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PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2006

Report by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. This Program Implementation Overview (hereinafter referred to as the “Overview”) summarizes the main activities implemented by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) during the first six months of 2006. The Overview offers Member States an insight into the directions of each program of the Program and Budget 2006-2007 during the period under review, organized in accordance with the WIPO Strategic Framework and the Organizations’ five strategic goals (Publication No. 360E/PB0607).
2. This Overview should not be seen as an update of the “Program Performance Report for the 2004-2005 Biennium” (document A/42/2). The Program Performance Report is prepared within the context of WIPO’s results-based management framework, and assesses progress made towards the achievement of objectives and expected results whereas the Overview is intended to provide Member States with preliminary information on program implementation in a given year prior to the submission of the relevant Program Performance Report. The Overview, therefore, concentrates on the progress of the implementation of activities rather than providing details on program performance.
3. For ease of reference, the WIPO Strategic Framework is included in Annex I to this document. Annex II contains an index.

STRATEGIC GOAL ONE: TO PROMOTE AN IP CULTURE

PROGRAM 01: Public Outreach and Communication

Media Affairs

4. WIPO continued to expand and consolidate its links with the international and Swiss-based press. From January to June, over 30 press communiqués were released and some 1,700 press articles covered issues relating to WIPO. At the beginning of the year, WIPO mobilized media attention on the performance in 2005 of service areas such as the PCT, Madrid system and domain names dispute resolution service. The media continued to show interest in copyright issues, efforts to reform the international patent system, developments in the international trademark system, issues relating to IP and development, traditional knowledge (TK), folklore and access to genetic resources (GR). Press conferences, briefings and interviews (written press, television and radio) with WIPO officials on a variety of subjects were arranged. A number of articles on specific areas of WIPO's work were also provided to specialist publications.

5. Twenty five editions of *Intellectual Property in the News*, a weekly compilation of IP-related news clippings, were produced and sent to Geneva-based permanent missions.

6. In the area of public affairs, programs were organized for 52 groups, including government officials, business representatives and students, totaling 1,500 people, consisting of general briefings on the Organization, and more in-depth programs involving one or more specialized IP subject areas.

7. Ten art exhibitions, serving to demonstrate the link between creativity and copyright, were organized. The exhibitions, supported by the Missions of the exhibitors' nationality, drew some 5,000 visitors. Some 16 new or updated entries on WIPO in various international yearbooks and other such publications were provided, along with responses to general inquiries on WIPO and IP.

8. WIPO also participated in the annual meeting of the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG), which was hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (Vienna, June).

Private Sector Partnerships

9. Work continued on a program for extra-budgetary resources. The process of refining and re-drafting the structural guidelines of the Private Sector Partnership program was brought towards a conclusion. Discussions also continued with the United Nations Foundation on the most efficient and transparent ways of receiving resources from third parties.

10. The private sector continued to show enthusiasm at the prospect of supporting a WIPO Partnership Program, and IP stakeholders in the United States of America expressed a willingness to work with WIPO on the creation of partnerships. Supporting WIPO in educational activities was of particular interest to donors.

11. Other institutions, such as universities, continued to actively pursue the possibility of establishing outside-source funded partnerships with WIPO. In 2006, the first steps were taken by WIPO and Vanderbilt University to begin cooperation under the auspices of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between both institutions in 2005. The partnership is facilitating Vanderbilt's plans to partner with a developing country university on education and technology transfer projects. In this context, meetings were also held with several interested local university administrators in Africa. Member States continued to discuss the potential of a well focused Partnership Program.

Corporate Image and New Product Development

12. Work continued on further developing, expanding and refining WIPO's outreach activities and corporate image through a wide range of new (170) and updated (10) information products aimed at general and target audiences. Taking into account feedback from the WIPO Magazine readers' survey launched at the end of 2005, the content of the WIPO Magazine was expanded to include more in-depth articles on current IP issues. The survey confirmed the geographical diversity of the Magazine's readership, with responses coming from 130 different countries. The highest proportion of respondents came from legal practices, IP offices and universities. A new, more contemporary design for the Magazine was launched for World IP Day. An html-version of the Magazine, which will help increase circulation without increasing costs, was developed, and is expected to be launched with the re-designed WIPO website in the second half of 2006.

13. Member States requested four translations of seven WIPO publications. In previous years, most translation requests have been made for booklets and the WIPO comics. This year, requests were for longer, more in-depth publications.

14. In 2006, Cambridge University Press agreed to co-produce and co-publish with WIPO a new dictionary of IP terms. This new reference work will fill an important niche for IP academics and practitioners, and sales of the work will generate a new royalty stream.

15. As part of WIPO's continuing efforts to create IP curriculum materials for young people, the French and Spanish language versions of the workbook *Learn from the Past, Create the Future: Inventions and Patents*, were published. Work began on a second installment of the series, on copyright.

Multimedia Productions

16. Growing awareness of the availability of in-house multimedia and video production services resulted in increased requests for video coverage of events and video taping of presentations for use in seminars and conferences, a service that helps to reduce travel costs and other related expenses for the Organization.

Public Outreach

17. Cooperative efforts to promote IP awareness within Member States were expanded. For World IP Day, some 1,500 kits of promotional materials were sent to national IP Offices, NGOs, IGOs, universities, UN Information Centres and, on request, to commercial enterprises. A 30-second television spot on the theme "It starts with an idea" was produced and aired on international networks such as CNN and BBC World, and national television networks. Some 76 Member States reported to WIPO on awareness-raising activities centered

on World IP Day, the details of which were posted on the WIPO website. The Director General's IP Day message was publicized at most of these events and received broad media coverage.

18. Several new products were created for webcasting, and specialized products (conference materials, banners, reports, covers, certificates, etc.) produced for various WIPO sections.

19. Work continued on a redesign of the WIPO website. A beta model of the new website is being refined in response to in-house testing among user groups, and is expected to be launched in the second half of 2006.

20. Income from the sale of 7,923 products totaled 800,000 Swiss francs. The continued decrease in sales was due to the downloading of an increasing number of products free-of-charge on the website. The selling of advertising space in the WIPO Magazine is being considered as a potential way to partially offset the decline in publication revenues.

21. The Information Center continued to receive visitors and respond to general enquiries about WIPO and IP.

WIPO Knowledge Management/Library

22. The WIPO Library collection continued to include about 35,000 items. Due to budgetary restraints, a minimal amount of material was added to the collection during the period under review, and only upon specific request.

23. The project to electronically capture the historical IP collection continued. Presently some 100 international conferences/record of proceedings and historical IP books are available for consultation in electronic format.

24. Implementation of a new Library Management System, KOHA, is expected to be completed for use by WIPO staff in July 2006. The Open Access Catalogue on the Internet is planned to follow shortly thereafter. This will facilitate access to the collection for researchers outside of the Organization.

25. A new 'Table of Contents' service was put in place to allow WIPO staff to view articles contained in journals before circulation in-house, and have them sent directly to their desktop. This considerably reduced the circulation lists for journals.

26. The number of external visitors to the Library remained steady, about 10 to 15 per week, including some long-term visitors with intensive research projects.

27. Information and documentation on IP legislation continued to be widened. Through updates of the Collection of Laws for Electronic Access (CLEA) database, as of June 30, a total of 3,800 bibliographic entries and 2,960 full text documents relating to the laws of 122 countries and the European Community, the Andean Community, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO), the texts of Treaties administered by WIPO and not administered by WIPO, were published.

WIPO Awards

28. During the reporting period, some 85 awards were bestowed. A total of 54 WIPO Awards for Inventors were presented in national and international competitions or inventors' fairs and Certificates of Merit were awarded to 14 noteworthy inventors in recognition of their distinguished work. Some 14 WIPO Creativity Awards were offered to authors and creators in recognition of their contributions in the various arts, such as music, dance, visual arts, literature, film, design and multimedia. Finally, three WIPO Trophies for Innovative Enterprises were awarded to enterprises from three countries.

29. A new general information brochure on the WIPO Awards Program was issued.

WIPO University Initiative

30. The WIPO University Initiative program continued to develop and expand. At the end of the reporting period, 58 universities and public research and development (R&D) institutions from 43 countries (from Africa, the Arab region, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and certain countries in Central Europe and Asia) had joined the program and appointed University IP Coordinators (UIPCs). The University Initiative has provided participating institutions with a number of services and information products, including the WIPO University Initiative Documentation Kit and the World IP Day Kit.

31. In cooperation with other WIPO programs and the European Patent Organization (EPO), IP awareness and capacity building workshops were organized for actual and prospective UIPCs in Cameroon, Lithuania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Furthermore, applications from about 40 universities and public R&D institutions to participate in the University Initiative program are currently being processed.

PROGRAM 02: External Coordination

External Relations

32. In March 2006, the WIPO Coordination Office for External Relations (COER) was established to promote a better understanding of WIPO's vision and objectives and further develop its collaboration with the United Nations system, other IGOs, and NGOs.

33. WIPO continued its active participation in the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), the High Level Committee on Programs (HLCP) and the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), and attended HLCM/HLCP meetings (Villiers-le-Mahieu, France, February/March) and the CEB Spring Meeting (Madrid, April), where UN management reform and other matters of common interest to the UN system were discussed. WIPO also participated in the UN-sponsored meetings on management reform (Geneva and New York), including the Steering Committee on Governance and Oversight, and the High-Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence set up by the UN Secretary General as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome document. WIPO also participated in the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Working Group of the Financial and Administrative Framework (FAFA) between the European Commission and the UN (New York, April). Furthermore, WIPO continued its cooperation with the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). WIPO also contributed to the report on the Role of Innovation, Science and Technology in the Context of Globalization, based on the Resolution of the UN General Assembly (60/204), for submission to its 61st session.

34. WIPO attended, in an observer capacity, the meetings of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board in April, to follow the discussions on the Report of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health (CIPIH), and participated in the 59th World Health Assembly (Geneva, May), where a resolution on public health, innovation, essential health research and IP rights was adopted as a follow up to the CIPIH Report.

35. WIPO provided substantive contributions to the work of the WHO, the Global Forum on Health Research, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Interagency Committee on Bioethics, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and the UN Interagency Biotechnology Committee convened by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

36. WIPO continued its cooperation with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on the IP issues raised by UNCITRAL's draft Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions, and participated in UNCITRAL Working Group and Expert Working Group meetings on security interests, and related meetings in the IP community.

37. WIPO continued its cooperation with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), in the follow-up of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The Summit, held in Tunis, November 2005, offered an indicative and non-exhaustive list of facilitators/moderators for the Action Lines of the Geneva Plan of Action, the role of which include, *inter alia*, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices and assistance in developing multi-stakeholder and public/private partnership. A selection process of the facilitators/moderators has not yet been terminated and the terms of the future work will be defined. Other UN agencies, including WIPO, were invited to become facilitators/moderators, whereas ITU, UNESCO, WHO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other organizations have already been selected. ITU, UNESCO and UNDP continued to play leading facilitating roles in the implementation of the Plan of Action. The UN General Assembly endorsed the outcomes of the WSIS, welcoming their strong development orientation, and invited the UN Secretary General to convene a new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue called the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). At the invitation of the Greek Government, the first IGF will be held in Athens from October 30 to November 2, 2006. WIPO participated in the consultations held in Geneva to prepare the Forum. The mandate of the IGF included, in particular, public policy issues related to key elements of Internet Governance (IG), capacity building for IG in developing countries, and security and stability of the Internet.

38. WIPO worked in partnership with the International Standards Organization (ISO), in particular, on monitoring the relations between international standards and IP on the occasion of the Joint ISO-International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Workshop on Patent and Copyright Policies, in June.

39. WIPO continued its cooperation with WTO under the framework of the 1995 Agreement between the two organizations. Cooperation on technical assistance activities included the participation of WIPO speakers at national and regional events organized by WTO for developing and/or least-developed countries (LDCs).

40. Following discussions between the two Director Generals, WIPO and WTO established a consultative group, which held its first meeting in June. This group intends to meet

periodically to discuss issues of particular importance to both organizations with the view of enhancing the existing institutional cooperation. The agenda of the first meeting focused primarily on cooperation in the field of technical assistance to developing countries and LDCs. There was agreement, in principle, to increase the level of joint activities at the regional and national levels, with particular attention being given to the special needs of LDCs, and to broaden the scope of such activities to cover IP and public policy issues, IP policy and strategy, infrastructure and capacity building, human resource development and IP asset development.

41. WIPO continued to participate in WTO meetings in an observer or expert capacity, including the meetings of the General Council in May, and the Special and Regular Sessions of the TRIPS Council in June.

42. WIPO continued to expand its cooperation with NGOs. At their request, WIPO organized meetings with the International Federation of Industrial Property Attorneys (FICPI), and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Similar events are planned for the second part of the year with, among others, the Licensing Executives Society International (LESI), the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), and the International Trademark Association (INTA).

43. WIPO was also represented in several NGOs' annual meetings and informed participants about WIPO issues of relevance to their work. Meanwhile, WIPO intensified discussions for further coordination and exploration of new common activities.

44. Particular attention was also given to improve the quality of the relationships with other groups, for example, consumers, which were given information about WIPO services and activities.

45. WIPO continued to develop its coordination with the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) in order to exchange information about UN and non-UN agencies' practices towards better relationships with the private sector and civil society.

WIPO Coordination Office in New York

46. The WIPO Coordination Office in New York continued to represent WIPO in several UN meetings, such as the Security Council, the General Assembly and its six main Committees, the CEB, and the Commission on Sustainable Development. Issues discussed in these fora included: UN Secretariat and management reform; the follow-up to the WSIS; and, the review and update on preparations for the high-level meeting on the implementation of the Brussels Program of Action for LDCs.

47. Collaboration with the private sector and civil society groups continued for the organization of various IP events, including the joint organization, with the Society of Writers, of an event "The Stones of Civilization" attended by over 200 participants. Lectures also continued to be given at American universities.

48. Relations with IP professional associations were strengthened at a symposium on the PCT organized jointly with the International Intellectual Property Society. In addition, nine interns of different nationalities gained experience at the Office through its internship program.

WIPO Coordination Office in Brussels

49. The WIPO Coordination Office in Brussels continued to maintain and nurture links with relevant decision-makers, opinion-formers, and other stakeholders in Brussels. Furthermore, it provided periodic information to colleagues at WIPO headquarters on relevant events at the level of the European Union and its Member States and other entities.

WIPO Washington DC Office

50. The WIPO Washington Liaison Office continued to enhance understanding of the mission and work of WIPO in the United States of America among US government leaders, Congressional legislators and staff, business, NGO's and individual consumers and practitioners.

51. The World IP Day 2006 Celebration in the United States Congress was organized in collaboration with the Center for an Innovative and Creative Economy at George Washington University. Over 150 IP leaders and international representatives attended the event.

52. The Office continued to publish the *WIPO Wire* newsletter, featuring articles on WIPO and IP. The newsletter was sent to over 1,500 individuals and organizations.

53. The Office also continued to monitor and participate in events and hearings in the US Congress, government, and IP community relating to WIPO and international IP issues, and enhanced its coordination with embassies in Washington.

54. Furthermore, the Office continued to work with Washington, D.C.-based parties interested in the Broadcasting Treaty deliberations and other substantive WIPO efforts.

WIPO Singapore Office (WSO)

55. The WIPO Singapore Office (WSO) continued to enhance cooperation between WIPO and the ASEAN countries. In cooperation with other WIPO sectors, a WIPO Regional Symposium on Promoting University-Industry Collaboration through Technology Transfer and IP Transactions in ASEAN Countries, and a WIPO-ASEAN Workshop to review the feasibility of a network of IP Business Development Service (IP-BDS) hubs in the ASEAN region, were organized in January. The Office also participated in the meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC) (Ho Chi Minh City, March).

56. Further opportunities to promote a better understanding of WIPO's vision and objectives were presented through the following events: Thailand's Inventors Day Seminar and Exhibition (Bangkok, February); National IP Seminars (Jakarta, April) in commemoration of World IP Day; and, the National Roving Seminar on Economic Development based on IP (Makati City and Cebu City, Philippines, June). Other national events which served as venues for promoting IP culture, included: the National Symposium on IP Education, Training & Research (Manila, January); a Training course on Industrial Property Administration (Tokyo, February); and, the Regional Seminar on Generating Value from IP through Greater Awareness, organized jointly with the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation (JIII) (Singapore, January). The Office also participated in the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC)/International Bureau of Societies Administering the Rights of Mechanical Recording and Reproduction (BIEM) Asia Pacific Committee Meeting (Singapore, April).

57. A revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Singapore and WIPO was signed on June 26, 2006, which aims to expand the scope, depth and coverage of cooperation between Singapore and WIPO in the area of technical assistance in the field of IP to developing countries in the Asia Pacific region.

PROGRAM 03: Strategic Use of IP for Development

Intellectual Property and Economic Development

58. In order to improve the awareness and understanding of policy-makers in Member States on the development and management of policies and practices for using IP assets as a tool for economic development, activities were implemented using a country and sector-specific approach to ensure that the circumstances of each country and the development dimension were taken adequately into consideration.

59. One of the strategic goals of WIPO is to promote IP policies and to ensure their integration into national development strategies and plans, depending on specific requirements. Accordingly, a series of seminars were planned in all regions to deliberate on strategic approaches to making use of IP as an effective tool of economic and social development. During the period under review, three of these five-day seminars (WIPO International Seminar for the Strategic Use of IP for Economic and Social Development) were organized in New Delhi, India; Muscat, Sultanate of Oman; and Nairobi, Kenya. The seminars were attended by senior government officials managing policy issues, IP experts and practitioners, and diplomats and dealt with both the conceptual and policy framework. The programs had a mix of plenary and break-out sessions, and due to the interregional character of the participants, from both developing countries and transition economies, the seminar helped to build cross regional synergies and establish development networks.

60. Also, a WIPO expert briefing on developing an IP Policy was held for the University of Trinidad and Tobago, in May.

61. WIPO participated in the following events during the first six months of 2006: IP Rights Summit organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) (Bangalore, India, January); ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) IP Workshop (Rotorua, New Zealand, April); Zacco IP Management (IPM), 5th Gathering (Copenhagen, Denmark, May); and ITC Executive Forum Consultation Series, in collaboration with the Government of Romania and WIPO (Bucharest, Romania, June).

Creative Industries

62. During the first six months of 2006, assistance was provided to several countries in launching national studies on the economic contribution of their creative industries, including Croatia, Jamaica, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, Romania and the Russian Federation. In addition, a number of projects are being finalized with both developing countries and countries in transition and will be launched during the second half of the year. The first publication in the Creative Industries series *National studies on the economic contribution of the copyright-based industries* (WIPO Publication 624 (E)) was finalized, containing the five national studies that have been completed thus far using the WIPO Guidelines.

63. The development of methodologies for assessing creative industries, in particular, concentrated on improving the economic survey methodology of the creative sector, improving data collection and cultural statistics methods, and designing a methodology to estimate the negative effects of non-compliance with copyright protection regimes. To this end, WIPO participated in a meeting on measuring counterfeiting and piracy, organized by OECD (Paris, February), continued to develop guidelines for estimating copyright piracy, and contributed to a Technical Interagency working group meeting on cultural statistics (Bhutan, April), convened by the Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan with the participation of experts from UNESCO, UNIDO, UNDP, UNESCO Institute of Statistics and local representatives.

64. Capacity building activities during the period under review included: a regional workshop organized jointly with the Secretariat of the Caribbean States (CARICOM) (Georgetown, Guyana, February), for policy makers, statisticians and cultural workers; a sub-regional seminar organized jointly with the Copyright Agency of Azerbaijan (Baku, Azerbaijan, June), on the contribution of the creative industries to economic, social and cultural development; and a national roundtable organized jointly with the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency of Tanzania (BRELA) (Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, March).

65. Furthermore, contributions were made to the training of specific groups of creators on the better use of their IP assets. To this end, WIPO participated in the Caribbean Cinema and Marketplace Symposium (Barbados, May), and the Jean Monnet Seminar on Cultural Policies and European Integration, organized by the Economics University of Catania (Italy, February). A number of tools to assist creators, in particular, in developing countries in such creative industries as publishing, music, design and film, are also being finalized. A guide on cultural entrepreneurship, to assist creators in better managing their economic rights and in setting up a viable business enterprise in the cultural sector, was launched. In order to better assess the impact of IP in the creative industries, a study on the economic, social and cultural impact of IP in the creative industries commenced.

66. WIPO and the European Commission participated in a public awareness campaign on IP and the creative industries (Rousse, Bulgaria, May). WIPO also contributed to the Annual Congress of the Society for Economic Research on Copyright (Singapore) and the 14th International Conference of the Association for Cultural Economics (Vienna). WIPO, along with other UN organizations, as well as interested governments, supported the establishment of the International Center on the Creative Economy, launched by UNCTAD and the Government of Brazil in February. Furthermore, WIPO contributed to the World Summit on Arts and Culture, in June, which reviewed the contribution of creative industries and the arts to economic growth and other broader social policy objectives.

67. WIPO continued to develop partnerships with interested governments and international organizations, and to benefit from the support and contributions from a number of developed countries. The implementation of these joint programs was kept under regular review.

Intellectual Property and New Technologies

68. National IP Strategy Roving Workshops were organized (Beira, Nampula and Maputo, Mozambique, February) and attended by a total of 160 participants including researchers, lecturers, legal practitioners, policy makers and representatives of SMEs. The workshops resulted in the launch of an IP audit for Mozambique using the WIPO Audit Tool.

In addition, a National Working Group was created representing the key IP strategy stakeholders, such as universities' research institutions and SMEs, to coordinate the formulation of the IP Strategy, the development of which is a national priority for 2006.

69. An IP Strategy Retreat for a delegation from the Colombian Government took place at WIPO in June, at which the IP Audit Report prepared by a committee representing 15 institutions, and the way forward for developing a National IP Strategy for Colombia was discussed.

70. In collaboration with the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, a study on the "Formulation and Implementation of a National IP Strategy" was initiated, with funding from the Japan FIT. The booklet is intended for policy makers in relevant public and private institutions interested in formulating IP Strategies.

71. In addition, a study on "Choices for Developing IP Policy for Universities and Research Development Institutions" was launched, addressing ten questions concerning protection and commercial exploitation of research results and IP assets that are relevant to research institutions.

72. Member States continued to be supported in their work to develop and implement IP strategies, including through a project in Uganda, and an IP audit process in Barbados.

73. A new training module "IP Strategies: from Research to Development to Commercialization" was developed. It addresses policy makers and heads of research institutions and provides an overview of the process of creating, developing and commercializing IP assets.

74. An inter-regional Workshop on Innovation Support Services and their Management was co-organized with seven institutions (Geneva, Basel, Bern and Zurich, February) and attended by thirteen participants from 12 countries. The workshop was intended to provide participants from developing countries and countries in transition with practical expertise on the organization and management of innovation support services and the necessary infrastructure for promoting innovation and encouraging creative activity. It was also intended to promote protection of IP rights for research results and the development of IP assets and to increase awareness and understanding of the IP system as an important factor of economic, social and technological development.

75. A Successful Technology Licensing Training for Trainers was organized in collaboration with the IP Office of Brazil (Rio-de-Janeiro, Brazil, March). The trainees are to conduct training at four sites in Brazil during 2006 using the Successful Technology Licensing methodology.

76. Furthermore, a Successful Technology Licensing Training workshop was organized (Dakar, Senegal, April), co-sponsored by the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts of Senegal, the *Agence Senegalese de l'Innovation Technologique*, and the University of Chiekh Anta Diop, Dakar. Twenty-eight institutes participated and 61 persons were trained in licensing skills.

77. A Successful Technology Licensing meeting was organized (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May), in collaboration with the IP Office of Malaysia, and attended by 60 participants including researchers, technology managers, and policy makers.

78. Collaboration with NGOs in technology transfer and licensing remained important. Local Licensing Executives Society (LES) Chapters participated in programs in Brazil and Malaysia, and a meeting was held with a Licensing Executives Society International (LESI) representative to plan joint WIPO-LESI activities.

79. A meeting on the Importance of IP in Scientific Research and Economic and Industrial Growth in the Arab World was organized (Damascus, Syria, January) in collaboration with the Regional Bureau for Arab Countries following an invitation from the Arab School of Technology. At the request of the Syrian Atomic Energy Commission, a meeting to highlight the importance of Technology Transfer and IP Strategy for research institutions was held at the Atomic Energy Commission (Damascus, January).

80. WIPO participated in a meeting on IP and Technology Transfer in Life Sciences; a North South Dialogue event (Trieste, Italy, June).

81. The development of a Patent Drafting Training Curriculum was finalized, including a manual, presentations and exercises for a two week course, plus four months of distance learning. The course was developed in English, French and Spanish, and the English version was piloted at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in India, in April. Thirty-five participants, mainly scientists and technology managers from Indian research institutes gained patent drafting skills from the course.

82. WIPO participated in a meeting in Silicon Valley (California, February), the purpose of which was to encourage IP professionals to participate in WIPO's technical assistance program with developing countries, especially involving patent drafting and technology licensing training. As a result valuable links with potential collaborators and experts were established.

83. An ASEAN Business Development Services Hub (BDS) meeting was organized (Singapore, January) providing an opportunity for the representatives of the ASEAN business community to develop a network for sharing IP expertise and programs.

84. Work also continued on a long term project co-sponsored by the Geneva International Academic Network, WIPO, the *Communauté Economique de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC)*, *l'Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle*, the IP Office of Colombia, and the Science and Technology Office (Colciencias) of Colombia, which involves creation of IP Training Hubs.

85. A course on IP Valuation by the National University of Singapore was conducted by Video Conference (Geneva, March). In addition, the final draft of a publication *Basics of IP Valuation* was completed and the first phase of a three-part study on the relationship of IP valuation to funding of early stage technology development was conducted with Chalmers University of Technology in Göteborg, Sweden.

Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

86. The translation and/or customization of the guides *Making a Mark* and *Looking Good* in the IP for Business Series was completed in Algeria, Argentina, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Mongolia, Morocco, Romania, Slovakia, Tunisia and Turkey and Turkey. The WIPO/International Trade Centre (ITC) Guide, *Negotiating Technology* was translated into Croatian. In addition, the WIPO/ITC Joint Publication *Exchanging Value: Negotiating*

Technology License Agreements: A Training Manual, published in English in January 2005, was published in Spanish during the period under review.

87. IP Panorama 01 was published on-line and on CD-ROM. This is the first of the ten interactive multimedia self-learning modules on IP for SMEs, which are being created under a joint project in collaboration with the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and Korean Inventors Promotion Agency (KIPA).

88. Twelve articles were prepared and published in the WIPO Magazine, the SMEs Newsletter and on the SMEs website, as well as in magazines and journals published by other organizations. Four new case studies and two best practices were also published on the SMEs website. In addition, contributions were made to a book to be published by the UK Patent Office in the form of chapters on “International Trademark Protection: Why and How?”, “International Patent Protection: Strategic Issues for SMEs” and “The Protection of Patents.”

89. Five articles prepared by WIPO were republished elsewhere, such as in the ICFAI Journal of Intellectual Property Rights, I/P Updates Newsletter (Atlanta, Georgia (USA)), and the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASPIP) E-Bulletin. In addition, three case studies from China (Shinotech), one case study from India (The case of a toymaker) and from Japan (Kogyo) respectively, published on the SMEs website, were republished in the March April Issue of Asia Pacific Tech Monitor.

90. The SMEs website, in six languages, was considerably expanded during the period under review. The page views from January to June 2006 in all languages totaled 1,116,543. The monthly average number of page views increased from 130,000 in the period July to December 2005, to 186,000 in the period January to June 2006.

91. The number of subscribers to the SMEs Division’s monthly Newsletter in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) increased from a total of 18,264 at the end of December 2005, to 25,112 at the end June 2006, i.e., an increase of 37.5 per cent. The newsletter contains useful information on IP and SMEs, including best practices and useful IP tools.

92. National Studies on IP and SMEs were completed in Egypt and Morocco.

93. Furthermore, the following activities were undertaken or contributed to in various regions:

- Africa: WIPO/KEPSA National Seminar on IP and Franchising for SMEs (Nairobi, February); Study Visit of a Sudanese Delegation to WIPO Headquarters (May); 6th Annual Meeting of the Tanzania IP Forum (Dar-es-Salaam, June); Botswana IP Policy Conference Making IP Work for Development (Gaborone, June); Using IP to Support Local Industries (Mbabane, Swaziland, July); and visit of a South African delegation to Geneva.
- Arab countries: National customization of the Arabic version of the WIPO short guides for SMEs *Making a Mark* and *Looking Good* is underway in Egypt (translation in Arabic), as well as Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Lebanon (customization in French); *Atelier National sur la Propriété Intellectuelle Comme Outil de Développement et de Compétitivité des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (PME)* (Senegal, April); and WIPO Sub-Regional Seminar on the Role of IP for SMEs (Casablanca, June).
- Asia and the Pacific: Joint WIPO-KIPO Mission on IP for SMEs to Indonesia and the Philippines (February); XXII APEC IPEG Meeting and the Workshop on IP for SMEs

and Micro-Enterprises (Hanoi, February); WIPO National Seminar on the Use of IP in Enhancing the Competitiveness of Cambodian Industry and Business (Phnom Penh, March); Patent Drafting Workshop (Mumbai, April); Institute of IP Studies (IIPS) (presentation) (Mumbai, April); WIPO National Seminar on IP for SMEs (Brunei Darussalam, April); and National IP Day Celebration (Kuala Lumpur, April).

- Certain Countries in Europe and Asia: International Conference “Building Innovation Competence of IP (Slovenia, April); and Conference: Access to Finance for SMEs (Serbia, June).
- Latin American Countries and the Caribbean: *Instituto Ecuatoriano de la Propiedad Intelectual* (IEPI) (two presentations) (Ecuador, March); INDECOPI-CONCYTEC, Program for the Creation of Technology Transfer Centers (Peru, March); *Ministerio de Industria y Comercio (MIC)* of Paraguay (two presentations)(Paraguay, March); WIPO/CAPNET/UWI Sub-Regional Workshops on the Management of IP in the Publishing Industries (Jamaica, March and Trinidad and Tobago, April); Cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce of Uruguay and Seminar on How to Enhance the Value of Your Company (April);
- 2nd INSME Association General Assembly (April); IP in Agribusiness Seminar (Uruguay, June); Retreat of a Government Delegation for the Development of a National IP Strategic Plan (NIPSP) (Colombia, May).

94. Activities in industrialized countries took place as follows: Conference on Fashion, Textile and Innovation: the Future Now (Italy, March); WIPO-CRUI Training Program on IP and Management of Innovation in SMEs, Spin-Offs and Research Centers (Italy, March); IP for Softwares Package Business at EM Lyon Numérik (France, April); visit of a delegation from the University of Antwerp, Belgium (WIPO Headquarters, April); visit of the President of the World Trade University (WTU) Global Secretariat (WIPO Headquarters, May); and, Expert Group for Drafting an IPR Charter (Germany, June).

95. In cooperation with the WIPO Worldwide Academy, a Workshop on Practical IP Issues for SME Support Institutions (March) was organized.

96. At the international level, the following events took place: Orientation Program on IP for Management Students of Indian Institute of Management (IIPM), attended by some 750 students and teachers from IIPM, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad (February to June); A Business Oriented Overview of IP for IP Law Students from Israel and the UK (Geneva, May) (31 participants); and, WIPO Forum on IP and SMEs for IP Offices and Other Relevant Institutions in OECD Countries (Netherlands, June) (45 participants).

Provisional Committee on Proposals Related to a WIPO Development Agenda (PCDA)

97. The WIPO Assemblies in September 2005 decided to “constitute a Provisional Committee to take forward the Inter-Sessional Intergovernmental Meeting (IIM) process to accelerate and complete the discussions on proposals relating to a WIPO Development Agenda and report with any recommendations to the General Assembly at its September 2006 Session”. It was also decided that the “Provisional Committee shall have two one-week sessions”.

98. During the period under review, two sessions of the PCDA, were held in February and June respectively. At the first session, the PCDA discussed proposals by: the African Group entitled “The African Proposal for the Establishment of a Development Agenda for WIPO”

(document IIM/3/2 Rev.); Chile (document PCDA/1/2); Colombia (document PCDA/1/3); the United States of America “For the establishment of a partnership program in WIPO: An elaboration of issues raised in document IIM/1/2” (document PCDA/1/4); and Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Peru, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Venezuela, entitled “Establishment of a Development Agenda for WIPO: A Framework for achieving concrete and practical results in the near and longer terms” (document PCDA/1/5). After consultations with the regional group coordinators and the Member States/groups, which had submitted proposals in “actionable and operational form”, the Chair prepared a set of clusters and requested the said Member States/groups to place their respective proposals in the most appropriate cluster. It was decided that the clusters and proposals would form the basis for discussions at the second session of the PCDA.

99. At its second session, the PCDA discussed the list of clusters and proposals referred to above, a proposal by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Peru, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Venezuela, entitled “Decision of the PCDA on the establishment of a WIPO Development Agenda” (document PCDA/2/2) and a proposal by Kyrgyzstan, entitled, “Proposal on Recommendation to the General Assembly of WIPO”. As the PCDA did not reach any consensus, it was decided to forward the reports of the two sessions to the General Assembly.

PROGRAM 04: Use of Copyright in the Digital Environment

100. WIPO continued its work to promote effective use of the international copyright and related rights system in the digital environment, including through management of rights in literary and artistic works and other objects of protection.

101. The Copyright for Creators program continued to be developed, exploring ways in which rightholders and creators of copyright works could best manage and protect their rights. WIPO also continued to participate in the follow-up to the WSIS, by monitoring copyright-related issues and developments concerning Internet governance.

102. A study on “Automated Rights Management Systems and Copyright Limitations and Exceptions” was published in May. The study examines cases in which digital rights management (DRM) technologies might serve as a tool for implementation of limitations and exceptions to copyright in the digital environment. Two groups of beneficiaries were considered: the subset of the educational community involved in distance learning and visually impaired persons. The law and practice in five countries was described (Australia, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America).

103. WIPO also deepened its engagement in activities involving ICT standards, especially in the field of DRM. The Secretariat provided information on copyright issues in relation to standards at fora organized by the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). Issues surrounding open source software were also addressed, including in international meetings organized by professional associations such as the Computer Law Association. In numerous missions and meetings, the Secretariat focused on how to improve the use and management of copyright in the digital environment.

PROGRAM 05: IP and Public Policy

104. During the period under review, activities consisted of developing neutral, informative input into other international processes, including a range of public policy processes relating to life sciences, such as the enhanced use of patent information as a public policy tool, bioethics issues including issues relating to global epidemics, and IP issues relating to new innovation structures such as patent pooling relating to life sciences technologies of public policy priority.

105. Cooperation and collaboration with other international agencies was enhanced, and technical input provided on a range of policy processes and discussions relating to IP, such as agricultural biotechnology, public health, medical innovation on neglected diseases, pharmaceuticals and bioethics. This included substantive contributions to the work of the WHO, the Global Forum on Health Research, UNESCO, the UN Interagency Committee on Bioethics, the FAO, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and the UN Interagency Biotechnology Committee convened by UNCTAD.

106. Progress was also made on establishing background information materials, surveys, case studies, patent landscapes and other forms of analysis of patent data in the life sciences domain.

107. WIPO consolidated its input to a range of collaborative analytical processes, including those with a focus on assessing new forms of innovation for public welfare, such as the WHO Commission on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Public Health (CIPIH) and the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). The CIPIH report, issued in April 2006, substantiated the relevance and priority attached to the existing policy directions under development within the context of this program.

108. WIPO hosted the Fifth Meeting of the UN Interagency Committee on Bioethics and was tasked by the Committee to develop a draft issues paper on IP and bioethics for potential use as a policy resource within the UN system following further review within the Committee. In collaboration with the Centre for the Management of IP in Health Research and Development (MIHR), WIPO hosted and facilitated an informal workshop on patent pools for vaccine development in the face of epidemics. A series of public information materials was developed, focusing on current patent issues relating to concerns over mutations of avian influenza, and on current bioethics issues.

109. In collaboration with the WIPO Worldwide Academy, a draft distance learning course on biotechnology and IP was developed.

STRATEGIC GOAL TWO: TO INTEGRATE IP IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

PROGRAM 06: Africa, Arab, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean Countries, LDCs

110. WIPO's cooperation with developing countries continued to focus on enabling governments and other institutions to realize the potential of their IP assets. In addition to providing traditional legal and technical assistance activities, WIPO assisted Member States in developing and implementing strategies and policies aimed at creating and exploiting IP for economic, social and cultural development.

111. Work focussed on assisting developing countries to strengthen and modernize their national IP infrastructure, build institutional capacity, acquire technology, create IP assets, and generate income and employment by integrating and implementing IP strategies into national development goals. Special attention continued to be given to the specific needs of LDCs. WIPO's development activities were extended to assist developing countries in strengthening their capabilities to participate in, and benefit from, technology transfer and exchange between countries.

112. WIPO also assisted developing countries to integrate IP into public policy in areas such as health, trade, education, research and competition policies, with particular emphasis on advising countries on the flexibilities under international IP treaties, especially the TRIPS Agreement, as elaborated by the Doha Declaration of 2003. WIPO also continued to work closely with other bilateral, multilateral and international organizations involved with IP and/or economic development.

113. As part of a process to set up an effective and cost-efficient evaluation mechanism for development cooperation activities within WIPO, a workshop on Evaluation and Impact Analysis took place (Geneva, March) with the participation of international evaluation experts. The objectives of the meeting were to gain an insight into best practices in the field of development evaluation, and to receive input on draft development cooperation evaluation forms and guidelines. At the meeting, the invited experts stressed the need to create an appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework and system at WIPO in line with other international organizations, through: the adoption and effective implementation of a WIPO Evaluation Policy; promoting an organization-wide evaluation culture; involving Member States in monitoring and evaluation processes; and, evaluation capacity training of WIPO staff and partners (i.e. Member States).

114. WIPO commenced work on the development of IP benchmarks to supplement the process of auditing IP assets and developing IP strategies at the national level. This included selection of targets and measurements to track performance and progress made by countries in implementing their national development strategies.

115. An IP Development Activities Database (IP-DAD) was created, providing an on-line searchable repository of information pertaining to WIPO's development assistance activities since 2000 for use by all interested parties. The database will shortly be accessible via WIPO's public website and will be updated quarterly.

116. WIPO also began a process of streamlining and improving the management of projects and activities administered under Fund-in-Trust (FIT) arrangements, and steps were taken for convening consultations between WIPO and FIT donor countries and institutions.

African Region

117. In the African region, the benefits of existing IP policies and practices continued to be assessed with a view to generating empirical data for informed strategic decision-making on how to use IP as an effective tool for development and ensure its integration in national development planning. Peer review exercises were initiated at the sub-regional and national levels as an input into the preparation of National IP Strategic Plans.

118. A Regional Workshop on Developing National IP Strategies was organized (Kenya, February) to train legal practitioners, senior ministry officials, public and private sector representatives, the academia and staff of R&D institutions as resource persons during the formulation of national IP strategies. As a follow-up, Steering Committees for the preparation of IP strategies were set up in Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania (Zanzibar) and Zambia. Requests for similar assistance were received from Burundi, Ethiopia and Ghana.

119. As part of the Tenth Anniversary Celebrations of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), an IP Conference for Ministers and a Preparatory Meeting of Heads of Industrial Property Offices was organized jointly with the Portuguese Ministry of the Economy and Innovation (Lisbon, April). Ministers responsible for development, trade, industry, science and technology, and industrial property, shared experiences on “the valorization of Portuguese as a technological support language within the knowledge and information society”. A Common Strategy for cooperation in the field of industrial property was adopted, and a workplan is expected to be developed in the second half of 2006.

120. A Sub-Regional Seminar on the Enhancement of Traditional Medicine and Pharmacopoeia: What Role for IP?, was organized in co-operation with the Government of Mali (Bamako, June). The meeting sensitized holders of, and researchers on, African traditional medicine and related TK about the role of IP in the enhancement of traditional medicine and pharmacopoeia, the respective rights of the different partners, as well as the establishment of a framework for strengthening their partnership. The seminar also dealt with the issue of access to GR in relation to IP rights.

121. A Workshop on IP was organized jointly with the African Union (AU) (Montreux, May), for Geneva-based African Ambassadors, as a step towards the development of a continental IP strategy in the framework of NEPAD. The workshop recommendations will be submitted to a meeting of African Ministers of Science and Technology and subsequently to a Summit of African Heads of State and Government to be organized in 2007.

122. Activities to strengthen IP infrastructures and capacity building continued in the Central African Republic, Cape Verde, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as did the automation of industrial property and copyright offices and collective management societies.

123. A series of information meetings and seminars were organized on licensing and fight against piracy of literary and artistic works, including training for judges (Burkina Faso, April) followed by an information seminar (Ghana, May).

Arab Region

124. The WIPO/League of Arab States (LAS) Arab Regional Coordination Meeting for Heads of Industrial Property and Copyright Offices (Cairo, January), *inter alia*, reviewed the state of progress of negotiations in the WIPO standing committees, discussed issues of common interest and priority, exchanged information and country experiences, and identified new avenues for promoting inter-Arab cooperation in the field of IP.

125. A Sub-Regional Forum on Industrial Property and Access to Pharmaceutical Products addressing the Concerns of Developing Countries was organized (Amman), to share views on the problems and solutions regarding the relationship between the industrial property system and access to pharmaceuticals, and on countries' achievements using International Agreements (TRIPS Agreement, Paris Convention) and their industrial property laws to protect and promote their own generic drug industries.

126. Furthermore, an International Seminar on the Strategic Use of IP for Economic and Social Development (Muscat, April), and a Sub-Regional Seminar on Industrial Property and Innovation for SMEs (Casablanca, June) were organized.

127. The following national activities were also undertaken:

- A National Workshop on Geographical Indications and Collective Trademarks, jointly organized with the National Institute of Industrial Property of Jordan (Amman, January).
- A National Workshop on Drafting and Elaboration Techniques of Patent Applications, in cooperation with the Moroccan Office for Commercial and Industrial Property (OMPIC) (Casablanca, January).
- A National Workshop on the Enforcement of Copyright, Related Rights and Collective Management, in cooperation with the Sudanese Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, (Khartoum, February).
- A National Workshop on the Introduction of Industrial Property and the PCT (Djibouti, March).
- A National Workshop on Copyright and Related Rights and Collective Management, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Lebanon, and the Ministry of Economy and Commerce (Beirut, March).
- A National Seminar on the Economic Importance of Copyright and Related Rights in the Digital Environment, organized in collaboration with the National Research Center and the High Commission of Planning, to sensitize participants on the new Moroccan law on the protection of copyright and related rights, the protection of numerical creations and the diffusion of knowledge in the information society (Rabat, April).
- A National Seminar on Trademarks, Models and Industrial Designs, in cooperation with the Moroccan Office for Commercial and Industrial Property (OMPIC) (Casablanca, April).
- Roving Seminars on the Protection of Craft Products in cooperation with the National Office for Crafts (ONA) (Tunis, Sousse and Gafsa, April).
- A National Seminar on Industrial Property, in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (Manama, June).
- A National Seminar on the Importance of Industrial Property for Women Entrepreneurs (Casablanca, June).
- A National Workshop on Geographical Indications (Casablanca, June).
- A National Symposium for the Jordanian Judiciary (Amman, June).

Asia and the Pacific Region

128. Events organized to highlight the policy implications of emerging IP issues, included a WIPO High Level Forum on IP Policy and Strategy (Tokyo, January), an International Seminar on the Strategic Use of IP for Economic and Social Development (New Delhi, February), and a High Level Asia-Pacific Policy Forum on TK and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) (Cochin, India, April).

129. A WIPO Sub-Regional Forum for IP Cooperation among Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (Dhaka, January), and a consultation meeting with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Working Group on IP (Ho Chi Minh City, March), were organized to strengthen regional cooperation in the field of IP.

130. The establishment of cooperation mechanisms among IP Offices, academia, research institutions, SMEs and chambers of commerce and industries was addressed, *inter alia*, at the WIPO Regional Symposium on Promoting University-Industry Collaboration through Technology Transfer and IP Transactions in ASEAN Countries (Singapore, January).

131. As a follow-up to a Feasibility Study on the Establishment of IP Business Development Services (BDS) in Southeast Asian countries, an ASEAN Workshop (Singapore, January) discussed the findings and recommendations of the study. The strengthening of the IP management capacities of SMEs, and enhancing competitiveness of their products and services in domestic and export markets, was the focus of various national seminars (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, March, and Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, April).

132. In addition, an International Seminar on Licensing of Patents, was held in Tokyo, Japan, in January.

133. WIPO's support to IP offices in streamlining their administration, included the deployment of computers and related equipment to the national IP Office of Iran (Islamic Republic of), expert missions to Bhutan, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and Sri Lanka, and a training course on industrial property administration (Tokyo, February).

134. To highlight the importance of copyright and related rights in national economic development, studies on the contribution of copyright-based industries to national economies were undertaken in Malaysia and the Philippines. The methodology for conducting such studies was also translated into Chinese. In addition, events related to copyright-based industries included: the WIPO Sub-Regional Roundtable on Copyright-Based Business: Authorship, Publishing and Access to Knowledge (Colombo, March); the WIPO Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on the Use and Protection of Copyrighted Works in the Media Industry: Multimedia Productions in the Digital Environment (Yogyakarta, Indonesia, May); and two national seminars (Ulaanbaatar, January, and Yangon, May).

135. To strengthen cooperation with bilateral and multilateral organizations, annual consultations were held between WIPO and the Japan Patent Office (JPO), Japan Copyright Office (JCO), and the Korean IP Office (KIPO), to finalize technical assistance projects under the respective FIT arrangements. Such an arrangement was signed between WIPO and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Republic of Korea, to promote the development of copyright systems in developing countries, particularly in Asia. In addition, programs continued to be designed and implemented in cooperation with the European Union.

Latin America and the Caribbean Region

136. Major activities during the period under review included the Regional Meeting of Heads of Industrial Property and Copyright Offices, organized jointly with the Government of Argentina (May), at which various topics relevant to national IP systems and the capacity of national IP Offices to apply, manage and use IP to promote innovation and creativity, was discussed.

137. Activities to promote industrial property as a tool for economic development in Latin America, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between WIPO and the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM) continued, and a Regional Course on how to use the IP system to promote competitiveness in the agri-business sector is under preparation.

138. A Regional Outreach Workshop for Officials of Caribbean IP Offices was organized (Jamaica, June), within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement and Development Project to assist IP Offices in raising public IP awareness. In this context, a multimedia training tool to assist IP Offices in their outreach initiatives is being prepared.

139. Support activities to SMEs, governments and other stakeholders on the strategic use of IP, included workshops on the use of distinctive signs as tools to identify strategies for the creation, protection and management of intangible assets intended for export (the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, March). As a result, the first application for an Appellation of Origin for coffee (*Café de Antigua Guatemala*) was submitted in Guatemala.

140. To strengthen the infrastructure and capacity of national IP Offices in the region, training in patent examination, the use of the international classification systems on trademarks, industrial designs and patents, and use of patent information services was organized. In addition, a project to convert the current automation systems for administration of trademarks and patents to open source technologies is currently underway.

141. Studies on the current use made by SMEs of the IP system at the national level were undertaken in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Costa Rica, to assist policy makers in formulating IP strategies, policies and programs targeting SMEs. In addition, studies on the economic impact of copyright industries are underway in Brazil, Colombia and Mexico using WIPO methodology.

142. The Governments of Barbados and Colombia, with the support of WIPO, are currently in the process of consolidating a National IP Strategic Plan comprising as a first step a National Audit of the use of the IP system and the existence of IP related intangible assets.

143. The implementation of a project to create an IP Hub to provide IP services for 12 national research centers devoted to health issues in Columbia continued. The project includes three training modules in management and marketing of health research results, drafting of patent applications and licensing of IP rights, of which the first two took place in Bogota, in April.

144. WIPO also organized a Regional Forum on IP and Access to Pharmaceuticals (Havana, February) attended by representatives from the Ministries of Industry and Health in the region.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

145. During the period under review, a comprehensive report was prepared as input to the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations Program of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Brussels, May 2001). The report was used at the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries (Cotonou, June) to prepare for the Mid-term Comprehensive Global Review, and described major activities undertaken by WIPO in the areas of human resources development, information and communication technologies and office automation, SMEs, GR, TK and TCEs, collective management of copyright and related rights, and IP advisory services and information centers. The report also contained an assessment of the impact of WIPO technical assistance to LDCs. Some elements of the report were referred to for inclusion in the Action Program of the Cotonou Ministerial Strategy.

146. Two follow-up meetings to the Training and Advisory Program on IP for LDCs were organized jointly with the Swedish Patent and Registration Office (Dar-es-Salaam, January, and Dhaka, June), with financial assistance from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), to discuss the implementation of projects in the countries that participated in the Stockholm Training Program.

147. A Regional Meeting on IP relating to GR, TK and Folklore (Cotonou, January) was attended by representatives of 14 countries. As a result of this meeting, WIPO is in the process of identifying national focal points.

148. Four projects for preparing chapters on national legislative, regulatory and institutional mechanisms in support of technology licensing, for inclusion in the book *Exchanging Value, Negotiating Technology Licensing Agreements – A Training Manual*, were launched in Ethiopia, Nepal, Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. The translation of the book into French has been completed for use in the French speaking LDCs.

149. A project for the establishment of an IP Advisory Service and Information Center in the Republic of Tanzania, is being implemented. The purpose of the project is to facilitate the use of patent information for technological advancement, trademarks for the promotion of trade and copyright to promote the interest of writers and performers.

150. The first draft of national studies on TCEs, which began in Senegal, June 2004, and in Bangladesh, May 2005, are currently under review by WIPO. The studies will enable governments to develop appropriate strategies and mechanisms for the protection, administration and management of national TCEs.

151. A cooperation agreement was concluded between WIPO and the National School of Magistracy of Bordeaux (Paris, February) for the preparation of teaching materials and training of a number of judges from French-speaking LDC.

Legislation for Public Policy and Development

152. WIPO's legislative advice to developing countries and LDCs for the revision and modernization of their IP laws continued, in particular with the aim of incorporating the flexibilities under the TRIPS Agreement and WIPO-administered treaties for promoting public policies and development. During the period under review, advice, comments and draft laws was provided to Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon,

Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay and Saudi Arabia. Although the deadline for the implementation of general TRIPS obligations by LDCs has been postponed until January 1, 2013, WIPO's legal advice continued to be requested by those countries anticipating such implementation in the context of the adoption of national IP strategies as well as by those that have already implemented such obligations.

153. To this end, WIPO revised a draft law on industrial property rights and their enforcement for LDCs, which not only implements obligations under the TRIPS Agreement and the Paris Convention, but also takes into account flexibilities that those countries could use to make IP protection more development-friendly, less costly and yet preserve its value as a tool for ensuring legal security as regards IP assets. The draft law has been instrumental to WIPO's bilateral assistance to LDCs.

154. In addition, legislative advice was provided in the context of bilateral negotiations, particularly in the fields of trade and investment, which provide for additional obligations in the area of IP. Work in this context focussed on detecting those flexibilities that are still available under bilateral agreements.

155. In addition to the traditional activities advising on the compatibility of national laws with WIPO-administered treaties and the TRIPS Agreement, legislative assistance also included discussions on the possible modalities for the adoption of the Decision of the General Council of the WTO, of August 30, 2003, on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health.

156. Legal assistance also covered aspects of competition law, namely as far as prevention and remedying anti-competitive practices that involve the use or abuse of IP rights are concerned.

157. WIPO prepared terms of reference and commissioned studies on a number of issues including: two studies on the interface and interaction of competition (antitrust) law and IP which are in progress; a study on IP management by private-public partnerships, which is being revised and finalized; and a study on the nature, extent and implementation of flexibilities available under the Paris Convention and the TRIPS Agreement as regards the protection of inventions in the pharmaceutical sector, which is under preparation. The purpose of the studies is to clarify the different issues and contribute to a better understanding by Member States of the policy considerations at stake.

158. WIPO also participated in a number of seminars organized by international organizations, NGOs and national governments to address the question of flexibilities under International Treaties.

PROGRAM 07: Certain Countries in Europe and Asia

159. During the first six months of 2006, activities continued to focus on human resource development, awareness-raising and strengthening regional and international cooperation. Consultations were undertaken with several governments on the modernization of their national IP legislation, the ratification of, or accession to WIPO-administered treaties, as well as on general IP issues.

160. WIPO provided legal advice on the copyright legislation of Turkmenistan and comments on the proposed Macedonian Law in respect of the incorporation of the Directive 98/44EC of the European Parliament and the Council of the Legal Protection of Biotechnological Inventions.

161. WIPO also continued the development and implementation of a Nationally Focused Action Plan (NFAP/Israel), bilateral cooperation programs (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, and the Russian Federation) and activities within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding (Slovakia) aimed at assisting national authorities in achieving more efficient management and use of the IP system thereby bringing about long-term benefits to the national economies. Furthermore, staff of several IP Offices received training on-the-job or through study visits. Assistance was also rendered for the translation and customization of various WIPO publications.

162. Regarding automation of IP Office operations, assistance was provided to Albania, Azerbaijan and Serbia, and one expert from the region attended the Regional Automation Experts Meeting held at WIPO headquarters.

163. One national project on building capacity in the area of collective management of copyright and related rights continued to be implemented. Under the project, the first phase of the Russian version of the International Software for Copyright and Related Rights Management (ISCRM) (previously called Africos) software was demonstrated, and officials from Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan received training on the use of the software.

164. Some 12 meetings were organized in cooperation with national IP administrations including: A Sub-Regional Seminar on the Use of Industrial Designs in Business and Trade and Their International Registration under the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement (Sofia, March); Roundtable and Consultations on Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights (Kyiv, March); Workshop on the TRIPS Agreement and WTO Accession Matters (Minsk, March); National Seminar on the PCT and the PCT-SAFE Workshop (Sofia, April); Regional Seminar on IP Information (Baku, April); Awareness Building Event on IP Rights and EU integration (Rousse, Bulgaria, May); Awareness Seminar on Trademarks (Nicosia, May); WIPO/IFFRO Sub-regional Seminar on Private Copying (Kyiv, May); Sub-Regional Workshop on Searching for IP Information for University IP Coordinators (Vilnius, May); Conference on IP Education and Teaching (Minsk, May); Sub-regional Seminar on the Contribution of Creative Industries to Economic, Social and Cultural Development (Baku, June); and Regional Seminar on Enforcement of IP Rights (Bishkek, Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, June).

165. WIPO continued its coordination with the EU and participated in four national events on geographical indications, trademarks and designs organized and financed by the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Office (TAIEX), Enlargement Directorate General, Commission of the European Union (Croatia, Malta, Poland and Slovakia).

166. WIPO also continued its cooperation with the EPO in implementing the Community Assistance for Reconstruction Development and Stability (CARDS) Program for the Western Balkan countries, and participated in the Consultation Meeting concerning the CARDS Workplan 2006, the Coordination Committee Meeting, and the CARDS Sub-regional Follow-up Workshop on Searching of IP Information for University IP Coordinators (Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

167. Discussions also took place on collaboration between WIPO and the CIS Inter-parliamentary Assembly in the field of IP.

168. Moreover, WIPO participated in several national and regional events including: the High-level Workshop on Strengthening the Administrative and Innovative Capacity of IP Offices (Ankara); the International Conference: Building Innovation Competence and Importance of IP (Dobrna, Slovenia); the Seminar on Legal Protection of SMEs' Products (Tallinn, Estonia); the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the 1st Romanian Patent Law (Bucharest, Romania); the International Confederation of Authors and Composers Societies (CISAC) European Committee meeting (Bucharest, Romania); and the second meeting of the Project Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Co-operation (COMCEC) of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on technical cooperation between the patent Offices in its 57 member countries (Izmir, Turkey).

169. Several countries from the region attended the WIPO International Seminar on the Strategic Use of IP for Economic and Social Development (Muscat, Oman) and the WIPO/Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) Workshop on Innovation Support Services and Their Management (Geneva, Lausanne, Berne, Zürich).

170. WIPO continued the implementation of studies on the economic contribution of copyright-based industries to the national economy in Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania.

PROGRAM 08: Business Modernization of IP Institutions

171. Assistance continued on the modernization and strengthening of the infrastructure and capacity of national IP Offices in all regions, , promoting inter-regional cooperation and alignment with international standards and best practices. Follow-up activities to WIPO's IP Office automation assistance were reinforced to ensure the effectiveness of automation projects.

172. Coordination within the Secretariat and with regional automation experts and IP Office Focal Points was enhanced, in particular, regarding project planning, implementation and follow-up.

173. A meeting of regional and *ad hoc* automation experts was organized, to review challenges, problems, knowledge transfer, and to consolidate experience and best practices from all regions. Future direction and strategies were discussed, including the creation of an on-line forum for automation system users.

174. During the period under review, automation activities were implemented in five regions, as follows: six needs assessments; five deployments of automation systems; and, 12 training and evaluation activities. A total of 21 Regional Expert missions and 18 WIPO staff missions were carried out.

PROGRAM 09: Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights

175. During the first six months of 2006, activities focused on the coordination of activities with partner NGOs, such as the International Confederation of Authors and Composers Societies (CISAC), the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFRRO), the International Council of Creators of Graphic, Plastic and Photographic Arts (CIAGP), the Association of European Performers' Organisations (ARTIS-AEPO) and the Societies Council for the Collective Management of Performers Rights (SCAPR), the roles of which are crucial in the deployment and consolidation of collective management of copyright and related rights systems in developing countries. To this end, WIPO participated in several meetings organized by such partner NGOs.

176. WIPO closely monitored CISAC's recent move towards the promotion of digital rights management (DRM) interoperability aiming at encouraging "key industry players to devise and implement a turn-key DRM technology" which would satisfy the public, users, retailers and rights owners. The Secretariat also actively cooperated with IFRRO regarding the development of a regional approach in the field of reprography in the Caribbean region.

177. In cooperation with the Regional Bureaus, seminars, workshops and conferences were organized and computerized systems and equipment were delivered to newly established collective management organizations.

178. Regarding training on various aspects of managing rights, corporate governance and administration of collective management organizations, WIPO and CISAC are considering joint training courses in cooperation with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore for countries in the Asia and the Pacific region. In addition, activities were undertaken on performers' rights and visual arts in Latin American countries, including the preparation of the fourth training course for Latin American performers' organizations.

179. Progress was also made to enhance the International Software for Copyright and Related Rights Management (ISCRM) (previously called Africos), the computerized system intended to facilitate the distribution of royalties. This included the setting up of relevant databases of rights owners and members of collective management organizations, documentation systems, and links to international databases. Compliance with international data standards and codes was also ensured.

180. Awareness raising activities included the publication of various brochures in a number of languages and a book on the issue of collective management of copyright in the field of music. Furthermore, a study was conducted on the feasibility of establishing collective management organizations administering multiple rights in developing countries.

PROGRAM 10: IPR Enforcement

181. The third session of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE), held in May, focused on the issue of education and awareness building, including training, in all areas of IP enforcement, as agreed at its second session. A series of presentations made to the Committee showed the extent of the problems caused by counterfeiting and piracy in various countries and national efforts to develop strategies to curb such activities and find effective solutions. The Committee adopted a number of conclusions stressing, *inter alia*, the importance of continued education and awareness raising, and the Committee's appreciation for the ACE as

a forum of exchange on enforcement, with a particular emphasis on coordination with other organizations and the private sector in the combat against counterfeiting and piracy. The meeting ended with a number of proposals for the future work of the ACE and it was agreed that its fourth session should consider an exchange of views on coordination and cooperation in enforcement matters at the international, regional and national levels.

182. During the period under review, various internal meetings took place to coordinate WIPO assistance pertaining to enforcement. A number of meetings were also held with delegations from Member States composed, in particular, of senior members of the judiciary and high-level government officials, to analyze and discuss matters related to IP enforcement. Furthermore, a number of meetings were organized, including the WIPO National Seminar on the Enforcement of Copyright, Related Rights and Collective Management in Khartoum, and the WIPO Asia and the Pacific Sub-Regional Colloquium for the Judiciary on Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in New Delhi. WIPO also participated in the International Conference on Customs Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Seoul.

183. WIPO attended the second meeting of the G8 Expert Group of the Group of G8 Countries which focused on action against IP piracy and counterfeiting (Moscow, March).

184. WIPO continued to work closely with a number of IGOs and NGOs on their specific IP enforcement related programs, including, in particular: the IPR Strategic Group of the World Customs Organization (WCO); Interpol and its Intellectual Property Crime Action Group (IIPCAG); the WTO; the EPO; the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI); the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition (IACC); the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI); the International Publishers Association (IPA) and the International Trademark Association (INTA).

185. In this context, activities also included cooperation with the WHO, including WIPO's participation in the WHO Conference on Combating Counterfeit Drugs: Building Effective International Collaboration (Rome, February), and continued assistance to the enforcement sub-committee under the International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce (IMPACT) project. WIPO also participated in: the International Publishers Association Copyright Symposium (Montreal, April); a meeting with the EPO to prepare for an October 2006 IP Enforcement Conference (May); the Interpol IP Crime Action Group meeting (Toronto, May); and the International Trademark Association 128th Annual Meeting (Toronto, May).

186. WIPO continued its involvement with the Global Congress Steering Group and participated in two meetings to prepare for a third Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy (London, January and March). In addition, the Steering Group met for discussions with a delegation from the Romanian Government (Geneva, April), and to prepare for a regional Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy to be held in Bucharest in July (Bucharest, May).

187. WIPO held discussions pertaining to the preparation of a publication on a review of the current situation of anti-counterfeiting practices in Africa. A series of articles on IP enforcement were also published in two issues of the WIPO Magazine.

188. Quarterly newsletters continued to be published on WIPO's website on developments, events and WIPO's activities in the field of enforcement.

PROGRAM 11: The WIPO Worldwide Academy

Policy Development Program

189. The following Academy Sessions were organized for government officials, diplomats, university professors and heads of IP Offices and training institutions during the period under review: Conference on IP Education and Training (Minsk, Belarus, 295 participants); WIPO Academy on IP for Diplomats (Geneva, 10 participants); WIPO-Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) Academy on Capacity Building in IP for Policy Makers and WIPO-KIPO Advanced Workshop on IP (Daejeon, Republic of Korea, 23 participants); and, an Academy session for Heads of Industrial Property Offices, organized jointly with ARIPO (Harare, Zimbabwe, 60 participants).

190. Four national seminars also took place, namely: Colloquium on IP (Bangkok, 54 participants); Colloquium on IP for university lecturers, researchers in R&D institutions and government officials (Blantyre, Malawi, 55 participants); and two WIPO-KIPO Advanced Workshops on new Developments in IP (Seoul and Daejeon, Republic of Korea, 100 participants).

191. In cooperation with the WTO, three Seminars on IP for participants in the WTO Trade Policy Course (Geneva, 74 participants) and a WIPO-WTO Colloquium for Teachers of IP Law (Geneva, 23 participants) were organized.

192. As part of the Academy's cooperation with other educational institutions, seminars were organized in Geneva for students from *La Sapienza* University (20 students), Santa Clara University (21 students) and the International Institute of Graduate Studies, as well as a study visit for students from the New York University Wagner Graduate School (21 students). A seminar was also organized jointly with the *Institut Universitaire de Hautes Etudes Internationales* (HEI) (Geneva, 13 young diplomats). Publications and reading materials were provided to: the University of Buea, Cameroon; *Instituto Mexicano de la Propiedad Industrial* (IMPI); National High School Model United Nations (NHSMUN), New York; and the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), Thailand.

Professional Development Program

193. The following professional training courses were organized: Workshop on Practical Issues on IP for SMEs Support Institutions (Geneva, 15 participants from 15 countries); Follow-up to the WIPO-Sweden Training Course on Copyright and Related Rights (Manila, 22 participants from 18 countries); WIPO-Sweden Advanced Training Course on Industrial Property in the Global Economy (Stockholm, 24 participants); WIPO-Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) Executive Workshop on the Application of Management Techniques in the Delivery of IP Services (Gatineau, Canada, 12 participants from 12 countries); and the WIPO-Norwegian Patent Office Training Course on Trademarks (Oslo, 12 participants).

194. A WIPO Interregional Intermediate Seminar on Industrial Property was held in Geneva, attended by 85 participants, and followed by practical training courses in cooperation with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) (Cairo), the Austrian Patent Office (APO) (Vienna), the *Centre d'Etudes Internationale de la Propriété Industrielle* (CEIPI) (Strasbourg), the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic (Prague), the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) (Lisbon), *Institut National de Propriété Industrielle* (INPI) (Paris), *Office Marocain de la Propriété Industrielle et Commerciale* (OMPIC)

(Casablanca), the Israel Patent Office (Jerusalem), the German Patent and Trademark Office (GPTO) (Munich), the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM) (Madrid), and the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (Bern).

Distance Learning and Outreach

195. With respect to distance learning courses, from January 1 to June 30: 2,623 students followed the Primer on IP; 3,559 students the General Course on IP; 380 students the Advanced Course on Copyright and Related Rights; 212 students the Advanced Course on Electronic Commerce and IP; 172 students the Advanced Course on Biotechnology and IP; and, 39 students the Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention.

196. During the period under review, the number of students registering for the fee-paying courses grew, with a sharp increase in registrations by government officials. Full scholarships were given to participants from government offices, who represented 30 per cent of all advanced course students. Reduced fees were offered to developing country nationals. During the first half of 2006, income generated from course fees totaled approximately 70,000 Swiss francs.

197. Academy distance learning courses were also used for staff training and career development by the National Intellectual Property Office of Mexico (IMPI), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), certain IP Offices in the Caribbean region and several private institutions.

198. A special session of DL-101, with classroom lectures, was attended by 21 WIPO staff members.

199. Work continued on the development of new advanced courses, namely: Patent Drafting, (DL-208), Patent Search (DL-209), Patents (DL-301), and Arbitration and Dispute Settlement (DL-302). These courses are expected to be launched in the second part of 2006 or the first half of 2007.

Other Programs

200. In June, twenty-two students from developing countries and countries in transition enrolled in the Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Intellectual Property program, organized jointly by WIPO and the University of Turin, Italy. The program will end in February 2007.

201. A collection of research papers from students attending the 2005-2006 Master of Laws IP program was edited.

202. Lectures on IP were given at the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) (India), the University of Lund (Sweden) and the University of Bucharest (Romania).

203. Assistance was also provided for the design of an IP curriculum for engineering students at the University of Lagos and for law students at the Intellectual Property Law Academy of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

204. National symposia were held on IP Education, Training and Research in Manila (80 participants) and IP Education, Training and Research in Rio de Janeiro (250 participants).

205. In collaboration with several well-known professors worldwide, work began on an Academy textbook on IP teaching. The textbook is anticipated to be completed at the end of 2006. The possibility of developing a new Masters degree in IP is still under consideration.

STRATEGIC GOAL THREE: PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL IP LAW

PROGRAM 12: Law of Patents

206. Main activities during the period under review included the organization of an Open Forum on the draft Substantive Patent Law Treaty (SPLT), held from March 1 to 3, 2006, and an informal session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), which took place from April 10 to 12, 2006. These two meetings were the result of a decision by Member States at the WIPO Assemblies in September 2005 determining a procedure with a view to establishing a work program for the SCP.

207. Discussions at the informal session of the SCP focused on its future work program and, more specifically, whether the SCP should address four prior art issues (definition of prior art, grace period, novelty, inventive step) in an accelerated process, or whether the following nine issues should also be included: development and policy space for flexibilities; exclusions from patentability; exceptions to patent rights; anti-competitive practices; disclosure of origin, prior informed consent and benefit-sharing; effective mechanisms to challenge the validity of patents; sufficiency of disclosure; transfer of technology; and alternative models to promote innovation.

208. Both meetings allowed for constructive discussions and contributed to a clearer understanding by delegations of their respective positions and objectives for the future work program of the SCP. At the informal session of the SCP, while Member States emphasized their support for the continuation of the work of the SCP, they concluded, however, that it was premature to establish its work program at this stage and decided to refer the matter to the WIPO Assemblies in September 2006.

209. Further activities relating to general patent law included, in particular: the promotion of industrial property treaties; advice and comments on national laws; close cooperation with related sectors and activities within WIPO; and activities relating to patents and health issues, GR and TK, the development agenda and publications relating to patents. Other activities comprised the follow-up on general developments of the patent system at the international level and on the work of other IGOs, as well as the administration of patent-related treaties, such as the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (as far as patents and utility models are concerned), the Budapest Treaty and the Patent Law Treaty.

PROGRAM 13: Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications

210. The Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a revised Trademark Law Treaty took place in Singapore, from March 13 to 28. A total of 146 delegations representing Member States of WIPO, three Special Member Delegations representing certain IGOs and 16 observer organizations participated. On March 27, 2006, the Diplomatic Conference adopted by consensus the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (“the Singapore Treaty”), the Regulations under the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, and the Resolution by the Diplomatic Conference Supplementary to the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and the Regulations thereunder. The Singapore Treaty was opened for signature immediately after its adoption and was, at the end of June, signed by 43 States.

211. During the period under review, the number of Contracting Parties of the Trademark Law Treaty (“TLT”) increased to 34, following the deposit by Croatia of its instrument of accession.

212. Regarding Article 6*ter* of the Paris Convention, in the first six months of 2006, six new notifications were sent to the States party to the Paris Convention and, in application of the WIPO/WTO Agreement of 1995, to the Members of the WTO that are not party to the Convention. In the same period, six new requests for notification were received.

213. By June 30, the “Article 6*ter* Express” database, which constitutes a free-of-charge on-line search facility of all signs and emblems currently protected under Article 6*ter* of the Paris Convention, contained a total of 1,311 protected signs, which can be accessed at <http://www.wipo.int/article6ter/en/>.

214. Additional activities during the period under review consisted of the promotion of industrial property treaties (in particular the Singapore Treaty) and Joint Recommendations, and provision of advice on draft national laws. WIPO also participated in awareness-raising and training activities, as well as in IP conferences, organized in cooperation with the Governments of Croatia, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Ecuador, Estonia, Morocco or the European Community, the IPR University Center in Helsinki, Managing Intellectual Property (MIP), the International Trademark Association (INTA), the Forum Institute for Management, the International Federation of Industrial Property Agents (FICPI), and the Universities of Alicante and Riga.

PROGRAM 14: Law of Copyright and Related Rights

215. WIPO continued to provide legal advice, comments and technical assistance as well as general copyright information to Member States. Some 16 staff missions were undertaken, to address topical issues related to copyright in the digital environment for an audience that included governmental authorities, non-governmental bodies and the private sector.

216. At the 14th session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), in May, delegates agreed that the next SCCR session should be held before the WIPO Assemblies in 2006, and discussions be confined to the protection of broadcasting and cablecasting organizations in the traditional sense. The discussions will be based on a revised draft basic proposal prepared on the basis of existing documents and proposals, taking into account discussions of the Committee. The SCCR also agreed on the preparation of a revised

proposal on the protection of webcasting and simulcasting; a topic that will appear on the Agenda of an SCCR meeting to be convened after the WIPO Assemblies in 2006.

217. WIPO also fostered debate at the regional level on a range of issues that included broadcasting issues, access to knowledge and information, limitations to copyright and technological measures of protection. The Secretariat focused on building stronger partnerships and enhancing relationships and dialogue with various stakeholders, such as the CISAC Legal Committee and the International Publishers Association, and civil society groups, such as Transatlantic Consumers Dialogue (TACD).

218. The Secretariat commissioned a study on national legislation regarding limitations for the visually impaired, which will be completed by the end of 2006.

PROGRAM 15: Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources

219. The work of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) focused on two complementary sets of draft provisions outlining policy objectives and core principles to protect TK and TCEs against misappropriation and misuse.

220. To ensure inclusivity, the IGC took further steps to increase participation of the growing number of accredited NGOs representing local and indigenous communities, with the list of specially accredited NGOs rising to over 130. Initial pledges to a voluntary fund, established by the WIPO General Assembly to support the participation of local and indigenous communities, suggest that this fund will make a significant impact. The IGC continued its practice of opening each session with a panel, chaired by an indigenous or local community representative, to give the IGC direct input on the issues before it. For the ninth session of the IGC, participation of members of indigenous communities from seven countries was supported to lead the panel presentations.

221. The draft provisions for protection of TK and TCEs were supplemented by substantially revised and updated outlines of policy options and legal mechanisms that are used in practice, as well as technical analysis of the practical means for giving effect to the international dimension of the IGC's work. Several international processes drew on the texts of the draft provisions directly and the texts were extensively used for national and regional consultations on policy issues and legislative development. The policy options and legal mechanisms also served as complementary capacity-building resources for policymakers and communities.

222. Close cooperation with the UN, other IGOs, NGOs and industry organizations, as well as civil society, continued, such as in the fifth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, two working groups of the CBD and the eighth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, several regional consultative meetings of the WTO, and the work of the FAO, including the inaugural meeting of the Governing Body of the FAO International Treaty. WIPO convened two side events during the session of the Permanent Forum, including a workshop on practical use of IP tools to protect TK and TCEs for the advancement of indigenous women and community development. Side events held during the CBD meetings pursued practical cooperation on patent disclosure issues, customary law, and the use of patent information as a policy tool.

223. The UN Permanent Forum welcomed the establishment of the WIPO Voluntary Fund, and mechanisms were established to facilitate the contribution of the Forum's technical expertise to the work of the IGC. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) continued to provide a useful vehicle for interagency sharing of information and cooperation. WIPO made an extensive contribution to a joint study on the transfer of technology under the CBD, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and UNCTAD.

224. WIPO continued its engagement with the work of UNESCO and other agencies, such as the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU). A key project under this program worked to pool experiences and develop guidelines for safeguarding the interests of custodians of TCEs during cultural heritage recording, inventorying, archiving and digitization processes. This included cooperation with the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and similar bodies. First steps were also taken towards project-based cooperation with other agencies such as the ILO and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

225. WIPO provided technical input and other forms of support to a range of other agencies and processes such as the CBD, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the UN Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations University and the World Bank, including advice on the UNU's proposed establishment of an international Research and Training Centre on TK, and technical advice to the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the UNU on issues of indigenous customary law. Close cooperation was also maintained with key regional bodies such as the African Union, ARIPO, ASEAN, the African-Asian Legal Consultative Organization, the Andean Community, OAPI and SAARC. A regional policy forum convened in Cochin, jointly with the Government of India, promoted a more structured approach to South-South interregional cooperation on the protection of TK and TCEs.

226. WIPO continued its engagement with a broader policy community in the area of human rights, and in the area of interaction between human rights, competition policy and IP, and intensified work on the interplay between IP and the customary law of indigenous and local communities. This work included engagement with the deliberations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the Working Group of the then Commission on Human Rights working on a Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP).

227. Solid groundwork was laid for a range of new patent information tools and products to support international policy discussions in areas such as plant GR, biodiversity and technology transfer under the CBD. These progressed in close consultation with other international agencies concerned, principally the CBD and the FAO. The technical work of WIPO on patent disclosure issues related to GR and TK informed and clarified the work of other international processes dealing with this topic.

228. Capacity-building and policy information continued to be provided for TK holders and bearers of TCEs, national authorities and regional bodies, including: advice on *sui generis* protection options for several regional bodies and an increasing number of national authorities; practical support and technical input to regional and international fora; a series of introductory booklets, publications, studies, surveys, legal information, and publications in external journals, with reference to and use of WIPO materials in civil society and academic literature; participation in civil society, expert and academic discourse on TK and TCEs; and, support for numerous training programs and seminars conducted by NGOs, partner UN

agencies, academic and research institutions, the WIPO Academy, and other educational and training institutions.

229. The development of practical tools continued, through dialogue with key stakeholders, such as the Practical Guide on Intellectual Property and Traditional Cultural Expressions and Folklore, a practical handbook on IP, TCEs and museums and archives, and on a draft toolkit for use by TK holders to ensure that their interests are protected and maintained during any documentation of their TK. Booklets were published on TK and TCEs for a general audience, as well as more specialized briefing papers and studies.

STRATEGIC GOAL FOUR: DELIVERY OF QUALITY SERVICE IN GLOBAL IP PROTECTION SYSTEMS

PROGRAM 16: Administration of the PCT System

PCT Legal Framework

230. The amendments to the PCT Regulations, which were adopted by the PCT Assembly at its 34th session in September 2005, and which entered into force on April 1, 2006, required implementation-related work during the first three months of 2006. Those tasks included: revision of the *PCT Applicant's Guide* in English and French; revision of the PCT seminar and training materials in English, French, German, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese; publication of revised versions of the PCT Regulations in various languages; and, updating of PCT indexes and reference resources.

231. During the first six months of 2006, legal advice and information were provided to Contracting States on a total of 1,355 occasions, of which 41.8 per cent were provided to industrialized countries, 18.3 per cent to certain countries in Europe and Asia, 32 per cent to developing countries, and 6.5 per cent to LDCs. Approximately 1.3 per cent were in-house consultations.

232. During the period under review, 56 seminars, presentations and/or training sessions took place with a total of 2,356 participants, in 20 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States of America). In addition, working sessions and meetings were held with officials of 11 countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain and Sudan).

233. Four countries joined the PCT in the first six months of 2006: El Salvador, Honduras, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Malaysia. In addition, a fully electronic publication of PCT applications and the *PCT Gazette* was initiated and the *PCT Applicant's Guide* became an exclusively electronic publication, free-of-charge. A new version of PCT-SAFE software was also released.

234. At its 13th session, the Meeting of International Authorities (MIA) under the PCT continued to address issues common to the International Authorities, primarily concerned

with the quality and consistency of international search and preliminary examination and ensuring that the scope of international searches properly reflect the current needs of the international patent system. Particular topics included updating the *PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines*, reviewing the system for reporting on quality management within the International Authorities, considering ways of improving the information provided to applicants and third parties, and continuing the ongoing review of the PCT minimum documentation.

235. The following publications, texts and resources were issued and/or made available on the Internet: the *PCT Applicant's Guide*; Section IV of the *PCT Gazette*; the *PCT Newsletter*; the *Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and Regulations* as in force from April 1, 2006, in English, French, and German; modified sections of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT; modified PCT forms; editable versions of modified forms; modified Receiving Office Guidelines; updated PCT seminar materials; revised tables of important PCT reference data; PCT on-line time limit calculator; and, general information documents in various languages. A new publication *Protecting your Inventions Abroad: FAQs about the PCT* was made available on the Internet in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and PowerPoint presentations on the changes to the PCT Regulations, which came into effect on April 1, 2006, were made available on-line in English, French and German.

Management of the PCT System

236. The PatentScope website now includes the electronic publication of PCT applications (hence the *PCT Gazette* in paper form was discontinued). Patent and trademark statistics dating from 1985 to 2004 were posted on the website, along with a *Yearly Review of PCT Activity in 2005* and a new statistical report on the timeliness of Receiving Offices, International Search Authorities, International Preliminary Examination Authorities and the International Bureau. A study on the unit cost of processing PCT applications was also completed.

237. In addition, new internal policies, regarding the restructuring and coordination of the handling of staff and other administrative matters within the Office of the PCT, were put in place.

PCT Operations

238. During the period under review, 69,462 international applications filed worldwide were received. The number of applications coming from developing countries amounted to 3,707.

239. Of the 69,462 international applications filed, 17,228 (24.8 per cent) contained a request form prepared using the PCT-EASY software and 22,575 (32.5 per cent) were received in fully electronic form.

240. During the first six months of 2006, of the 69,462 international applications filed, 29,659 (42.7 per cent) were received on paper. These international applications were scanned on receipt by the International Bureau and were processed electronically.

241. By the end of May 2006 (June figures not yet available), the International Bureau had received, in its capacity as a Receiving Office, 3,159 international applications. Some 2,409 (76.3 per cent) of these filings were received electronically.

242. The processing of international applications resulted, *inter alia*, in the publication of 60,317 international applications during that period, as well as 12,821 republications and 26 regular issues of the PCT Gazette. Some 5,958,729 (92.2 per cent) standard documents requested by National Offices during the first five months of 2006 were communicated by the International Bureau in electronic form (CD or DVD or FTP). The remaining 511,571 (7.8 per cent) were communicated on paper.

PCT Systems Operations and Support

243. During the first six months of 2006, the PCT's information systems underwent substantial enhancements in order to process the second round of the PCT rule changes resulting from the PCT reform exercise, including the move from a paper based PCT publication to electronic publication. Maintenance and support of all mission critical systems was sustained at a satisfactory level.

244. The E-dossier and E-viewer applications are now used systematically for the electronic processing of international applications. Enhancements to the E-dossier application continued, including the integration of all forms relating to the International Bureau.

245. The PCT EDI application infrastructure was strengthened, and under the PCT-EDI cooperation project, it is now estimated that approximately 50 per cent of all incoming PCT documents arrive electronically.

246. A PCT Optical Character Recognition (OCR) application for internal and publication purposes was deployed. The same technology is also being mobilized in the ongoing OCR Backfile 'project' (years covering 1997 to present have already been OCR'd).

247. A working prototype for an application that will replace the legacy bibliographic data administration application (CASPIA) has been developed and is being reviewed by the PCT.

PROGRAM 17: PCT Reform

248. Work continued on the legal and procedural framework of the PCT to ensure that the system continues to meet the needs of applicants and patent Offices, irrespective of their size, and of third parties, by further improving the quality and timeliness of services provided by the system, and enhancing the choice of value-added services available to applicants and Offices.

249. At its eighth session held in May, the Working Group on Reform of the PCT considered further proposals for changing the PCT system. The Working Group approved a number of proposed amendments to the PCT Regulations, for submission to the PCT Union Assembly for adoption at its next session in September/October 2006, concerning: minimum requirements for International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities (quality management systems); physical requirements of the international application (size of text matter; procedure for making corrections); language related requirements of the international application (minor corrections and clarifications); and, clarifications and consequential amendments further to amendments previously adopted by the Assembly.

250. The Working Group felt that further consideration was required with regard to proposed amendments to the Regulations concerning supplementary international searches. It

considered proposals relating to international publication of international applications in multiple languages, which will be considered further at the next session of the Working Group. It furthermore noted a brief outline by the Secretariat of the development of plans for response for possible emergency situations, in particular a bird flu pandemic. Consideration of proposals by Switzerland concerning the declaration of the source of genetic resource and traditional knowledge in patent applications was postponed to the next session of the Working Group.

PROGRAM 18: Madrid, The Hague and Lisbon Registration Systems

The Madrid System

251. From January 1 to June 30, 2006, the number of international applications of marks received by the International Bureau totaled 18,129 representing an increase of 7.6 per cent compared to the same period in 2005, while the number of registrations amounted to 15,234, representing an increase of 15.5 per cent. The number of renewals of international registrations recorded amounted to 5,375, i.e. an increase of 44.7 per cent. The number of recorded modifications reached 38,166, i.e. an increase of 1.3 per cent. The number of recorded refusals and associated notifications amounted to 98,617, representing an increase of 13.0 per cent.

252. Further automation of the international procedures under the Madrid System remained a priority and efforts also continued to encourage Offices of Contracting Parties and users to communicate with the International Bureau by electronic means. As of April 2006, an electronic interface became available on the WIPO website for the renewal of international registrations on-line (“e-renewal”). The number of Offices to which the International Bureau is sending notifications under the Madrid System electronically increased from 39 to 40 in the period under review.

253. The number of Contracting Parties of the Madrid Protocol increased to 68 (within a total Membership in the Madrid System of 78), following the deposit by VietNam of its instrument of accession.

254. Since January 1, 2006, reduced fees apply for applicants from LDCs, as approved by the Madrid Union Assembly at its September 2005 session. In June, the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks held its second session.

The Hague System

255. From January 1 to June 30, 2006, the number of international registrations of industrial designs received by the International Bureau amounted to 641, representing an increase of 7.9 per cent compared to the same period in 2005. The number of recorded renewals of international registrations was 1,966, representing a decrease of 11.1 per cent. The number of recorded modifications reached 1,132, representing a decrease of 30.9 per cent.

The Lisbon System

256. One new international registration of an appellation of origin was recorded during the first half of 2005. At the end of June, 794 international registrations of appellations of origin were in force.

257. The number of countries party to the Lisbon Agreement increased to 25, following the deposit by Nicaragua of its instrument of accession.

Development and Promotion of the International Registration Systems

258. Seminars and promotional information activities on the Madrid Protocol were conducted in Algeria, Brazil, Colombia, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, India, Japan, Lithuania, the Philippines, South Africa and Sweden. A sub-regional seminar on the protection of industrial designs and their use for trade promotion as well as on the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement and the advantages of accession to this Act was organized in Bulgaria. WIPO also participated in seminars, meetings or workshops in China, Colombia, the European Community, Finland, France, Morocco, Peru, the Republic of Korea and Sweden. In addition, WIPO participated in seminars, meetings or workshops at the invitation of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), the International Trademark Association (INTA), the European Community Trade Mark Association (ECTA), the European Trademark Owners Association (MARQUES), the Forum Institute for Management and the 14th Annual Fordham International IP Law and Policy Conference.

259. Training on the procedure under the Madrid and/or Hague System was provided to staff of the Directorate of Commercial and Industrial Property Protection (DCIP) of the Syrian Arab Republic and of the French National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI). Training was provided at the International Bureau to staff of the IP Office of India, as well as to trademarks examiners from the IP Office of Cyprus. The International Bureau also received a delegation from Viet Nam on a study visit to WIPO.

260. Two Seminars on the International Registration of Marks and one Seminar on the International Registration of Industrial Designs were organized at WIPO, to explain the Madrid and the Hague System to both the private sector and national industrial property offices.

PROGRAM 19: Patent Information, Classification and IP Standards

261. The new, eighth edition of the IPC, which is a product of a six-year period of IPC reform, entered into force, on January 1, 2006.

262. IPC-related meetings held during the period under review included: the IPC Forum Open Day and the 37th session of the Committee of Experts of the IPC Union (Geneva, February); the 1st session of the IPC Advanced Level Subcommittee (Berlin, March); and, the 15th session of the IPC Revision Working Group (Geneva, May).

263. The purpose of the IPC Forum was to further promote the worldwide use of the IPC. While the Forum concluded that all basic objectives of the IPC reform had been achieved, it noted that the quality of the reformed classification information was not yet sufficiently high.

264. The Committee of Experts also noted that the reformed IPC and the related publications had been published successfully and according to schedule. It adopted new *Guidelines for Revision of the IPC* providing instructions for the revision of the reformed IPC, and the IPC development program for the years 2006 to 2008.

265. The IPC Advanced Level Subcommittee considered several revision requests for the advanced level of the IPC and included in the revision program six new projects emanating from Harmony projects of the Trilateral Offices. It fixed the regular dates of entering into force of new versions of the advanced level of the IPC. In view of the probable adoption of several revision projects at the next session of the Subcommittee, it is expected that the next version of the advanced level will enter into force on January 1, 2007.

266. The IPC Revision Working Group considered several proposals for revision and improvement of the IPC, continued its work on the implementation of the reform results in the IPC, adopted several subclass definitions and completed the work on the IPC reform training material intended for use by IP Offices.

267. With respect to the review of PCT minimum documentation to reflect the current search needs of IP Offices and the development of associated new support systems, work was undertaken in respect of two projects: a comprehensive review of the concept, definition and content of the PCT minimum documentation; and, the development of a Search Guidance Intellectual Property Digital Library (SGIPDL). Both projects are being undertaken by task forces established by the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT (PCT/MIA).

268. The main focus of work with regard to the comprehensive review was the establishment of basic criteria for the selection of sources of patent documentation and non-patent literature. For the SGIPDL development, on the basis of feedback received on the first version of the prototype, a collated feedback document was produced and used to develop a further version of the prototype for distribution to the task force.

269. Status reports on both projects were submitted for discussion to the meeting of the PCT/MIA held in May. Successful implementation of the projects should eventually result in improvements in the quality of international searches.

270. To promote an enhanced use of patent information worldwide, WIPO participated in two patent information conferences, and developed web-based tutorials on patent information and searching on *PatentScope*.

271. The Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG), at its 7th session held from May 29 to June 1, 2006, continued to develop the proposal on an application number prototype format that could be used for all modalities of industrial property rights. The SDWG considered three surveys on: the presentation of application numbers in the notification of the first filing and in the certificate of priority of patent applications; the formats for figurative elements of marks currently in use by IP Offices; and, the status of correction procedures in IP Offices. With regard to the latter, the SDWG approved certain conclusions and agreed to carry out a new survey in 2009. The SDWG created a task and established a task force led by the Secretariat to prepare a revision of WIPO Standard ST.22, concerning the optical character recognition (OCR) of patent applications.

272. A new website with the updated contents of the *WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* (English version) was made available for testing and comments by the SDWG Renewal of the WIPO Handbook Task Force. An updated version of the Appendix to WIPO Standard ST.10/C, concerning priority application number formats used by IP Offices, was published on WIPO's website.

273. The online Annual Technical Reports (ATRs) Management System and the guidelines for IP Offices for preparing the ATRs were updated and improved. A questionnaire to clarify the objectives and target users of the ATRs was also prepared and posted on the Internet for comments.

274. Within the framework of the WIPO Patent Information Services (WPIS) program, during the period under review, the Secretariat received a total of 530 state-of-the-art search requests, including 135 requests for search and examination reports of applications for patents under the ICSEI (International Cooperation for the Search and Examination of Inventions) program. In addition, some 169 on-line searches were undertaken and copies of patent documents were delivered following requests from developing countries.

275. A series of seminars and workshops was organized in several countries (Argentina, Belgium, Belize, Cambodia, Chile, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago) attended by representatives from universities, industrial associations, SMEs and staff of IP Offices, on WIPO services, access to patent information, online databases, and transfer of technology.

276. Developments to automate publication of the IPC, as more frequent publications are required after the entry into force of the IPC reform, included: the moving into production of a public service (IPCVAl) for the validation of IPC symbols; and, revision of IPC information systems over the Internet to facilitate access and re-use of the IPC information resources (IPC master files, transformation software and data).

277. Several activities were undertaken in preparation for retraining the WIPO IPC categorization assistance tool (IPCCAT), with patent collections classified in the reformed IPC. In the context of an agreement between the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China and WIPO, a technical feasibility study and prototyping for IPCCAT extension in Chinese was started.

278. In the context of a cooperation between the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM) and WIPO, several IT tools and products facilitating translation (IPCA6TRANS) and use of the IPC (IPCCAT and IPC8-CL) were developed in Spanish. Some of these products were sent to IP Offices in Latin American countries.

279. Production use of the new IPC management system RIPCIS has started, initially by WIPO staff only. Preparatory tasks for a gradual opening of RIPCIS to IPC Member States were initiated.

PROGRAM 20: International Classifications in the Field of Trademarks and Industrial Designs

280. During the period under review, the number of Contracting parties to the Nice Agreement increased to 79, following the deposit by Turkmenistan of its instrument of accession. The number of Contracting parties to the Vienna Agreement increased to 23, following the deposit by Croatia and Turkmenistan of their instruments of accession. The number of Contracting Parties to the Locarno Agreement increased to 47, following the deposit by Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan of their instruments of accession.

281. The preparation of the new (ninth) edition of the Nice Classification began in January. The paper version was published in June and the NIVILO CD-ROM and Internet versions reached an advanced stage, and are expected to become available during the second half of 2006. The ninth edition will enter into force on January 1, 2007.

282. Activities for the promotion of a wider application of the Nice, Vienna and Locarno Classifications continued, including a WIPO training mission to Belize on the Vienna and Locarno Classifications, and to Jamaica on the Nice and Vienna Classifications.

283. In the framework of the WIPO Classification Service for Marks, 51 reports giving advice on the correct classification of indications of goods and/or services and two reports on the correct classification of industrial designs were provided following requests from national industrial property Offices.

PROGRAM 21: Arbitration and Mediation Services and Domain Names Policies and Procedures

Arbitration and Mediation Services

284. Requiring international, neutral and efficient dispute solutions, transactions such as cross-border licenses or technology transfer agreements increasingly provide for the submission of disputes to mediation and arbitration under the WIPO Rules. The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center witnessed an increase in new arbitration and mediation cases under WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Rules with the receipt of eleven new arbitration and seven new mediation cases between January and June, as compared to six and five such cases respectively filed during the first half of 2005. These new cases concerned patent licensing and patent infringement disputes, disputes concerning technology collaboration and art marketing agreements, as well as certain types of disputes involving domain names.

285. The parties in one of the Center's new cases opted to use the WIPO Electronic Case Facility (WIPO ECAF). This WIPO-developed case management tool, which is accessible from any location at any time, allows parties and neutrals to file, store and retrieve case submissions in a secure web-based electronic docket. As of the first half of 2006, a customized version of WIPO ECAF is also being used for cases under the Jury procedure of the 32nd America's Cup.

286. In line with its role as a resource center tasked with raising awareness among IP owners of the benefits and limitations of alternative means of dispute resolution, the Center organized a session of the WIPO Workshop for Mediators in Intellectual Property Disputes, and a session of the new WIPO Advanced Workshop for Mediators in Intellectual Property

Disputes. As in previous years, the Center answered numerous information requests and made a number of presentations to specific audiences of IP stakeholders, including at WIPO-hosted seminars and meetings.

Domain Name Dispute Resolution Activities

287. The Center continued its tasks as the leading Internet domain name dispute resolution provider. The core domain name policy administered by the Center remained the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP), which entered into effect in December 1999 and applies principally to .com, .net and .org, as well as to a number of more recently introduced generic top-level domains (gTLDs). The number of cases filed with the Center under UDRP and UDRP-based policies continued to increase. From January through June 2006, the Center received 900 such cases, as compared to 735 cases filed during the same period in 2005, an increase of 22 per cent. The total of 9,254 UDRP-based domain name cases received through June 2006 have been administered in 12 different languages, involving parties from 132 countries, and covering 17,402 separate domain names. In addition to its work in the gTLDs, the Center provided dispute resolution services for 47 country code top-level domains (ccTLDs).

288. In the context of its domain name policy activities, the Center continued to represent WIPO in its discussions with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and its various constituencies on IP aspects of the Domain Name System. This concerned in particular follow-up on the recommendations made by the WIPO Member States in connection with the Second WIPO Internet Domain Name Process.

STRATEGIC GOAL FIVE: GREATER EFFICIENCY OF MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROCESSES WITHIN WIPO

PROGRAM 22: Direction and Executive Management

289. During the period under review, the Director General carried out his executive functions and formal responsibilities with a view to meeting WIPO's Strategic Goals, with the direct assistance of the Office of the Director General, the Protocol Section, the Legal Counsel, and the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development, which provided information, analysis and legal and policy advice on a daily basis.

Office of the Director General and Protocol

290. Throughout the period, the Director General met with members of the senior management of WIPO on a regular basis. These meetings facilitated a transparent and integrated executive decision-making environment, a managed information flow, regularized program scheduling and timely follow-up on decisions taken.

291. The Director General ensured that high-level relations between representatives of Member States and the International Bureau exist on a regular basis. Close contact was maintained with Member States both in Geneva and abroad. During the first six months of 2006, the Director General undertook six foreign missions abroad and received some 190 visits from representatives of Member States, including Ministers, Ambassadors, and

Heads of international and national organizations. The Division of Protocol ensured the smooth execution of the logistics of these visits and many other official functions.

292. During the period under review, initiatives were taken to identify emerging policy issues requiring the Director General's consideration, inputs from concerned units on policy issues were coordinated and options presented to the Director General, and follow-up on the Director General's policy decisions was ensured. Managerial and organizational developments were also monitored and the process of reviewing and enhancing a number of internal administrative procedures and regulations continued.

293. Further support to the Director General was provided in the form of preparation of speeches, briefing material, statements and correspondence with Member States, international and regional organizations, NGOs and individuals. Substantive support and follow-up was also provided to senior management meetings and coordination of the functioning of aspects of protocol, liaison, travel and representation was ensured.

Policy Advisory Commission

294. No meeting of the Policy Advisory Commission took place during the period. Contacts were however maintained with individual members of the Commission, and informal discussions were held, focussing on possible future work of the Commission.

Industry Advisory Commission

295. Contacts with representatives of industry and the market sector continued during the first six months of 2006, although no meetings of the Industry Advisory Commission took place.

Legal Counsel

296. Major activities during the period under review consisted of: the preparation and participation in the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Trademark Law Treaty, in Singapore, from March 13 to 31, mainly in respect of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the final provisions of the draft Treaty and the credentials review process; the re-launching of the construction of the WIPO administrative building under new major projects and procurement related rules; defending the Organization in legal processes generated by staff claims against WIPO at the Appeal Board and the ILO Administrative Tribunal; and, providing adequate legal assistance internally and to different WIPO bodies.

297. During the period under review, 28 new instruments of ratification or accession to the conventions and agreements administered by WIPO were received and processed, and 30 notifications of treaty actions were issued in respect of WIPO-administered treaties. All treaty actions were notified to Member States and other relevant entities, and were systematically published on the Internet, where appropriate, *via* press releases. The treaties mailing list (*treaties.mail*) reached 6,064 subscribers and the treaties website (*wipo.int/treaties*) reached a total of 1,663,805 page views during the reporting period.

298. Requests were received from 20 NGOs for observer status with WIPO, of which 12 fulfilled all the required criteria. In respect of those organizations, relevant documentation has been prepared for presentation to the WIPO Assemblies in September 2006.

299. Constitutional legal advice and assistance continued to be provided to several units within WIPO, or in reply to external requests, in respect of requests for: permission to reproduce WIPO documents in various publications and to use the WIPO emblem; certified copies of WIPO-administered treaties; and, model instruments of accession and ratification of several WIPO treaties. In addition, advice was provided for the preparation of notes on the advantages of accession to certain WIPO treaties and continuous information was given on the status of ratification or accessions to the treaties.

300. Advice continued to be provided internally on legal aspects of human resources issues and other administrative law matters. During the period under review, an increase in the workload was experienced relating to internal staff appeals at the initial appeal level to the Director General, appeals before the WIPO Appeal Board and to the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization. In addition, legal advice was provided on proposed improvements to the administration of justice at WIPO, on the interpretation of various provisions of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules and to an internal working group on provisions concerning outside activities of WIPO staff. Proposed changes were also made to the procedures relating to the WIPO Appeal Board.

301. Concerning the re-launching of the project of the new WIPO administrative building, new internal rules regarding the execution of major projects, procurement of goods and services, and a procurement manual were prepared, and texts regarding the General Terms and Conditions for the Purchase of Goods and Services were improved, following UN practice. In addition, assistance was provided for the preparation of documents regarding the request for Expression of Interest from companies for the external manager of the project (the Pilot), the general contractor and the bank providing the loan, as well as for the evaluation of the Expression of Interest presented by 14 enterprises interested in managing the project.

302. Another major activity consisted of drafting the rules for the functioning of the Selection Board of the WIPO new building project. Advice on the interpretation and negotiations of several contracts and on the early termination of the lease agreements regarding the *Chambésy* and the *Giussepe Motta* buildings was also provided.

303. WIPO continued to be actively involved in the meetings of the Legal Advisers of the United Nations System and in the International Law Association's Committee on the Accountability of International Organizations.

304. Legal support was also provided for the drafting of several cooperation and Funds-in-Trust agreements, as well as assistance requested by other units within WIPO.

Strategic Planning and Policy Development

305. Advice and recommendations to the Director General on overall strategy, policy development and cross-cutting program issues were provided in coordination with members of the Senior Management Team Task Force and other concerned program managers, including the Avian Flu Management Team (document A/42/12).

PROGRAM 23: Budget Control and Resource Mobilization

306. One of the major activities during the first six months of 2006 consisted of the preparation of the Financial Management Report for the biennium 2004-2005.

307. In January 2006, a decision was taken by the formal session of the Program and Budget Committee (document WO/PBC/9/5) to convene two rounds of informal consultations and a further formal session of the Committee to enable it to recommend to the WIPO Assemblies in September 2006 a new mechanism that would further involve Member States in the preparation and follow-up of the WIPO Program and Budget. These informal consultations took place on April 7 and June 6, respectively, and at the latter meeting it was agreed to refer the developed proposal on the new mechanism to the formal session of the Program and Budget Committee scheduled from July 11 to 13, 2006.

308. Following the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) (document JIU/REP/2005/1) for WIPO to conduct a desk-to-desk assessment of its human and financial resources, the draft terms of reference (ToR) for the assessment were completed and transmitted to the WIPO Audit Committee for its first meeting from April 10-12, 2006. The report of the Committee (document WO/AC/1/2) provided feedback and comments on the document, on the basis of which the ToR were revised and transmitted to the Committee's second meeting from July 5 to 7, 2006. In addition, a progress report on the desk-to-desk assessment was prepared for the formal session of the Program and Budget Committee in July 2006.

309. Several steps were taken during the reporting period to develop a more proactive strategy aimed at strengthening the Organization's mobilization of extrabudgetary resources. This included an Organization-wide comprehensive survey regarding existing extrabudgetary resource support to WIPO, including in-kind contributions and cost-sharing arrangements. The responses to the survey will provide the basis for the extrabudgetary resource mobilization strategy. In addition, steps were taken to improve internal coordination of approaches to donors.

310. A review of several internal systems, processes, procedures and controls was initiated with a view to their strengthening and laying a more robust foundation for the preparation of the Program and Budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and the revised budget for the biennium 2006-2007. This included the development of a detailed methodology to improve the accuracy of cost estimates for personnel resources, and the initiation of an external review of the departmental systems and databases with a view to streamlining their management.

PROGRAM 24: Internal Oversight

311. During the period under review, the Program Performance Report for the 2004-2005 biennium was prepared (document A/42/2) based on program managers' submissions. In addition, work began on the preparation of the Program Implementation Overview, January 1 to June 30, 2006 (document A/42/3).

312. A final draft of the WIPO Evaluation Policy, which is intended to complement the WIPO Internal Audit Charter, was completed. An internal consultation process on the draft Policy is currently underway.

313. A workshop on Evaluation and Impact Analysis was organized by the Economic Development Sector (Geneva, March) with the participation of international evaluation experts. The workshop provided an insight into international development evaluation best practices. The experts made a series of recommendations designed to guide WIPO's evaluation activities, and stressed the need, *inter alia*, to develop an adequate evaluation framework at WIPO in line with other international organizations, through the adoption and effective implementation of a WIPO Evaluation Policy.

314. Following approval of the WIPO Internal Audit Charter at the WIPO Assemblies in September 2005, the implementation of the Charter continued during the period under review. In particular, activities were undertaken in connection with: the integration of the Charter into the WIPO Financial Regulations as a new annex; internal audits and investigations; internal advice on various issues concerning internal control procedures, cost-effectiveness and compliance; cooperation with the External Auditors; development of a whistle-blowing policy and procedures; and, the preparation of a detailed framework for investigations at WIPO.

315. The WIPO Assemblies in September 2005 also approved the establishment of the WIPO Audit Committee. Seven members of the Committee were designated during the ninth session of the Program and Budget Committee, in January 2006. The two remaining openings on the Committee were elected by the seven newly-elected members at their preliminary meeting in February.

316. The first meeting of the Audit Committee took place in April. The Committee's observations, conclusions and recommendations are contained in its report (document WO/AC/1/2). In accordance with the Internal Audit Charter, WIPO's Internal Oversight function serviced the WIPO Audit Committee.

317. Networking and cooperation on oversight issues with other international organizations continued, through the Representatives of Internal Audit Services (RIAS) of International Organizations and Multilateral Financial and Economic Institutions, the Conference of International Investigators, and the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG).

PROGRAM 25: Human Resources Management

Engagements and Classifications

318. During the period under review, 10 competitions were announced, and seven staff members and 12 temporary employees, including translators under Special Service Agreements (SSA), were recruited. All work related to competitions, transfers, promotions and recruitment of staff members and employees was carried out in a timely manner. Some 750 job applications were received and processed. The administration of 265 short term employees, 50 consultants, 41 Special Service Agreements and four Special Labour Contract holders involved the preparation and distribution of some 300 contract renewals and 200 employment certificates.

319. All requests for re-classification of posts were reviewed and processed in accordance with the Organization's established rules and standards.

Staff Entitlements, Benefits and Welfare

320. During the first six months of 2006, the following tasks were undertaken: administration of 146 education grant-related claims; issuance of 251 Swiss identity cards and United Nations Special Agencies "Laissez-passer"; issuance of 649 attestations and work-related certificates; examination of 294 periodical performance reports and authorization of in-grade annual step increases; and, administration of 143 claims for dependency allowances and 138 rental subsidy claims.

321. Administrative services were also provided for the United Joint Staff Pension Fund (1,141 WIPO members), the Vanbreda medical insurance (3,033 members) and the loss-of-earning insurance for short-term employees. The files of more than 230 retirees were dealt with. With respect to the WIPO (closed) Pension Fund, four sessions of the *Conseil de fondation* took place, and monthly pension supplements for 62 retired staff were calculated and paid.

322. As of January, the Vanbreda medical insurance premium increased by seven per cent. Additional medical cost containment measures were introduced as of March. Negotiations with Van Breda took place for the renewal of the insurance contract for medical expenses and loss-of-earnings for short term employees, which is due to expire at the end of June 2006.

323. Measures to streamline administrative tasks continued with improvements to existing, and the introduction of new, electronic forms, as well as the upgrading of WIPO's computerized on-line information system. Despite improved information access, however, the number of cases needing manual treatment did not decrease as expected.

324. In addition, a number of Information Circulars and Office Instructions on various staff administrative issues or on the internal organization of the Secretariat were prepared.

325. The system for the administration of justice was reinforced with the establishment of a WIPO Joint Grievance Panel, a Rebuttal Panel and with enhanced functions of the Office of the Ombudsman.

326. Staff welfare assistance was provided for a wide range of issues, including advice on domestic employees, housing, daycare centres, work permits for spouses and dependents, and retirement. Activities, such as the Children's Club continued and one-to-one counselling was given to staff confronting personal or work-related problems.

Staff Training and Development

327. Training activities continued to focus on management, communication, and technical related training. During the period under review, 285 employees benefited from language courses in the six official UN languages, as well as oral expression courses and proficiency preparation classes in English, French, and Spanish. Some 39 employees sat for the UN Proficiency Examinations. Technical training was provided for five IT specialists, and seven WIPO employees attended a Microsoft software training class at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The WIPO Worldwide Academy on-line IP training course was completed by 21 employees. Some 176 employees attended specific management training programs, such as team building, and 22 staff members attended courses related to their professional needs.

328. Work continued on the development of a new Performance Development and Management System, which includes a competencies framework aligned to the Organization's needs.

Healthcare Services

329. During the period under review, the WIPO Medical Service continued to provide health care to staff members, retirees and visiting delegates. Interventions included routine consultations, medical check-ups, medical clearance exams for staff on short-term appointments, vaccine administration, mission briefings and debriefings, ergonomics-related problems, occupational health issues and urgent interventions. Three inspection visits to WIPO cafeterias were also conducted.

330. The Avian Flu Management Team (AFMT) met regularly and produced a detailed "Avian Flu Preparedness Plan". A second general briefing on avian flu was convened for all WIPO staff.

Office of the Ombudsman

331. A new Ombudsman was appointed to the Office of the Ombudsman on June 15. The terms of reference of the Ombudsman was revised and enhanced through an Office Instruction.

PROGRAM 26: Financial Operations

332. Financial accounts were maintained in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Organization. The distribution of the Madrid Union supplementary and complementary fees for 2005, which totaled 25.1 million Swiss francs, was prepared and dispatched on time, as were the monthly payments of the individual fees related to the Madrid Protocol, estimated at 41.6 million Swiss francs for the first six months of 2006. Likewise, since the ratification of the Geneva Act, fees related to the Hague Agreement, estimated at 0.8 million Swiss francs for the same period, continued to be processed on a monthly basis.

333. Since the successful completion, in 2004, of the Administrative Information Management System (AIMS), efforts have focussed on improving the 18 interfaces relating to various WIPO sectors. Specialized training of some staff members has allowed for consolidation of the IT support team, enhancing productivity and efficiency.

334. With respect to investment services and management of funds, all available funds continue to be fully invested. The Investment Advisory Committee met in January and June to study WIPO's investments and concluded that, considering the minimal risk factor and immediate availability of funds, the best option continued to be the investment of available funds with the Swiss Central Bank, which yielded some 2.45 million Swiss francs for the first semester of 2006, representing a rate of 2.125 per cent per annum.

PROGRAM 27: Information Technology

335. Cost containment measures introduced in 2004 will remain throughout the current biennium. Work commenced on preparing a revised IT Strategic Plan which will be presented to Member States in 2007. In order to ensure the business alignment of IT service delivery, a number of IT staff received training in the Information Technology Infrastructure Libraries (ITIL).

336. Regarding WIPO's financial system AIMS, significant progress was made in taking over most of the system support from the external implementation and support partner. The internal team was trained and worked on a wide range of enhancements to the system, including changes to improve productivity within the Finance Department and new interfaces with other WIPO systems.

337. Implementation of an on-line facility for the renewal of trademarks (E-Renewal) was completed. Payments can now be made online and internal processing is almost entirely automatic.

338. Following a study on the various options available for "certified" email for secure communications under the Madrid System, work is now starting on communication to Owners/Representatives via certified email.

339. The average number of page views per month on WIPO's main website (www.wipo.int), during the reporting period, was 23 million.

340. An Open Source software package, Opensource Content Management System (OpenCMS), was implemented to facilitate the management and publishing of information on WIPO's Intranet.

341. During the reporting period, a new anti-virus facility was added on the web traffic gateway. The internal and external vulnerability verification facilities, as well as the regular web applications security checks, maintained an adequate level of vulnerability management. This has been confirmed by the absence of significant malicious attack incidents (virus, malicious programs, system compromise, etc.), despite the growing number of malicious exploits. The Secretariat detected, and automatically deleted, about 30,000 unsolicited email messages and more than 200 virus-contaminated emails per day. The perimeter defense systems rejected daily approximately 500 malicious attempts.

342. One of the main activities during the first six months of 2006 consisted of preparing the migration of the Secretariat's approximately 1,500 networked PC workstations to the Windows XP platform and to Microsoft Office 2003. To prepare for this project, the required procurement procedures were completed, over 200 WIPO software applications were inventoried, and the basic XP workstation prototype were developed.

343. Another major undertaking included the provision of IT support to the Singapore Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Trademark Law Treaty. This involved establishing a detailed requirements document concerning the infrastructure at the conference site, providing remote access to WIPO's Intranet and internal email systems, and on-site user support.

344. As part of the infrastructure consolidation effort, servers continued to be connected to the Storage Area Network (SAN). This, together with the gradual deployment of office automation server clustering solutions, has allowed the enhancement of availability of critical network services such as user authentication, identity management, email systems, etc. In addition, migration to the new network printing service was largely completed.

345. The Printshop CD/DVD Production environment, used by the PCT and Trademarks Applications divisions, was rationalized and consolidated. A new entry-level Storage Area Network (SAN) storage system was put into production for use by the latter division.

346. In response to new business requirements, internal systems were progressively being made accessible through the Internet. Specifically, new web servers were deployed to host and to make remotely accessible the Isiview translation system and the CLAIMS and RIPCIS systems.

347. The IT Helpdesk processed 7,500 calls and over 150 IT material requests by WIPO staff during the first half of 2006. Over 55 general email notifications were sent out to staff.

PROGRAM 28: Conference, Language, Printing and Archives

Conference and Communications Services

348. During the first six months of 2006, the understaffed Conference Service managed to provide support for 47 meetings in Geneva, for a total of over 3,000 participants, as well as for 70 meetings elsewhere. This included the preparation and provision of onsite logistics and support at the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Trademark Law Treaty in Singapore from March 13 to 31, 2006. Three hundred and fifty contracts were issued for interpreters, for a total of 1,800 workdays. During the period, over 1,750 documents were printed and mailed to Member States and observer organizations, as well as distributed to delegates during meetings, necessitating over 280 mailings, with 81,500 mail packages, and comprising nearly 4.5 million printed pages.

349. As a cost saving measure, the distribution of most paper press communications was discontinued and replaced by electronic mail. Office Instructions, circulars and other internal information continued to be distributed to staff in electronic format only. In coordination with the Internet Services Section, details of meetings and copies of documents were made available electronically on the WIPO website with minimum delay.

350. Highly competitive prices for mail and telecommunications services were obtained. The overall volume of outgoing mail in the first half of 2006 was some 757,000 items, weighing approximately 81,000 kg and costing 1,398,000 Swiss francs, compared to 611,000 items, weighing 90,600 kg and costing 1,459,000 Swiss francs for the same period in 2005. The substantial reduction in the average weight of mail items resulted mainly from greater use of IT communications and electronic support mediums (including DVDs and CDs). Some 60 per cent of the mailings were for the PCT sector.

351. The infrastructure cost of telecommunications services in the period was significantly lower, by some 70 per cent compared to the same period in 2005, mainly as a result of the buying back of leased material. Following competitive tendering, prices for fixed-line communications decreased in the first half of 2006 by some 30 per cent compared to the same

period in 2005, this being offset partly by increased usage and cost of mobile phones for improved communications.

Language Services

352. With respect to the Language Service, activities concentrated on the translation of working documents, proposals and reports for 47 major meetings held in Geneva, as well as lectures, presentations and course material for seminars and training courses held elsewhere. A large number of documents were revised, proof-read or edited. Of particular significance was the work done for the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Trademark Law Treaty in Singapore, which was serviced by a full team of translators and text processing operators for all languages. This necessitated a considerable back-log in translations carried out in-house.

353. Improvements to the IsiView documentary search software resulted in faster operation and facilitated access for all translators. New documents were regularly added to the database.

Publication Production Services

354. During the first half of 2006, the Publications Production Services produced 30 million pages, compared to 35 million pages for the same period in 2005. This reduction in paper copies was counter-balanced by an increase in CD and DVD production (26,581 during the first six months of 2006, compared to 15,914 for the first six months of 2005).

Records Management and Archive

355. Nearly all mail, in paper and electronic form, was registered within one day of receipt, despite all incoming mail being subject to security checks. Over 48,000 items of incoming and outgoing correspondence, including faxes and e-mails, were registered centrally and prepared for internal distribution. Work continued on the classification and preservation of the Organization's physical archives, including scanning of historically valuable documents. New facsimile server technology was tested successfully in conjunction with the electronic receipt, filing, indexing and distribution of messages received through the WIPO central facsimile and e-mail addresses. Image scanning was introduced for incoming documents although acquisition of software to enable a fully electronic document management environment is still pending. Under the auspices of the International Council of Archives, WIPO participated actively with other United Nations Organizations in Geneva to develop harmonized records management and archives policies and practices, including standards on handling documents in all media formats.

PROGRAM 29: Premises Management

Premises Management, Office Space and Maintenance

356. During the period under review, the *Chambésy* premises were returned to the owner following the sale of the building ten months prior to the expiry of the lease on December 31, 2006. In addition, the lease of the premises, parking spaces and depot at *Guiseppe-Motta* was terminated with effect from June 30, 2007.

357. Work began on the creation of ten additional offices on the ground floor of the P&G building for Trademarks, as well as archive space for the Media Relations Section.

358. Regular maintenance of technical and outdoor installations, as well as workspaces continued. Installations dating from the construction of the AB building, such as the external maintenance cradle and the cooling towers, were renovated, and repairs carried out to the roof.

359. A new grounds maintenance contract came into force and specifications were prepared for a call to tender for the renovation of the boiler room equipment in the AB building, as well as for building and contents insurance cover and refuse and waste collection services.

360. Gas leakage detection systems in the AB and ex-WMO buildings, as well as the fire detection systems at the depots in *Meyrin* and *Collex*, were updated to bring them in line with current safety standards.

361. On the recommendation of the avian flu team, preventative measures, including removal of dust from air intakes and replacement of filters on self-contained air conditioners in all buildings, were undertaken in addition to measures to improve hygiene on the premises.

Security Coordination

362. A security risk assessment was undertaken in March in order to determine the security posture of the WIPO security management system, and to suggest improvements for the security of staff, information and property. As a result of this assessment, the scope and level of generic security services in WIPO have had to be increased substantially in line with UN Headquarters Minimum Operating Security Standards (UN H-MOSS), and a security change project was initiated in June to enable the effective implementation of the recommendations. Security risk assessments have also been carried out for the existing Coordination Offices. Liaison on security issues and assessment has been established with the Host Country. Similarly, liaison has been established with the UN Department of Safety and Security at UN Headquarters in New York, and the UN Office in Geneva. Furthermore, WIPO has taken the initiative of developing an effective operational network amongst UN security professionals within Geneva, and is an active member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Security Management Network.

PROGRAM 30: Travel and Procurement

Travel

363. During the period under review, savings in travel costs totaled 2,006,600 Swiss francs following the systematic application of reduced airfares offered by airlines, greater use of low-cost airlines for travel in Europe and the purchase of third party air tickets from the in-house travel agent network partners instead of UNDP country offices. The estimated savings for third party air tickets was 112,411 Swiss francs, representing a 15 per cent reduction in third party air fares, compared to the same period in 2005.

364. Some 1,546 Travel Authorizations were processed, as compared to 1,098 for the first six months of 2005, for an estimated 7,674 mission days (3,832 for the same period in 2005).

Some 901 visas and 2,033 documents and files for diplomatic privileges were also processed, as compared to 581 and 1,538, respectively, for the same period in 2005.

365. An electronic travel authorization system is now in a preliminary test phase. Its implementation is planned for the end of 2006.

Procurement and Contracts

366. Activities during the first six months of 2006, focused on strengthening the procurement functions of the Organization. To this end, a new Office Instruction “Procurement and Purchase General Principles, Framework and Procedures” was issued, the WIPO General Conditions for the Purchase of Goods and Services were revised, and the WIPO Procurement Manual completed.

367. During the same period, some 535 purchase orders were processed, 105 confirmation orders for suppliers, totaling approximately 19,920,000 Swiss francs, were made, and 100 new suppliers added to the database, bringing the total number of registered companies in the database to 1,093.

368. Administrative support was also provided for the negotiation, establishment, extension or amendment of some 85 ongoing contracts, of which eight were concluded during the first six months of 2006. In addition, 16 Requests for Proposals, seven Requests for Quotations and three calls for Expressions of Interest were launched.

369. Within the framework of technical cooperation, 24 purchases were realized for 17 developing countries, amounting to 250,000 Swiss francs. Emphasis was placed on local procurement.

370. WIPO continued its active membership of the Geneva-based Common Procurement Activities Group (CPAG) in order to manage existing common agreements and identify new areas of cooperation. During the period under review, WIPO joined the CPAG long-term volume purchase agreement for the purchase of standard IT equipment. WIPO also participated in the annual meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group, a meeting attended by some 26 UN Organizations.

371. To improve efficiency, work began on the implementation of an internal on-line system to streamline and facilitate the delivery of essential office supplies to the various departments of the Organizations.

PROGRAM 31: The New Construction

372. During the first six months of 2006, a “Charter for the WIPO New Construction Project” was prepared, presented to the Program and Budget Committee and revised following the recommendations made by the Audit Committee.

373. A Selection Board composed of Member States representatives was established to pre-select and select the Pilot, the General Contractor and the financial institution that will grant the loan to finance the project.

374. The Selection Board held its first meeting on June 14, 2006, and pre-selected companies to which the request for proposals for the role of Pilot will be sent. The terms of the request for proposals were prepared.

375. Following the revision of the construction project, a complementary building authorization request was prepared.

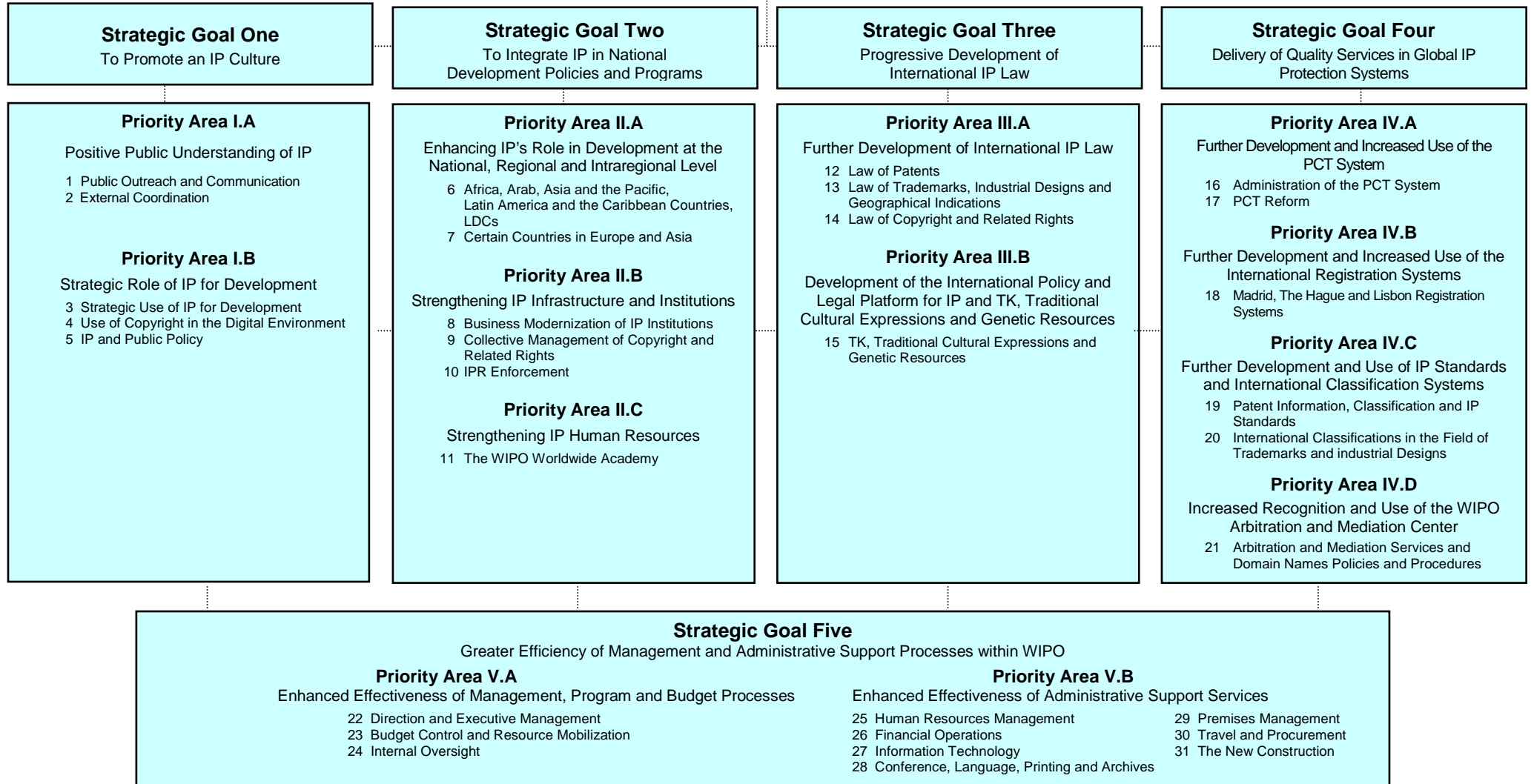
376. The WIPO General Assembly is invited to note the contents of this document.

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

WIPO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Vision: IP is an important tool for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries
Mission: To promote effective protection and use of IP worldwide



[Annex II follows]

ANNEX II

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