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Korean & Japanese File Wrappers Now Available via EPO Register

The European Patent Office (EPO) announced that it has extended its Global Dossier service to include data from the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO). The announcement came on 15 April 2015 at the Fédération Internationale des Conseils en Propriété Intellectuelle (FICPI) World Congress, which took place in Cape Town, South Africa.

The project is an initiative by the EPO, JPO, KIPO, China's State Industrial Property Office (SIPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), collectively referred to as the IP5 offices, who agreed to make available information produced by each office in a family of patent applications (applications for the same invention filed at multiple offices). The aim is to simplify access to important information pertaining to these dossiers both for users and the public, and to enhance the transparency of the patent system.

The first EPO Global Dossier was launched last June with European and Chinese dossier content, and data from the USPTO is

expected to be added in the second half of 2015. The information is available free of charge on Espacenet, the EPO's patent search network, and in the European Patent Register.

Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning to Commence Follow-Up Steps for Implementing 'Cloud Computing Development Act'

The Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP) in Korea commenced follow-up steps for implementing the Act for Development of Cloud Computing and Protection of Users ("Cloud Computing Development Act"), which will allow public institutions, including government organizations and colleges, to use cloud services provided by private companies.

Cloud computing technology enables users to access the Internet through information communication devices, such as smartphones or tablets, and to easily share data without the need to install required software in a computer.

The draft bill of the Cloud Computing Development Act, which was promulgated on March 27, 2015, specifies the matters that should be prescribed by the Presiden-

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tial Decree and defines the cloud computing technology, which is necessary to implement other related laws. Specifically, the draft bill specifies the time for setting up a basic plan for protecting the cloud computing technology and a plan for implementing the basic plan and details on the method and process for supporting the cloud computing industry. The enforcement decree of the Cloud Computing Development Act will be established after public hearing, regulation examination, legislation examination, and vice-ministerial and cabinet meetings. The MSIP plans to complete the enforcement decree prior to September 28, 2015 when the Cloud Computing Protection Act will take effect.

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Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics IP Trends

Samsung Electronics has diversified its intellectual property portfolio for future technology following a significant increase in the company's strategic patent purchase during the previous year. The company purchased a total of 227 patents in 2014, and the majority of these purchased patents were in the fields of antennas (50), remote communications

(33), organic materials (15) and data processing for vehicles (10).

LG Electronics, on the other hand, registered a total of 2,174 patents in its name in 2014. The multiplex communications field saw the greatest number of patents registered by LG Electronics in the previous year (580), followed by the fields of remote communication (224), mobile device and computer design (171) and video UI (132).

LG Electronics has also recently placed an emphasis on the purchase of patents from external sources. In 2014, the company purchased a total of 100 patents. As LG Electronics purchased a total of only 410 patents during the previous 10 years, last year's purchase of 100 patents was a remarkable departure from LG's past practice. Of the 100 patents purchased by LG Electronics, 70 related to the field of interactive video distribution systems. The other 30 patents were in the fields of data processing for vehicles and data processing for measurement, indicating a shift towards these fields by LG.

Implementation of KIPO-USPTO Collaborative Search Pilot Program

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In a high-level meeting, the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on May 20, 2015 to begin a bilateral Collaborative Search Pilot (CSP) program. A MOC implementing a CSP with a different methodology was concluded with the Japan Patent Office (JPO). Both pilot programs will run for two years with the option to extend.

The CSP program is designed to allow the examiners in the two patent offices to share prior art search information, which enables them to carry out accelerated examinations of patent applications that have been filed for the same invention with the two patent offices. The program will be utilized for such applications only at the request of the applicants. The CSP program is expected to improve the legal stability of patent rights and allow applicants to acquire patent rights earlier in both countries based on accelerated examinations.

The CSP program will be implemented as of September 1, 2015. With the implementation of the CSP program, the USPTO will exempt applicants from payment of up to \$4,000 of the fees for requesting an accelerated examination. Thus, it is ex-

pected that applicants, including Korean companies, who wish to enter the related market after acquiring U.S. patents can save both time and expense.

Samsung SDI Ranks Top Globally in Lithium Secondary Battery Patents

Samsung SDI ranked first for secondary battery shipments in 2014, and was found to own the largest number of lithium secondary battery-related patents in the world.

SNE Research announced on May 14, 2015 that Samsung SDI ranked top with 2,416 cases and LG Chemical ranked second with 1,936 cases, followed by Japanese companies, Panasonic with 1,467 cases and Sony with 890 cases.

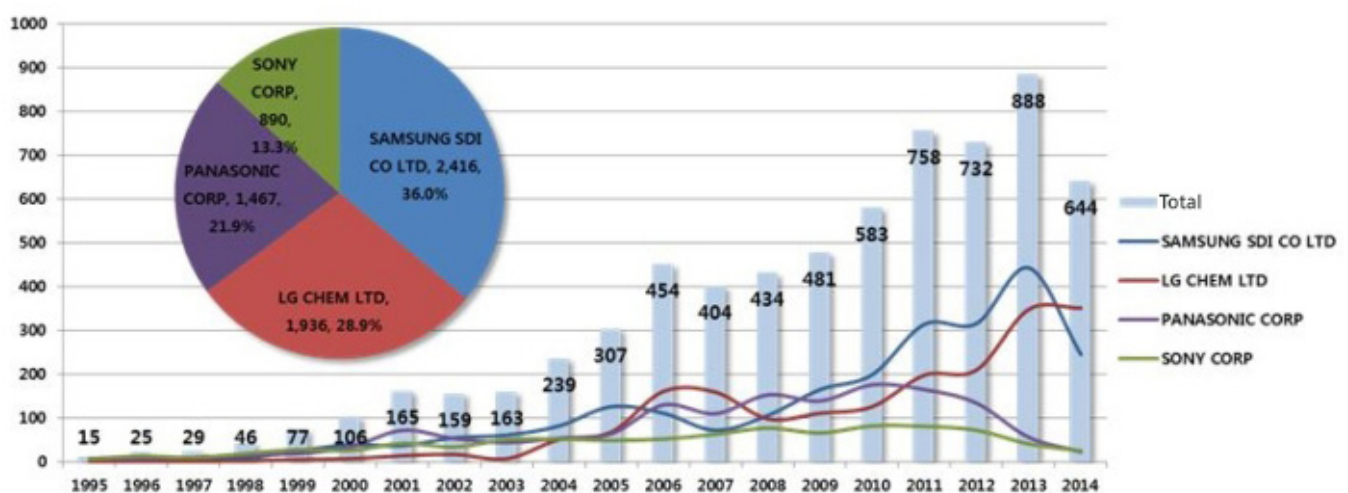
The number of filing of patent applications has increased recently in the field of battery pack technologies and battery management systems (BMS) targeted at medium and large battery markets such as battery-powered cars and energy storage systems (ESS). Further, with respect to the four major battery elements, the largest number of applications was filed for a cathode material, followed by an anode material, an electrolyte and a separator.

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It appears that Korean battery makers have taken the initiative in the filing of patent applications since 2010, as the following graph from SNE Research makes clear.

	Anode Material	Cathode Material	Electrolyte	Separator	Battery Pack	BMS	Total	Percentage
Samsung SDI	323	311	274	46	1,177	285	2,416	36.0%
LG Chemical	235	364	233	106	803	195	1,936	28.9%
Panasonic	235	233	171	36	499	293	1,467	21.9%
Sony	188	176	188	39	202	97	890	13.3%
Total	981	1,084	866	227	2,681	870	6,709	100.0%
Percentage	14.6%	16.2%	12.9%	3.4%	40.0%	13.0%	100.0%	

▲ Analysis of the Number of Effective Patents Owned by the Four Globally Leading Battery Makers (Source: SNE Research, May 2015, Analysis Report on the Patent Trend in the Field of Lithium Second Batteries)



▲ Filing Trend by Maker and Year (Source: SNE Research, May 2015, Analysis Report on Patent Trend in the Field of Lithium Secondary Batteries)

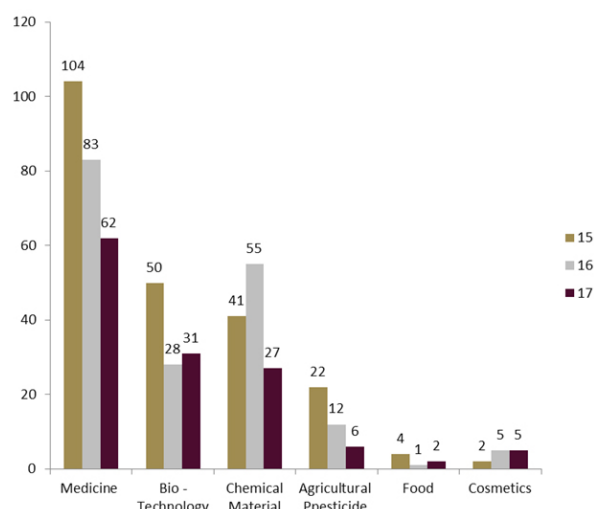
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The graph illustrates the result of SNE Research’s analysis of 6,709 effective patent applications relating to a lithium secondary battery extracted from the 15,130 patent applications filed from 1995 to April 2015, wherein the targeted patent applications were limited to Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) filings, including U.S. filings, and the targeted makers were limited to the four globally leading makers including Samsung, LG Chemical, Panasonic and Sony.

KIPO Publishes Information on Substance Patents Expiring in 2015 to 2017

Information on 540 substance patents that will expire within the coming three years has been made available by the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) to the public. According to the publication released by the KIPO, the greatest number of substance patents that will expire

during the period from 2015 to 2017 are in the medical field (249 patents, 46.1%), followed by the chemical material field (123 patents, 22.8%), the biotechnology field (109 patents, 20.2%), the agricultural pesticide field (40 patents, 7.4%), the cosmetic field (12 patents, 2.2%) and the food field (7 patents, 1.3%) [see Attachment 1 below].



[Attachment 1] Substance Patents to Expire in 2015 to 2017 by Technical Field

The publication released by the KIPO includes not only the details of each patent

	Medicine			Bio-technology			Chemical Material			Agricultural Pesticide			Food			Cosmetics			Total
Year	15	16	17	15	16	17	15	16	17	15	16	17	15	16	17	15	16	17	
Number of Substance Patents	104	83	62	50	28	31	41	55	27	22	12	6	4	1	2	2	5	5	540
Total	249			109			123			40			7			12			
Rate (%)	46.1			20.2			22.8			7.4			1.3			2.2			100

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(including the abstract, representative claims, patent expiry date and details of any patent disputes), but also the product information such as brand names of products using the patented substances, the chemical structure of active ingredients, usage, marketing approval dates and market size. In addition, the publication includes information on whether the patent term of an original substance patent has been extended, and formulation, usage or isomer patents. For public availability, the information has been released on the websites of the following organizations: KIPO (<http://www.kipo.go.kr>); Korea Institute of Patent Information (<http://www.kipi.or.kr>); Korea Chemical Industry Council (<http://www.kocic.or.kr>); Korea Health Industry Development Institute (<http://www.khidi.or.kr>); and Korea Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (<http://www.kpma.or.kr>).

Dramatic Increase in Number of Requests for Invalidation Trials

After the Korean drug approval-patent linkage system became effective on March 15, 2015, the number of requests for patent trial has sharply increased. Specifically, the number of requests for patent trial filed by domestic pharmaceu-

tical companies in March and April 2015 reached 1,600, which is more than the total number of such requests filed over the previous year. A source in a local pharmaceutical company said, “If this situation goes on, the exclusivity for generic product will exist only in principle, but not in reality. Nevertheless, if a competitor files such a trial, we have no other option than to follow it.”

However, according to the pharmaceutical industry, the number of requests for voluntary withdrawal of trials dramatically increased as well in May of 2015 as much as the increase in the number of requests for such trials in March and April. In this regard, an industry source opined that after the implementation of the patent linkage system, domestic pharmaceutical companies rushed into the filing of requests to obtain exclusivity. However, as the companies have started thoroughly analyzing and developed their own strategies, they may have realized, albeit belatedly, that some of the requests for the trial were not necessary. In view of the ongoing trends, the local pharmaceutical industry expects that the number of requests for patent trials, which rapidly increased in last March and April, will soon be stabilized.

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Supreme Court Decision on Baraclude® Establishes Ground for Patent Acquisition for Dosage Regimen

The Korean Supreme Court overruled its previous decisions that held that “a dosage regimen and a dose” as defined in the claims of a pharmaceutical composition do not constitute a medical substance, and thus are not considered as elements of an invention when determining the novelty and inventive step of the invention.

Following this decision, a second medical use defining “a dosage regimen and a dose” can be considered as elements of an invention that is directed to a pharmaceutical composition when determining the novelty and inventive step of the invention in Korea. This brings Korea into line with the practice in other major jurisdictions.

Summary of the Decision

(a) Medical Use Inventions

The Supreme Court classified the features of a medical use invention into “a medical substance” and “a medical use,” and defined a medical use as follows:

A medical use is a feature of an invention

that can give a product new significance by defining properties of a medicine as the product that produces efficacy, and not as a medical activity itself.

(b) Whether a dosage regimen and a dose constitute a medical use

The Supreme Court concluded that the nature of a dosage regimen and a dose is the same as the nature of a medical use (indication) for the following reason:

In order to fully demonstrate efficacy with minimal side effects, a medicine should be used for a disease for which a medical effect can be demonstrated. Further, a dosage regimen, such as the dosing (or administration) cycle, the administration site or the administration route, and the dose as administered to a patient are required to be defined. Similarly to the identification of an indication or an efficacy, which constitutes a medical use, the dosage regimen and dose have significance as features by which a medicine can fully demonstrate its efficacy.

Such dosage regimen and dose can be considered to be of the same nature as that of a medical use, such as a use that identifies a target disease or an efficacy, in that the dosage regimen and dose provide

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a new use based on the identification of specific pharmacological effects, i.e., previously unknown properties of a medical substance.

(c) Policy Considerations Relating To Medical Inventions Having A Different Dosage Regimen and Dose

The Supreme Court also took into account policy considerations relating to inventions having a different dosage regimen and dose, as set forth below.

The same medicines may produce an unpredictable effect on the treatment or prevention of diseases, such as improved efficacy, reduced side effects or improved convenience in administration of the medicine, based on a change in a dosage regimen and a dose. The development of such specific dosage regimen and dose may require investments that are equivalent in scale to those required for the identification of a target disease or an efficacy of a medicine.

Accordingly, the denial of the grant of patents for and protection of techniques that are conceived as a result of such investments to serve the public interest is inconsistent with the purpose of the Patent Act, which is to encourage, protect and utilize

inventions, thereby developing technology and contributing to the development of industries.

(d) Conclusion

The Supreme Court concluded that if an invention defined by a new medical use, such as a dosage regimen and a dose, satisfies the requirements for patentability, such invention will be granted a patent, as set forth below.

If a product invention, such as a medicine, is defined by a dosage regimen and a dose together with the identification of a target disease or an efficacy, such dosage regimen and dose should be considered as elements of an invention that can give a product new significance by defining properties of a medicine as the product that produces efficacy, and not as a medical activity itself. Accordingly, an invention having novelty and an inventive step by defining a new medical use, such as a dosage regimen and a dose, can be granted a patent.

(e) Overruling of Previous Supreme Court Decisions

This decision overrules previous Supreme Court decisions that held that administra-

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tion intervals and dosage cannot be considered as elements of an invention.

In Supreme Court Decision 2007 Hu 2926 and Supreme Court Decision 2007 Hu 2933, both issued on May 28, 2009, it was held that: “With respect to a pharmaceutical composition invention, the administration intervals, the unit dose, etc., do not constitute a medical substance, which is a composition. Since they only relate to a method of administering a medical substance to a human, they constitute a medical activity using pharmaceuticals and cannot be patented, or since they do not relate to a final product that is defined in the claims and is comparable to a composition invention in a cited reference, they cannot be considered as elements of an invention when determining an inventive step of the invention.” However, in view of latest decision of the Supreme Court, these previous decisions and other decisions based on the same principle are no longer binding.

Recommendation to Clients in View of The Decision

Where (i) claims of an application define a dosage regimen and a dose, (ii) an outstanding Final Rejection or Office Action has been issued for lack of novelty or an

inventive step on the basis of a comparison of an invention to a cited reference in terms of features other than the dosage regimen and the dose, and (iii) such dosage regimen and dose were not considered as elements of a medical invention, we recommend submitting an extract of Supreme Court Decision 2014 Hu 768 to the Examiner or the Patent Court Judge as reference material (together with an argument brief or a supplemental brief) and arguing the patentability of the invention.

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Dramatic Increase in International Trademark Applications Filed by Domestic Companies in 2015 Q1

In the first quarter of this year, the number of international trademark applications filed by Korean companies through the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) recorded the highest first quarter level since Korea joined the Madrid Protocol.

The number of international trademark applications filed by domestic companies through the WIPO in the first quarter of this year is 206, an increase of 40% in comparison with last year. The number of

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international trademark applications filed through the WIPO by domestic companies in the first quarter of 2014 increased by 14.6% compared to the first quarter of 2013, so it appears that the number of international trademark applications filed in the same period of 2015 represents a dramatic increase.

E.LAND World has the largest number of WIPO filings among domestic companies, followed by ENS Korea, Noksibcho Aloe and Samsung Electronics.

The applications filed in the cosmetics field account for the largest number among the total of international trademark applications filed by domestic companies in the first quarter of this year (accounting for 16.8 percent of the total of 45 classes), followed by applications for data communication equipment and for clothing.

In the meantime, in the first quarter of 2015, the number of applications for international trademark applications where foreign applicants designated Korea increased by approximately 18% (2,845 cases) compared to the same period last year. As with domestic filings, the current trend for international trademark applications by foreign applicants designating Korea is on the rise.

Among the foreign companies designating Korea for their international trademark applications, Philip Morris Brands filed the largest number in the first quarter of this year, beating Novartis which had filed the largest number in 2013 and 2014.


By countries, United States applicants accounted for the largest number designating Korea in respect of international trademark applications, followed by applicants from the European Union, China and Germany.



The fact that the number of international trademark applications filed by domestic companies has remarkably increased is seen as a positive sign that the awareness of domestic companies regarding the need and utility for filing trademark applications through the WIPO is growing.

Fox Head Finally Succeeds in Protecting its “Fox Head” Design

Fox Head is a U.S. company, which manufactures and sells sports equipment. Fox Head made designs such as “”, “” and “” and disclosed them to the public in 1976, and since 1990 has also used designs such as “”, “”, “”, “”

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and “” (collectively, “Fox Head’s Designs”) in connection with catalogues.

Fox Korea is a Korean company which sells clothing. Fox Korea obtained registrations for the marks “” and “” (“Fox Korea’s Designs”) in 2007, which are similar to Fox Head’s Designs, and has used those marks on its products and promotional materials.

Fox Head sought an injunction against Fox Korea on the basis of copyright infringement. In the first trial, the Court ruled that there was no basis to conclude that Fox Korea’s Designs imitated Fox Head’s Designs and, on that basis, issued an unfavorable decision to Fox Head.

Fox Head filed an appeal of the first trial court’s decision with the High Court which issued a favorable decision to Fox Head on the basis that Fox Head’s Designs (created in 1976 and 1990) are deemed to be copyrightable works, which were disclosed to the public in the United States and which were valid for 50 years starting next year from the date on which they were open to the public. On that basis, Fox Head’s Designs will be valid until December 31, 2026 (for the designs created in 1976) and December 31, 2040, respectively (for the designs created in 1990).

Fox Korea filed an appeal of the High Court’s decision with the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court affirmed the High Court’s decision (Supreme Court Decision No. 2012 Da 76829; December 11, 2014). The main grounds of the Supreme Court’s decision are as follows:

(1) Even though the design element is one of components of the mark, if the design element meets the requirement for the work to be protected under the Copyright Law, it would be protected as a copyrightable work. Even though such design element is currently being used or can be used as a specific source indicator for the goods, it would be also protected under the Copyright Law;

(2) Fox Head’s Designs are distinguishable from other works created by another originator and meet the requirements for the copyrightable works; and

(3) In order to constitute an infringement of rights to reproduce and to create the derivative works, Fox Korea’s Designs should be deemed to imitate Fox Head’s Designs, which would be assumed provided that the compared designs are acknowledged to be remarkably similar. In view of the foregoing, it appears that Fox Korea’s Designs imitate Fox Head’s

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Designs. Thus, the High Court decision that Fox Korea's Designs constitute an infringement of copyrights of Fox Head's Designs was proper.

A trademark right becomes effective after a trademark is registered. However, it is not required to obtain registrations for the copyrights. A copyright become effective once it is created. For that reason, there is likelihood of creating conflict between trademark rights and copyrights.

In this connection, Article 53 of the Korean Trademark Act provides that where a person having a trademark right, if it conflicts with another party's copyright created before the date of the application for trademark registration, he may not use the registered trademark on such designated products in conflict without obtaining the consent of the person having the copyright. This Supreme Court decision is particularly significant in that the Court explicitly declared that a registered mark that infringes upon the earlier effective copyright should be banned from use.

“Romantic Night in Seattle” vs “ROMANTIC”

Amorepacific filed an invalidation action

against the registered mark “Romantic Night in Seattle” owned by LG Household & Health Care with the Korean Intellectual Property Tribunal (KIPT) on the basis that the mark is confusingly similar to Amorepacific's prior-registered “ROMANTIC” mark.

The KIPT concluded that the mark “Romantic Night in Seattle” is confusingly similar to the prior-registered mark “ROMANTIC” and, thus, should be invalidated. LG filed an appeal of the KIPT decision with the Korean Patent Court (Case No. 2014-heo-4340).

The Patent Court concluded that the mark “Romantic Night in Seattle” would not be recognized primarily by the word “Romantic”, and thus the two marks are not confusingly similar. The reasoning of the Patent Court decision is summarized as follows:

“Romantic” is a word evocative of soft and lovely images, and is commonly used to describe lovely, light and soft colors when used on cosmetics. Thus, the word “Romantic” of the mark “Romantic Night in Seattle” would be perceived by the Korean general public to be descriptive of the nature of the goods “cosmetics” and therefore lacks distinctiveness.

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The word “Romantic” is an adjective that modifies the word “Night.” Considering the level of knowledge of the English language in Korea, the words “Romantic Night” would be easily perceived to mean “fantastic or beautiful night.” Moreover, the Korean general public is familiar with the term “Romantic Night” through the term’s use in various media outlets. It cannot be logically concluded that the word “Night” lacks more distinctiveness than the word “Romantic.” Thus, the mark “Romantic Night in Seattle” would be perceived primarily by the words “Romantic Night” rather than by the word “Romantic.”

In light of the foregoing, the word “Romantic” lacks distinctiveness, and thus it cannot be deemed the dominant component of the mark “Romantic Night in Seattle.” Accordingly, the mark “Romantic Night in Seattle” is not confusingly similar to the mark “ROMANTIC” in terms of overall appearance, pronunciation and meaning. On this basis, if the mark “Romantic Night in Seattle” were used in connection with the designated goods, it would not create confusion as to the source of the parties’ respective goods.

In response to the Patent Court decision, Amorepacific filed an appeal with the Korean Supreme Court of the Patent Court

decision denying its invalidation action against the mark “Romantic Night in Seattle.” However, the Korean Supreme Court dismissed the appeal

The current decision of the Korean courts has significant implications that a mark comprised of two or more words, which by this reasoning should not be separated into its individual word elements. The courts’ position is that the similarity of such marks should be determined on the basis of various factors, such as, for example, the degree of distinctiveness of the word components, overall meaning of the words, and the level of knowledge of the Korean general public.

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Lawfulness of Imposition on Profits by Sale of Star Tower by Lone Star

Lone Star, a foreign private equity fund, which has provoked controversy in Korea over its exit from the Korean market after obtaining substantial profits in the course of the acquisition and sale of the Korea Exchange Bank, has partially lost a corporate tax suit against the Korean tax authority with respect to imposition of corporate tax on its profit from the sale of

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Star Tower Building (currently, the Gangnam Finance Building) located in Yeoksam-Dong, Gangnam-Gu, Seoul, Korea.

In 2001, using an offshore affiliate Star Holdings SA, organized in Belgium, Lone Star purchased Star Tower Building for about KRW 100 billion and sold it for about KRW 351 billion in 2004, thereby earning profits exceeding KRW 250 billion in three years. The National Tax Service of Korea (NTS) imposed a capital gains tax of about KRW 101.7 billion on Lone Star's profit. Lone Star filed a suit against the NTS challenging the imposition of capital gains tax. At the 3rd instance, the Korean Supreme Court found in favor of Lone Star, stating that imposition of capital gains tax instead of corporate income tax was unlawful on the basis that Lone Star should be deemed a foreign company pursuant to the Corporate Tax Act. In February 2012, promptly after the Korean Supreme Court ruling in favor of Lone Star, the NTS imposed on Lone Star a corporate income tax of about KRW 104 billion.

In defending against the imposition of corporate income tax, Lone Star argued that it was not liable to tax under the Korea-Belgium Tax Treaty which bans double-taxation between the two countries. However, the the NTS argued the Lone Star

fund, not the Belgian entity that was the direct purchaser and seller of the building, actually realized the gains from the sale as the Belgian entity was just a paper company.

In January 2014 the Seoul Administrative Court ruled in favor of the NTS against Lone Star. It found that Lone Star itself may be treated as the actual beneficiary of the income of shares in Star Tower. Lone Star would not be entitled to the benefits of the Korea-Belgium Tax Treaty because the Belgian entity had often changed its governance structure for investment pursuant to a careful and elaborate policy for avoidance of tax.

For this suit, the courts of the 1st and 2nd instances have given the NTS a win, finding Lone Star liable for corporate income tax, unlike the decision in the previous suit when NTS failed on a capital gains theory.

LEE NEWS

New Members: of Lee International IP & Law Group:

Myung-Ho Song, Lawyer, Patent Attorney
Hyewon Ahn, Patent Attorney
Charlse Lee, Adviser

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Myung-Ho Song
Lawyer, Patent Attorney

Myung-Ho Song graduated from Seoul National University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration (1987). Prior to joining Lee International IP & Law Group, Mr. Song served as a judge at the Seoul Western District Court, among others, for 12 years. At Lee International IP & Law Group, Mr. Song advises on the litigation of civil, criminal, administrative, and intellectual property matters.



Hyewon Ahn
Partner · Patent Attorney

Hyewon Ahn graduated from Ewha Womans University with a B.S. in Pharmacy (1995) and a M.S. in Pharmacy (1997). Dr. Ahn also received her LL.M. in IP & Competition Law (2010) from Munich Intellectual Property Law Center and her D.Jur., with summa cum laude honors (2013) from the Max-Planck Institute for Intellectual Property and Competition Law and the University of Augsburg. Prior to joining Lee International IP & Law Group, Dr. Ahn was in

charge of developing drugs, developing and managing patent portfolios, and handling licensing matters at Amorepacific Group and DongWha Pharm. Co. Dr. Ahn also worked as a patent attorney at Kims and Lees International Patent Law Office and Dr. Ahn International Patent Law Office. At Lee International IP & Law Group, Dr. Ahn advises on both contentious and non-contentious patent-related matters in the areas of Pharmacy and Biotechnology.



Charlse Lee
Adviser

Charlse Lee played a pivotal role in the sales and marketing of various products at Hyundai Motors Group for 25 years. Mr. Lee served as a president at a leading global automotive supplier, TRW Automotive Korea. At Lee International IP & Law Group, Mr. Lee provides practical advice on businesses in the machinery and automobile industry based on his extensive experience.



Lee International

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Lee International IP & Law Group was founded in 1961 and currently ranks as one of the largest law firms in Korea.

Lee International retains distinguished legal professionals with expertise in all major areas of the law, with a special focus on intellectual property. Recognized as one of the premier law firms in Korea, Lee International advises clients on a diverse range of high profile matters, including intellectual property disputes and litigation, licensing, commercial litigation, international transactions, real property matters, tax matters, and international trade disputes.

Lee International is a leader in patent prosecution, trademark prosecution, and IP disputes and litigation including patent litigation, trademark litigation, anti-counterfeiting matters, domain name disputes, copyright disputes and trade secret enforcement. Lee International counsels many Fortune 100 and other leading multinational companies on how to successfully maneuver not only through the complexities of Korean law, but also through the unique intricacies of doing business in Korea.

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