

Third IPC Workshop Geneva, February 25 and 26, 2013

SUMMARY

1. On February 25 and 26, 2013, WIPO organized the third IPC Workshop. Classification experts from IP Offices, commercial providers of patent information, users of the IPC in industry, experts on patent information and other IT experts on patent classification participated in the Workshop.
2. The Workshop was opened by Mr. Yoshiyuki Takagi, Assistant Director General, WIPO Global Infrastructure Sector, who welcomed the participants.
3. During the Workshop, participants were informed of the IPC-related WIPO services, e.g., IPC publication services, the Common Parallel Viewer (CPV) to be implemented by WIPO and other potential IPC-related IT tools. Participants of the Workshop expressed their general satisfaction with the IT tools available for the IPC. Furthermore, the user community welcomed the development of the CPV by WIPO, which would allow display of the IPC together with the CPC and FI/F-term, and was expecting its availability to the public as early as possible.
4. Presentations given by the State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) on the development of an in-house reclassification tool and by the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic (IPOSR) on the cooperation with WIPO on the promotion of the IPC were very well received.
5. Participants of the Workshop were also informed of various possibilities for automatic text categorization in the IPC presented by several companies. Interest was expressed, in particular, by IP offices, that such tools could be used not only for identifying IPC symbols, e.g. as a pre-classification tool, but also for searching similar patent documents.
6. Workshop participants were apprised of recent IPC developments and of a comparison between the IPC and the CPC.
7. During the presentations on the use of classifications in industry and by commercial database providers, several concerns were expressed concerning the inconsistency of classification attributes and missing or invalid classification symbols. It was also indicated that it would be challenging for WIPO to unify existing local patent classification systems into a global classification while maintaining consistency of classification by patent offices worldwide.
8. Having noted the problem of limitation of reclassification resources in offices, participants of the Workshop agreed that this problem should not become an obstacle to the development of the IPC. New schemes should enter into force even when the reclassification is not 100% complete. Users should, however, receive a warning in such cases and an indication on the non-reclassified patent collections. The International Bureau promised to implement such reclassification warning in the IPC publication with top priority.

9. During the Workshop, participants were also informed of the initiative of the IPC development plan for the next five years and plans to accelerate IPC revision and publication procedures which would be discussed by the upcoming IPC Committee of Experts. It was noted that the five year plan would focus on revision of the areas where there is a large amount of patent applications from emerging countries which are not covered by the CPC or FI with significant growth rate and where the number of subgroups in the IPC is not sufficient for an effective search.

10. Participants of the Workshop expressed their gratitude to the International Bureau of WIPO for organizing the Workshop which was considered to be a very instructive platform for the exchange of views between users coming from diverse horizons on the IPC and its relationship with other patent classifications. The International Bureau was invited to reconvene the Workshop in a continual manner.

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