

SCS visits Intellectual Property Department

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Joshua Law, visited the Intellectual Property Department today (September 13) and met with its management and staff of various grades to learn more about their work and matters of concern.

Accompanied by the Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Thomas Chow, Mr Law met with the Director of Intellectual Property, Mr David Wong, and the directorate staff to receive an update on the department's work in examining trademark, patent and design applications and enhancing the local intellectual property (IP) protection regime, as well as challenges confronting them including the launch of an original grant patent system scheduled at the end of this year.

Mr Law then visited colleagues of the legal teams to learn about their different responsibilities, which include exercising quasi-judicial functions over IP registration matters, amending the law to join the international trademark system under the Madrid Protocol and providing civil legal advice to government bureaux and departments. He was also briefed by colleagues of the Marketing Division on promotion and education programmes regarding IP protection and exploitation for different target audiences.

Mr Law later proceeded to the Registry and its public service counter, where he learnt about colleagues' work in handling IP registration applications. He was pleased to note that the department was one of the pioneer Government agencies in adopting online services, having implemented end-to-end digital systems in receiving and processing applications for IP registration in 2003. The systems underwent a complete revamp earlier this year to further facilitate the public in using the services.

Before concluding his visit, Mr Law met with staff representatives of various grades at a tea gathering to exchange views on matters that concerned them. He praised colleagues for their efforts and encouraged them to continue to make dedicated efforts in providing quality services to the public.