



I ended 2014 with the reflection that it had been 'quite a year.' I predict that at the end of this year I will reach a very similar conclusion. The IPO may sit at the top of that excellent Taylor Wessing listing of the world's IP regimes, but there's no doubt that the team here still see much to do to maintain and further improve our IP environment.

Our work will continue to shape our customer services and wake Britain's innovators and entrepreneurs up to the opportunities created by their IP. We will negotiate the bilateral, European

and global agreements which deliver a better international environment and drive forward progress on the unitary patent and unified patent court. We will strive to ensure that we educate future generations to understand and respect intellectual property and, of course, to tackle IP crime. And that's all before we even think about what might happen on 7th May.

IP Connect will, as ever, work to keep you in touch with developments. I wish you the best of fortune for 2015 in your own endeavours – it's going to be quite a year.

Rosa Wilkinson, Director of Innovation and Strategic Communications

International

National Copyright Administration of China visits IPO

At the end of last year, the IPO welcomed a delegation from the National Copyright Administration of China (NCAC). Their UK visit focused on collective licensing and the delegation included NCAC officials responsible for collective licensing and senior leaders from three of China's five collecting societies.

China's copyright law is currently undergoing extensive revision which should come into force within the next couple of years. Their collective licensing regulations in particular are expected to change significantly. There is hope that the revised legislation will give additional power to Chinese collecting societies which are still grappling with the size and scale of the Chinese market. In comparison, the UK's collective licensing system is very developed and collecting societies operate effectively, collecting revenues in both the UK and abroad.

The IPO and the delegation had a detailed policy discussion that covered collective management organisation in the UK from a government perspective and the EU Collective Rights Management Directive.

A detailed explanation of how collecting societies operate in the UK was given in meetings with PRS for Music, PPL, the Copyright Licensing Agency, the Publishers Licensing Agency, the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society and the Design and Artists' Copyright Society. The delegation also participated in an active discussion on dispute resolution mechanisms with the Copyright Tribunal.

A team of academics also took part in the visit as part of a project to map the different features of copyright collective licensing in the UK and China. The project is funded by the IPO and Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and aims to support the development of collecting societies in China. The policy recommendations included in the final report will be given to the NCAC in due course.

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IPO hosts Brazilian universities and research organisations

The IPO recently hosted a delegation from Brazilian universities and research organisations. The aim of this visit was to explore the possibilities for joint working with UK research institutes and, where possible, facilitate transfer of technologies between the UK and Brazil.

The program included visits to Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and Sheffield Universities' innovation department to look at ways of bringing to market some of the technologies developed by these universities.

The delegation saw how UK universities have benefited by protecting their IP and finding suitable routes to market their technological developments – and also the mutual benefits of working cross border to share recent developments in technology.

As a result of these discussions, it became clear that a Brazilian version of the IPO developed “Lambert Toolkit” (a set of model agreements for licensing technology), would be extremely useful both to Brazilian universities and UK licensors looking to export to Brazil.

The IPO is taking this work forward in conjunction with Brazilian lawyers and in consultation with end users and other interested parties. The aim is to produce a set of model agreements to facilitate more joint working in the future.

Brazilian Business Delegation visits UK to understand and improve local IP system

In December, a Brazilian business delegation comprising industry representatives, lawyers and private sector interests visited the UK. The visit highlighted some of the barriers the Brazilian IP framework presented to business and low awareness of the importance of IP generally in Brazil.

The discussions resulted in follow up work with the delegation, including a new online IP guide for Brazil, to be published shortly and hosted on GOV.UK. This guide is aimed at UK companies new to trading in the region. It will include factual information on Brazilian legislation, and some commonly experienced pitfalls as outlined by UK businesses already established there.

UK's South East Asia Attaché briefs London Mayor's delegation on IP

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson was part of the Creativity Technology trade mission to Singapore and Malaysia (26 Nov – 2 Dec 2014).

This intensive six days of pitching, networking, meetings and market briefing included a session on intellectual property by our SE Asia IP Attaché Christabel Koh.

26 of London's leading creative technology companies showcased innovation in sectors such as Fintech, Media Tech and SMART City technologies



Christabel Koh briefing the Mayor of London led trade delegation market visit to Singapore and Malaysia on importance of IP and support available for them.

Christabel highlighted the support the Attachés offered British businesses and reminded the 50 participants of the importance of registering their rights in markets of interest. Failing to do so could cost businesses looking to export its ideas, brand and products, making it easier for competitors to copy.

Enforcement

City of London Police crackdown on Christmas counterfeiters

Detectives from the City of London Police's dedicated IP crime unit (PIPCU) [arrested](#) three people in morning raids and seized more than 1,500 suspected fake goods on 9 Dec 2014 as part of a crackdown on counterfeit goods being sold online in the lead up to Christmas.

The operations formed part of the force's '12 online Frauds of Christmas' campaign which has been rolled out across the country to protect millions of people from falling victim to cyber-fraudsters.

Detectives from PIPCU arrested a 31 year old man at his home on suspicion of selling counterfeit designer watches online. Upon searching his home, officers found and seized



around 1,500 suspected fake watches from a range of top designer brands, which if sold at the genuine retail price are worth

around £1million.

With support from Leicestershire Police, the man was taken to a police station for questioning and later released on bail until May 2015.

In Leeds, the unit arrested a 26 year old man and a 28 year old woman at two residential addresses following a referral from the Anti-Counterfeiting Group (ACG), the trade organisation representing rights holders in the branded goods sector.

The man and woman are suspected of being two of the UK's top sellers on social media for counterfeit designer goods. Approximately 150 suspected fake goods were seized from the two properties including designer shoes, handbags, clothes and watches.

Detective Chief Superintendent, Dave Clark, said: "This action by PIPCU sends home a strong message to anyone thinking of selling or buying fake goods that the police take this issue very seriously.

"Counterfeit goods are cheap and shoddy versions of the original and the public need to be aware that they are potentially putting themselves at risk by buying them. Not only can fake goods, such as cosmetics or electrical items, be a risk to your health, but if you buy any counterfeit item online, you risk having your computer infected with viruses and malware or your financial details being compromised."

Tim Mascal, Director of the IP Crime Unit said: "The success of these raids once again show the value of having a dedicated police unit to coordinate the fight against intellectual property crime. The City of London Police's anti-counterfeiting initiative in the run-up to Christmas is a timely reminder of the serious and insidious nature of product counterfeiting. It is important for us all to remember that this not the victimless cottage industry that the counterfeiters would have us believe, but rather a well organised international criminal enterprise, often with links to other types of serious crime."

Huw's view: 1st Regional Workshop on Trafficking in Illicit Food in the Middle East Region



*Huw Watkins,
Head of
the IPO's
Intelligence Hub
reports from the
Middle East.*

As the UK's lead in relation to the Interpol Initiative Operation OPSON, I was invited by Interpol to share my experiences of co-ordinating activities and awareness raising on food matters in the UK. Working with the Food Standards Agency and other partners, the IPO co-ordinates the work to identify fake and deliberately mislabelled foodstuffs.

OPSON is in its fourth year this year and has seen the countries involved grow from 11 in 2011 to more than 50 this year. The Middle East has been a region which Interpol sought to reach, given the key trade routes through the region.

I had never been to Saudi Arabia, and was able to include a short fact finding trip to Dubai en route. The conference was hosted by the Saudi Customs in association with the World Customs Organisation and the Middle East Regional Liaison Office (RILO).

A long day and night of flying saw me arriving the day before the conference, which due to the different culture, opened on a Sunday morning. The subjects, collaboration and partnerships, are close to my heart, so it was very good to meet and discuss opportunities with colleagues from the Middle East, as well as invited speakers from other nations such as Italy, Spain and the USA.

Following the conference, I was able to pay a flying visit to the UK Embassy in Dubai, where some opportunities for closer working were discussed. Dubai is vastly different to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as chalk is to cheese! The financial centre and the shopping malls are dwarfed by the wonderful Burj Khalifa, visible from many miles away, the 2,700 feet tall building (highest in the world) is a symbol of Dubai's successes.

Copyright

Understanding copyright issues

Have you ever wondered about the effect of transferring your copyright to other people as part of a contract? Perhaps you have been asked to sign over your child's copyright and are unsure of the consequences? The IPO's latest Copyright Notice explains [assignment of copyright](#) and was published at the end of last year.

The first Copyright Notice was published in March 2014 on [digital images, photographs and the internet](#) – a simple overview of some of the issues affecting people who use images online. Both the Copyright Notices published by the IPO are intended to provide general guidance to individuals and small businesses, schools and other educational institutions, amongst others.

Maybe there is another issue within copyright law where you cannot find the answer and would like to have it explained. You can request a Notice using a short [online form](#) which you can complete in a matter of minutes. We assess all requests which come in, although not all are best answered through a Notice. More information about our criteria for publication is available on the [website](#).

Watch out for more interesting Copyright Notices in the next couple of months!

Patents

UPC update:

Preparatory Committee

The Chair and Vice-chair of the Preparatory Committee had a working level meeting with colleagues from the EPO at the beginning of December in Munich. This meeting explored areas that would potentially benefit the UPC. The discussions focused on the training framework from the European Patent Academy, corporate functions of the court and potential opt-out proposals. No decisions were made and the Chairman is going to update the Preparatory Committee at the next meeting in February 2015.

Workstreams IT

The Taskforce received a contribution from the French government towards the costs of the IT project and issued the tender notice and pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) on 15 December. The notice and PQQ set out the three procurement lots: hosting, website and case management/eFiling.

Further detail of the tender notice and PQQ can be found on the IPO's procurement portal [here](#).

The IT team recently met French court staff and judges at the Tribunal de Grande Instance, in Paris, examining judicial and registry processes in detail, lawyers' e-filing software and current and future courts' software.

Legal

Unfortunately, due to time pressures, the statutory instrument will not be laid before the end of this Parliament. The timetable set out to make the changes required before Parliament rises. This was always challenging and extremely tight.

However, the taskforce remains confident of being able to bring forward legislation after the General Election and expect to make the necessary changes to national law by the end of 2015.

Finance

Work on court fees is progressing and the Fees Consultation Joint sub-group met on 8 December. Proposals from the sub-group were considered by the Financial Aspects Working Group meeting which took place on 17 December. The Working Group also looked at court costs and the budget, Signatory State contributions and remuneration. The Finance Workstream's focus for the New Year will be on meeting the Spring deadline for the fees consultation and progressing work on remuneration.

Facilities

The Facilities Working Group continues to discuss Privileges and Immunities for the operation of the UPC and how to secure these across all Signatory States. It also continues to investigate and develop options for a decision in Spring 2015 on the London location for the UPC.

HR & Training

The UK has now submitted a proposal on internships, along with France, Germany and the Netherlands and it is anticipated that the training will begin in February 2015 with the internships beginning mid-year. The focus for the next year will be on the formal appointment process, judicial terms and conditions, staff regulations and on-going training.

Unitary Patent

The EPO Select Committee met on 9 December to continue consideration of administrative rules for Unitary Patent Protection (UPP), renewal fee simulations, the distribution key, and its future work programme.

Provisional agreement was reached on the UPP administrative rules, although Rule 25 (on financial matters) will be placed in square brackets until further discussion on this point is concluded. The draft consolidated rules

will shortly be published on the Select Committee page of the EPO website. Discussion on annual renewal fee levels continued and further simulations, requested by delegations and users, were discussed.

The Chairman reiterated his intension to conclude substantive discussions relating to the arrangements for Unitary Patent Protection by June 2015. Dates for several meetings in early 2015 were announced. Communiqués of the Select Committee meetings so far are available on the EPO website here:

<http://www.epo.org/about-us/organisation/communiques.html>

New enforcement module launched as part of IP Health Check



✓19000 HEALTH CHECK ALREADY TAKEN

People are becoming more aware of IP enforcement issues. To help with this, we have developed this new module to help businesses understand what to do if somebody infringes their IP.

The IP Health Check allows businesses to identify and assess the IP they own. Since its launch in 2009, there have been more than 19,000 health checks completed.

What is the IP Health Check?

The IP Health Check is one of our free '[IP for Business](#)' online support tools. It consists of 9 individual modules on different areas of IP: Copyright, Trade marks, Designs, Patents, Confidential information, Licensing your IP, Trade marks overseas, Franchising, Enforcement.

The IP Health Check provides you with a tailored confidential report based on your answers to a series of simple questions. The report includes a list of action points to help you protect and exploit your IP rights, guidance on how to put these into practice and links to useful information, websites and other resources.

IP Events

Click [here](#) for a list of forthcoming IP events which may be of interest to you or your clients/members.

If you would like more information on how IP impacts on you why not [take a FREE IP Health Check](#). Follow us on [twitter](#) Subscribe to IP Connect [here](#)