

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

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REPORT ON THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANDATE OF THE CWS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. This report aims to implement the decision taken by the General Assembly in 2011 relating to the mandate of the CWS, and to provide regular written reports on the details of activities undertaken during the year 2013 in which the Secretariat or the International Bureau (IB) of WIPO “endeavored to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices by undertaking projects regarding dissemination of IP standards information” (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19). A complete list of such activities is available under the Technical Assistance Database (www.wipo.int/tad).

2. As IP standards are implemented in various systems and tools, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP standards information.

TRAINING ON THE USE OF WIPO STANDARDS

3. Following a request by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, the International Bureau made a presentation on WIPO Standards, in particular on WIPO Standards regarding official gazettes, in a seminar on the “Promotion of Utilization of Intellectual Property Information” that was organized by the IP Academy of Singapore in October 2013. The following countries participated at the seminar: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam. The training was an excellent opportunity for participants to be introduced to WIPO Standards and further to obtain guidance on how to use them, as well as to enhance the work of the Committee on WIPO Standards. Trainings to increase the awareness on and use of WIPO Standards have proven to be a necessary contribution to the development of human resources and institutional capacities of industrial property offices in developing countries, as well as to sensitize officials to the advantages of using WIPO Standards and to improve the dissemination and use of patent, trademark and industrial design information.

4. Seminars like the one referred to in the previous paragraph bring also the opportunity to exchange information and views on WIPO Standards and their implementation with officials of industrial property offices. These discussions are very useful to focus on matters of particular interest for particular industrial property offices in developing countries and raising the awareness, understanding and use of WIPO Standards worldwide in mid-term.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS

5. This program (Program 15) aims to enhance national and regional IP Offices' IP business systems and technical infrastructure so as to help them provide more cost-effective and higher-quality services to their own stakeholders. The assistance provided is aligned with the Development Agenda recommendations aiming at strengthening institutional and technical infrastructure of IP offices and institutions. The Program's services include technical consultancy; business needs assessment; project scoping and planning; business process analysis; ongoing development and deployment of customized business systems solutions for the administration of IP rights and for the exchange of priority documents, and of search and examination results; establishment of IP databases; assistance with digitization of IP records and preparation of data for online publications and electronic data exchange; training and knowledge transfer to staff of IP institutions; and support for the systems provided by WIPO. The assistance takes into account WIPO Standards on IP data and information where appropriate. On-site training, mentoring and regional training workshops account for a significant portion of the Program's work and are critical in achieving the desired results.

6. Within the framework of this program, more than 100 missions to IP Offices were undertaken in 2013. Activities took place in all regions with a total of 51 IP Offices. In some Offices more than one mission was undertaken. By the end of 2013, there were more than 65 IP Offices across the world actively using WIPO Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights. For more information please consult the web site of WIPO's technical assistance program for IP Offices http://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/technicalassistance/

CAPACITY BUILDING OF IP OFFICERS AND EXAMINERS FOR UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOOLS

7. Upon request, the following training courses and seminars on the use of International Classifications for officials and examiners of IP Offices were conducted in 2013. In this context the relevance of related WIPO Standards was explained.

- Regional Workshop on Nice, Vienna and Locarno Classification Systems (Manila Philippines) with the participation of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam;
- Sub-regional Training Workshop on Nice, Vienna and Locarno Classification Systems (Tangerang Indonesia) with the participation of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia;
National Workshop on Locarno Classification in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF IP STANDARDS

8. In order to increase awareness of IP Standards in developing countries and to facilitate the physical participation by more developing countries in the preparation of a new or revised WIPO Standard, following the decision of the General Assembly in October 2011, the participation at the third session of the CWS of seven developing countries was funded by the International Bureau, namely: Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Myanmar, Surinam, Yemen and Zambia.

9. In October 2013, WIPO's web site was renewed and redesigned. In order to facilitate access to WIPO Standards documents, dedicated web pages give direct access to the list of WIPO Standards (http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_03_standards.html), and to the documentation and activities of the CWS (<http://www.wipo.int/cws/en/>).

PATENT DATA EXCHANGE

10. The IB has been working together with the IP Offices in certain groups of developing countries to promote the exchange of patent data with a view to providing users in those countries with greater access to patent information originating from those IP Offices. The exchange of patent data was organized in accordance with relevant WIPO standards. The patent collections of the following developing countries have been included in Patentscope during the year 2013: Bahrain, China, Egypt and United Arab Emirates.

11. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2013 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices, regarding dissemination of IP standards information. This document will serve as a basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in September 2014, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

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