Index Page

Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
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Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
CEDB179	1581	CHAN Chun-ying	78	(1) Statutory Functions
CEDB180	1582	CHAN Chun-ying	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property
CEDB181	1585	CHAN Chun-ying	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property
CEDB182	1586	CHAN Chun-ying	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property
CEDB183	1406	CHIU Duncan	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property
CEDB184	1264	CHUANG Ka-pun, Albert	78	(-) -
CEDB185	1241	FAN Chun-wah, Andrew	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property
CEDB186	2001	FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property
CEDB187	0702	LEE Ka-kui, Elvin	78	(-) -
CEDB188	0560	NG Wun-kit	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property
CEDB189	1495	TANG Ming-sum, Michelle	78	(1) Statutory Functions
CEDB190	2031	WONG Kam-fai, William	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property
CEDB191	2069	WONG Wing-wai, Ray	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property
CEDB192	2989	WU Yingpeng	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
CEDB193	3037	YAO Cho-fai, Andrew	78	(-) -
CEDB238	3610	KAN Wai-mun, Carmen	78	(2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB179

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1581)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In 2025, the proportions of electronic filings for trade mark, patent and design registration applications were all very high, reflecting that electronic services were well received by the public. Please advise of the following:

1. the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in providing this service;

2. given that the IT system was set up in 2019 and that members of the public are actively using it to file their applications, does the Government have any plan to further update the system and enhance its performance to better serve the public?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

Providing the public with electronic filing services for trade mark, patent and design registration applications is part of the routine work undertaken by the Intellectual Property Department (IPD). The work includes daily operation, supporting the opening of user accounts for electronic filing, answering user enquiries, etc., and is jointly undertaken by Intellectual Property Examiners and the Information Technology (IT) Management Unit of IPD in collaboration with outsourced contractors. The expenditures involved have been subsumed under the overall departmental estimates. It is therefore difficult to quantify them separately.

IPD has been committed to delivering high-quality electronic services and launched the New Integrated IT System in 2019, covering various services such as public search, filing of registration applications and examination of applications. Over the years, IPD has continued to enhance the system functions so as to improve the experience of public users (in particular intellectual property (IP) registration applicants, IP owners and their agents). IPD will continue to closely monitor the system usage and user needs to review whether enhancement of system performance is required.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB180

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1582)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27 include the collaboration with relevant Chinese Mainland intellectual property (IP) authorities for organsing a delegation of Hong Kong IP professionals to participate in a business matching session in the Chinese Mainland in the 2nd quarter of 2026. It is noted that arrangements were also made for Mainland enterprises to visit Hong Kong for participating in matching activities at the end of last year. Please let us know about:

1. the expenditure details for organising the matching activities last year, the numbers of participating professionals and enterprises, the numbers of successful matches and successful cases; and

2. the estimated expenditure for participating in the business matching session in the Mainland this year, and the estimated number of participants.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

At the Business of Intellectual Property (IP) Asia Forum in December 2025, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) held the "IP Go-Global Business Matching Session". The Hong Kong Trade Development Council was commissioned to arrange representatives from Mainland enterprises seeking to expand into overseas markets to visit Hong Kong, and to participate in business matching activities with members of different IP professional bodies of Hong Kong (including practicing lawyers and patent agents). A total of 22 one-on-one business matching meetings were completed.

IPD plans to hold another IP Go-Global business matching activity in Guangzhou in the 2nd quarter of 2026 to promote Hong Kong's IP professional services to enterprises in the Guangdong Province. It is initially estimated that around 100 representatives from

professional bodies and the innovative industries in both Hong Kong and Guangdong will participate, and about 30 one-on-one business matching meetings are planned.

Organising the above-mentioned business matching activities is part of the overall work of IPD in promoting IP trading. The expenditure involved has been subsumed under the overall estimates of IPD and is difficult to be quantified separately.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB181

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1585)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Matters requiring special attention in 2026-27 include continuing to work with stakeholders and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council to promote Hong Kong's competitive advantages in intellectual property (IP) trading and IP professional services to the Chinese Mainland and overseas enterprises through trade missions, seminars, publicity programmes and the annual Business of IP Asia Forum. In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

1. the activities organised in the past year to promote Hong Kong's competitive advantages in IP trading and IP professional services, the number of participants, and the manpower and estimated expenditure;

2. the manpower and estimated expenditure for organising the activities in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

The Intellectual Property Department (IPD) has been organising a variety of activities and collaborating with different stakeholders in an effort to promote Hong Kong's competitive edge in intellectual property (IP) trading and IP professional services to various sectors. Details are as follows:

- The Government has continued to co-organise the annual Business of IP Asia Forum with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC). The 2025 Forum was held on 4 and 5 December and attracted over 3 300 participants from 38 countries and regions, including leaders of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), as well as IP experts from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. IPD will continue to support the Business of IP Asia Forum with the addition of new features to provide an excellent platform for IP authorities, experts, practitioners and

trading partners from different regions around the world to exchange views on the latest developments of IP-related issues and explore more co-operation and development opportunities for the industries. The 2026 Forum will be held in November.

- At the Business of IP Asia Forum in 2025, IPD held the "IP Go-Global Business Matching Session". HKTDC was commissioned to arrange representatives from Mainland enterprises seeking to expand into overseas markets to visit Hong Kong, and to participate in business matching activities with members of different IP professional bodies of Hong Kong (including practicing lawyers and patent agents). A total of 22 one-on-one business matching meetings were completed. IPD plans to hold another IP Go-Global business matching activity in Guangzhou in the 2nd quarter of 2026 to promote Hong Kong's IP professional services to enterprises in the Guangdong Province.

- Under the framework of the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights, IPD has been collaborating with various cities in Guangdong Province to organise a variety of activities, including the annual Guangdong/Hong Kong Seminar on Intellectual Property and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) (Seminar). The 2025 Seminar, held on 18 November in Jiangmen, was attended by over 200 representatives of SMEs and IP practitioners, as well as government officials from Guangdong and Hong Kong. The 2026 Seminar is expected to be held in Foshan in September. IPD also continues to organise the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Intellectual Property Trade Expo and International Geographical Indications Products Trade Expo with the IP authorities of Guangdong Province and Macao, contributing to the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area. In addition, we will continue to co-organise the Mainland and Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR Intellectual Property Symposium annually with the Office of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs of CNIPA and the Economic and Technological Development Bureau of the Government of the Macao SAR for assisting the business community (including SMEs) in strengthening the protection, management, utilisation and commercialisation of IP for their business operations in the Chinese Mainland.

- To strengthen the promotion of Hong Kong's role in developing into a regional IP trading centre and its competitive edge in IP trading, IPD has been working with the Radio Television Hong Kong since 2022 to produce a television series entitled "IP: New Opportunities" with a total of 26 episodes in 4 seasons. Another new season of the television programme is being planned for broadcasting in 2026-27. In addition, IPD expects to launch a new promotional video later this year to promote Hong Kong's competitive edge in IP trading.

Organising the above-mentioned activities is part of the overall work of IPD in promoting IP trading. The expenditure involved has been subsumed under the overall estimates of IPD and is difficult to be quantified separately.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB182

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1586)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

To facilitate and promote the development of intellectual property (IP) financing in Hong Kong, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD), in collaboration with the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, launched the IP Financing Sandbox on 22 December 2025 to assist enterprises in leveraging their IPs for financing with the support of the banking, insurance, valuation, legal and other professions. Please advise of the following:

1. The manpower and estimated expenditure involved in this initiative;

2. To enhance the awareness and the utilisation rate of the sandbox, will the IPD set aside resources to promote and publicise the initiative to the industry, in particular the small and medium-sized innovation and technology enterprises? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and the Intellectual Property Department (IPD), in collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), launched the Intellectual Property (IP) Financing Sandbox (the Sandbox) at the end of last year to assist pilot sectors (particularly the technology sector) in leveraging IPs for financing. 3 major banks in Hong Kong and their clients from different enterprises, as well as legal and professional services organisations are participating in the pilot project.

To enhance the industry's awareness of the Sandbox, CEDB and IPD have since October 2025 been actively promoting the relevant policies and complementary measures for the Sandbox to various stakeholders (including relevant professional bodies, innovation and technology enterprises, chambers of commerce and industry, etc.) by organising a number of thematic briefing sessions. The HKMA has also been actively participating in exchange activities, sharing the details of the Sandbox with the business community and relevant

organisations, and encouraging banks to consider joining the Sandbox, thereby promoting the development of IP financing.

CEDB and IPD, in collaboration with the HKMA, will closely monitor the operation of the Sandbox and step up their promotional efforts as and when appropriate in response to the market and industry feedback.

Developing Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre is part of the overall work of CEDB and IPD. The expenditure involved in implementing the Sandbox is subsumed under the overall estimates of CEDB and IPD respectively. It is therefore difficult to quantify the resources involved separately.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB183

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1406)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the measures relating to the promotion of intellectual property (IP) financing and trading, will the Government advise on the following:

(1) the estimated expenditures in each of the first 2 years for the new Pilot Patent Valuation Support Scheme;

(2) whether there is any subsequent plan on enhancement of the IP Financing Sandbox which the Government will continue to implement and review, and the manpower and operating expenditure required for implementing the relevant work;

(3) the preliminary plans, timetable and respective estimated expenditures for the specific promotion activities (e.g. business missions, seminars, etc.) this year in order to promote Hong Kong's edge on IP trading to Mainland and overseas enterprises;

(4) the expected scale, number of participants and estimated expenditure of the Business of IP Asia Forum to be continuously organised and held this year, as well as the key guests or major participating regions being planned to be invited.

Asked by: Hon CHIU Duncan (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

Pilot Patent Valuation Support Scheme

To promote the development of local intellectual property (IP) financing, the Government plans to launch a two-year Pilot Patent Valuation Support Scheme (Pilot Scheme) in the 3rd quarter of 2026 to support eligible local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to conduct valuation of their patents and other IP assets, which will provide concrete information on the enterprises' assets to serve as a reference for credit financing.

The Intellectual Property Department (IPD) will collaborate with the Hong Kong Technology and Innovation Support Centre (HKTISC) to implement the Pilot Scheme. The Pilot Scheme will adopt a matching grant model of 1 (Government): 1 (eligible local SME) and provide each enterprise of an approved application (approved enterprise) with a one-off funding capped at $80,000 to support them in commissioning qualified service providers (mainly accountants, financial analysts or surveyors) to conduct quantitative valuation of their patents and other IP assets.

In addition, if the IP assets of the approved enterprises include at least 1 Hong Kong patent granted under the Patents Ordinance (Cap. 514) that has also undergone substantive examination, IPD's patent examiners will, through HKTISC, provide free qualitative patent evaluation service based on the national standard for 1 Hong Kong patent designated by the approved enterprise concerned. Valuation service providers, banks or other financial institutions may, where appropriate, refer to the results of such qualitative patent evaluation in conducting quantitative valuation.

The Government has earmarked $28 million to support HKTISC in providing innovation and technology enterprises with patent evaluation based on the national standard and implementing the two-year Pilot Scheme, among which $16 million is the maximum total amount of funding for the Pilot Scheme (the funding to be provided to each approved enterprise is capped at $80,000 and the maximum number of eligible applications to be approved is 100 per year). The annual cash flow will depend on the funding situation, the number of applications received and approved, and the amount of funding disbursed. The initial estimation of the cash flows for Financial Years 2026-27 and 2027-28 is $4 million and $8 million respectively.

IP Financing Sandbox

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and IPD, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), launched the IP Financing Sandbox (Sandbox) in end 2025 to assist pilot sectors (particularly the technology sector) in leveraging IPs for financing. 3 major banks in Hong Kong and their clients from different enterprises, as well as legal and professional services organisations are participating in the pilot project.

The Sandbox provides a collaborative and risk-controlled environment for stakeholders to collectively test out the full lifecycle of IP financing on a "pioneer and pilot" approach and accumulate practical experience. CEDB and IPD will, together with the HKMA, closely monitor the operation of the Sandbox, timely collect feedback from stakeholders, consolidate market feedback and experience, and make follow-up arrangements, with a view to gradually establishing a more comprehensive IP financing ecosystem.

Developing Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre is part of the overall work of CEDB and IPD. The expenditure involved in implementing the Sandbox is subsumed under the overall estimates of CEDB and IPD respectively, and is difficult to be quantified separately.

Promoting IP Trading Activities to Chinese Mainland and Overseas Enterprises

IPD has been organising a variety of activities and collaborating with different stakeholders to promote Hong Kong's competitive edge in developing IP trading and in its professional services to the Chinese Mainland and overseas enterprises. Details are as follows:

- IPD plans to hold the IP Go-Global business matching activity in Guangzhou in the 2nd quarter of 2026 to promote Hong Kong's IP professional services to enterprises in the Guangdong Province. It is initially estimated that around 100 representatives from professional bodies and the innovative industries in both Hong Kong and Guangdong will participate, and about 30 one-on-one business matching meetings are planned.

- Under the framework of the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights, IPD has been collaborating with various cities in the Guangdong Province in organising a variety of activities, including the annual Guangdong/Hong Kong Seminar on Intellectual Property and Development of SME. The 2026 Seminar is expected to be held in Foshan in September.

- IPD also continues to co-organise the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Intellectual Property Trade Expo and International Geographical Indications Products Trade Expo with the IP authorities of Guangdong Province and Macao, contributing to the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area. In addition, we will continue to co-organise the Mainland and Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR Intellectual Property Symposium annually with the Office of Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan Affairs of China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the Economic and Technological Development Bureau of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region for assisting the business community (including SMEs) in strengthening the protection, management, utilisation and commercialisation of IP for their business operations in the Chinese Mainland.

- The Government has continued to co-organise the annual Business of IP Asia Forum with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC). The 2025 Forum attracted over 3 300 participants from 38 countries and regions, including leaders of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the CNIPA, as well as IP experts from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. IPD will continue to support the Business of IP Asia Forum with the addition of new features to provide an excellent platform for IP authorities, experts, practitioners and trading partners from different regions around the world to exchange views on the latest developments of IP-related issues and explore more co-operation and development opportunities for the industries. The 2026 Forum will be held in November, and its scale and number of participants are expected to be comparable to those of previous years. We will discuss the details with the HKTDC later to finalise the theme of this year and the list of domestic and international guests and speakers to be invited.

Promoting IP trading to the public, industries and stakeholders is part of the overall work of IPD. The expenditure involved has been subsumed under the overall estimates of the department and is difficult to be quantified separately.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB184

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1264)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (-) -

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

According to paragraph 161 of the Budget Speech and the relevant estimates of expenditure under Head 78 "Intellectual Property Department", the Government has earmarked $28 million to support the Hong Kong Technology and Innovation Support Centre (HKTISC) in implementing the two-year Pilot Patent Valuation Support Scheme. To ensure that the dedicated provision provides targeted support for innovation and technology (I&T) enterprises, will the Government advise this Committee on the following matters:

(1) Of the estimated $28 million, what will be the amounts and percentages spent on directly subsidising I&T enterprises to conduct patent valuations, the regular operating expenses of the HKTISC, and the consultancy fees for engaging experts respectively?

(2) What is the target number of enterprises to be benefitted from the pilot scheme in the next 2 years? What will be the maximum subsidy amount for each eligible enterprise and the estimated average processing time of application (in terms of number of days)?

(3) How will the Government measure the actual economic benefits of the pilot scheme? For example, will the Government track the success rate of subsidised enterprises in obtaining commercial financing or in technology transfer after patent valuation?

Asked by: Hon CHUANG Ka-pun, Albert (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

To promote the development of local intellectual property (IP) financing, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) plans to launch a two-year Pilot Patent Valuation Support Scheme (Pilot Scheme) in the 3rd quarter of 2026 to support eligible local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to conduct valuation of their patents and other IP assets, which will provide concrete information on the enterprises' assets to serve as a reference for credit financing.

IPD will collaborate with the Hong Kong Technology and Innovation Support Centre (HKTISC) to implement the Pilot Scheme. The Pilot Scheme will adopt a matching grant model of 1 (Government): 1 (eligible local SME) and provide each enterprise of an approved application (approved enterprise) with a one-off funding capped at $80,000 to support them in commissioning qualified service providers (mainly accountants, financial analysts and surveyors) to conduct quantitative valuation of their patents and other IP assets.

In addition, if the IP assets of the approved enterprises include at least 1 Hong Kong patent granted under the Patents Ordinance (Cap. 514) that has also undergone substantive examination, IPD's patent examiners will, through HKTISC, provide free qualitative patent evaluation service based on the national standard for one Hong Kong patent designated by the approved enterprise concerned. Valuation service providers, banks or financial institutions may, where appropriate, refer to the results of such qualitative patent evaluation in conducting quantitative valuation.

The Government has earmarked $28 million to support HKTISC in providing innovation and technology enterprises with patent evaluation based on national standard and implementing the two-year Pilot Scheme, among which $16 million is the maximum total amount of funding for the Pilot Scheme (the funding to be provided to each approved enterprise is capped at $80,000 and the maximum number of eligible applications to be approved is 100 per year).

The Pilot Scheme will be open for application all year round. Pilot Scheme applications by enterprises holding Hong Kong original grant patents (OGP) will be given priority in processing and approval throughout the year. Quarterly application quotas will be set up (initially proposed at 25 applications per quarter). After discounting the approved Pilot Scheme applications from enterprises holding OGP, the remainder of the quarterly quotas will be assigned according to the designated order of priority. IPD is currently working with the HKTISC to finalise the detailed implementation arrangements for the Pilot Scheme, including the workflow for eligibility checking and preliminary assessments to be conducted for the applications.

The Pilot Scheme will provide high-quality qualitative patent evaluation and reliable quantitative valuation for IP assets held by approved enterprises. This not only assists relevant SMEs in demonstrating the economic value of their IP assets, but also enhances understanding of the value of intangible assets by financial institutions and investors, enabling them to consider the market potential of SMEs' IP assets in a more comprehensive manner and increasing their confidence in investing in SMEs or establishing strategic partnerships with them. Relevant evaluation and valuation reports could serve as references to banks and other financial institutions when they assess enterprises' applications for financing, loans, etc. We anticipate that the Pilot Scheme will help drive demand for IP valuation service and attract relevant service providers to develop their businesses in Hong Kong. This will help build a talent pool for IP valuation, enhance market confidence in Hong Kong's IP valuation service, and optimise Hong Kong's IP financing ecosystem.

The Government will review the market responses, effectiveness and relevant experience of the Pilot Scheme during its implementation. Based on the overall market and industry developments, we will explore the way forward of the Pilot Scheme.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 | Reply Serial No. **CEDB185**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1241)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the Government's work to promote the development of Hong Kong as a regional intellectual property (IP) trading centre under this Programme, would the Government please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What were the specific work and achievements of the Government in enforcement of IP rights (covering prevention of infringement, legal remedies against infringers, dispute resolution mechanisms etc.) over the past year, and what are the work plans for the coming year?

2. What was the support of the Government to protect IP rights against online and cross-boundary infringement, and how many such complaints or cases that were followed up and handled together with other departments over the past 2 years?

3. As regards promoting the concept of IP protection amongst young people under this Programme, what are the promotion activities and their details? Whether the promotion activities are carried out in collaboration with schools? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon FAN Chun-wah, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

Enforcement of IP Rights

Intellectual property (IP) rights are private property rights. When they are infringed, rights owners may take legal action in order to stop and prevent further infringement, and seek compensation for damage caused by the infringement. IP rights can be enforced through the means of civil proceedings and criminal enforcement. Civil proceedings generally must be initiated by IP rights owners against infringers directly without the involvement or intervention of Government authorities. Such litigation concerns disputes over private

property rights, and the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) does not have specific details of individual cases.

Certain copyright and trade mark infringements constitute criminal offences. The Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (C&ED), as the only department responsible for conducting investigation into and prosecution against criminal infringement of copyright and trade marks, has all along adopted a multi-pronged strategy through stringent enforcement, public education and co-operation with stakeholders, etc. to comprehensively protect the interests of IP rights owners.

To combat online infringement offences, the C&ED has established the "Anti-Internet-Piracy Team" dedicated to combating online infringement and technology crimes, and handling related enforcement work. The C&ED also utilises the "Big Data Analytics System" to assist frontline officers in retrieving and analysing massive information from various internet platforms for online investigations. In combating cross-boundary infringement activities, the C&ED has been stepping up enforcement actions. Through the established co-operation mechanism, the C&ED closely liaises with the Chinese Mainland, Macao and other overseas law enforcement agencies in exchanging and sharing experience on enforcement and strategy for IP rights protection, as well as conducting joint operations to enhance the effectiveness of combating cross-boundary infringement activities.

In 2025, the C&ED detected a total of 723 infringement cases, resulting in the arrest of 333 persons and the seizure of goods valued at about $418 million in total.

With regard to online and cross-boundary infringement activities, the numbers of investigation cases handled by the C&ED over the past 2 years are set out as follows:

	2024	**2025**
Number of cases	620	571
Number of persons arrested	211	218
Total value of seized goods (mainly watches and parts)	$284 million	$395 million

In the coming year, the C&ED will continue to closely monitor the latest trend in infringement activities, deploy resources flexibly and strengthen combating IP infringement across different levels, including cross-boundary transshipment, local retail and online activities, with a view to continuously enhancing the enforcement effectiveness in IP protection.

Raising Public Awareness of and Respect for IP Rights

IPD attaches great importance to raising public (especially young people) awareness of and respect for IP rights, and continues to carry out promotional and educational work through various channels and media, including organising various activities and making TV promotional videos to reach out to the general public.

In 2025-26, the major promotional and educational activities for enhancing IP literacy of the public and the younger generation were as follows:

- Continued to organise territory-wide campaigns, including the "No Fakes Pledge" Scheme and the "I Pledge" Campaign to advocate the selling and buying of genuine goods among Hong Kong retailers, tourists and local consumers. By the end of 2025, 13 trade associations with 1 769 retail merchants covering 7 018 outlets/online shops in Hong Kong participated in the "No Fakes Pledge" Scheme. For the "I Pledge" Campaign, IPD has encouraged the public to respect IP rights and refuse to buy pirated and counterfeit goods through various outreach activities.

- For promotional and educational activities targeting the younger generation, IPD organised over 220 sessions of the school visit programme and the interactive drama programme for primary and secondary schools, as well as talks for tertiary institutions in 2025. Besides, IPD collaborated with the law schools of the 3 local universities to organise the IP Ambassador Programme for law school students to join as IP Ambassadors and participate in various IP-related activities such as conferences, lectures, seminars and exchanges with IP practitioners organised by IPD. Other promotional and educational activities included those organised in collaboration with right-holders and youth, organisations such as the "Hong Kong Inter-School Respect IP Education Campaign" and the "Scout Fun Day for Respect for IP Rights", etc. These activities attracted over 68 000 students and received positive responses from the participants.

Carrying out promotional and educational programmes for the public, the industry and stakeholders as well as promoting IP trading are part of the overall work of IPD undertaken by its existing manpower resources. The expenditure involved has been subsumed under the overall estimates of the department and is difficult to be quantified separately.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB186

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2001)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Hong Kong has a target to promote its development as a regional intellectual property (IP) trading centre. Regarding the related work, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. With the recognition of the China National Intellectual Property Administration and the World Intellectual Property Organization, the first Technology and Innovation Support Centre in Hong Kong officially commenced operation on 22 December 2025. The Government once earmarked $45 million to cover various operating expenses, including remuneration, facilities, consultancy fees etc., for the first 3 years since commencement of preparatory work for the establishment. Please provide, in tabular form, a detailed breakdown of the actual expenditure of the funding, including the amount expended, the allocation for major types of expenditure, as well as the financial planning and budgetary continuation arrangements for its subsequent operation.

2. In respect of IP protection, the Government has completed the public consultation on further enhancement of the Copyright Ordinance regarding protection for artificial intelligence (AI) technology development. Please explain the latest progress, the expected timetable for submitting a legislative proposal, and the Government's assessment of the impact on copyright protection, infringement liability and specific exceptions for AI-generated works. Has the Government earmarked resources to provide protective measures and support for copyright owners? If so, please provide the details.

3. The estimated expenditure for IP protection work in the current year is 25.4% higher than the previous year. Please explain the main reasons for this increase.

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

Technology and Innovation Support Centre

The Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) is a dedicated programme of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) which supports researchers and innovators at different stages of the innovation cycle, helping them make use of the intellectual property (IP) system (especially by means of patents) to protect their inventions and guiding them to bring the technology to market.

In December 2024, the Hong Kong Productivity Council was designated jointly by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the WIPO as part of the new batch of organisations for establishing TISCs and commenced preparatory work for 1 year. The Hong Kong Technology and Innovation Support Centre (HKTISC) officially commenced full operations in December 2025.

HKTISC's establishment phase in the first year and its operation phase in the following 3 years span across several financial years from 2024-25 to 2028-29, for which the Government's estimated commitment is $45 million, covering various expenses including salaries, rent, office equipment, infrastructure building (including development of information technology systems and websites, connection to databases, etc.), consultancy fee and other administrative expenses. As of the end of February this year, the funding disbursed by the Government to HKTISC was around $1.04 million, which mainly covers the relevant salary expenses incurred during the establishment phase of HKTISC in the 2024-25 financial year. Before the completion of the first 3-year operating cycle, CNIPA will line up experts to carry out an evaluation on the operation of HKTISC. The Government will also review the operational experience and service scope of HKTISC to plan for the appropriate arrangement and required resources in the future.

Development of the Copyright Regime

The Government completed a public consultation in September 2024 on further enhancing the Copyright Ordinance (CO) (Cap. 528) to protect the development of artificial intelligence (AI) technology. In February 2025, the Government reported the consultation outcome to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology and proposed introducing a specific copyright exception for text and data mining. The aim of the proposal is to allow the reasonable use of copyright works in specific circumstances under the premise of safeguarding the legitimate interests of copyright owners, so as to promote the development of AI technology and foster mutual benefits for the creative and innovation and technology (I&T) industries.

Since then, we have maintained communication with stakeholders (particularly those in the cultural and creative sectors) to listen to their concerns and explain the proposal in detail. In view of the fact that some sectors wish the Government to provide guidance on the practical operation of the proposed exception, and to take into account the latest experience in other jurisdictions, we are now drafting a code of practice. We will also continue to maintain close communication and exchanges with relevant policy bureaux/departments and stakeholders from different sectors, including the I&T sector, copyright-related industries, chambers of commerce, business representatives, etc., to gather their views before taking forward the next

step in light of the overall situation. At this stage, there is no concrete timetable for submitting the legislative proposal.

As for copyright protection for AI-generated works and legal liability for infringement, the existing CO already contains applicable provisions. To assist AI system developers and users in addressing the relevant issues, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) is drafting a set of guidelines that will provide practical suggestions and concrete examples, with a view to further elucidating the existing legal principles and their application for reference by all parties.

AI and copyright are important issues. In view of the above copyright-related work and the latest international developments, the Government will carry out promotional and educational work, including conducting IP training programmes to support the industry. Such work is part of the ongoing work of IPD and the resources involved are difficult to be quantified separately. Moreover, the IP Academy, which aims to commence at the end of this year, is also expected to provide relevant courses to strengthen the nurturing of talents in this regard in order to meet industry needs.

Estimated expenditure for 2026-27

The estimated expenditure for IP protection work of IPD in 2026-27 is 25.4% higher than the revised estimate for the previous year. This is mainly due to the increased departmental expenditure for enhancing the capacity of IPD to consolidate Hong Kong as a regional IP trading centre, including the expenses in support of the two-year Pilot Patent Valuation Support Scheme expected to be launched in the 3rd quarter of this year, the qualitative patent evaluation service provided by HKTISC, a two-year pilot programme for the establishment and operation of the IP Academy to be launched in collaboration with the Vocational Training Council etc.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB187

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0702)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (-) -

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) will, in collaboration with relevant Chinese Mainland Intellectual Property (IP) authorities, organise a delegation of Hong Kong IP professionals to participate in a business matching session in the Chinese Mainland in the 2nd quarter of 2026. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The specific scale of the business matching delegation to the Mainland, the criteria for selecting the delegates, the planned itinerary, and the expected number of enterprises to be connected;

2. In view of the vigorous development of "new-quality productive forces" in our country, whether this business matching session will target at specific emerging fields such as biomedicine, artificial intelligence, green technology, or cultural and creative IP etc., for precise connection;

3. Upon conclusion of the business matching session, will the Government establish a follow-up mechanism such as tracking the implementation of the agreed collaboration between the matched parties, and providing ongoing support for the industry in terms of policy consultation or matters relating to the Mainland laws and regulations, in order to ensure that the matching outcomes will be transformed into tangible economic benefits?

4. To promote the development of Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre, apart from the Mainland market, does the Government have plans to allocate funds to support the industries in expanding into other key overseas markets, particularly the Belt and Road countries, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, the Middle East region, as well as the traditional European and American markets? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Ka-kui, Elvin (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

At the Business of Intellectual Property (IP) Asia Forum in December 2025, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) held the "IP Go-Global Business Matching Session". The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) was commissioned to arrange representatives from Mainland enterprises seeking to expand into overseas markets to visit Hong Kong, and to participate in business matching activities with members of different IP professional bodies of Hong Kong (including practicing lawyers and patent agents). A total of 22 one-on-one business matching meetings were completed.

IPD plans to hold another IP Go-Global business matching activity in Guangzhou in the 2nd quarter of 2026 to promote Hong Kong's IP professional services to enterprises in the Guangdong Province. It is initially estimated that around 100 representatives from professional bodies and innovative industries in both Hong Kong and Guangdong will participate, and about 30 one-on-one business matching meetings are planned.

Following the matching activity, IPD plans to collect feedback and opinions from the industries through a questionnaire survey, evaluate the effectiveness of the activity and draw experience for formulating support measures that best meet the industries' needs. Through this new work direction, Hong Kong can further leverage its role as a "super connector" and "super value-adder", facilitating Chinese Mainland enterprises to make use of Hong Kong's professional services to conduct cross-boundary IP business, devise IP plans to go global, and develop practical strategies to connect with international markets and expand their businesses. In parallel, this will also create business opportunities for Hong Kong's IP professional service providers.

In terms of exploring overseas markets, IPD will continue its liaison with other regional and international organisations to promote Hong Kong's role as a regional IP trading centre. It will also continue to work closely with HKTDC and stakeholders to promote Hong Kong's competitive edges in IP trading and IP professional services to enterprises in other regions through trade missions, seminars, publicity programmes, and the annual Business of IP Asia Forum co-organised with HKTDC, thereby exploring more opportunities for industries' co-operation and development. In addition, IPD, through the funding framework of the Economic and Technical Cooperation Work Programme under the Free Trade Agreement between Hong Kong, China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), organised an ASEAN Session at the Business of IP Asia Forum consecutively from 2022 to 2025 and worked with the ASEAN economies to promote IP commercialisation and the development of innovation and technology ecosystem in a mutually beneficial manner.

IP services play a pivotal role in deepening cross-boundary regional cooperation. Hong Kong will continue to leverage its unique edge of having close connectivity with the Chinese Mainland and the world under "One Country, Two Systems", and further consolidate its role as a professional services hub.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB188

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0560)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Paragraphs 158 to 163 of the Budget Speech mention about the enhancement of the institutional framework for intellectual property (IP) regime, including promoting tax deduction arrangements (paragraph 159), establishing a Financing Sandbox (paragraph 160), providing patent valuation support (paragraph 161), and also earmarking $52 million to establish the Intellectual Property Academy (the Academy) in collaboration with the Vocational Training Council as a two-year pilot programme for provision of on-the-job training linked to the Qualifications Framework (paragraph 163) in an effort to develop Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre. In this connection, will the Bureau inform this Committee:

(1) whether the policy objectives of the Academy are confined to training talents in IP management and transactions, or are inclusive of enhancing the capability of local innovative entities (such as start-ups and research institutions) in commercialising outputs of original creation and in managing patent strategies;

(2) alongside the supportive measures of tax deduction arrangements, Financing Sandbox and patent valuation support, whether the Government has laid down quantitative targets with regard to IP transaction scales or technology transfer rates for the next 3 to 5 years; and

(3) upon completion of the two-year pilot programme of the Academy, how the Government will assess its substantive impact on the local innovation ecosystem, and if its effectiveness does not meet the expectation, whether there is any corresponding adjustment or termination mechanism.

Asked by: Hon NG Wun-kit (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

Intellectual Property Academy

The Intellectual Property Department (IPD) launched the Intellectual Property (IP) Manager Scheme as early as in May 2015 with a view to assisting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in enhancing their IP manpower capacity and boosting their competitiveness through IP management and commercialisation. To meet the development needs of the enterprises, IPD launched the IP Manager Scheme PLUS in October 2020 to provide more comprehensive and in-depth training courses and practical workshops.

To strengthen the related on-the-job training and meet the needs of different sectors in using IP across various areas, IPD is collaborating with the Vocational Training Council to implement a two-year pilot programme to establish the Intellectual Property Academy (the Academy). The design and planning of the relevant programmes will be more systematic and better recognised, with more diversified and in-depth content. Our target participants are practitioners from various sectors, including technology and innovation, cultural and creative industries, commerce and industry, and professional services. Local innovation entities (including research institutions, start-ups and SMEs), as well as enterprises and service providers engaged in IP trading and commercialisation, will all stand to benefit. The Academy will help better equip enterprise staff acquire knowledge covering the full IP chain in the course of their business operations, including areas such as the creation, protection, management, transformation and commercialisation of IP, as well as dispute resolution, so that they may properly formulate and implement business strategies covering patents, trade marks, copyright, designs and other areas.

The establishment and development of the Academy is one of the Government's supporting measures to cultivate talents and develop a talent hub in support of the local innovation ecosystem and high-quality development. In the course of implementing the pilot programme, the Government will review and evaluate the Academy's initial operation and effectiveness from multiple perspectives, including using questionnaire surveys, case studies and data analysis. The main reference indicators will include industry response to the programmes, such as the completion and passing rates of participants, their satisfaction levels, and feedback from enterprises and employers. The Government will also assess the extent to which the programme content meets the actual needs of the industry, as well as the effectiveness of the programmes in enhancing practitioners' capabilities in IP management and application, so as to make timely adjustments and refine the future direction for nurturing IP talent.

Tax Deduction Arrangements, Financing Sandbox and Patent Valuation Support

The IP Financing Sandbox was launched at the end of last year to assist pilot sectors (particularly the technology sector) in leveraging IP for financing. We plan to launch the Pilot Patent Valuation Support Scheme in the 3rd quarter of this year to support eligible local SMEs to conduct valuation of their patents and other IP assets. In addition, we launched a two-month stakeholder consultation in January this year to review the tax deduction arrangements for relevant capital expenditure incurred by enterprises for purchasing IP or the rights to use IP. The above measures aim to foster innovation, promote technology transfer and facilitate IP trading. Together with other initiatives for promoting the development of

IP financing in Hong Kong, they can provide comprehensive support for the commercialisation and application of IP.

We are pressing ahead with the implementation of the above supporting measures, and will continue to review the actual progress of implementation, carefully consider the market responses and effectiveness, accumulate relevant experience and data, with a view to exploring the way forward for long-term development and the feasibility of setting quantifiable targets.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB189

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1495)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (1) Statutory Functions

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In recent years, Hong Kong has been actively fulfilling its role as a regional intellectual property (IP) trading centre. However, under the indicators of the Intellectual Property Department (Statutory Functions), the number of applications for standard (re-registration) patents received in 2025 for processing under the Patents Ordinance dropped significantly by 1 217 to 14 541. Even the estimate for 2026 has yet to return to the 2024 level of 15 758. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1) What are the reasons for the substantial decrease in the number of applications for standard (re-registration) patents received?

2) In addition, the target percentages for "processing standard (re-registration) and (original grant) patent applications concerning minimum requirements within 10 days" in 2026 are 98% (re-registration) and 95% (original grant), both of which are lower than the actual performance in 2025, namely 99% (re-registration) and 97% (original grant). Given that the estimated provision for 2026-27 has increased by 5.6%, what are the reasons for the reduction in the 2 targets? Is it due to an anticipated increase in the number of applications? If yes, what are the details?

3) How will the respective reduction in the above indicator and targets affect the objective of fulfilling Hong Kong's role as a regional IP trading centre? If the impact is negative, what strategies will be adopted to cope with such impact?

4) What are the specific details of the Department's past allocation of manpower resources in the above areas?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ming-sum, Michelle (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The Government launched the original grant patent (OGP) system in December 2019 as an alternative path to the existing "re-registration" route in Hong Kong for providing a convenient, direct and expeditious route for patent applicants to obtain standard patents in Hong Kong after substantive examination conducted by the Patents Registry (the Registry) without first going a patent registration process outside Hong Kong.

Under the "re-registration" patent system, an applicant may file an application for standard patent by re-registration in Hong Kong with the Registry only after filing a corresponding invention patent application with one of the designated patent offices outside Hong Kong (designated patent application) and publication of the designated patent application by the designated patent office. Afterwards, the applicant must wait for the designated patent application to undergo substantive examination and be granted by the corresponding designated patent office before filing a request for registration and grant of a standard patent by re-registration with the Registry. The Registry will only conduct formality examination for an application for standard patent by re-registration without the necessity to conduct substantive examination.

Due to the above-mentioned application procedures, the number of applications for standard patents by re-registration in Hong Kong will fluctuate and is affected to a large extent by factors such as the patent filing strategies, market positioning and product cycles of the applicants, as well as the volume of invention patent applications received by the designated patent offices and their progress of examination, etc. The number of applications for standard patents by re-registration received by the Registry was 14 541 in 2025, about 8% less than that in 2024.

In the Intellectual Property Department (IPD)'s 2025-26 Estimate, the target for "processing standard (re-registration) patent applications concerning minimum requirements within 10 days (%)" was 97 in 2025, and that for "processing standard (original grant) patent applications concerning minimum requirements within 10 days (%)" was 92 in the same year. IPD's 2026-27 Estimate reflects that the actual performance for the aforesaid 2 targets in 2025 was 99 and 97 respectively, both of which exceeded the targets.

When setting the estimated indicators for 2026, IPD has taken into account various factors such as the volume and trend of applications for the relevant patents over the recent years and the overall economic situation, etc. Based on an overall consideration of these factors, the number of applications for standard patents by re-registration is estimated to rebound slightly to about 15 000 in 2026. In IPD's 2026-27 Estimate, the target for "processing standard (re-registration) patent applications concerning minimum requirements within 10 days (%)" hence remains at 97 in 2026, whereas the target for "processing standard (original grant) patent applications concerning minimum requirements within 10 days (%)" is raised from 92 to 93 as from 2026. IPD will continue to strive to provide the public with high-quality and efficient registration services and has set the planned performance for these 2 targets in 2026 as 98 and 95 respectively, aiming to exceed the original targets.

In planning the work ahead, IPD carefully considers the anticipated number of applications as well as the overall workload and manpower of the Registry every year in order to set appropriate and pragmatic service performance targets and plans. In its actual work, the

Registry has been striving to enhance its service levels. Based on experience over the years, the Registry's actual performance in processing various patent applications has consistently exceeded the service performance targets and plans set at the beginning of each year.

To better leverage Hong Kong's role as a regional IP trading centre, IPD is pressing ahead with the reform and development of the local patent system, which includes gradual expansion of the patent examination team, particularly to strengthen its institutional autonomy in substantive examination for OGP applications in major technology fields. While there was a drop in the number of applications for standard patents by re-registration in 2025 as compared with the figure in 2024, the numbers of OGP applications received by the Registry have continued to rise in recent years, such number in 2025 had increased by about 33% as compared with that in 2024, which leads to a significant increase in the demand for substantive examination.

The major work relating to processing and examining the applications for OGP and standard patent by re-registration as mentioned above is handled by IPD's patent examination team. In the 2025-26 financial year, the number of the patent examination team members was 37, covering the 3 major technology fields of electricity, chemistry and mechanical engineering. The routine work of the patent examination team includes processing and examining applications for OGP, standard patents by re-registration and short-term patents, promotion of the local patent system, and supporting projects to develop the innovation and technology ecosystem, such as provision of patent evaluation service in collaboration with the Hong Kong Technology and Innovation Support Centre, etc. The expenses related to processing and examining patent applications has been subsumed under the overall estimates of the Department, and cannot be quantified separately.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB190

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2031)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

It is mentioned under this Programme that "with the agreement of the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), an expedited patent pre-examination service provided by the Shenzhen Intellectual Property Protection Center as a facilitation measure for cross-boundary intellectual property (IP) protection benefiting Chinese Mainland patent applications filed by Hong Kong's I&T sector started in June 2025. In addition, the pilot project on prioritising examination of qualified invention patent applications filed by Hong Kong applicants in the Chinese Mainland launched by the CNIPA in collaboration with the Department and the IP authorities of Guangdong Province and Shenzhen since 2023 was regularised on a standing basis on 1 January 2026." In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. whether statistics of the respective number of applications submitted by Hong Kong applicants through the "expedited patent pre-examination service" and the "pilot project", the number of applications approved and the average processing time are available; and

2. in future, whether the Department has plans to seek support from the Mainland authorities for additional measures to facilitate cross-boundary IP examination and grant; if so, the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kam-fai, William (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) and the intellectual property (IP) authorities of the Guangdong Province and Shenzhen, launched a pilot project in January 2023 for prioritising examination of qualified invention patent applications filed by Hong Kong applicants in the Chinese Mainland, facilitating Hong Kong applicants to seek patent protection in the Chinese Mainland. Given the smooth operation of the pilot project over the past 3 years, the CNIPA, upon discussion with IPD, agreed to regularise the project on a standing basis in January 2026

to continue assisting Hong Kong's business sector to secure patent protection more efficiently in the Chinese Mainland. As at end of February 2026, 208 invention patent applications had benefitted from the aforesaid facilitation measure, with their patents expected to be granted within 1 year.

Moreover, to enhance the cross-boundary facilitation measures for IP protection in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland, starting late June 2025, Hong Kong's innovation and technology (I&T) sector (including innovative entities such as enterprises, higher education institutions and research institutions) will benefit from the expedited patent pre-examination service provided by the Shenzhen Intellectual Property Protection Center (SZIPPC) if they meet the relevant criteria (e.g. the inventions in their applications fall within the designated industry sectors). After filing their pre-examination requests with SZIPPC and upon passing the pre-examination, their patent applications can enter the CNIPA's expedited examination channel, which significantly shortens the period of examination. As at end of February 2026, the SZIPPC received a total of 29 requests from the Hong Kong's I&T sector for expedited patent pre-examination, of which 21 had passed. The average processing time was approximately 7 working days, following which the patent grant process would complete in about 3 months.

In addition, with the support of IPD, the Guangdong Administration for Market Regulation (Guangdong Intellectual Property Administration) has progressively set up the "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Intellectual Property Enquiry Points" in 20 cities in the Guangdong Province since October 2021. The service, which has been expanded to Beijing since February this year, facilitates Mainland residents and enterprises to enquire about matters relating to applications for IP registration in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, with the assistance of the Mainland authorities, IPD has also launched a reciprocal enquiry service since February 2023, enabling Hong Kong residents and enterprises to enquire via emails about matters relating to applications for trade mark registration in the Chinese Mainland. The service has been expanded to cover matters relating to applications for patent registration in the Chinese Mainland since April 2025.

IPD and the Mainland authorities will continue to review the implementation of the existing facilitation measures and timely explore the feasibility of enhancing and expanding these measures as well as introducing new ones, with a view to providing more convenient and efficient services for the industries in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland (particularly those in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area), protecting IP, promoting I&T development, and strengthening Hong Kong's competitiveness as a regional IP trading centre.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 | Reply Serial No. **CEDB191**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2069)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the preparatory work for the implementation of the Madrid Protocol, which aims to facilitate the registration and management of trade marks by enterprises in multiple jurisdictions, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(a) What are the Government's detailed plan and latest timetable for implementing the relevant measures?

(b) After the relevant Bill was passed by the Legislative Council in 2020, the Government has been conducting various preparatory work. Given the industry's keen expectation for the early implementation of the relevant mechanism, when does the Government expect to complete the remaining procedures and discuss with the Central Government on the application of the Protocol to Hong Kong? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Wing-wai, Ray (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol) aims to facilitate trade mark owners to apply for and manage trade mark registrations in multiple jurisdictions by a single application, which dispenses with the need for trade mark owners to file individual applications in each jurisdiction. As Madrid Protocol is an international treaty, it is necessary for us to seek formal agreement from the Central People's Government (Central Government) to apply the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong.

The Central Government has expressed in-principle support for the application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been continuing with the necessary preparatory work. The Trade Marks (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 explicitly provides for the legal basis in our domestic law for

the future application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong. Accordingly, the HKSAR Government has been taking forward various preparatory work for the specific implementation arrangement of the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong, including preparing the related subsidiary legislation, formulating workflows for handling international trade mark registrations, setting up the required information technology systems, developing manpower training plans, etc., as well as discussing the detailed arrangements with the Chinese Mainland authorities.

The HKSAR Government will continue to maintain close liaison with the Chinese Mainland authorities and press ahead with the various necessary local preparatory work. Upon completion of the preparatory work, the HKSAR Government will seek formal agreement from the Central Government to apply the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB192

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2989)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Government has earmarked $52 million to establish the Intellectual Property Academy and plan to launch a two-year pilot programme at the end of this year, in order to provide intellectual property professionals with institutionalised, structured and recognised training programmes. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the specific areas of expenditure for which the $52 million is earmarked?

2. What are the curriculum framework, accreditation, number of training places, enrolment targets, and course commencement timetable of the two-year pilot programme?

3. What are the quantitative performance indicators for the pilot programme? Do they include the number of graduates, course completion rate, level of industry recognition, and employment-related data?

4. Following the completion of the two-year pilot programme, does the Government have any long-term plan to regularise the Intellectual Property Academy and expand the training scale?

Asked by: Hon WU Yingpeng (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

To strengthen intellectual property (IP)-related on-the-job training and meet the needs of different sectors in using IP across various areas, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) is collaborating with the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to implement a two-year pilot programme to establish the Intellectual Property Academy (the Academy). The design and planning of the relevant programmes will be more systematic and better recognised, with more diversified and in-depth content, offering varying breadth, depth, and focus tailored to market and policy needs. The programmes will cover areas such as the creation, protection,

management, transformation and commercialisation of IP, as well as dispute resolution, and will include the major fields of IP such as patents, trade marks, copyright, and designs. This will help participants acquire knowledge covering the full IP chain in the course of their business operations, enabling them to formulate and implement business strategies effectively. Suitable programmes will be linked to the corresponding levels under the Qualifications Framework. In the course of developing the programmes, we will widely gather feedback from different industry sectors.

The Academy targets practitioners from various sectors, including technology and innovation, cultural and creative industries, commerce and industry, and professional services. Local innovation entities (including research institutions, start-ups, and small and medium enterprises), as well as enterprises and service providers engaged in IP trading and commercialisation, will all stand to benefit. During the two-year pilot period, the Academy is expected to provide training to about 2 000 participants.

The Government has earmarked $52 million to support the establishment of the Academy and its operating expenses for the first 2 years, including staff remuneration, teaching facilities, information platforms, curriculum development and design, qualification accreditation, publicity and promotion, as well as other administrative and operating expenses. As for the specific funding arrangements, IPD will further discuss with VTC and set out the details of the implementation arrangements in the funding agreement.

The establishment and development of the Academy is one of the Government's supporting measures to cultivate talents and develop a talent hub in support of the sustainable and high-quality development of the local innovation ecosystem. In the course of implementing the pilot programme, the Government will review and evaluate the Academy's initial operation and effectiveness from multiple perspectives, including using questionnaire surveys, case studies and data analysis. The main reference indicators will include industry response to the programmes, such as the completion and passing rates of participants, their satisfaction levels, and feedback from enterprises and employers. The Government will also assess the extent to which the programme content meets the actual needs of the industry, as well as the effectiveness of the programmes in enhancing practitioners' capabilities in IP management and application, so as to make timely adjustments and refine the future direction for nurturing IP talent.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 | Reply Serial No. **CEDB193**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3037)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (-) -

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Intellectual Property Department, in collaboration with the Vocational Training Council, will roll out a two-year pilot programme for the Intellectual Property Academy (Academy). A provision of $52 million has been earmarked. Will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the specific uses of the expenditure of the provision; and whether areas such as curriculum design, training of instructors, allowances for learners, as well as publicity and promotion are covered; and

2. whether the Government will, upon completing the programme, consider regularising the Academy for incorporation into the regular subvention mechanism?

Asked by: Hon YAO Cho-fai, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

To strengthen intellectual property (IP)-related on-the-job training and meet the needs of different sectors in using IP across various areas, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) is collaborating with the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to implement a two-year pilot programme to establish the Intellectual Property Academy (the Academy).

The Government has earmarked $52 million to support the establishment of the Academy and its operating expenses for the first 2 years, including staff remuneration, teaching facilities, information platforms, curriculum development and design, qualification accreditation, publicity and promotion, as well as other administrative and operating expenses. As for the specific funding arrangements, IPD will further discuss with VTC and set out the details of the implementation arrangements in the funding agreement.

The establishment and development of the Academy is one of the Government's supporting measures to cultivate talents and develop a talent hub in support of the sustainable and high-

quality development of the local innovation ecosystem. In the course of implementing the pilot programme, the Government will review and evaluate the Academy's initial operation and effectiveness from multiple perspectives, including using questionnaire surveys, case studies and data analysis. The main reference indicators will include industry response to the programmes, such as the completion and passing rates of participants, their satisfaction levels, and feedback from enterprises and employers. The Government will also assess the extent to which the programme content meets the actual needs of the industry, as well as the effectiveness of the programmes in enhancing practitioners' capabilities in IP management and application, so as to make timely adjustments and refine the future direction for nurturing IP talent.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CEDB238

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3610)

Head: (78) Intellectual Property Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Protection of Intellectual Property

Controlling Officer: Director of Intellectual Property (David WONG Fuk-loi)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27 of Programme (2), the Intellectual Property Department will engage the Vocational Training Council to establish and operate a two-year Intellectual Property (IP) Academy Pilot Programme (the Programme) to deliver institutionalised, structured and recognised IP professional training programmes. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1) the expenditure and staff establishment to be involved in the Programme in 2026-27;

2) the structure and training curriculum of the IP Academy;

3) the target participants, the expected number of beneficiaries and the publicity channels of the Programme in tabular form;

4) the operational expenses of the Programme in tabular form, broken down by general departmental expenses, salaries and personnel related expenses, given the provision which represents an increase of $27.871 million (10.0%) over the revised estimate for 2025-26;

5) whether key performance indicators have been formulated for the Programme; if so, the details; if not, the reasons; and

6) the circumstances under which the Government will, having regard to the implementation of the Programme, consider extending the Programme or converting it into a recurrent programme?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

To strengthen intellectual property (IP)-related on-the-job training and meet the needs of different sectors in using IP across various areas, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) is collaborating with the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to implement a two-year pilot programme to establish the Intellectual Property Academy (the Academy). The design and planning of the relevant programmes will be more systematic and better recognised, with more diversified and in-depth content, offering varying breadth, depth, and focus tailored to market and policy needs. The programmes will cover areas such as the creation, protection, management, transformation and commercialisation of IP, as well as dispute resolution, and will include the major fields of IP such as patents, trade marks, copyright, and designs. This will help participants acquire knowledge covering the full IP chain in the course of their business operations, enabling them to formulate and implement business strategies effectively. Suitable programmes will be linked to the corresponding levels under the Qualifications Framework. In the course of developing the programmes, we will widely gather feedback from different industry sectors.

The Academy targets practitioners from various sectors, including technology and innovation, cultural and creative industries, commerce and industry, and professional services. Local innovation entities (including research institutions, start-ups, and small and medium enterprises), as well as enterprises and service providers engaged in IP trading and commercialisation, will all stand to benefit. During the two-year pilot period, the Academy is expected to provide training to about 2 000 participants.

The Government has earmarked $52 million to support the establishment of the Academy and its operating expenses for the first 2 years, including staff remuneration, teaching facilities, information platforms, curriculum development and design, qualification accreditation, publicity and promotion, as well as other administrative and operating expenses. As for the specific funding arrangements, IPD will further discuss with the VTC and set out the details of the implementation arrangements in the funding agreement.

In terms of staffing, to prepare for the establishment of the Academy, IPD will first redeploy internal staff to discuss related work with the VTC. As for other staffing arrangements involved in the overall operation of the Academy, IPD will further finalise them with the VTC when implementing the overall work plan and specific implementation arrangements.

The establishment and development of the Academy is one of the Government's supporting measures to cultivate talents and develop a talent hub in support of the sustainable and high-quality development of the local innovation ecosystem. In the course of implementing the pilot programme, the Government will review and evaluate the Academy's initial operation and effectiveness from multiple perspectives, including using questionnaire surveys, case studies and data analysis. The main reference indicators will include industry response to the programmes, such as the completion and passing rates of participants, their satisfaction levels, and feedback from enterprises and employers. The Government will also assess the extent to which the programme content meets the actual needs of the industry, as well as the effectiveness of the programmes in enhancing practitioners' capabilities in IP management and application, so as to make timely adjustments and refine the future direction for nurturing IP talent.

The provision for IPD under Subhead 000 operational expenses for 2026-27 is $306 million, to cover the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of IPD. This represents an increase of 10.0% over the revised estimate for the previous year. This is mainly due to the increased departmental expenditure for enhancing the capacity of IPD to consolidate Hong Kong as a regional IP trading centre, including the expenses in support of the two-year Pilot Patent Valuation Support Scheme expected to be launched in the 3rd quarter of this year, the qualitative patent evaluation service provided by the Hong Kong Technology and Innovation Support Centre, a two-year pilot programme for the establishment and operation of the Academy to be launched in collaboration with VTC etc.

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