

Property rights research body to push academic activities

Property rights research body to push academic activities

It should certainly be a sign that the economic stance of Korea can no longer justify its sustaining the old status as an "outsider" in the international market of intellectual goods. The external pressures have been ever growing, most notably from the United States, for the nation to become a legal subscriber to the products of foreign intellect.

Probably the persistent demands from the U.S. government for the protection of its citizens' intellectual rights in the ongoing trade talks between the two countries have effected a strong impetus. But there have also been internal needs and urges that combined to see the latest creation of a private research body for the international property rights by a group of scholars and lawyers.

"In spite of the growing seriousness of the issue of protecting intellectual property rights, there has been no institution exclusively engaged in the overall research in the field," claims Song Sang-hyon, professor at the College of Law, Seoul National University, who has been elected the first president of the Korean Intellectual Property Research Society.

The inauguration of the society came last Saturday, with the participation of some 50 professors and lawyers as founding members. They agreed on the basic

work policy that the society will have six committees covering the issues of patent, trademark rights, copyrights, internal cooperation, as well as institutional and case studies, respectively.

Other important decisions reached at the inaugural meeting included the holding of periodic academic conventions, publication of academic journals and exchange of information with similar organizations in foreign countries as well as with the World International Property Organization. The society also plans to establish coordination with concerned government agencies and industries.

In an attempt to train specialists in the field of intellectual property rights, Prof. Song added in an interview yesterday, the society will also encourage colleges and universities across the nation to open lectures on the laws related to the issue.

"It may seem belated that we have just had the inauguration of this society in Korea, when considering that the protection of intellectual property rights has long been institutionalized in many advanced countries," Song observed. "We are hard pressed to make research, both extensively and intensively, on a wide range of problems."

The nation has had associations concerned with the protection of and research in few specific fields of this major issue for domestic transactions, such as the Korea Music Copyrights Association, Korea Invention and Patent Association and the Korean Copyright Holders Association. (CCU)

*'Made in France' still
hallmark of luxury
world over: study*