

香港特別行政區政府知識產權署  
Intellectual Property Department  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



Our Ref. 本署檔號 : ERKS 607-004-001  
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**BY FAX**

22 January 2024

Ms Eileen Tam  
Practitioners Affairs Department  
The Law Society of Hong Kong  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Wing On House  
71 Des Voeux Road Central  
Hong Kong  
(Fax: 2845 0387)

Dear *Eileen*

### **Earthquakes in Japan: IP Filings Matters**

I am writing to appeal to your Members in intellectual property (IP) practice to consider, where necessary and appropriate, how best they may help their clients in Japan to preserve their individual rights relating to trade marks, patents and designs applications and registrations (collectively "IP filings") in view of the recent earthquakes in Japan.

In times of such a disaster, we appreciate that it might be difficult for some of your Members' clients in the affected areas to meet the specified time limits relating to their IP filings. We have carefully reviewed the situation. Due to the confines of our statutory obligations and powers, we are unable to initiate extension of these time limits *en bloc*.

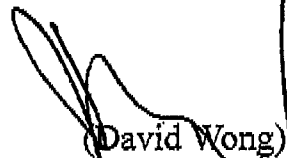
On the other hand, IP agents and practitioners may review the cases they are handling which involve clients in the affected areas of Japan. Where justified, they may consider filing requests for extension of time in

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applicable cases in the interim to preserve their clients' position under the Trade Marks Ordinance (Cap. 559), Patents Ordinance (Cap. 514), and Registered Designs Ordinance (Cap. 522) as well as under their respective subsidiary legislation before the expiry of specified time limits. We would take into account the individual circumstances faced by the affected applicants or parties in considering such requests for time extension on a case-by-case basis.

Should there be any enquiries on the above, please contact Mr Simpson Li, Chief Intellectual Property Examiner (Operations)2 (telephone number: 2961 6882; e-mail: simpson.li@ipd.gov.hk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wong', is written over the printed name.

Director of Intellectual Property