

National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents 2008

Notice of State of Intellectual Property Office No. 132

On 5 February 2008, the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO) published the Notice on the National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents 2008 (see the attachment). The relevant examination arrangements are summarised as follows:

Date of Application

Eligible residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region can file their applications to the Intellectual Property Department from 13 May to 10 June 2008.

Examination Schedule

The National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents will be held concurrently across the country in 12 cities with designated examination centres on 1 and 2 November 2008.

Examination Venue for Hong Kong Candidates

Guangzhou examination centre.

Arrangement for Payment of Examination Fee by Hong Kong Candidates

Eligible Hong Kong candidates are required to pay the application fee and obtain the examination passes when they report to the Guangzhou examination centre on 31 October 2008.

Examination Syllabus

Applicants may base their revision and preparation on "The Guidebook on the National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents 2008". The content of "The Guidebook on National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents 2008" and "The Guidebook on National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents 2007" are the same. Applicants who have "The Guidebook on National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents 2007" do not have to make a new purchase.

Subjects and Contents

The Examination covers three subjects, namely, knowledge on patent laws, relevant legal knowledge and work practices of patent agents. The examinations on the two subjects of knowledge on patent laws and relevant legal knowledge will be in the form of multiple-choice questions. As for the examination on the subject of work practices of patent agents, essay-type questions will be adopted.

Release of Examination Papers and Answers after the Examination

After the Examination, SIPO will release the examination papers of the following two subjects with draft model answers: (i) knowledge on patent laws; and (ii) relevant legal knowledge. Comments from the public are welcomed within a specified period.

After issuing the Patent Agent Qualification Certificates to the successful candidates, SIPO will release the examination paper of the subject of work practices of patent agents with the relevant model answers.

Admission Criteria

The Patent Agents Examination Board (專利代理人考核委員會) will determine the admission rate according to the actual demand for patent agent service and the principle of admitting candidates with the best performance in terms of total examination scores and scores for the single subject of work practices of patent agents.

Intellectual Property Department

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

17 March 2008