

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
Your Ref. 來函檔號 : /
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BY FAX

3 August 2026

Ms Emily Kwan
Practitioners Affairs Department
The Law Society of Hong Kong
26/F The Center
99 Queen's Road Central
Central
Hong Kong
(Fax: 2845 0387)

Dear Ms Kwan,

Earthquakes in Japan: IP Filings Matters

In view of the recent earthquakes in Kumamoto, 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 the affected areas to preserve their individual rights relating to trade marks, patents and designs applications and registrations in Hong Kong (collectively "IP filings").

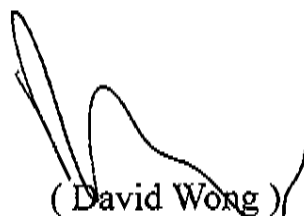
In times of such a disaster, we appreciate the practical difficulties experienced by some of your Members' clients in the affected areas in meeting the specified time limits relating to their IP filings. Having carefully reviewed the situation, we are unable to initiate extension of these time limits *en bloc* given the confines of our statutory obligations and powers.

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On the other hand, IP agents and practitioners may review the cases they are handling which involve clients in the affected areas. Where justified, they may consider filing requests for extension of time in applicable cases in the interim 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 to preserve their clients' position 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 Edmund Lui, Acting Chief Intellectual Property Examiner (Operations)2 (telephone number: 2961 6883; e-mail: edmundlui@ipd.gov.hk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Wong', written over a printed name.

(David Wong)
Director of Intellectual Property