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WIPO Director General reflects on WIPO's achievements in 1998 and looks ahead to 1999

In an address to staff members on January 29, Dr. Kamil Idris provided a general overview of WIPO's activities during the previous year. The following are excerpts from his address.

1998

When I took up the Director Generalship of WIPO and the Secretary Generalship of UPOV, I promised to devote every effort to ensuring that accountability, transparency and consensus-building would pervade all aspects of our operations. I pledged to focus and streamline our various programs and activities; to put information technology and the Internet at the heart of WIPO; and to reach out to our partners in the United Nations family and to the World Trade Organization. In all these fields I believe that progress - substantial, positive and coordinated progress - has been made.

Through our tailor-made programs, developing countries are making excellent headway, and institutions that will create a

lasting legacy are being built. Countries in transition have been given substantial attention and assistance, commensurate with their specific needs.

The initiative of the WIPO Worldwide Academy, with its modern techniques of human development, is a success and is widely appreciated.

The program of development of international intellectual property law is moving confidently forward on codification, both in the industrial property and copyright fields.

Projects to go ahead with the establishment of a Global Information Network, and to increase automation in the PCT and Madrid systems, have been blessed by our member States. In general, the international



Dr. Kamil Idris

Photo: Samar Shamoon

registration systems have consolidated their strength, with 100 countries now having acceded to the PCT, and fees having been progressively reduced.

WIPO's Global Communications and Public Diplomacy is now a reality felt, experienced and respected, especially at grass roots level, where the concept and importance of intellectual property has been communicated on a much greater scale than ever before.

Our working methods and

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procedures in administration and finance have been streamlined and simplified in an ongoing effort to increase administrative efficiency.

The Secretariat has been progressively restructured, and the first strategic program and budget for the 1998/1999 biennium has been successfully presented to and approved by the Member States.

Relations with various United Nations offices have been established or strengthened, and a broadening of cooperation with the World Trade Organization, particularly in the context of TRIPS implementation, has been put into motion.

It would be far too lengthy for me to enumerate all our achievements and initiatives, including the many important meetings of the Standing Committees and working groups, and the symposiums, training courses, and seminars, which WIPO has organized and hosted this last year. But I will briefly mention three of these, which I believe will play an increasingly important part in the WIPO of the coming millennium:

- the introduction since June of modern video-conferencing techniques to certain human-resource development activities;
- the roundtables on Indigenous Intellectual Property and associated areas;
- and the new initiatives in the fields of electronic commerce,

in particular the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process.

By our commitment to be at the cutting edge of these new areas, we affirm our commitment to excellence.

1999

1999 will undoubtedly be another exceptionally busy year. Many of the projects I have just mentioned are progressing, and 1999 will see their continuation, with sustainability and credibility. The many day-to-day tasks of the Secretariat, which I have not mentioned but which are crucial to the smooth and efficient operation of WIPO, will go on. Among the highlights of 1999 will be the first meetings of the new Industry Advisory Commission and the Policy Advisory Commission in February and April, respectively; a possible decision by the WIPO General Assembly on holding a Diplomatic Conference on a Patent Law Treaty as early as next year; and a major international conference on Electronic Commerce in Geneva in September. In addition, preparations for a major celebration of the 30th Anniversary of WIPO in the year 2000 will gather speed.

As I said earlier, the development and welfare of the staff is a matter close to my heart, and I am therefore pleased to have this opportunity to tell you that in

1999, issues of direct interest to the staff will enjoy a very high priority. The upgrading of the skills and knowledge of staff is of first importance, and specific activities and programs are being launched. Following the positive decisions that were taken by the member States, we are taking steps to ensure that both the renovated WMO building and the new adjacent building will be equipped with proper standards for good working conditions. An architectural competition has now been launched with a view to completing a 500-workplace building by the year 2002. The new medical unit will be further equipped, and I shall continue to give very close attention to the system for promotions and conditions of service at WIPO during the course of the year.

“Our commitment to be at the cutting edge ...affirms our commitment to excellence”

The achievements I expect from 1999 will require our collective vision, collective dedication, collective wisdom, collective belief in the noble objectives we pursue in this global body, mutual trust and respect and an attitude of justice. I shall confidently count on you to continue to show these qualities, responsibility and, above all, your spirit of cooperation. Knowing that the greatest resource of this Organization is not only its financial stability but the many complementarities and synergies it has within it, I am certain that 1999 will also be a successful year.

Internet domain name process

Interim report on the domain name process is published

An interim report on the domain name process, containing recommendations to minimize and resolve the conflicts that have arisen between domain names and trademarks, was published by WIPO on December 23. The report was widely and favorably reported in the international press.

In the report, WIPO has proposed a series of best practices to be adopted by registration authorities and users in order to

minimize conflicts that can arise from the registration of domain names. The recommendations focus on the development of effective contractual arrangements for domain name registrations, and suggest a number of important improvements:

Requiring applicants to provide reliable and accurate contact details, with cancellation of the domain name in case of non-compliance.

Establishing searchable databases containing contact information. WIPO also proposes means to

accommodate privacy concerns that might be associated with access to such databases.

The report proposes a uniform administrative dispute-resolution procedure, aimed at resolving domain name conflicts rapidly and economically. This procedure could be conducted on-line and would supplement traditional court litigation as a means of resolving domain name disputes. Special decision-making criteria would be applied so as to effectively prohibit abusive domain name practices, addressing many of the concerns of owners of famous and well-known marks subject to "cybersquatting" (see below).



Cartoon: arttoday.com

Who's selling your name?

For Sale - www.WIPO.com - reduced from US\$3,000 to US\$2,000

This special offer comes from one of many "cybersquatter" sites on the web which have capitalized on the commercial value of domain names. The process is simple. Under the present system, a cybersquatter pays about \$100 to secure the domain name rights to a well-known name, and then attempts to resell the rights to the original holder. Cybersquatters can be challenged in national courts, but this can be costly and time consuming.

"The real owners are in fact subjected to blackmail to buy back their own names," said WIPO Legal Counsel Francis Gurry. Under the proposed new rules, resolving two claims for the same name would be simple, fast, and inexpensive, Gurry said. Having an efficient dispute resolution system is all the more crucial given the rapid increase in the number of domain names on the Internet. More than 5 million domain names are presently registered around the world, with 70,000 new ones added each week.

Furthermore, in evaluating the impact of the possible addition of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs) on intellectual property, WIPO provisionally concludes that new gTLDs could be introduced without undue harm to the protection of intellectual property, provided that:

- (a) the improved registration practices and dispute resolution procedures it recommends are implemented; and
- (b) the new gTLDs are introduced in a controlled manner which allows monitoring the efficacy of the proposed new practices and procedures.

Finally, the consultation process has highlighted the functional similarity between generic top-level domains (gTLDs) and country code top-level domains (ccTLDs, such as .fr for France, .au for Australia and .eg for Egypt). As a result, WIPO's recommendations directed toward the gTLDs may be equally useful in all TLDs in which domain names are freely bought and sold.

A group of fifteen technical experts assisted WIPO in the preparation of the report and the consideration of more than 1,000 substantive comments on the issues gathered during the various consultations. The experts represent a geographical balance and a balance of sectoral interest, notably, the interests of the business and trademark community, the Internet technical community and public interest groups. They were appointed for their professional expertise as well as for the diverse viewpoints they bring to the debate.

The publication of the Interim Report marks the beginning of the final stage of the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process.

Domain name speak

DNS : domain name system

Domain name: the human friendly form of numeric addresses that is easy to remember and associate with the individual or entity to which the address is attributed.

gTLD : generic top level domain - the second part of the domain name often identifies the type or nature of the entity, i.e.

.com : premier international commercial space

.int : international organization space

ccTLD : country code top level domain - the second part of the domain name that indicates the country in which entity is placed, for example .ch (for Switzerland), .za (for South Africa), .us (for the United States).

During the past two years WIPO has been involved in discussions concerning the relationship between domain names and trademarks to advise on how best to manage the domain name system. The first two stages involved discussions to identify the scope of the problem and to address substantive issues involved. With the publications of the interim report, the process now moves into its final stage of consultations, seeking comments on the interim report.

As in previous stages of the process, comments on the interim report can be registered through a combination of Internet-based consultations, consultations through conventional mail, and regional consultations to ensure the widest possible participation. A series of six regional consultations is being held throughout early 1999 to discuss the interim report.

The final report will be issued by the end of March and will be presented to the organization that is responsible for the management of the policy and

technical aspects of the Internet Domain Name System, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). The recommendations and findings will also be presented by WIPO to its member States for their consideration.

The interim report is available in full from <http://wipo2.wipo.int>, which is also the site from which comments may be sent via the Internet or by contacting WIPO's Office of Legal and Organization Affairs:

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Fax: (+41 22) 740 37 00

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Visits

Close cooperation confirmed during Director General's visit to China

The People's Republic of China and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) will continue to work together closely to ensure that the intellectual property system in the world's most populous country is further reinforced. This was a key outcome of the Director General's first official visit to China since he took leadership of the organization in November 1997.

Dr. Idris and other senior officials from WIPO visited China from January 26 to 28 for intensive talks. The highlight of the visit was a meeting with President Jiang Zemin, who took a keen personal interest in matters relating to intellectual property in China. President Jiang confirmed that "the Chinese government attaches great importance to

work in this area and to your visit." He said China has been working towards more international cooperation and progress in the area of intellectual property rights. The President acknowledged that this would not be possible without the support of WIPO. He pledged that China will do all it can to protect intellectual property rights in the country and to meet international standards of protection.

Dr. Idris noted that the intellectual property system in China is led by the President himself. He praised the achievements reached by China in this area but noted that many challenges lay ahead, in particular, the need to keep up with rapid technological and scientific changes. The Director General outlined the challenges for the international intellectual property community in the digital age. On all issues relating to intellectual property, Dr. Idris confirmed that WIPO would continue to support Chinese efforts to enhance its intellectual property system. "I would like to use this occasion to tell you very openly that WIPO will continue to render its support to China and we will provide the necessary technical assistance," he said.

In response to concerns voiced by President Jiang about the adverse effects of globalization on developing countries, the Director General said globalization should not mean marginalization. Globalization should mean more opportunities and markets for all, he said, including developing countries. Dr. Idris further pointed out that one of the main objectives of WIPO "is to bridge the imbalance between developed and developing countries and establish justice and equality."

During his visit, the Director General also met with the heads of the three main offices that deal with intellectual property matters in China, namely Ms. Jiang Zing, Commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), Mr. Wang Zhongfu, Commissioner of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC), and Mr. Yu Youxian, Commissioner for the National Copyright Administration of China. A recurrent theme during the talks was requests for assistance from WIPO both in training and expert advice in the drafting of intellectual property legislation. The meetings were true to the



Photo: Samat Shamoan

Chinese proverb "When planning for a year, plant corn. When planning for a decade plant trees. When planning for life, train and educate people."

Dr. Idris presented a full collection of WIPO's publications to the China Intellectual Property Training Center (CIPTC). Accepting the donation, SIPO Commissioner and Dean of the Training Center Ms. Jiang Zing thanked the Director General and expressed hope that WIPO will continue to provide CIPTC with assistance to make the Center a base for intellectual property teaching in the Asia/Pacific region.

In separate talks with Ms. Jiang, Dr. Idris agreed to requests by SIPO for technical and legal assistance in revising China's patent law. Specific requests for help were made in the area of documentation, automation, organization of seminars and staff training programs.

In a meeting with the SAIC Commissioner Mr. Wang, the Director General urged wider application of the Madrid system with the goal of ensuring expansion of the international protection system. Mr. Wang said the protection of intellectual property in China has greatly developed since Beijing deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol three years ago. He expressed hope that WIPO would continue to provide expert advice to SAIC. "WIPO has done a lot of work in a very short period of time," he said. "So we are confident that the course of intellectual property under your leadership has a very bright

future."

The National Copyright Administration of China (NCAC) Commissioner, Mr. Yu Youxian, informed the Director General that China is revising its copyright law. He thanked WIPO for its assistance in preparing the draft text. Dr. Idris encouraged China to heighten its involvement in ensuring the implementation of the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Yang Jiechi assured the Director General and his delegation of the Foreign Ministry's continued support of WIPO. He said the Ministry is committed to further strengthening its ties with WIPO.

The Director General and his party also held talks with senior officials at the Ministry of Science and Technology. The Deputy Minister, Mr. Hui Yongheng, announced his country's accession

to UPOV. The Director General also met with the Vice-Chairman of the Chinese National and Political Consultative Conference and President of the Chinese Engineering Academy, Mr. Song Jian, who is also a founding member of the Policy Advisory Commission.

"one of the main objectives of WIPO is to bridge the imbalance between developed and developing countries and establish justice and equality"

On the last day of his visit, the University of Peking, one of China's oldest and most prestigious educational institutions, dating back 100 years, conferred upon the Director General an honorary professorship. In his acceptance speech Dr. Idris outlined the challenges facing the international



Dr. Idris accepts an honorary professorship from President Chen Jiaer (right) of the University of Beijing

Photo: Samar Shamoan

WIPO and EPO leaders meet

The Director General met with Mr. Ingo Kober, President of the European Patent Office on January 21 to discuss the PCT automation project as well as WIPO and EPO's joint cooperation activities with developing countries in 1999.

The meeting was the second of a planned series of semi-annual meetings between the Director General and the President of the EPO, alternatively in Geneva and Munich. The next meeting will take place in June at WIPO's Geneva headquarters.

The EPO provided invaluable advice on proceeding with the PCT automation project having just completed a similar exercise themselves with their new automated system PHOENIX.

Mr. Kober stressed the importance of including staff members who will be using the software from the very beginning of the project.

Dr. Idris and Mr. Kober confirmed a host of jointly-sponsored cooperation for development activities for 1999 agreed upon at the end of last year. They include study visits to WIPO and EPO, advisory and training missions dealing with patent administration and automation, patent information services, and patent



European Patent Office, Munich

Photo: Petra Flath

New updated training materials in preparation

WIPO and EPO agreed to pool their training knowledge and build upon respective strengths in reviewing the training materials both organizations use. Existing documents will be reexamined in terms of their legal, technical, procedural and administrative content to ensure that both organizations offer optimum training materials to intellectual property offices.

Academy

Academy uses electronic forum to track down strategies for Internet-based training on IP

The Worldwide Academy is currently running its first ever on-line electronic forum to gather information and views on best practices and strategies for the development of modern information technology-based training, teaching, and advisory services. Comments can be sent by e-mail or via the Internet to a

panel of seven academic and intellectual property specialists from all regions of the world, moderated by Professor Paul Torremans, Sub-Dean for Graduate Studies, University of Leicester, United Kingdom (pt6@le.ac.uk). The forum has been jointly organized with the Association for the Advancement

of Teaching and Research in Intellectual Property (ATRIP) and will run until March 1999.

Demand for specialized and practical training in all aspects of intellectual property administration has grown in recent years in tandem with the rising prominence of intellectual

property issues in the global economy.

The ultimate objective of the WWA is to optimize use of national intellectual property systems by complementing and enhancing existing human resource development programs at national and regional levels. In order to meet the growing demand for training by an increasingly diversified range of intellectual property actors, the WWA is spearheading a number of initiatives to complement its established seminar-based training programs.

The findings derived from this electronic forum will provide a basis from which to develop a full range of complementary training, teaching and advisory services based on the use of information technology.

It will also:

- assist in generating new and enhanced curricula and training materials relevant to the perceived needs of intellectual property actors
- enhance the development of effective distance learning mechanisms
- reinforce cooperation between national and regional training institutions
- support regional capacity building for training in and public awareness of intellectual property issues.

Global intellectual property issues



Photo: Richard Owens

Some fine examples of Mayan work in Guatemala

WIPO staff explores folklore and traditional knowledge in Guatemala and Panama

Members of WIPO's Office of Global Intellectual Property Issues and the Cooperation for Development bureau visited Guatemala and Panama in mid-January on a mission to gather information on traditional knowledge, innovation, and the creative works of local communities to help determine their needs in the intellectual property arena.

The mission was part of WIPO's ongoing effort to establish a solid base of information on folklore and traditional knowledge issues to help shape the organization's role in those areas, as well as to increase public awareness on this

emerging global issue.

As is in many countries throughout the world, local communities in Guatemala and Panama continue traditions in music, painting and ceramics, textile weaving, traditional medicines, and literature, both written and oral, that have been passed down for generations. These traditions are often viewed by their holders as a natural resource, but may not fit into existing means of protection of intellectual property.

Indeed, one of the conclusions derived from the mission was that although many holders of such knowledge see it as a resource, they are not aware of how to protect it as a resource, or how to ensure their economic benefit from it. For example, without copyright protection, traditional pottery designs may be expropriated for mass manufacturing; without patent



Photo: Richard Owens

protection, traditional dyeing methods for textiles may be duplicated elsewhere. But a system for the protection of such traditional arts has yet to develop. Gathering information on these issues will help WIPO, in consultations with other groups, consider what further protections beyond existing laws may be necessary.

In Guatemala, WIPO staff members met with representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which promote the arts and traditional knowledge of the Mayan culture, including the Consejo de Organizaciones Mayas, Defensoria Maya, Fondo de Desarrollo Indigeno Guatemalteco, and the

Centro para Accion Legal en Derechos Humanos de Guatemala. They met with government representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Culture, and Economy, as well as members of the academic community from various universities in Guatemala.

In Panama, the group met with members of the Afro-Antillean communities as well as the Indigeneous Kuna Community in Madugandi, travelling to small villages to explore such traditional arts as woven woolen textiles used for both clothing and décor. The WIPO team met with representatives of the Panamanian Society of Authors and Composers, the Panamanian Afro-Antillean Society, the Foundation for Artisans and Handicraft and

Arbitration and Mediation

WIPO expands its network of ADR partners

The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center recently concluded a Cooperation Agreement with the Singapore International Arbitration Centre ("SIAC"), which reaffirms the parties' commitment to alternative dispute resolution ("ADR") as an effective mechanism for the resolution of intellectual property and other international commercial disputes. The agreement will facilitate the parties' collaboration in areas of mutual interest. For example, the

parties will exchange ADR-related information and assist each other in the conduct of proceedings. Under their agreement, they will also examine possibilities for the organization of joint conferences and training programs.

SIAC provides facilities for international and domestic commercial arbitration and conciliation, including a pool of arbitrators and experts international arbitration and conciliation law. SIAC commenced operations on July 1, 1991 and is a non-profit organization

The Cooperation Agreement concluded with SIAC is part of a larger network of such agreements

entered into by the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center. Similar agreements have been concluded with The Arbitration Center for Industrial Property (Tokyo, Japan), The Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, the Gulf Cooperation Council Commercial Arbitration Centre (Manama, Bahrain), the Gulf Institute for International Law, the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (JCAA), and the Conciliation and Arbitration Center of the Chamber of Commerce of Costa Rica (San José, Costa Rica). Through these agreements, the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center is well-placed to provide truly international dispute resolution services.

Global protection systems and services

PCT-EASY software runs on Windows 95/98 and NT. It is currently available in English, French, German, and Spanish and will soon be available in Chinese, Japanese, and Russian.

PCT-EASY—the first step toward fully electronic applications

It is now possible for PCT users to both prepare and send their international application requests electronically and in many cases benefit from a 200 Swiss franc fee reduction by using PCT-EASY (Patent Cooperation Treaty - Electronic Application System).

Full details on how to use the PCT-EASY as well as the free software may be downloaded from <http://pcteasy.wipo.int>

This new electronic system offers many advantages:

- the system contains user-friendly validation functions which check and confirm that the data entered in the request complies with formal PCT application requirements
- it offers the possibility of storing and retrieving frequently used data contained in the request
- not only is the PCT-EASY software easy to use and free of

charge, but provided that certain technical requirements are met, users will receive a 200 Swiss franc reduction on the international fee charged

Further information on PCT-EASY and how to qualify for the 200 Swiss franc fee reduction can be obtained from the PCT-EASY Help Desk:

Telephone: (00 41 22) 338 95 23
Fax: (00 41 22) 338 80 40
E-mail: pcteasy.help@wipo.int

First fully electronic international registration of a mark by WIPO

The first international trademark registration resulting from purely electronic transmissions was inscribed in the International Register of Marks at WIPO in January.

The international application in electronic form was transmitted to WIPO by the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (SFIIP). The establishment of electronic data exchange between WIPO and SFIIP was achieved after close technical cooperation between the two organizations. SFIIP and WIPO had been working together over a period of

six months to establish an effective electronic data exchange system. After agreement had been reached on the modalities, both WIPO and SFIIP initiated projects to develop the necessary software to support the various automated functions necessary to manage data exchange and SFIIP started formally transmitting electronic communications to WIPO in December 1998.

International Registration number 704605, which was published in the WIPO Gazette of International Marks volume 1999/01, has an international registration date of

November 18, 1998 and was based on a Swiss national registration bearing the date of November 11, 1998, illustrating the speed with which international protection can be obtained where electronic exchange mechanisms are employed.

The international registration was later notified to SFIIP (as Office of Origin) by electronic means, thus completing a full circuit of electronic communication between WIPO and SFIIP.

The Moldovan lady takes her place at WIPO

“*Moldoveancă*” a gift from the Republic of Moldova to WIPO, was presented to the Director General by the President of the Republic of Moldova H.E. Mr. Petru Lucinschi on January 15. President Lucinschi described the finely crafted, polished granite sculpture by Akexandru Gavronschi as a “symbol of national culture and patrimony of the Republic of Moldova”.

President Lucinschi was paying his first visit to the Organization during which he and Dr. Idris discussed a number of cooperation projects including the establishment of several technical centers for training and documentation in the country.

Dr. Idris praised efforts by the Republic of Moldova to strengthen its intellectual property system and said he looks forward to close cooperation with the President on future joint projects.



Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal

Moldoveancă, the Moldovan lady by Alexandru Gavronschi

Calvin and Hobbes

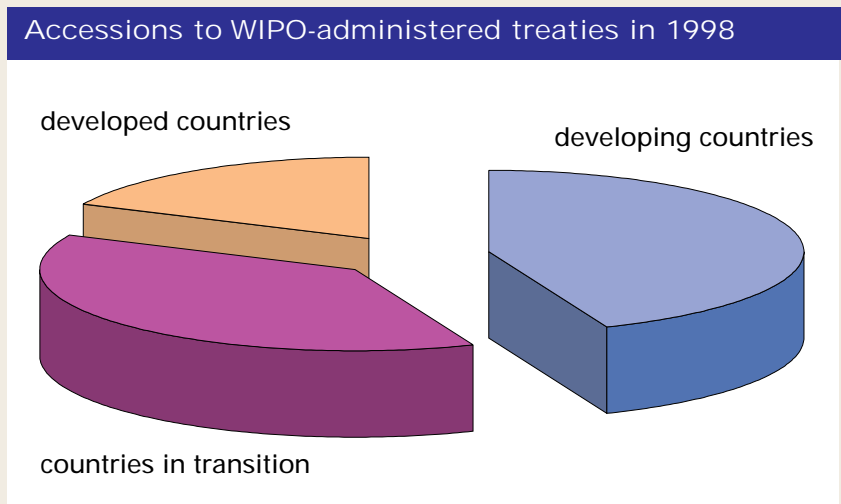
by Bill Watterson



Calvin and Hobbes © Watterson. Reprinted with permission of Universal Press Syndicate. All rights reserved.

New contracting parties to WIPO-administered treaties in 1998

WIPO administers 21 treaties in the field of intellectual property, 15 of which are in the field of industrial property and 6 in copyright. During 1998, 86 instruments of accession to or ratification of treaties administered by WIPO were deposited with the Director General of WIPO. In 1998, 44 per cent of the accessions or ratifications came from developing countries, 38 per cent from countries in transition to a market economy and 18 per cent from developed countries. A summary of these adherences is outlined below:



WIPO-administered treaties

WIPO Convention

The Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization was signed at Stockholm on July 14, 1967, and entered into force in 1970. In 1974, WIPO became one of the 16 specialized agencies of the United Nations system of organizations. WIPO is responsible for the promotion of the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through cooperation among States, and for the administration of various multilateral treaties dealing with the legal and administrative aspects of intellectual property.

In 1998, Botswana, Dominica, Ethiopia, Grenada, Kuwait, Sao Tome and Principe adhered to the WIPO Convention, bringing the total number of Member States of WIPO to 171.

New members of WIPO-administered treaties in the field of industrial property

Paris Convention

The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property was concluded in 1883 and is one of the pillars of the modern international intellectual property system. It applies to industrial property in the widest sense, including inventions, marks, industrial designs, utility models (a kind of "small patent" provided for by the laws of some countries), trade names (designations under which an industrial or commercial activity is carried on), geographical indications (indications of source and appellations of origin) and the repression of unfair competition.

In 1998, Botswana, Cambodia, Grenada, Guatemala, India, The Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe adhered to the Paris Convention, bringing the total number of Contracting States to 151.

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) was concluded in 1970. The PCT makes it possible to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in each of a large number of countries by filing an "international" patent application. Such an application may be filed by anyone who is a national or resident of a Contracting State. The Treaty regulates the formal requirements with which any international application must comply. Since its conclusion in 1970, the PCT has continued to expand.

In 1998, Croatia, Cyprus, Grenada, India, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates adhered to the PCT, bringing the total number of Contracting States to 100.

Madrid Agreement and Protocol

The Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks (the Madrid System) is governed by two treaties: the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks.

The Madrid Agreement was concluded in 1891. This Agreement makes it possible to protect a mark in a large number of countries by obtaining one international registration which has effect in each of the Contracting Parties designated in the international application.

In 1998, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland adhered to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, bringing the total number of Contracting States to 51.

The Madrid Protocol was concluded in 1989 to introduce certain new features into the Madrid system. These features address the difficulties that prevent certain countries from adhering to the Madrid Agreement by rendering the system more flexible and more compatible with the domestic legislation of these countries.

In 1998, Belgium, Estonia, Georgia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Swaziland, Turkey and Yugoslavia adhered to the Madrid Protocol, bringing the total number of Contracting States to 36.

Trademark Law Treaty (TLT)

The Trademark Law Treaty was concluded in 1994. The TLT aims to make national and regional trademark registration systems more user-friendly through the simplification and harmonization of procedures.

In 1998, Australia, Denmark, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia adhered to the TLT, bringing the total number of Contracting States to 22.

Nice Agreement

The Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes

of the Registration of Marks was concluded in 1957. The Nice Agreement establishes a classification of goods and services for the purposes of registering trademarks and service marks. The Classification consists of a list of classes (based on types of products and services) of which there are 34 for goods and 8 for services and an alphabetical list of the goods and services.

In 1998, Belarus, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Korea, Romania and Singapore adhered to the Nice Agreement, bringing the total number of Contracting States to 58.

Locarno Agreement

The Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs was concluded in 1968. The Locarno Agreement establishes a classification for industrial designs which consists of 32 classes and 223 subclasses based on different types of products. It also comprises an alphabetical listing of goods with an indication of the classes and subclasses into which these goods fall. The list contains some 6,320 indications of different kinds of goods.

In 1998, Belarus, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Romania and Turkey adhered to the Locarno Agreement, bringing the total number of Contracting States to 35.

Strasbourg Agreement (IPC)

The Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification was concluded in 1971. The Strasbourg Agreement establishes the International Patent Classification (IPC), which divides technology into 8 sections with approximately 67,000 subdivisions. Each of these subdivisions has a symbol which is allotted by the national or regional industrial property office that publishes the patent document.

In 1998, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Korea and Romania (4) adhered to the Strasbourg Agreement, bringing the total number of Contracting States to 43.

New members of WIPO-administered treaties in the field of copyright

Berne Convention

The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works was concluded in 1886. The Convention sets out and defines minimum standards of protection of the economic and moral rights of authors of literary and artistic works.

In 1998, Algeria, Botswana, Canada, Grenada, Mongolia, Romania, Singapore and Swaziland adhered to the Berne Convention, bringing the total number of Contracting States to 133.

Rome Convention

The Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations was concluded in 1961. The Rome Convention secures protection in performances of performers, phonograms of producers of phonograms and broadcasts of broadcasting organizations. WIPO is responsible, jointly with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for the administration of the Rome Convention.

In 1998, Canada, Romania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia adhered to the Rome Convention, bringing the total number of Contracting States to 58.

Geneva Convention (Phonograms)

The Geneva Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms was concluded in 1971. The Geneva Convention obliges each Contracting State to protect a producer of phonograms who is a national of another Contracting State against the making of duplicates without the consent of the producer, against the importation of such duplicates, where the making or importation is for the purposes of distribution to the public, and against the distribution of such duplicates to the public.

In 1998, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Romania adhered to the Geneva Convention, bringing the total number of Contracting States to 57.

Obituary Mohammad Mochtar

Mohammad Mochtar, a dear friend and colleague died on Friday, January 8 following a heart attack in Geneva. Mr. Mochtar, 47, had been a staff member at WIPO since 1994.

In an address to staff members at WIPO, Dr Idris remembered Mr. Mochtar as “a man tempered by the best human elements: kind



Mohammad Mochtar

and charitable toward all without exception, unfailingly generous and hospitable, happy, equable, humble and modest to a fault, helpful to everyone, attentive to the needs and sensitivities of others and ever cheerful and smiling.”

Born in Malang, Indonesia, Mr. Mochtar pursued a varied and international education that took him to Australia and The Hague before he returned to Jakarta to join the Copyright Patent and Trademark Tangerang. Intellectual property was his passion; he was a tireless champion of the cause of intellectual property protection, founding “Intellectual Property Studies” in Indonesia (FIPSI) and

publishing articles such as “Patent System in Indonesia” and “Introduction to Substantive Examination of Patent Application”.

Mr. Mochtar joined WIPO in 1994, where he served as a senior program officer in the Cooperation for Development Bureau for Asia and the Pacific.

A book of condolences from WIPO staff was prepared for Mr. Mochtar’s wife and two sons. Condolences were also sent by the Director General to the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Indonesia in Geneva and the Indonesian community in Geneva.

Mr. Mochtar was laid to rest in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Calendar of meetings

March 15 to 17 (Geneva)

Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (Second Session, First Part)

The Committee will continue its work based upon the results achieved at its first session with regard to draft provisions on well-known marks.

Invitations: As members, the States members of WIPO and other delegations that the Committee has admitted as members; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

March 18 and 19 (Geneva)

WIPO Coordination Committee

The Committee will meet in extraordinary session in order to consider and give its advice on certain proposals made by the Director General relating to senior staff positions.

Invitations: States members of the WIPO Coordination Committee and, as observers, States members of WIPO not members of that Committee.

April 12 to 23 (Geneva)

Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (Second Session)

The Committee will continue its work based upon the results achieved at its first session with regard to the draft Patent Law Treaty, and reduction of patent office fees for nationals of developing countries.

Invitations: As members, the States members of WIPO and other delegations that the Committee has admitted as members; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

April 15 (a.m.) and 16 (a.m.) (Geneva)

Preparatory Meeting for the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of the Patent Law Treaty

The meeting will consider the draft Agenda and the draft Rules of Procedure for the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of the Patent Law Treaty, tentatively scheduled for May 2000.

Invitations: As members, the States members of WIPO and other delegations that the Committee has admitted as members; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

April 26 to 28 (Geneva)

Program and Budget Committee

This Committee integrates the former Budget and Premises Committees. At its first session, it will

consider the draft program and budget for the 2000-2001 biennium and related matters.

Invitations: As members, the States members of the former Budget and Premises Committees as at the time of their integration into the WIPO Program and Budget Committee, in September 1998; as observers, States members of WIPO and not members of the former Budget and Premises Committees of WIPO.

May 4 to 11 (Geneva)

Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights

The Committee will continue its work concerning the preparation of a protocol or a separate treaty on audiovisual performances, concerning the protection of databases, and concerning the preparation of a treaty on the protection of the rights of broadcasting organizations.

Invitations: As members, the States members of WIPO, and the European Community; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

May 31 to June 3 (Geneva)

Permanent Committee on Intellectual Property Development (PCIPD) (First Session)

The Committee, as a result of the merger of the former Permanent Committee for Development Cooperation Related to Industrial Property (PC/IP) and Permanent Committee for Development Cooperation Related to Copyright and Neighboring Rights (PC/CR), will review and evaluate the activities carried out within the framework of the WIPO program for cooperation for development, under the current Program and Budget, and make recommendations on the future orientation of the said program.

Invitations: As members, States members of the Committee; as observers, other States members of WIPO, State members of the Paris Union and/or Berne Union not States members of the Committee, and certain organizations.

June 7 to 11 (Geneva)

Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (Second Session, Second Part)

The Committee will begin its work with regard to the use of trademarks on the Internet.

Invitations: As members, the States members of WIPO and other delegations that the Committee has admitted as members; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

June 16 to July 6 (Geneva)**Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a New Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs**

The Diplomatic Conference is expected to adopt a new Act of the Hague Agreement as well as Regulations thereunder.

Invitations: As ordinary members, the States members of WIPO; as special members, the African Intellectual Property Organization, the African Regional Industrial Property Organization and the European Community; and, as observers, the States members of the United Nations but not of WIPO as well as certain intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

July 5 to 7 (Geneva)**Intergovernmental Committee, Rome Convention (convened jointly with ILO and UNESCO)**

The Intergovernmental Committee will review the status of the international protection of neighboring rights under the Rome Convention.

Invitations: States members of the Intergovernmental Committee and, as observers, other States members of the United Nations and certain organizations.

August 2 and 3 (Geneva)**Roundtable on Intellectual Property and Indigenous Peoples**

To facilitate an exchange of views among policymakers and indigenous people concerning more effective application and possible improvements of the intellectual property system to protect traditional knowledge.

Invitations: Member States of WIPO; international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned; representatives of indigenous groups and local communities and members of the public.

September 14 to 16 (CICG, Geneva)**Conference on Intellectual Property and Electronic Commerce**

The Conference will address the impact of electronic commerce on intellectual property and will include plenary sessions on general developments in electronic commerce and their implications for intellectual property, as well as workshops on the various areas of WIPO's work program associated with electronic commerce, such as Internet domain names, the WIPO

Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), work on a protocol to the WPPT on audiovisual works, the use of trademarks on the Internet and the use of electronic commerce tools in the delivery of intellectual property services.

Invitations: Member States, international/regional organizations, other States, non-governmental organizations and any interested members of the public, against payment of a registration fee.

September 20 to 29 (Geneva)**Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (Thirty-fourth Series of Meetings)**

All Bodies of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO will meet in their ordinary sessions.

Invitations: As members or observers, the States members of WIPO; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

November 8 to 10 (Geneva)**Working Group on Biotechnology and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

To study intellectual property aspects of biotechnology and of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the potential role of the industrial property system in facilitating access to and transfer of related technology.

Invitations: Member States of WIPO; international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

November 8 to 12 (tentative) (Geneva)**Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (Third Session)**

The Committee will continue its work based upon the results achieved at its second session with regard to the draft Patent Law Treaty, and other issues.

Invitations: As members, the States members of WIPO and other delegations that the Committee has admitted as members; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

November 29 to December 3 (tentative) (Geneva)**Standing Committee on Trademark Law (Third Session)**

The Committee will continue its work based upon the results achieved at its second session with regard to the use of trademarks on the Internet, and other issues.

Invitations: As members, the States members of WIPO and other delegations that the Committee has admitted as members; as observers, other States and certain

Products

The following new products were issued by WIPO
in January 1999:

*WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and
Documentation – 2 Volumes (WIPO Standards) (Russian) No. 208(R),
100 Swiss francs.*

Annual Report 1997 (Chinese) No. 441(C), free.

WIPO publications may be obtained from the Information Products Section:

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CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

phone: 41 22 338 91 11
fax: 41 22 740 18 12
e-mail: wipo.mail@wipo.int

Orders should indicate: (a) the number or letter code of the publication desired, the language (C for Chinese, R for Russian), the number of copies; (b) the full address for mailing; (c) the mail mode (surface or air). Prices cover surface mail. Bank transfers should be made to WIPO account No. 487080-81, at the Swiss Credit Bank, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

