WIPO

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
UNITED INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX FOR THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERIM COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION
STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE

First Session: Geneva, December 8 to 10, 1971

MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION: NON-PATENT LITERATURE
COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Report by the International Bureau

1. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and WIPO have jointly convened a meeting to explore the possibilities of cooperation between the two Organizations in the field of storage and retrieval of information concerning nuclear energy.

2. It is believed that the matter may be of interest to the Standing Subcommittee as the International Nuclear Information System (INIS), sponsored by the IAEA, is likely to produce valuable information for prospective International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities under the PCT, particularly as far as non-patent literature items are concerned.

3. A copy of the report of the meeting of the "Joint Ad Hoc Group for Patent Information in Nuclear Science and Technology" which took place at WIPO Headquarters on November 5 and 6, 1971, is attached to this report (see Annex).

4. The Standing Subcommittee is invited to comment on the matters referred to in the preceding paragraphs.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

JOINT AD HOC GROUP FOR PATENT INFORMATION IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WIPO Headquarters, Geneva, November 5 and 6, 1971

REPORT*

Introduction

1. The purpose of the meeting was to attempt to identify possible ways and means for cooperation, between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the national authorities of its member States responsible for matters of nuclear energy on the one hand and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and National Patent Offices (including the International Patent Institute) of its member States on the other, in the storage and retrieval of information relating to peaceful applications of nuclear energy which could be of mutual benefit.

2. Present were representatives of the IAEA, of national organizations for nuclear energy, WIPO, national Patent Offices and the International Patent Institute. A list of participants appears at the end of this report.

Opening of the Session and Election of Officers

3. The meeting was opened by Dr. Arpad Bogsch, First Deputy

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* Document PN/I/4 of November 8, 1971.

Director General of WIPO, who welcomed and introduced the participants.

4. On the proposal of Mr. Z. Turkov, Head, INIS Section, IAEA, Dr. Bogsch was unanimously elected Chairman of the meeting. Mr. Turkov was unanimously elected Co-Chairman. Miss P. McDonnell, WIPO, acted as Secretary.

Adoption of the Agenda

5. The provisional agenda reproduced in document PN/I/1 was adopted without modification.

Present Status of INIS and its Needs for Patent Information

6. The International Nuclear Information System (INIS) was established by the Board of Governors of the IAEA in 1969. It is a computer-based system for collecting and disseminating information on peaceful applications of nuclear energy and is based on the principles of decentralized input preparation, centralized merging and dissemination, and decentralized use of the products. At present, National Centers in 41 countries, headed by INIS liaison officers, are responsible for selecting all pertinent publications--books, journal articles, reports, etc.--originating within their own countries and for classifying, indexing and abstracting these documents. This information, as recorded on a specially designed worksheet (and in some cases also in machine readable form), together with copies of the full text of non-conventional publications (i.e., other than commercially available books and journal articles: patent documents are regarded as non-conventional literature for the purposes of INIS) is sent to the INIS Center, where the information received from all National Centers as well as from 11 contributing international organizations is merged to produce magnetic tape and printed versions of the "INIS Atomindex" search tool. In

addition, microfichesare prepared of: (1) abstracts of all documents included within the search file, and (2) the full text of non-conventional publications. These products are sent to the INIS National Centers and other contributors and subscribers where they are used for search and retrieval.

7. INIS became operational in March 1970 with a subject scope which included approximately 25% of estimated 85,000 annual items in the field. It is planned to expand the scope in January 1972 to include 50% and in January 1973 to include 100%. The enlarged scope for 1972 is envisaged to include up to 10,000 patent documents per year. "Patent documents" includes patents, inventors' certificates and published applications relating thereto.

8. Coordinate index terms are assigned in accord with a special INIS thesaurus.

Problems Associated with the Processing of Patent Documents

9. It was noted that the inputting of patent documents will pose a number of new problems which must be solved to secure the optimum coverage of this type of non-conventional literature, e.g., the identification of documents corresponding to the same invention published in a number of different countries and languages. These documents usually are not mere translations, since they are drafted in accordance with differing national laws and regulations and also may, in a number of cases, differ from each other because of amendments or added subject matter. However, it should be studied whether, for the purposes of INIS, it may be sufficient to cover only the first published member of a "family" of patent documents or possibly two or three members if the first published member is in a less familiar language. To cover all "family" members could

result in unnecessary duplication.

10. Participants from National Patent Offices also pointed to the differences in the promptness with which patent documents are published or otherwise made available to the public. Countries such as Australia, France, Germany (Federal Republic), the German Democratic Republic, Japan, the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries publish 18 months after filing of the first or priority application, prior to any decision whether a patent will be granted. On the other hand, countries such as the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America publish only granted patents (or, in the case of the United Kingdom, the potential patent, subject to opposition procedures). In the latter countries, applications refused or withdrawn do not result in any publication.

11. Patent Office participants pointed out that it would be possible for the INIS National Centers to enter standing orders for copies of patent documents, but only in terms of the classification system in use for such orders within the publishing Office, i.e., in terms of the International Patent Classification or a national patent classification.

12. The Shared Systems Program of the Paris Union Committee for International Cooperation in Information Retrieval among Patent Offices (ICIREPAT) was briefly described. In that program, a coordinate indexing system for a specific technical field is jointly developed on the basis of an agreed term list and the work of indexing of the individual documents is distributed among the Patent Offices. On the basis of coding sheets, punched cards are produced and exchanged. Each Office may then proceed to search all the documents included in the system.

Conclusions

13. On the basis of the information exchanged, it was agreed that it was desirable that practical cooperation be established between the IAEA and WIPO and between INIS National Centers and Patent Offices. The aims of such cooperation would be:

(a) Action to be taken by WIPO and Patent Offices:

to assist the IAEA and INIS National Centers in the identification of those categories of patent classification systems (International Patent Classification and, in so far as is necessary for obtaining patent documents, national classification systems) which correspond to the subject scope of INIS; secondly, to devise practical means of ensuring the prompt furnishing of patent documents by Patent Offices to INIS National Centers; thirdly, to advise on means of avoiding unnecessary duplication of patent documents in INIS, taking into account possible differences in information content between patent documents based on the same priority and the advantages for users of having access to documents in suitable languages.

(b) Action to be taken by the IAEA and INIS National Centers:

to assist Patent Offices in making full use of INIS as a search tool particularly for non-patent literature; for this purpose, the IAEA will invite WIPO to send representatives, including representatives of Patent Offices, to meetings arranged for familiarizing potential users with INIS.

(c) Next Steps

The IAEA Secretariat and the WIPO International Bureau

will examine the possibility of jointly organizing a meeting attended mainly by representatives of INIS National Centers and Patent Offices (including the International Patent Institute) to explore further ways and means of cooperation among them in order to facilitate the inclusion of patent documents in INIS and its use by Patent Offices.

14. It was emphasized that, in planning and carrying out the cooperation referred to above, both the IAEA and WIPO would pay particular attention to the needs of developing countries, so that the systems and methods of work would facilitate their access to technology and the transfer of technology.

15. This report was unanimously adopted by the Joint Ad Hoc Group on November 6, 1971.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. Representatives of National Organizations for Nuclear Energy

France

Mr. J. IUNG, Commissariat à l'Energie atomique

Germany (Federal Republic)

Mr. E. PAUL, Deputy Head, Zentralstelle fur Atomkern-energiedokumentation (ZAED)

II. Representatives of National Patent Offices

Germany (Federal Republic)

Mr. H. KEMPF, Oberregierungsrat, German Patent Office

Japan

Mr. N. TAKEUCHI, Director of Third Examination Department, Japanese Patent Office

Soviet Union

Mr. V. KALININ, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the USSR, Geneva

United States of America

Mr. T.F. LOMONT, International Patent Classifier, US Patent Office

III. Representatives of the International Patent Institute Institute (IIB)

Mr. L.F.W. KNIGHT, Counsellor in Information Retrieval

Mr. E.D.C. SMETS, Examiner

IV. Representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Mr. Z. TURKOV, Head, INIS Section

Mr. C.M. GOTTSCHALK, Senior Officer, INIS Section

Mr. D.D. DAVIS, Consultant (United States Atomic Energy Commission)

Mr. A. GÜNTHER, Consultant (European Organisation for for Nuclear Research (CERN))

V. Representatives of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Dr. A. BOGSCH, First Deputy Director General

Mr. K. PFANNER, Senior Counsellor, Head of the Industrial Property Division

Mr. R. HARBEN, Counsellor, Deputy Head of the External Relations Division

Mr. I. MOROZOV, Counsellor, Head of the PCT Section, Industrial Property Division

Mr. P. CLAUS, Technical Counsellor, Head of the ICIREPAT Section, Industrial Property Division

Mr. V. ROSLOV, Technical Assistant, ICIREPAT Section, Industrial Property Division

Miss P. McDONNELL, Technical Consultant (US Patent Office)

Mr. K. SÖLLA, Technical Consultant (German Patent Office)

Mr. K. TAKAMI, Technical Consultant (Japanese Patent Office)

VI. Officers of the Meeting

Chairman: Dr. A. BOGSCH (WIPO)

Co-Chairman: Mr. Z. TURKOV (IAEA)

Secretary: Miss P. McDONNELL (WIPO/US Patent Office)

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