

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

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REPORT ON THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANDATE OF THE CWS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. This report aims to implement the decision taken by the General Assembly in 2011 relating to the mandate of the CWS, and to provide regular written reports on the details of activities undertaken during the year 2012 in which the Secretariat or the International Bureau (“IB”) of WIPO “endeavored to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices by undertaking projects regarding dissemination of IP standards information” (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19). A complete list of such activities is available under the Technical Assistance Database (www.wipo.int/tad).
2. As IP standards are implemented in various systems and tools, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP standards information.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS

3. This program (Program 15) is to develop and strengthen national and regional IP institutions in accordance with the Development Agenda, through provision of modernization services, to enable them to participate in the global IP infrastructure and to maximize their benefits from the access and use of its collective resources.
4. The Program’s assistance covers a comprehensive set of modernization services. These include: technical advice and guidance; needs assessment; automation of business processes; provision of software systems customized to specific national requirements; establishment of national IP databases; training of IP institutions staff with knowledge transfer to their technical focal points and online communication with WIPO international IP services (Madrid and PCT). WIPO’s advice and assistance is given, taking account of WIPO Standards

on IP data and information. Training related activities account for a significant portion of the Program's work and are critical in achieving the desired results.

5. In the framework of this program 130 missions in IP Offices were undertaken in 2012, Activities took place in all regions in a total of 51 IP Offices. In some Offices more than one mission were undertaken. By the end of 2012, there were more than 60 IP Offices actively using software systems provided under this program for their day to day IP administration operations. For more information please consult the web site of WIPO's technical assistance program for Industrial Property Offices (http://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/technicalassistance/index.html).

NARROWING THE TECHNOLOGY KNOWLEDGE GAP AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

6. Within the framework of recommendation 8 of the Development Agenda, which aims to narrow the technology knowledge gap and improve access to technical knowledge, the following projects under Program 14 were further developed in 2012: Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs), Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI), Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) and Patent Landscape Reports (PLRs). Training activities included a general introduction to WIPO Standards in order to raise awareness of users in developing countries of the role of WIPO Standards.

7. TISCs, or institutions offering similar services, are designed to provide innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information services and other related services. The IB promotes the establishment and development of TISCs in cooperation with national and regional industrial property offices.

8. To support the development of TISCs and raise awareness of intellectual property and technology information among local stakeholders, on-site training was provided in 2012 in 28 countries participating in the project (15 first basic, 9 second intermediate and 4 third advanced training events). The total number of established TISC national networks following first basic training was 35, of which 6 were established in 2010, another 14 in 2011, and a further 15 following the first basic training events just mentioned as carried out in 2012. A further 7 Service Level Agreements, providing the framework for activities to be carried out in establishing and developing TISCs, were concluded in 2012 bringing the overall total to 36 countries. For more information please consult the TISCs web site (www.wipo.int/tisc).

9. On-site training for TISCs has always been supported and reinforced through the provision of distance learning courses in cooperation with the WIPO Academy. In order to further strengthen online training and encourage the exchange of experiences and best practices, a newly developed "eTISC" knowledge management platform was launched at the end of 2012. The eTISC platform provides advanced social media tools and integrates new services aimed at reinforcing WIPO's activities in supporting the development of TISCs worldwide, including specially targeted e-learning modules and webinars. The TISC community can be joined online at <http://etisc.wipo.org>.

10. A further element in developing online training was the launch also in 2012 of an interactive e-Tutorial on using and exploiting patent information, available on CD-ROM and online at <http://wipo.int/tisc/etutorial>. The e-Tutorial comprises 3 sections on: Patent Basics, Patent Search and Retrieval, and Patent Analysis. Each section contains a number of interactive tutorials explaining how to use and exploit patent information, followed by a number of interactive scenarios providing story-based exercises putting theory into practice.

11. The ARDI program is coordinated by the IB together with its partners in the publishing industry with the aim of increasing the availability of scientific and technical information in developing countries. By improving access to technical literature from diverse fields of science and technology, the ARDI program seeks to reinforce the capacity of developing countries to participate in the global knowledge economy and to support researchers in developing countries in creating and developing new solutions to technical challenges faced on a local and global level.

12. Since 2011, ARDI has been a member of the Research4Life (R4L) partnership, which includes WHO's HINARI program focusing on biomedical and health journals, FAO's AGORA program for agriculture based journals, and UNEP's OARE program on environmental issues. During 2012, the content of ARDI dramatically increased to over 10,000 peer-reviewed scientific and technical journals and e-books. The number of institutional users is also increasing. For more information please consult the ARDI web site (www.wipo.int/ardi).

13. The Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) program is similarly a public-private partnership with the world's major commercial patent database vendors, and provides access to more advanced and sophisticated search and analysis tools for use by institutions in developing and least developed countries. The number of users is also steadily increasing. For more information please see the ASPI web site (www.wipo.int/aspi).

14. The PLR project was based on the Development Agenda project DA_19_30_31 "Developing Tools for Access to Patent Information" described in document CDIP/4/6, adopted by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP).

15. The PLRs provide a comprehensive overview and analysis of the innovation and patenting activity in a specific technological field, globally or in a specific geographical area, based on a state of the art search of at least the PCT minimum documentation. They target research and analysis in areas of interest which meet the needs of developing countries, such as public health, climate change, food and agriculture, energy etc. The results are presented and analyzed in a comprehensive manner and are visualized through graphs and statistics with the help of various analytical tools. The results and conclusions drawn can provide information on trends in a specific technological field or subsectors over time, the major players in the said area, the collaborations that take place, the geographical distribution of the patent protection sought, while the technologies identified can be grouped in various categories. They are useful tools for policy makers that can facilitate and optimize policy and investment decisions related to innovation, R&D, technology transfer, etc. Furthermore, these reports function as examples of access to and exploitation of patent information and how patent search strategies and methodologies should be tailored according to the particular subject matter and the challenges and limitations linked to each case.

16. In November 2012 the second phase of this project was approved by the CDIP. Seven patent landscape reports have been prepared and published by the IB in cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, such as FAO, WHO, Medicines Patent Pool, AATF etc. Six more reports should be prepared and published in 2013 as according to the approved second phase. These reports cover a range of subjects, such as desalination and use of alternative energies, solar cooking and cooling, antiretrovirals, plant salinity tolerance, vaccines etc. For more information on the project and access to the reports, please consult the dedicated website: http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent_landscapes/pl_ongoingwork.html. In addition the second phase provides for the establishment of draft methodological guidelines for preparation of patent landscape reports and the organization of a regional conference on patent analytics.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF IP OFFICERS AND EXAMINERS FOR UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOOLS

17. Upon request, several training courses on the use of International Classifications for officials or examiners of IP Offices were conducted in 2012, namely for ARIPO (all Classifications), Bahrain (IPC, Nice, and Locarno Classifications), Brunei Darussalam (Locarno Classification), Kenya (Nice and Vienna Classifications), Philippines (Nice, Vienna and Locarno Classifications) and United Arab Emirates (IPC).

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF IP STANDARDS

18. In order to increase awareness of IP Standards in developing countries and to facilitate the participation by more developing countries in the preparation of a new or revised WIPO Standard, following the decision of the General Assembly in October 2011, the participation in the second session of the CWS of eight developing countries was funded by the International Bureau, namely: Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia.

PATENT DATA EXCHANGE

19. The IB has been working together with the IP Offices in certain groups of developing countries to promote the exchange of patent data with a view to providing users in those countries with greater access to patent information originating from those IP Offices. The exchange of patent data was organized in accordance with relevant WIPO standards. During the reporting period, two projects made good progress, namely; LATIPAT and ARABPAT.

20. LATIPAT; The Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM), the European Patent Office (EPO), and industrial property offices in Latin America cooperate to promote the exchange of patent information and to set up and maintain an updated regional database containing the information on patents published in Latin American countries, under the LATIPAT project. The exchange of data is intended to provide access to the region's technological information contained in patents, to serve as a common reference platform for the publication and consultation of Latin American patents and to facilitate the provision of data to PATENTSCOPE. The level of participation of the countries is very high, of the 19 IP Offices in Latin American, 16 are actively participating in the project and send their information regularly.

21. In this regard, under the auspices of this project the Eighth Expert Meeting was held in Medellin in November 2012, in order to continue the process of strengthening the capacities of IP Offices to provide their data, and the focus was placed on enhancing data quality and exchange of full text searchable patent documents, legal status data, citation data and data regarding search and examination reports to be included in LATIPAT, PATENTSCOPE and in the INVENES platforms.

22. ARABPAT; In October 2012, the Executive Chiefs of the European Patent Office (EPO), WIPO and the Moroccan Intellectual Property Office (OMPIC) signed a MoU to cooperate with, in particular but not limited to, the IP Offices of the countries which are members of the AGADIR Agreement (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia). The Agreement promotes the production, dissemination and exchange of up to date high quality bibliographic data, image data, legal status data and searchable full-text data on patents published by them. It would provide access to this information by the general public through the respective patent information platforms PATENTSCOPE, ESPACENET and the Moroccan Publication Server established by WIPO, EPO and OMPIC, respectively.

23. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2012 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices. This document will serve as a basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in October 2013, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

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