

*Questionnaire on the Term “Quality of Patents” and Cooperation between Patent Offices in Search and Examination*

The answers to this questionnaire have been provided on behalf of:

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Q1. Various aspects may be relevant to the concept of “quality of patents”. It may relate to, for example, quality of patent procedure and management in the office, quality of search and examination, quality of granted patents or quality of a patent system. In addition, the expression “quality of patents” may be understood differently depending on the perspectives of various stakeholders, for example, the perspective of a patent office, an applicant etc.

How does your office understand the term “quality of patents”?

- Quality of Patent in our office is understood in reference to the quality of the patent granted, i.e. the compliance of the granted patents with substantive requirements of our law.

Q2. What types of cooperation with other patent offices does your office have with respect to search and examination?

Those types of cooperation may include, for example, access to documents/databases of other offices, use of search and examination work products, expertise and resources available in other offices, collaborative search and examination, outsourcing search and examination etc.

- Currently, our office is not involved in any bilateral cooperation with other patent offices in the field of search and examination. However, assistance is provided by WIPO under International Cooperation for the Search and Examination of Inventions (ICSEI) program for search and examination of applications filed by our national free of charge. The applications are sent to the International Bureau of WIPO which is further transmitted to the executing Patent offices for search and examination.

Q3. When performing prior art search, patent examiners prepare search strategies and queries (for example, indications of databases and publications, classification codes, search terms and key words used) to find relevant prior art.

Does your office share (for example, via an official website), or exchange, such search strategies and queries with other collaborating offices?

➤ Our office does not make publicly available any information regarding its search strategies.

Q4. In order to facilitate the cooperation, what kinds of platforms and tools to share information on search and examination are available in your office? Such platforms and tools include, for example, WIPO CASE, databases allowing other offices to retrieve information and external databases used to retrieve information.

(i) Platforms and tools provided by your office

(ii) Platforms and tools used by your office

(i) Currently, our office does not provide information on the search and examination procedures.

(ii) Our office takes advantage of having access to publicly available databases provided by international and national IP organizations. We use the freely available WIPO Patentscope, ESPACENET, the EPO Register and databases of national offices where available.

Q5. What are the impacts of such cooperation in the area of search and examination to your office? If your office has different types of cooperation and each type of cooperation has different impacts, please indicate them separately.

➤ These forms of cooperation help us improve the quality of our work products by having access to search and examination products (search reports, office actions etc.) of other offices, which also helps in accelerating the national patent granting procedure by minimizing duplication of work.

Q6. What kinds of capacity building are required for different types of cooperation between patent offices in search and examination? Please indicate any specific capacity building needs to conduct such cooperation successfully.

In this context, the capacity building is understood to refer to various activities and trainings that support development of knowledge and skills of office employees for effective cooperation between offices in search and examination.

- As we rely on the substantive examination conducted by other Patent offices, training would be required in understanding and interpreting the search and examination results to the applicants.