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## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT TRENDS: THE CASE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The People's Republic of China has achieved significant success in its innovative and technological development, which is confirmed by its high positions in world rankings. According to the Global Innovation Index 2023 China was in 12th place among 132 countries. At the same time, it entered the top three, after Singapore and the Republic of Korea, in its region (South-East Asia, East Asia and Oceania). In addition, China ranked first among the countries in its group in terms of income level (upper middle income).

Despite the decline in certain indicators for intellectual property registration in 2022, China remains a dynamically developing country in this area. Domestic invention patent applications were increased of 2,6%, a year-on-year basis. Foreign invention patent applications were decreased of 2,0%. In 2022, 87,1% of the total invention patents were granted to domestic applicants. Among the domestic invention patents granted, the service invention patents were 97,9%, a year-on-year increase of 20,6%. The foreign trademark applications in China were decreased of 17,8%. In 2022, the total number of trademark registrations decreased of 20,2%. Domestic trademark registrations accounted for 97,2% of the total, a year-on-year decrease of 20,5%; foreign trademark registrations in China were decreased of 9,4%.

The country is strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights both in legislative and law enforcement areas, which makes it possible for China to develop both its own technologies and provide foreign companies with more guarantees in ensuring their rights. China's system for granting, enforcing, and adjudicating IP rights relies on a variety of administrative and judicial bodies. The China National Intellectual Property Administration examines and decides on applications for patents, trademarks, geographical indications, and layout designs of integrated circuits. It also includes administrative bodies that decide on requests to invalidate patents and to reverse decisions by patent and trademark examiners. The State Administration for Market Regulation is responsible for managing the administrative enforcement of patents, trademarks, unfair competition and trade secrets. The National Copyright Administration of the People's Republic of China is responsible for the management of administrative enforcement of copyrights and supervises the Copyright Protection Center of China that issues copyright registrations. The General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China enforces patents, trademarks, and copyrights at China's borders. The Ministry of Public Security and its local bureaus investigate certain criminal infringement cases, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate and its local branches prosecute certain criminal infringement cases. Court cases involving IP are heard by China's regular People's Courts, by four specialized IP Courts, and by multiple IP tribunals throughout China. Internet Courts hear cases involving the online sale of copyright-infringing goods.

In conclusion, more attention should be paid to the legal and economic aspects of intellectual property rights during developing foreign economic relations with the PRC, since currently this area opens up new opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation.