted 5,500 requests for invalidation and concluded 6,800 invalidation cases.

(Source: National Intellectual Property Administration)

### China's Artificial Intelligence Industry Welcomes Opportunities of Development Brought by "New Infrastructure"

Recently the Intellectual Property Office of the National Industrial Information Security Development Research Center (the MIIT's Electronic IP Center) published the *2020 AI Chinese Patent Technical Analysis Report* (the "Report"). According to the *Report*, artificial intelligence, as the commanding height in the new round of international science and technology competition, will powerfully push forward the transformation and upgrading of China's digital economy industry. The technical-economic feature of artificial intelligence is given full play, and along with the proposal of the "New Infrastructure Construction" concept, the attention-attracting artificial intelligence is welcoming new opportunities of development.

Motivated by China's "New Infrastructure" policy, the number of patent applications for AI technology in China has kept increasing over the years. As of the end of 2019, the number of patent applications for AI technology in China exceeded the United States for the first time and China became the country with the largest number of said applications around the globe. As of the end of October 2020, the total number of applications has increased to over 694,000, reaching a growth rate of 56.3% with respect to the same period of 2019.



## CNIPA Revises and Issues Guidelines for Patent Examination

The China National Intellectual Property Administration ("CNIPA") recently issued the *Announcement on Revising the Guidelines for Patent Examination* (the "*Announcement*"), with effect from January 15, 2021.

According to the *Announcement*, the revisions are aimed to actively respond to the demands of rapid economic and technological development for examination rules, and to improve the quality and efficiency of patent examination. The *Announcement* sets out seven revisions to "Section 3.5, Chapter 10, Part II," "Section 4.2.3, Chapter 10, Part II" and other provisions of the original Guidelines for Patent Examination. Among others, the *Announcement* revises "the composition shall be drafted as the function-defining or use-defining type" and "In certain fields, such as the field of alloys, the intrinsic properties and/or uses of the invented alloy usually shall be specified" in the last paragraph of Section 4.2.3, Chapter 10, Part II of the original *Guidelines for Patent Examination* to read "the composition usually needs to be drafted as the function-defining or use-defining type" and "In certain fields, such as the field of alloys, the intrinsic functions and/or uses of the invented alloy usually shall be specified," respectively.

(Source: China National Intellectual Property Administration)

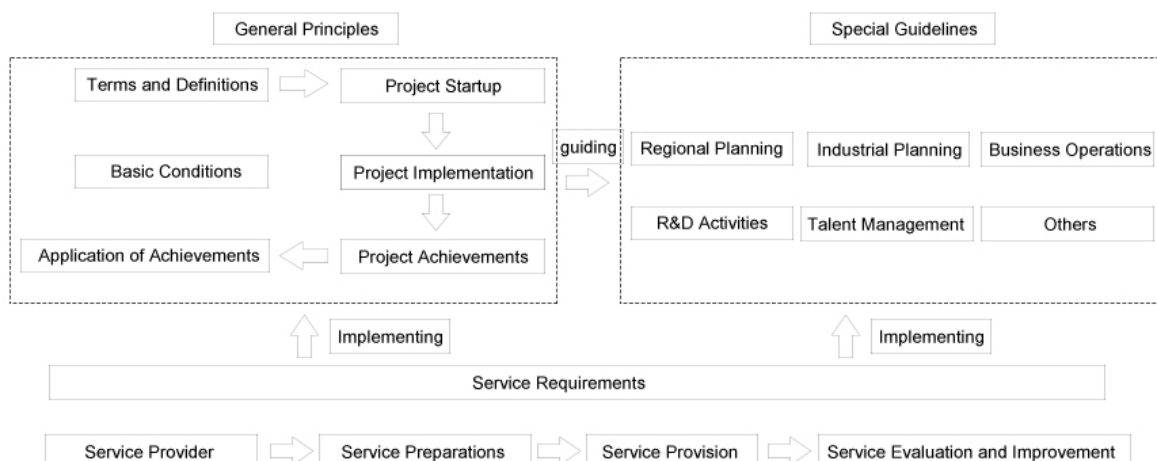
## Interpretations on GB/T39551-2020 Serial National Standards for Patent Navigation Guidelines (Part III)

Recently the GB/T39551-2020 serial recommendatory national standards for the *Patent Navigation Guidelines*, which were organized and formulated by the China National Intellectual Property Administration, were officially approved and published on November 9, 2020. Said standards will come into effect on June 1, 2021. Interpretations on some of the key issues therein are abstracted as follows:

(...)

### Part III Composition and Logical Relations of the Serial Standards

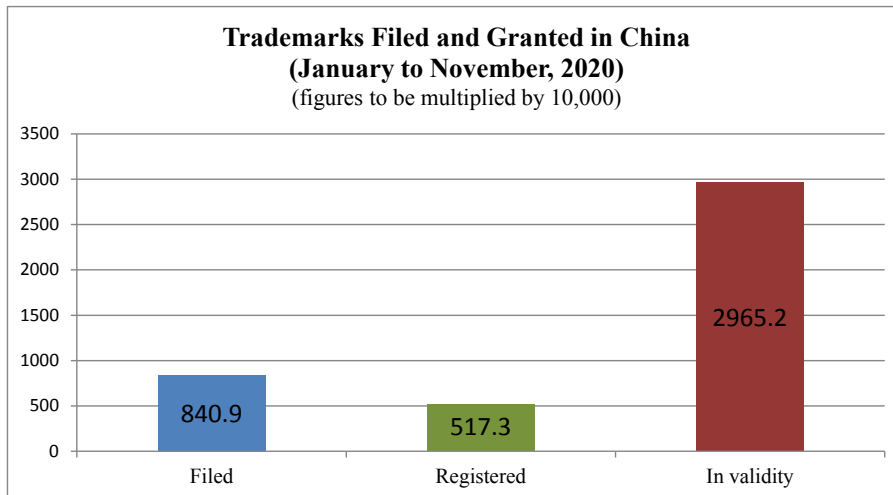
The serial national standards for the Patent Navigation Guidelines are presently composed of seven standards, i.e., "General Principles + 5 Special Guidelines (including: regional planning, industrial planning, business operations, R&D activities and talent management) + Service Requirements".



(Source: China National Intellectual Property Administration)

## Trademark

### CNIPA Publishes Statistical Data of Trademarks from January to November 2020



From January to November, a total of 120,000 trademark opposition applications were filed and 132,000 trademark opposition reviews were completed.

CNIPA received 6,933 Madrid international applications filed by Chinese applicants. CNIPA also received 327,000 various types of applications for trademark review and adjudication and concluded 325,000 such cases.

(Source: National Intellectual Property Administration)

## Intellectual Property

### CNIPA Publishes Statistical Data of Other IP Rights from January to November 2020

#### Geographical Indications and Layout Designs of Integrated Circuits

From January to November, CNIPA approved a total of 836 enterprises to use exclusive marks for products with geographical indications, and approved 697 registered geographical indication trademarks. By November 2020, an accumulative number of 2,387 products with geographical indications have been approved and a total of 9,333 enterprises have been approved to use said exclusive marks; also, an accumulative number of 6,015 geographical indication trademarks have been registered.

From January to November, 12,199 applications for registration of layout designs of integrated circuits were filed, and 9,798 registration certificates for said layout designs were issued.

(Source: National Intellectual Property Administration)

### WIPO Publishes Chinese Version of 2020 Global Innovation Index

On September 2, 2020, the World Intellectual Property Organization (“WIPO”) published the *2020 Global Innovation Index* (the “*2020 GII*”) themed on “Who Will Finance Innovation?” in Geneva Switzerland. China keeps its ranking at No.14 this year and is still the only middle-income economy among the Top 30 in the GII.

## Intellectual Property

The Chinese version of the *2020 GII*, as it attracted wide attention from various sectors in China, was finally published on December 9. As is the same with the preceding years, the Chinese version represents an abstract of the *2020 GII* and selected the sections related to China from the original texts including the Preface, Foreword, Main Findings and Rankings, Cluster Rankings and China Overview, for the readers' reference.

For more details of the *2020 GII*, you may refer to the September Volume of our IP Newsletter.

(Source: WIPO China)

