

## **APAA Emerging IP Rights Country Report**

### **Hong Kong**

The Committee had discussed laws and policies relating to the encouragement and promotion of green technologies in last year special topic. We would like to provide an update on the various aspects discussed last year.

#### **Promotion of Green Technologies**

The Hong Kong Government has continued to enact legislations and implement policies to promote the use of green technologies. Some notable efforts and achievements are summarized below.

#### **Legislation**

Source: <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201209/21/P201209210227.htm>

The Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance came into full operation on 21 September 2012. Under the Ordinance, building services installations including electrical, air-conditioning, lighting, and lift and escalator installations in newly constructed buildings are required to meet the minimum energy efficiency standards and requirements as stipulated in the Building Energy Code 2012 Edition. Existing buildings must also meet the same standards and requirements when undergoing major retrofitting works. Furthermore, central building services installations of commercial buildings and commercial portions of composite buildings are required to carry out energy audits every 10 years and thereafter display the results at the main entrance of the buildings in accordance with the Energy Audit Code 2012 Edition. As buildings account for 90% of the total electricity consumption in Hong Kong, the above scheme to improve the energy efficiency of buildings is expected to help promote energy-saving as a whole and reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions.

Meanwhile, a new website to promote the Ordinance has been launched. The website is at <http://www.beeo.emsd.gov.hk/>.

## Policies

Source: <http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/wnew/index.shtml>

Apart from the above, the Hong Kong Government has also promoted the use of green technologies via a variety of means:

### 1) Promotion of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labeling Scheme (MEELS)

Source: <http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/wnew/index.shtml>

As reported in our last Committee Report, the captioned scheme was introduced under the Energy Efficiency (Labeling of Products) Ordinance and was fully implemented in November 2009. The purpose of this scheme was to raise public awareness on the Energy Label and encourage consumers to select more energy efficient products. To further this objective this year, the Electrical & Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has placed into service the “EMSD@YouTube Video Channel” on 23 July 2012 and subsequently launched the “Energy Label Net” website on 6 August 2012. (The website is at <http://www.energylabel.emsd.gov.hk/en/mainpage.html>)

Furthermore, the EMSD has also held a Trade Seminar in June 2012 to educate the trade about the implementation of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labeling Scheme (MEELS) and Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labeling Scheme (VEELS). The Trade Seminar shall be held again in October 2012 to explain about the Schemes, safety standards for household electrical products, information shown on energy labels, etc.

### 2) Compliance monitor testing and removal of reference numbers under MEELS

The EMSD has, from time to time, arranged for independent accredited laboratories to conduct a compliance monitoring testing pursuant to the MEELS to assess the energy performance of certain models of air-conditioner, refrigerating appliances, compact fluorescent lamp, washing machine, and dehumidifier. For those models that have failed the compliance monitoring testing on energy performance, the EMSD will remove the reference numbers of those models or their family members and as a result, the supply of those models will not be allowed in Hong Kong.

### 3) Publications

The EMSD has, from time to time, conducted Energy Consumption Surveys in various sectors including the “Residential Sector”, the “Warehousing & Storage” and “Accommodation” Segments, and the “Education” and “Human Health” Segments to obtain the profile about the energy consumption in the particular sectors. Using the data obtained from these surveys, the EMSD has published the “Hong Kong Energy End-use Data 2012” which provide information on the consumption data of the different energy fuel types and the specific purpose for which these fuels are consumed. The data provide a better understanding of the energy consumption pattern and usage in Hong Kong. (PDF at [http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/e\\_download/pee/HKEEUD2012.pdf](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/e_download/pee/HKEEUD2012.pdf))

#### 4) Publicity event

The Environment Bureau and Council for Sustainable Development have co-organized a publicity event on 7 June 2012, featuring a signing ceremony on the Energy Saving Charter, which acknowledged the commitment of participating shopping malls to maintain an average indoor temperature of 24-26 degree Celsius between the months of June to September 2012.

#### 5) Funded research

Government funding for eligible environmental technology-related R&D projects and other projects in relation to environmental and conservation matters is available under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) and the Environmental and Conservation Fund (ECF).

With regard to the ITF, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council has, on 28 September 2012, increased the funding ceiling of all ITF-funded projects to be approved by the Commission for Innovation and Technology (save for those with specified funding ceiling) from \$21 to \$30 million. It should be noted that as of 31 July 2012, the Innovation and Technology Commission has provided a total of \$120.8 million by way of ITF to support research in environmental technology. (Source at <http://www.itf.gov.hk/l-eng/WhatsNew.asp>) The Commission has most recently provided HK\$979,000 to The Hong Kong Polytechnic University for an environmental research concerning energy-saving linear refrigeration compressors for refrigerators and air-conditioners.

With regard to the ECF this year, the Research Projects Vetting Subcommittees has updated the priority research areas to be (i) Climate Change – Adaptation and Mitigation, (ii) Waste Recycling, such as technology in handling food waste in urban setting, and (iii) Ecological and Geo Conservation for the period of April 2012 to March 2014 in relation to research proposals

from universities and non-profit making organizations. (Source at <http://www.ecf.gov.hk/en/whatsnew/index.html>)

#### 6) Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles

As compared to 74 electric vehicles in 2010, there are more than 300 this year. To further promote the use of electric vehicles, the government considered that it is essential to put in place a comprehensive public electric vehicle charging network. It is planned to have 1,000 charging stations in the 18 districts territory-wide. The network will facilitate not only the future development of electric vehicles in Hong Kong but also enhance public confidence in using these vehicles.

In addition to the standard charging facilities, the number of quick chargers in Hong Kong will be increased from 5 to 10 by the end of this year. The government will also take the lead by introducing more electric vehicles to the government fleet by expanding the numbers from 30 to around 210