

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

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REPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU 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 International Bureau

INTRODUCTION

1. This report aims to implement the decision taken by the General Assembly in 2011 relating to the mandate of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) and to provide regular written reports on the details of activities undertaken during the year 2020, in which the Secretariat or the International Bureau of WIPO “endeavor[ed] to provide technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices (IPOs) 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 WIPO Standards are implemented in various systems and tools of WIPO such as WIPO Sequence and WIPO Business Solutions, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP Standards information.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE USE OF WIPO STANDARDS

3. In 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Bureau provided technical advice to assist IPOs and users to utilize WIPO Standards through emails and online conferences.

4. The Secretariat did not receive a request for technical assistance and training in 2020 in person regarding WIPO Standards since the eighth session of the CWS held in 2020. The Secretariat will provide technical assistance and training regarding WIPO Standards on demand and depending on the availability of resources and the pandemic situation.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS USING WIPO STANDARDS

5. WIPO's program of IP Office Business Solutions aims to enhance national and regional IPOs' business systems and technical infrastructure in order 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 IPOs and other institutions. The 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 or virtual training, mentoring and regional training workshops account for a significant portion of the activities and are critical in achieving the desired results.

6. At the end of 2020, 90 IPOs from developing countries in all regions were actively using WIPO Business Solutions for the administration of their IP rights, in which WIPO Standards are integrated. Fifty-one IPOs were participating in one of the online exchange platforms offered by WIPO (the Centralized Access to Search and Examination and the Digital Access Service). A key focus is to upgrade the service level of IPOs by assisting them to move to online services for filing and for IP information dissemination. More information is available on the website of WIPO's technical assistance program for IPOs at:
https://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/ip_office_business_solutions/

7. In addition, under the WIPO's program of Global Databases, the International Bureau ran a project jointly with the European Patent Office (EPO) to assist IPOs in producing searchable full text for their front file patent publication in WIPO ST.36 XML format with embedded TIFF images. The International Bureau configured its OCR solution to each office's specific requirements such as language, layout and bookmarks. Thirty-five IPOs have received the software and been trained to use it (except Panama for which a training will be arranged in due course) in the last four years, with 12 of them having managed to launch it in production. As a result, the produced full text documents are included and made searchable both in WIPO's PATENTSCOPE and EPO's Espacenet.

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

8. In collaboration with the Offices of the CWS Sequence Listings Task Force, the International Bureau has been improving the WIPO Sequence suite, a free common software tool, which will enable patent applicants around the world to prepare a nucleotide and amino acid sequence listing following WIPO Standard ST.26 and to support IPOs to validate the sequence listings to ensure that they are compliant with WIPO ST.26. The WIPO Sequence tool (Beta release) is available on WIPO website at:
<https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/sequence/index.html>

9. Following a request, the International Bureau provided a training seminar via an online platform on the International Patent Classification (IPC) for officials and examiners at Intellectual Property Department Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Oman on September 15 and 16, 2020. The training program included how to use the relevant WIPO Standards.

10. Following requests, the following training courses and seminars were virtually conducted in 2020 on the use of International Classifications for trademarks and industrial designs for officials and examiners of IPOs. In this context, the relevance of related WIPO Standards was explained.

- Training on the Nice Classification for trademark examiners, Bahrain IP Office, February 24 to 27, 2020;
- Training on the Nice, Locarno and Vienna Classifications for trademark and design examiners, Saudi Arabian IP Office, July 20 to 23, 2020;
- Training on the Nice and Vienna Classifications for trademark examiners, Indonesian IP Office, November 16 to 18, 2020; and
- Training on the Nice Classification for trademark examiners, Malaysian IP Office, December 8 to 10, 2020.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WIPO STANDARDS

11. In order to increase awareness of WIPO Standards in developing countries and to facilitate the physical participation by more developing countries in the preparation of new or revised WIPO Standard(s), following the decision of the General Assembly in October 2011, the participation at the seventh session of the CWS of seven developing countries or least developed countries (LDCs) was funded by the International Bureau.

IP DATA EXCHANGE

12. The International Bureau has been working together with many IPOs, particularly in certain groups of developing countries, to promote the exchange of IP data with a view to providing users in those countries with greater access to IP information originating from those IPOs. The exchange of IP data was organized in accordance with relevant WIPO Standards. The trademark collections of the following countries have been included in Global Brand Database during the year 2020 in chronological order: Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Ukraine, Albania, San Marino and India; the patent collections of the following countries have been included in PATENTSCOPE during the year 2020: Czech Republic, the former Czechoslovakia, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovakia and Sweden. The industrial design collections of the Republic of Korea, Albania, Ukraine, Thailand, Switzerland and India have also been added in WIPO's Global Design Database in 2020.

13. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2020 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IPOs, 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 2022, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

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