WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

C. PCT 1709 November 9, 2026

Madam,
Sir,

Invitation for Nomination of an Expert for the Task Force to Develop WIPO Academy Foundation Course on Patent Examination

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

Background

At its eighteenth session, the PCT Working Group approved the development by the International Bureau of a WIPO Academy Foundation Course on Patent Examination (hereinafter "the Foundation Course") (see paragraphs 4 to 19 of document PCT/WG/18/11 and its Annex, and paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Summary by the Chair, document PCT/WG/18/20).

As indicated in these documents, the International Bureau intends to establish a Task Force through which interested Offices can contribute to developing the Foundation Course, in particular by sharing relevant information and reviewing proposed course content. This collaborative approach is intended to help ensure that the Foundation Course content is accurate and neutral, while appropriately reflecting different national and regional patent examination practices.

To ensure that the Task Force benefits from the expertise of patent experts with substantial experience in substantive patent examination, while maintaining a manageable size conducive to effective and efficient discussions, the International Bureau proposes that, in the first instance, participation in the Task Force be open to experts nominated by International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities.

Mandate and Operation of the Task Force

The International Bureau will be responsible for the overall design and development of the Foundation Course. The Task Force will support this work by providing relevant information and by offering feedback and guidance on the proposed Foundation Course content.

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The Task Force will remain operational until the development of the Foundation Course is completed.

The Task Force will conduct its work online, primarily through a wiki-based platform administered by the International Bureau. Detailed instructions on the working arrangements and participation in the Task Force will be provided separately to its members.

Requirements for the Expert

Your Office is kindly invited to nominate one expert with at least five years of experience in the substantive examination of national or regional patent applications. Experience in conducting international search and preliminary examination under the PCT would be advantageous but is not mandatory, as the main target participants for the Foundation Course are new and inexperienced substantive patent examiners from small Offices that are developing their national patent examination capacity.

The Foundation Course will initially be developed in English, and English will therefore be the working language of the Task Force. Accordingly, nominated experts should be able to communicate effectively in English with the International Bureau and other members of the Task Force, primarily in writing.

No expertise in a specific technical field is required, as the Foundation Course will focus on general principles and foundational knowledge relevant to substantive patent examination. Nevertheless, where available, experience in examining patent applications in the fields of pharmaceutical or computer-implemented inventions could be particularly valuable, given the distinctive considerations relating to claim structure and the assessment of patentability in those fields.

Responses to Circular

Should your Office wish to participate in the Task Force, please submit the name, title and email address of the nominated expert to the PCT International Cooperation Division at: pcticd@wipo.int, no later than December 4, 2026.

For further information or clarification, concerning the Task Force or the nomination process, please contact Mr. Taegeun Kim (taegeun.kim@wipo.int) or Mr. Abraham Onyait Ageet (abrahamonyait.ageet@wipo.int), Cooperation on Examination and Training Section, PCT International Cooperation Division.

Yours sincerely,

Laura A. Peter

Laura Peter
Deputy Director General
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