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Panel on Commerce and Industry

Meeting on 19 February 2019

**Updated background brief on
promotion of intellectual property trading in Hong Kong**

Purpose

This paper provides updated background information on the promotion of intellectual property ("IP") trading¹ in Hong Kong. It also provides an update on the views and concerns expressed by members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("the Panel") during the latest discussions on the relevant subject matters.

Background

2. Pursuant to the Chief Executive's announcement in the 2013 Policy Address, a Working Group on Intellectual Property Trading ("the Working Group") was set up in 2013 to advise on the overall strategies to promote the development of Hong Kong as a premier IP trading hub, and to identify appropriate policy and other support measures to facilitate IP trading in Hong Kong.

3. The Government accepted all the 28 recommended measures in the report of the Working Group released in 2015 ("the Report"). These measures fall under four strategic areas of an action framework, namely (a) enhancing the IP protection regime; (b) supporting IP creation and exploitation; (c) fostering IP intermediary services and manpower capacity;

¹ Intellectual property ("IP") trading generally refers to transactions involving intellectual property rights ("IPRs"), such as patents, copyright, industrial designs, trade marks, integrated circuit layout-designs, trade secrets and even plant varieties. In this connection, IP trading may take different forms, such as sales and acquisitions, licensing, franchising, etc.

and (d) pursuing promotion, education and external collaboration efforts. A summary of these 28 measures is in **Appendix I**.

Recent developments

4. The Administration has implemented various measures to strengthen Hong Kong's position as an IP trading hub in the region. The key implementation progress of various recommended measures is set out below.

New patent system

5. In 2013, the Administration announced its policy decision to establish an Original Grant Patent ("OGP") system in Hong Kong, refine the existing short-term patent system and develop a full-fledged regulatory regime on patent agency services in the long run, which has to be achieved in stages, with interim measures (collectively referred to as "the new patent system").

6. The Patents (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 was enacted in 2016 to amend the Patents Ordinance (Cap. 514) to provide for the essential legal framework for the new patent system. The new law will come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development by notice published in the Gazette.

7. At the Panel meeting on 19 June 2018, the Panel supported in principle the Administration's proposed amendments to the Patents (General) Rules (Cap. 514C) ("PGR") which laid down the detailed procedures for the operation of the new patent system. The Administration would submit the relevant subsidiary legislation to the Legislative Council ("LegCo") for negative vetting and plan to commence the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 and roll out the new patent system in 2019 the earliest.

Copyright exceptions for persons with a print disability

8. Being an international agreement which aims to facilitate and enhance access to copyright works in accessible forms for persons with a print disability ("PPDs"), the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled ("Marrakesh Treaty") came into force in September 2016.

9. In gist, the Marrakesh Treaty requires contracting parties to provide for limitations or exceptions in their domestic laws such that: (a) PPDs and certain organizations may perform a range of acts in relation to certain types of copyright works for the benefit of those beneficiaries without infringing copyright if certain conditions are met; and (b) exchange of accessible format

copies of works produced as provided under the Marrakesh Treaty is allowed across international borders.

10. The existing Copyright Ordinance (Cap. 528) ("CO") has set out a series of copyright exceptions to serve the needs of PPDs. To ensure that CO complies with the latest international standards under the Marrakesh Treaty, the Administration launched a three-month consultation exercise in May 2017 to gauge views on areas in CO which might need to be amended to meet the requirements under the Marrakesh Treaty. Of the 12 written submissions received from user groups, copyright owners, professional bodies and individual members of the general public, the respondents generally supported the Administration's initiative to review the relevant provisions in CO with a view to aligning with the Marrakesh Treaty.

11. At the Panel meeting on 27 February 2018, the Panel supported in principle the Administration's proposed legislative amendments to CO to align with the Marrakesh Treaty. To take forward the relevant proposal, the Administration planned to introduce an amendment bill into LegCo in the 2018-2019 session.

Proposed application of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks to Hong Kong

12. The Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks ("Madrid Protocol") is an international agreement which seeks to facilitate the registration and management of trade marks in different jurisdictions.

13. Under the Madrid Protocol, an international application can be filed by a trade mark owner via the trade mark office where the basic mark is held. With the payment of one set of fees, the trade mark owner may designate one or more contracting parties in which protection is sought. The trade mark office of each designated contracting party examines the international application according to its domestic trade mark laws and practices to consider granting registration. Trade mark owners may also manage their trade mark portfolios maintained in different jurisdictions through a single procedure with the World Intellectual Property Organization ("WIPO").

14. Having examined the views received from the public consultation conducted between November 2014 and February 2015 on the proposal to seek application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong and having regard to the overall benefits in the best interest of Hong Kong, the Administration decided to go ahead with the implementation of the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong, in order to enable businesses to obtain and manage international trade marks registration in a more convenient and cost-effective manner.

15. At the Panel meeting on 20 November 2018, the Panel supported in principle the Administration's proposal to amend the Trade Marks Ordinance (Cap. 559) ("TMO") which sought to implement the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong and confer powers on the Customs and Excise Department ("C&ED") to enforce the criminal provisions under TMO. The Administration will introduce the Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill 2019 into LegCo at the Council Meeting of 20 February 2019. Upon enactment of the Bill and the completion of other preparatory work,² the Administration planned to liaise with the Central People's Government to seek application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong in 2022-2023 the earliest.

Expansion of the scope of tax deduction for capital expenditure incurred for the purchase of intellectual property rights

16. The Financial Secretary proposed in the 2016-2017 Budget to expand the scope of tax deduction for capital expenditure incurred for the purchase of intellectual property rights ("IPRs") to cover rights in layout-design (topography) of integrated circuits, plant varieties and performances.

17. The relevant legislative amendments (i.e. the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2018) were passed at the Council meeting of 20 June 2018. With the expansion in the scope of tax deductions provided therein, an enterprise's capital expenditure incurred for the purchase of various major types of IPRs, as well as the expenses for the registration of IPRs under applicable regimes, are deductible under the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) starting from the year of tax assessment 2018-2019.

Previous discussions

18. The Panel was briefed by the Administration on the latest progress on the promotion of IP trading in Hong Kong at the meeting on 15 March 2016. The Panel also discussed the relevant subject matters at the meetings on 15 November 2016, 27 February, 19 June and 20 November 2018. The major views and concerns expressed by members are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

² The preparatory work includes preparing subsidiary legislation to provide for the procedural details, setting up a dedicated information technology system, drawing up detailed workflows for processing the applications for international registration of trade mark, etc.

Potential benefits of intellectual property trading

19. At the meeting on 15 March 2016, members enquired about the economic benefits to be brought about to the business sector by IP trading. They were also keen to ensure that promotion of IP trading could enhance Hong Kong's local research and development capacity and facilitate technology transfer, and complement the efforts of Hong Kong to become an innovation and technology ("I&T") hub. They suggested that the Administration should include statistics on IP trading in Hong Kong in future reports to the Panel.

20. The Administration advised that IP trading could contribute to the upgrading of Hong Kong's economy and would create an increasing need for high value-added intermediary services, including IP agency, IP management and consulting, legal services, dispute resolution such as arbitration and mediation, accounting, valuation, financing, insurance, etc., thereby boosting the development of these various service sectors. Hong Kong businesses might, in turn, grasp the opportunities brought about by IP trading to increase their competitiveness by branding and upgrading. Businesses might look for innovative ways to build, manage, and leverage on IP assets strategically to drive growth and tap new markets.

Intellectual property consultation service scheme

21. At the same meeting, members enquired about the issues of concern raised by the small and medium enterprises ("SMEs") during the consultation sessions under the IP consultation service scheme. The Administration advised that SMEs had sought advice on various types of IPRs including trade marks, patents and copyright. In particular, they were interested in developing effective IP management and commercialization strategies.

Proposed amendments to the Patents (General) Rules for the new patent system

22. At the meeting on 19 June 2018, members enquired about the progress of setting up the Patent Prosecution Highway ("PPH") with other patent offices (which was considered important to expedite the examination procedures of patent applications). They also asked about the Administration's plan in the next five to 10 years on the grooming of local patent talents in conducting substantive examination of patent applications and supporting the operation of the new patent system.

23. The Administration advised that it was essential for a patent authority to build up its international credibility in patent examination to facilitate its discussion with other patent authorities for pursuing PPH. Accordingly, the

Administration would continue to work in full swing to prepare for the implementation of the new patent system as soon as possible, and would make its best to build up the track-record and reputation of Hong Kong's patent authority. Besides, the Administration would explore with the State Intellectual Property Office of the Mainland ("SIPO") on the possibility of setting up PPH or arrangements of similar effects.

24. On the development of human capital for the patent industry, the Administration advised that it would very much depend on the number of OGP applications received and the technical areas involved in such applications. The Administration would also liaise with SIPO (which accepted bilingual patent applications and had topped among the worldwide patent authorities on the number of filings of patent applications since 2011) on the manpower training for the Intellectual Property Department under the new patent system.

25. In response to some members' enquiry on the competitiveness of the proposed fee level as provided in the proposed legislative amendments to PGR, the Administration advised that it had studied the fees chargeable by several major patent offices outside Hong Kong (including European Patent Office and the respective patent offices in Australia, Mainland of China, Singapore and the United Kingdom ("UK")), and considered that the fees proposal for the chargeable services under the new patent system were in general competitive among these places. Besides, the major local professional/representative bodies of patent practitioners were generally supportive of the proposed legislative amendments, including the fees proposal.

Proposed amendments to the Copyright Ordinance for aligning with the Marrakesh Treaty on the copyright exceptions for persons with a print disability

Conditions for existing exceptions

26. At the meeting of 27 February 2018, members noted that at present, in exercising the exceptions in sections 40B (making a single accessible copy for a PPD) and 40C (making multiple accessible copies by specified bodies for PPDs) of CO, a PPD or the specified body was required to make accessible copies from a master copy of certain copyright work possessed by them which was not an infringing copy. They urged the Administration to facilitate PPDs to make accessible copies from copies to which they had lawful access, e.g. borrowed books, and that publishers should be required to provide soft copies of the copyright works to facilitate the making of accessible copies to PPDs, or even be required to produce accessible copies for them.

27. The Administration advised that, in order to align with the Marrakesh Treaty and to clarify the existing condition, the Administration proposed to amend CO so that the maker of an accessible copy was required to have "lawful access to" a copyright work, rather than "possessing" a copy of the work as such. The Administration would continue to foster communication between copyright owners/publishers and user groups and encourage cooperation among them in a practical manner to facilitate the provision of accessible copies of copyright work to PPDs. The Administration added that the prevailing international approach was to encourage publishers to provide accessible format copies of copyright works rather than to mandate the provision of accessible format copies through legislation. In this connection, the Accessible Books Consortium ("ABC"), led by WIPO, had been working to boost access to publications for people who were blind or visually impaired. ABC aimed to encourage publishers around the world to produce works that were "born accessible" so that they could be used directly by both sighted and print-disabled readers.

Cross-border exchange of accessible copies

28. Members also enquired if the proposed legislative amendments would empower "specified bodies" in Hong Kong to make and supply accessible copies of copyright work to PPDs in the Mainland (which had signed the Marrakesh Treaty but had yet to introduce legislation to implement the relevant requirements under the Marrakesh Treaty), and whether the relevant entities in the Mainland could lawfully receive such accessible copies.

29. The Administration advised that CO would be amended to allow cross-border exchange of accessible copies as a new permitted act. In order to boost the availability of accessible copies and benefit a wider print-disabled population, the Administration proposed to allow exchanges with authorized entities including not only those from a contracting party to the Marrakesh Treaty, but also those from any jurisdiction which was a member of the World Trade Organization, including the Mainland. For exports of accessible copies to the Mainland or other jurisdictions, the specified body in Hong Kong would have to confirm with the authorized entity in the importing jurisdiction the identities of the beneficiaries receiving the accessible copies, so as to ensure that such cross-border exchange of accessible copies would only benefit the intended beneficiaries. It would be the responsibility of the authorized entity in the importing jurisdiction to ascertain that it was allowed under the law of its own jurisdiction to receive such accessible copies.

Types of copyright works covered by the print disability-related exceptions

30. Noting that the current exceptions for PPDs under CO applied to four types of copyright works, i.e. literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work, members suggested that exceptions be further expanded to allow the making of accessible copies from films and television ("TV") programmes for the benefit of PPDs.

31. The Administration advised that since films and TV programmes were outside the scope of the Marrakesh Treaty, it did not intend to pursue such additions for the time being. Certain organizations serving the visually impaired such as the Hong Kong Society for the Blind had been providing audio description services to the visually impaired, by making visual images accessible to them through the use of precise language to describe the visual images.

Manpower and resources support for making accessible copies

32. Members urged the Administration to provide sufficient manpower and resources to cope with the increased demand for accessible copies following the implementation of the legislative proposals. The Administration advised that the Social Welfare Department, the Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust had been providing funding and other support to non-governmental and non-profit organizations providing services to persons with visual impairment.

Proposed amendments to the Trade Marks Ordinance for application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong

Possible arrangement between Hong Kong and the Mainland to facilitate the reciprocal filing of trade mark applications alongside the Madrid Protocol

33. At the meeting on 20 November 2018, members noted that the Madrid Protocol was not applicable to mutual designations between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Yet, given the close economic ties between the two places, they enquired whether there would be any special arrangement to facilitate the reciprocal filing of trade mark applications between the two places alongside the Madrid Protocol.

34. The Administration advised that trade mark rights were territorial in nature and were granted in each jurisdiction independently according to its own laws and practices. During the public consultation exercise on the proposed application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong from November 2014 to February 2015, stakeholders had also been consulted on the need for a possible arrangement between Hong Kong and the Mainland without

prejudice to the proposed application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong. Some respondents, however, expressed the views that given the significant differences in the trade mark laws and practices between the two places, any such arrangement would entail a host of technical complexities which had to be overcome and the administrative and costs implications for Hong Kong would also need to be studied. The Administration would continue to discuss with the relevant Mainland authorities in parallel the possibility of putting in place separate administrative arrangements to facilitate reciprocal applications by Hong Kong and Mainland applicants, while proceeding the implementation of the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong.

Enforcement of criminal provisions under the Trade Marks Ordinance

35. Regarding the Administration's proposal on conferring powers on C&ED to enforce the criminal provisions under TMO after implementing the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong, members expressed concern about its implications on C&ED's workload and enquired whether C&ED would be provided with sufficient manpower to carry out the necessary enforcement duties. Noting that the Administration planned to regularize the existing arrangement by putting the enforcement of the criminal provisions under TMO under one roof, viz. on C&ED, they further asked whether the manpower currently responsible for enforcing the criminal provisions under TMO by the Hong Kong Police Force would be transferred to C&ED.

36. The Administration advised that C&ED should be able to cope with any increase in workload with its existing manpower and resources since over the years there were only a handful of suspected cases of contravention. Besides, C&ED had also studied the criminal provisions under TMO and was of the view that the provisions were of a similar nature to those provisions under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362), which were currently enforced by C&ED.

Proposed amendments to the Inland Revenue Ordinance for expansion of the scope of tax deduction for capital expenditure incurred for the purchase of intellectual property rights

37. At the meeting on 15 November 2016, members enquired whether the scope of tax deduction would be further expanded to cover other categories of IPRs in future. The Administration advised that upon the inclusion of the proposed three categories of IPRs, all major IPRs in Hong Kong would have been covered by the tax deduction measure.

Coverage of tax deductible costs

38. At members' request, the Administration clarified that the one-off

purchase cost of the prescribed IPRs as well as the associated legal fees and maintenance costs were tax deductible. There was no ceiling set for the relevant tax deduction.

39. Some members noted that it was common for local enterprises of the industrial sector to set up headquarters in Hong Kong and the production base in the Mainland. They enquired whether the cost incurred for purchasing prescribed IPRs in Hong Kong which were used in the Mainland for production purpose would be eligible for tax deduction. The Administration advised that tax deduction was allowable on the condition that the relevant IPR was used in the production of chargeable profits in Hong Kong. In general, where a relevant IPR was used partly in the production of chargeable profits, deduction would be allowed for the percentage of capital expenditure relevant to the use of that IPR for production of chargeable profits. If the relevant IPR was purchased for use partly in and partly outside Hong Kong, the expenditure allowable for tax deduction would be subject to the extent of its use in the production of Hong Kong chargeable profits, which could be determined by means of apportionment of gross profits, for example.

40. Noting that both individuals and companies could be the owner of proprietary rights in respect of an IP, members enquired whether individual performers could enjoy the same proposed profits tax deduction in question. The Administration advised that an individual owner of an IPR could enjoy tax deduction if the relevant IPR was being owned under the person's sole proprietorship.

Amendments to the Copyright Ordinance

41. At the meeting on 15 March 2016, members expressed concern that the legislative exercise of the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2014 could not conclude, and the fact that the Administration might not pursue it further. They were concerned that if the copyright law could not keep pace with technological and international developments to enhance copyright protection in the digital environment, it would affect the Administration's objective to promote Hong Kong as a premier IP trading hub in the region. They also urged the Administration to continue to liaise with various stakeholders.

42. The Administration advised that it would continue to liaise with stakeholders and carefully consider the way forward. The Administration also stressed that it would have to ensure a fair balance between protecting the legitimate interests of copyright owners and other public interests, such as fair and reasonable use of copyright works and freedom of expression.

43. Some members considered that open-ended exception in respect of copyright works, such as the fair use approach would be more conducive to

the promotion and development of I&T in Hong Kong. They urged the Administration to continue to liaise with various stakeholders with a view to reaching a consensus on copyright exceptions.

44. The Administration advised that whether to adopt fair use exception in Hong Kong would require careful studies of many issues. Australia had studied the fair use exception for 20 years and was still conducting cost-and-benefit analysis. As regards contract override, there was evidence in the UK showing that the copyright exceptions for libraries and the educational sector were excluded by contract terms before the contract override provision was introduced. The UK Government would conduct an evaluation of the impact on the content industry and the overall economy as well as the IP protection regime within five years after the introduction of the legislation in 2014. The Administration would keep in view the future developments in the UK.

Latest position

45. The Administration will brief the Panel on 19 February 2019 on the latest position of various initiatives in promoting IP trading in Hong Kong.

Relevant papers

46. A list of relevant papers is in **Appendix II**.

Summary of 28 recommended actions of the Working Group*

Strategic Area (I): Enhancing the IP protection regime	
1	Build an OGP system which is up to international standards and is user-friendly, through cooperation with reputable patent examination office(s)
2	Explore the feasibility of building up substantive examination capability on niche areas where Hong Kong has an edge in R&D in the longer run
3	Explore cooperation with other patent authorities by making reference to international developments such as the setting up of PPH
4	Review and update the copyright law regularly to ensure that it keeps pace with technological and international developments to meet our economic needs
5	Pursue the proposed application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong taking into account the consultation outcome

Strategic Area (II): Supporting IP creation and exploitation	
6	Launch a scheme for IP Advisory Service to provide free preliminary advisory services to SMEs
7	Keep under review Government's support for R&D activities as well as technology transfer, application and commercialisation of R&D outcomes and seek enhancement where appropriate
8	Sustain Government's support for the creative industries through various dedicated agencies and engagement in licensing and franchising arrangements
9	Continue expansion of Hong Kong's network of CDTAs with its major trading and investment partners so as to enhance Hong Kong's position as an international business and financial centre while providing relief for double taxation

10	Consider tax incentives for IP trading taking into account international practices and concerns, notably expansion of the present tax deduction for capital expenditure incurred on the purchase of IPRs under the IRO
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Strategic Area (III): Fostering IP intermediary services and manpower capacity	
11	Enhance and promote the use of AsiaIPEX launched by HKTDC, for example to encourage IP exchange, licensing and other trading activities
12	Launch an IP Manager Scheme to support SMEs to build up their manpower capacity
13	Consider sponsoring and promoting training courses in IP-related subjects for facilitating the development of IP related services among professionals and nurturing talents
14	Introduce a regulatory regime in the long run for patent practitioners as a complementary component of the future OGP system, and explore interim regulatory measures to be launched along with the OGP system
15	Complete the first survey on IP trading activities in 2015, and review the results for introducing enhancement in future surveys and exploring the feasibility of launching a dedicated survey on the manpower situation of the IP trading industry
16	Support the development of "IP valuation reporting standards" for first-mover use in Hong Kong
17	Seek collaboration with professional bodies to compile an IP due diligence checklist to facilitate businesses, particularly SMEs, in understanding the process and the benefits that it would bring about prior to seeking IP finances and engaging in IP trading activities
18	Focus on building up and enhancing the understanding of IP as an asset class among the financial services sector and the business community through various recommended measures and other education and promotional efforts in the pipeline, and remain vigilant of relevant overseas development to draw lessons, as prerequisites to further exploring the subject of IP financing and insurance

19	Highlight IP as an exemplary specialized area in developing and promoting Hong Kong as an international ADR centre
20	Promote Hong Kong as an international IP arbitration and mediation centre
21	Study the need for legislative amendments to clarify the arbitrability of IP disputes
22	Promote and develop the use of mediation as a means to resolve IP disputes in Hong Kong and explore the use of evaluative mediation on top of facilitative mediation for the purpose
23	Work with local arbitral and mediation bodies to improve offerings on IP arbitration and mediation

Strategic Area (IV): Pursuing promotion, education and external collaboration efforts	
24	Launch a dedicated website "Hong Kong – The IP Trading Hub" to provide a one-stop shop for information dissemination
25	Launch a promotion and public education campaign locally and internationally to boost the image of Hong Kong as a premier IP trading hub
26	Continue to co-organize BIP Asia with HKTDC and HKDC
27	Study ways to cultivate and enhance IP awareness and promote the importance of IP in economic development in different parts of the education system
28	Seek positive opportunities to cooperate with Mainland China, overseas and international IP authorities and organizations

*From Chapter 10 "Summary of Recommendations" of the Report of the Working Group.

List of relevant papers

Date of meeting	Meeting	Paper
15/3/2016	Panel on Commerce and Industry	<p>Administration's paper on "Progress on the promotion of intellectual property trading in Hong Kong" (LC Paper No. CB(1)642/15-16(03))</p> <p>Updated background brief on promotion of intellectual property trading in Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(1)642/15-16(04))</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)902/15-16)</p>
15/11/2016	Panel on Commerce and Industry	<p>Administration's paper on "Profit tax deduction for capital expenditure incurred for the purchase of intellectual property rights" (LC Paper No. CB(1)90/16-17(03))</p> <p>Background brief on tax deduction for capital expenditure incurred for the purchase of intellectual property rights prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(1)90/16-17(04))</p> <p>Administration's follow-up paper on "Profit tax deduction for capital expenditure incurred for the purchase of intellectual property rights" (LC Paper No. CB(1)752/17-18(01))</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)309/16-17)</p>

Date of meeting	Meeting	Paper
27/2/2018	Panel on Commerce and Industry	<p>Administration's paper on "Copyright exceptions for people with a print disability under the "Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled" - proposed way forward" (LC Paper No. CB(1)604/17-18(05))</p> <p>Updated background brief on copyright exceptions for people with a print disability prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(1)604/17-18(06))</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)922/17-18)</p>
21/3/2018 (issue date)	Legislative Council Brief	<p>Legislative Council Brief on "Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2018" issued by the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (File Ref.: CITB CR 81/45/2)</p>
19/6/2018	Panel on Commerce and Industry	<p>Administration's paper on "Proposed amendments to the Patents (General) Rules for implementing the new patent system" (LC Paper No. CB(1)1097/17-18(07))</p> <p>Updated background brief on progress of implementation of the patents reform prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(1)1097/17-18(08))</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)1343/17-18)</p>
20/11/2018	Panel on Commerce and Industry	<p>Administration's paper on "Proposed amendments to the Trade Marks Ordinance (Cap. 559)" (LC Paper No. CB(1)173/18-19(06))</p> <p>Updated background brief on the application of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(1)173/18-19(07))</p>

Date of meeting	Meeting	Paper
4/2/2019 (issue date)	Legislative Council Brief	Legislative Council Brief on "Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill 2019" issued by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (File Ref.: CITB CR 06/47/1)