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Taiwan International Patent & Law Office

To: TIPL's Clients and Associates

## **Re: Joint Interview for Related Invention Patent Applications**

Dear Sirs,

We are pleased to advise you that the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office (Taiwan IPO) has implemented a new program “**Joint Interview for Related Invention Patent Applications**” since October 1, 2012. Under this new program, the applicant may request for joint interview with Taiwan IPO for his/her related invention patent applications as long as the applications meet the prerequisites specified below. Once all requirements for said request are fulfilled, the examiner of Taiwan IPO will contact the applicant/patent attorney within 1 month to arrange the time and place for conducting a joint interview. Such centralized examination will enable the examiners to easily and rapidly comprehend the technical content of the applications and carry out the examination within 3 months, including the official examination opinion or notice of decision.

The new program will expedite the examination process and the applicant can build up a complete patent strategy in particular technical field and obtain the patent protection at an earlier date. If you or your clients own a series of invention patent applications which meet the following prerequisites a~e, we recommend making the best of the new program.

**Prerequisites for eligibility: The new program is applicable to the invention patent applications (Please also see attachments 1 and 2 for reference.)**

- a. Which are filed by the same applicant;
- b. Which are for the same related technical subject (IPC Group) and the said technical subject falls into the eligible scope as updated and announced by Taiwan IPO in January and July of each year;
- c. for which the request for substantive examination has been filed and have been laid-open;
- d. which are not the prior applications with domestic priority claimed thereto;
- e. which are in the preliminary examination stage and for which no official examination opinion/communication from Taiwan IPO has been received.

**Required documents of a request for “Joint Interview for Related Invention Patent Applications”**

1. Request form for conducting a joint interview for related invention patent applications;
2. Detailed case list of the related invention patent applications (number of related cases for each request: from 2 to 10 applications in total);
3. Explanation on the related technical subject of the related invention patent applications;



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4. Power of Attorney for empowering patent attorney to represent all related invention patent applications. For example, if the related invention patent applications are represented by different patent attorneys or are without patent attorneys, a Power of Attorney specifying the extent for joint interview should be submitted;
5. Any search reports, prior documents, examination report of foreign patent offices of corresponding applications, or other documents which may facilitate the examination.

We hope the above information is helpful. Should you have any questions about this new program or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

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