Continuation of the Global Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program with Participating Offices

On January 6, 2014, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) commenced the Global Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program with several other offices. The Global PPH pilot program enables an applicant whose claims have been determined allowable or patentable in an application filed in one Global PPH participating office to have the corresponding application filed in another Global PPH participating office advanced out of turn for examination. See Implementation of the Global and IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Programs with Participating Offices, 1400 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 172 (March 18, 2014). The notice announcing the Global PPH pilot program indicated that the Global PPH pilot program would terminate on January 5, 2015, but may be extended thereafter.

In order to further assess the Global PPH pilot program, the Global PPH participating offices have agreed to extend the pilot indefinitely.

Any inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to Bryan Lin, International Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-3303, or via email addressed to bryan.lin@uspto.gov.

Specific questions about the Patent Prosecution Highway should be directed to the Office of Petitions at 571-272-3282, or via email addressed to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

Date: 12/5/14

Michelle K. Lee
Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office