

NEWS ROUNDUP

A new web portal for patents

WIPO launched a new portal on its website in mid-July for patent-related information and services concerning the international patent filing system (Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) System) at www.wipo.int/patentscope/. The new portal centralizes all WIPO's patent and PCT-related activities to provide users with better services.



Existing information on PCT filing, electronic filing and other patent-related resources is available through this new portal as well as new sections on patent data and statistics. The patent data section provides access, through an enhanced PCT Electronic Gazette, to the complete collection of published PCT International Applications – now more than a million – from

1978 to the present day in image format and with fully searchable description and claim texts for applications filed as from July 1998.

The portal will form the basis for new services that will be made available in the coming months, such as an online file inspection system for applicants and the general public, tutorials and other resources for patent information retrieval.



Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on IP and Development

Officials representing the intellectual property (IP) offices of 25 countries in the Asia and the Pacific Region joined the ongoing international debate in the field of IP and development at a Symposium held in Singapore on June 7 and 8. WIPO organized the event in cooperation with the Government of Singapore through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Intellectual Property Office and the Ministry of Law.

The Symposium focused on the following themes:

- ▶ effective IP strategies in the fields of science and technology, culture, youth awareness, knowledge-based businesses and busi-

ness development that could optimize the impact of IP on economic growth;

- ▶ national IP comparative advantages in the areas of traditional knowledge, health, information technology, and small and medium-sized enterprises and the process of deciding on the competing priorities in IP; and
- ▶ the new business role of IP offices in the 21st Century.

The Symposium also provided an opportunity to share experiences on various initiatives aimed at regional cooperation in the IP field, particularly in the context of sub-regional groups such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN),

the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Pacific Islands Forum Countries and the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The Symposium coincided with the inauguration of WIPO's Singapore Office, which was set up earlier this year as a result of a contribution by the Government of Singapore. The Singapore Office will contribute to the timely, effective and efficient delivery of WIPO's programs in the region.

