

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION**

世界知识产权组织

**ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL
DE LA PROPIEDAD INTELECTUAL**



**ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE**

المنظمة العالمية للملكية الفكرية

**ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
ИНТЕЛЛЕКТУАЛЬНОЙ СОБСТВЕННОСТИ**

C. IPC 160
00

May 16, 2006

Re: Implementation of IPC Reform

Madam,
Sir,

I have pleasure in inviting your Office to be represented in the Meeting on the Implementation of IPC Reform, which will be held in Geneva, at the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), on Monday, July 3 (10 a.m.) and Tuesday, July 4, 2006. It is expected that the Meeting will be attended by experts in information technology and experts in the IPC. The language of the meeting will be English.

The reformed IPC (eighth edition) entered into force on January 1, 2006. The majority of industrial property offices made the necessary changes to their administrative systems to accommodate the reformed IPC and started to use the reformed IPC for classifying patent documents.

However, as was noted at the IPC Forum, held on February 13, 2006, the quality of the reformed classification information provided by industrial property offices is not yet sufficiently high and errors often occur. The Forum also encouraged all industrial property offices using the IPC to start application of the reformed IPC as soon as possible following the rules and principles elaborated for the reformed IPC.

The purpose of the Meeting will be to discuss the status of the technical implementation of IPC reform in industrial property offices, to discover outstanding problems and to determine appropriate solutions therefor.

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The draft agenda of the Meeting will be submitted in due course. It will include a report by WIPO on the IT tools supporting the reformed IPC, a report by the European Patent Office (EPO) on the status of the Master Classification Database (MCD) and other items. Your Office is invited to make proposals, by June 1, 2006, for any item that it considers desirable to be included in the meeting agenda and to submit such proposals to the IPC-IT listserv (ipc-it@listbox.wipo.int).

It is expected that a brief report on the status of the implementation of the IPC reform will be submitted to the Meeting by each office. To assist in this task, your office is kindly invited to complete the attached questionnaire. The electronic version of the questionnaire is available at the address: <http://www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc> under the heading "Circulars". Please return the attached questionnaire, together with the brief report on the status of the implementation of the reformed IPC in your Office, by June 15, 2006, to the e-mail address ipc.mail@wipo.int.

It would be appreciated if the names and titles of your representatives could be communicated to the International Bureau by June 15, 2006.

Yours sincerely,



Francis Gurry
Deputy Director General

Enclosure: Questionnaire