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Geneva, October 2001

# ELECTRONIC COMMERCE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY



WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris opened the Organization's Second International Conference on Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property in Geneva on September 19 by noting both the challenges and opportunities presented by the evolving nature of the Internet and calling for a renewed commitment to bridging the digital divide.

The three-day gathering brought together some 500 representatives from industry, government and the general public to discuss how rapid technological, commercial, and legal developments in e-commerce are affecting the intellectual property system.

The conference covered a wide variety of issues including creation, ownership, and identity online as well as the question of governance of the Internet. Workshops during the three-day conference focussed on music, films and publishing online, as well as recent develop-

ments in domain names, business methods, patents, branding online, and digital rights management systems. Experts from around the world – some speaking to the conference via live videoconferencing – explored the issues of privacy on the Internet, digital cultural heritage, and how new information technologies are shaping the delivery of intellectual property services.

While recognizing that connectivity is still available to relatively few, speakers at the conference underlined the huge potential of the Internet for development and wealth creation for all peoples. The emergence of digital technologies, several speakers noted, has pioneered significant changes to the social, cultural and economic environment in which works of the human mind are created, disseminated, accessed and enjoyed.

Dr. Idris pointed out that these changes are reflected in a parallel evolution taking place in the field of intellectual property, as the traditional intellectual property system adjusts to technological ad-

vances in the digital environment. He noted that these advances present challenges and opportunities to all those who create, distribute and consume works of intellectual property in the global market place.

## The Digital Divide

The Director General also addressed the issue of the digital divide – that is, the discrepancy between those who have access to technologies such as the Internet and those who do not. "We are well aware that the Internet is not yet truly the global medium it has the potential to be," Dr. Idris said. "Although the online population has grown to 460 million users this year, only about 6 percent of the world's population is currently online. Our commitment is, within the scope of our mandate, to help bring all peoples online and to realize the wealth of potential that is offered by the digital media." He mentioned as an example of WIPO's efforts in this area the WIPONET Project, which aims to provide online services to 320 intellectual property offices in 177 member States.

Speakers at the plenary session on the final day of the conference continued discussions on the theme of the digital divide. Mr. Ramiro Soto

Platero of the National Chamber of Commerce, Uruguay, and Mr. Joseph O. Okpaku, President and Chief Executive Officer of Telecom Africa Corporation, Nigeria, provided concrete examples of the need for further access to the Internet in their regions.

## Online Issues

Finland's Minister of Education and Culture, Ms. Suvi Lindén, noted that given the universal nature of the Internet, special attention must be paid to ensuring respect for cultural diversity. She said that while electronic trade in intellectual property can provide universal access to artistic and cultural products, "it is vital to bear in mind that the commodity protected by intellectual property rights which is sold and bought on the net is very much the product of culture. Culture generates creativity, individualism and identity, which are all needed for innovation and new product development."

Such issues regarding cultural heritage online were further discussed in workshops throughout the conference. A session on the new .museum top-level domain featured a presentation from the Center for Arab and Mediterranean Music in Tunis, and a workshop on music online featured the sometimes dif-



Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal

Ms. Suvi Lindén,  
Finland's Minister  
of Education and Culture

fering viewpoints of musicians, music publishers, and media companies that produce and distribute music. Representatives from AOL Time Warner, the International Federation of Musicians and the International Federation of Music Publishers led those discussions.

## Building Trust and Confidence

One of the key themes revisited by speakers throughout the conference was the need to build trust and confidence in the e-commerce environment, on issues ranging from dispute resolution to rights management to privacy.

"A safe and reliable environment is a precondition for widespread electronic commerce," noted Minister Lindén. "The fact is that we all – all the states, communities and individuals in the world – hold the key to the future development of the Internet as a market place. Electronic commerce involves global problems, for which we have to find global solutions."

*WIPO webcast the conference on its website and will publish a multimedia CD-ROM of the event. All papers and presentations from the conference are available in their original languages on the WIPO website ([www.wipo.int](http://www.wipo.int)). The presentations will be included on the CD-ROM as well, together with curricula vitae and filmed interviews.*



# SECOND REPORT ON DOMAIN NAMES



After a year of international consultation, WIPO has released its Report on the Second Domain Name Process, which contains recommendations dealing with the misuse of certain names and identifiers in the Internet domain name system (DNS). The report finds that the international legal framework for protection in the naming systems examined is not yet fully developed. It calls upon the international community to decide whether to address these shortcomings and establish a complete legal basis for dealing with offensive online practices pertaining to the naming systems concerned.

WIPO's first Internet Domain Name Process, focusing on the protection of trademarks, led to the implementation of the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) in December 1999 by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

(ICANN). Since then, the UDRP has provided the means for solving thousands of conflicts relating to cybersquatting on the Internet. The report of the first WIPO Process noted that certain issues relating to intellectual property remained unresolved, insofar as they relate to the use of other identifiers in the domain name system.

The Organization launched the Second Domain Name Process a year ago when a group of countries asked WIPO to initiate a fast-track international consultation to address the outstanding issues (see WIPO Magazine September 2000). WIPO's study addressed the abusive registration as domain names of the following:

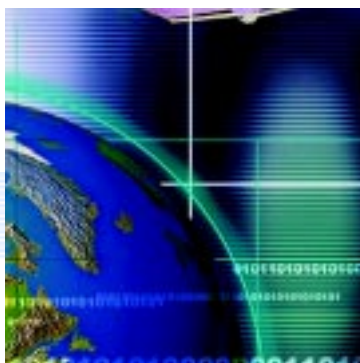
- ▶ International Nonproprietary Names (INNs) for pharmaceutical substances; (unique and distinctive names of pharmaceutical substances that are selected by the World Health Organization (WHO), and maintained as generic names free from private rights in order to protect the safety of patients worldwide);
- ▶ names and acronyms of international intergovernmental organizations (IGOs); (which are protected against use and registration as trademarks by the Paris Convention and TRIPS Agreement);

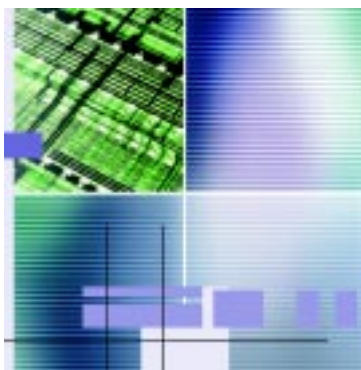
- ▶ personal names (in particular, names of individuals who are targets of abusive registration because they are distinguished or famous);
- ▶ geographical identifiers, notably, indications of geographical source used on goods, geographical indications and other geographical terms; and
- ▶ trade names (a name adopted by a business enterprise to identify itself, as opposed to its various goods and services (for which trademarks are used)).

The Second WIPO Process Report produces considerable evidence of the registration and use of these names and identifiers as domain names by persons who are unconnected with the naming systems in question. WIPO has made recommendations in respect to each of these issues in the report.

## Recommendation on INNs

A simple mechanism should be established to protect INNs against identical domain name registrations. This administrative system would operate when any interested party notifies WIPO that a domain name registration is identical to an INN. WIPO, in conjunction with WHO, would verify that fact and notify ICANN and, in turn, the applicable registrar, that the domain name registration should be cancelled.





### **Recommendation on Names of IGOs**

States, as the constituent members of IGOs, should work towards establishing an administrative dispute-resolution procedure, similar to the UDRP, to allow an IGO to bring a claim that a domain name is the same as or confusingly similar to its name or acronym, that it has been registered without legal justification, and that it is likely to mislead users into believing that an association exists between the domain name holder and the IGO in question.

### **Recommendation on Personal Names**

WIPO suggests that the international community decide whether to work towards some means of protection for personal names in the domain name space. Under the current UDRP, personal names that also qualify as trademarks, whether registered or unregistered, can be protected (i.e., only when the name is used in connection with goods and services in commerce). Although

sensitivities are offended by the registration of personal names as domain names by persons unconnected with the person in question, there are no existing international norms dealing with protection of personal names *per se* that can be simply reflected in the domain name space.

### **Recommendation on Geographical Indications**

The international framework in this area needs to be further advanced before an adequate solution is available in the domain name space. Although there are international norms which prohibit the false and deceptive indications of geographical source on goods and which protect geographical indications, these rules apply to trade on goods and would need to be adapted to deal with the use of geographical indications as domain names by persons unconnected with the localities in question. The lack of an internationally agreed list of geographical indications means that the UDRP cannot simply be applied, because it would raise complex questions of applicable law. For other geographical terms, appropriate international law does not currently exist, and decisions are needed on whether to develop laws to address evidence of widespread registration of the names of countries, places and indigenous peoples as domain names by persons not connected with them.

### **Recommendation on Trade Names**

It is not recommended that action be taken in the area of trade names because, although international norms exist for their protection, fundamental problems remain in identifying what can be protected as a "trade name" across different countries and, as with geographical indications, complex choices would need to be made on applicable law in a global medium.

WIPO will present these recommendations to its member States and the Internet community, including ICANN, the manager of the technical aspects of the DNS.



# WIPO - SECIB DISCUSS FUTURE COLLABORATION

At a meeting in Geneva on September 10, WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris and the Secretary General of the Secretariat for Ibero-American Cooperation (SECIB), Ambassador Jorge Alberto Lozoya, discussed future collaboration between their organizations. This discussion serves as a follow-up to an agreement signed between the two organizations last November.

The agreement provides a framework for future cooperation between WIPO and SECIB to enhance policy dialogue and other links. It makes provisions for collaboration between the two intergovernmental organizations in the field of technical cooperation and for the exchange of information. It was the first collaboration agreement signed by the Secretary for Cooperation of SECIB and an inter-governmental organization, and thus reflecting the importance attached by SECIB countries to promoting understanding and awareness of intellectual property issues.

Dr. Idris and Ambassador Lozoya reaffirmed the importance of integrating the intellectual property system and policies into national strategic planning to promote economic development and wealth creation. They agreed on the need to deliver a clear message about the importance and relevance of intellectual property to policymakers as well as the general public.

At the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government held in November 2000, SECIB received the mandate to organize a forum for reflection on intellectual property in the new digital environment, taking into account the treaties and the work of WIPO. The meeting between Dr. Idris and Ambassador Lozoya was part of consultations in this process.

SECIB countries have expressed particular interest in WIPO's programs relating to global intellectual property issues, including the intellectual property aspects of traditional knowledge, folklore and genetic resources. SECIB has also shown interest in WIPO's initiative to assist small- and medium-sized enterprises in taking full advantage of the intellectual property system for economic development and wealth creation.



Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal

*The agreement signed  
with SECIB  
in November 2000.*

SECIB, created in 1999 during the IX Ibero-American Summit in Havana, was established to strengthen cooperation between its member countries, namely Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela. In the autumn 2000 session of the WIPO Assembly, member States approved a request by SECIB for observer status at WIPO meetings.



# FOCUS PROJECT

A large crane arrived at WIPO's Arpad Bogsch Building in the early hours on September 15 to deliver a new 300 kW generator to the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the building. The generator will serve as a back-up power supply for WIPO computer rooms installed in the building's basement as part of the FOCUS Project.

Critical to the success of WIPO's information technology (IT) projects such as WIPO<sub>NET</sub> and IMPACT is the implementation of suitable, secure, state-of-the-art computer rooms, as well as upgrading the performance and security of WIPO's internal computer networks. To keep in line with evolving business needs, as well as to meet the needs of these projects, WIPO initiated the FOCUS Project in 1999 to upgrade its IT infrastructure.



Photo: Sylvie Castonguay

The FOCUS Project main computer room.

The FOCUS Project involved the renovation and expansion of WIPO's main computer room, the implementation of the WIPO<sub>NET</sub> I and II computer rooms, and achieving a state-of-the-art environment for housing all of WIPO's IT systems. The project's plans also included an upgrade in performance and architecture in WIPO's local area networks (LANs) and the implementation of high-speed inter-building links.

## Computer Rooms

To optimize performance and to minimize administration costs, the FOCUS Project will centralize IT hardware resources at WIPO in computer rooms built in the basement of WIPO's headquarters building. The advanced design of the rooms included the installation of large air-conditioning systems, an uninterrupted power supply (UPS) – able to provide 180 kW of power – together with the 300 kW back-up generator installed on the top floor of the building. In addition, the rooms are equipped with automatic fire extinguishing systems and fault-monitoring and alarm-propagation systems.

The installation has increased the total computer room floor space from 180 square meters to 430 square meters and significantly enhances WIPO's IT infrastructure, including provision for disaster recovery. WIPO also expects savings in IT hardware, software and systems administration costs thanks to the centralization of its IT hardware resources.

## Increased Performance

High-speed inter-building links will be installed, increasing the link speeds between different WIPO premises from 2 megabits per second to between 100 megabits and 1 gigabit per second. In addition to the 1 gigabit per second on-line data links, there also will be redundant "dark fiber" links enabling continued service delivery should there be a disruption to the 1 gigabit links. The installation of these high-speed links between WIPO premises enables the IT hardware to be centralized in the main WIPO computer room.

Upgrades to the WIPO LAN involve migrating from token ring technology to switched ethernet technology. Over the last few months, WIPO's technicians have been preparing the over 1,600 personal computers in the Organization for the switch over to ethernet. The introduction of the new fault-tolerant LAN infrastructure will take place progressively over the next nine months.

Once the new LAN technologies have been deployed, together with the establishment of high-speed inter-building links, advanced network functions, such as Intranet broadcasting of voice and video, will be possible.



# PCT ELECTRONIC FILING TAKES SHAPE

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) electronic filing project is on track for testing among a pilot group of PCT users in early 2002, bringing the goal of paperless patent application filing and processing a significant step closer to reality.

The PCT electronic filing project has had two key objectives since discussions began several years ago: to adopt a standard for the electronic filing and processing of international PCT applications; and to develop a reliable system for the electronic filing of international applications.

Since January 1999, the PCT-EASY (Electronic Application SYstem) software has been available to applicants to facilitate the preparation of international applications. With 33 per cent of PCT filings this year being prepared using PCT-EASY and approximately 7,000 registered users, the software has proved successful. However, PCT-EASY still relies on paper applications. Further development into a complete electronic filing solution is seen as a welcome and needed option for PCT users.

## Adopting a Standard

The development of the legal framework and technical standard for the electronic filing and processing of international applications has involved considerable work on the part of WIPO and frequent consultation with PCT Contracting States. The legal framework will be contained in the new Part 7 of the Administrative Instructions of the PCT, and the technical standard will constitute Annex F to the Administrative Instructions (see [http://pcteasy.wipo.int/efiling\\_standards/EFPage.htm](http://pcteasy.wipo.int/efiling_standards/EFPage.htm) for the current drafts of these texts).

The PCT Regulations were modified in October 1997 to contain general provisions relating to electronic filing (PCT Rules 89*bis* and 89*ter*). However, these rules will not fully enter into force until the PCT Administrative Instructions containing the legal provisions and the technical standards are finalized and promulgated.

Pending further consultations with the PCT Contracting States and other interested parties, WIPO plans to finalize the legal framework and technical standards for the electronic filing and processing of international applications in December 2001.

## How will PCT Electronic filing work?

Significant work has already gone towards making electronic filing possible with the implementation of the PCT-EASY software. It is foreseen that the electronic filing software, building upon the current version of PCT-EASY, will:

- ▶ generate the full PCT application;
- ▶ combine all of the international application documents in one electronic submission package; and
- ▶ transmit the international application data electronically to the server of the receiving Office.

The electronic filing software will also contain authentication and security components. These components will be used to identify the person submitting the application, through user digital certificates, and ensure that the international application - which contains highly confidential information - is transmitted to the patent office in a secure manner.

Another component of the software will be an extensible mark-up language (XML) authoring tool. This tool will allow the PCT user to create the PCT application compo-





nents – description, claims, abstract, drawings – with precise XML tags. The XML tags will allow the various documents to be easily identified and will facilitate a check to ensure that all of the documents required for the granting of an international filing date have been submitted.

Server software will also be developed to enable the patent offices of PCT Contracting States to receive and process the electronically filed applications. Given that the international applications will be prepared, filed and received using standard software, communications between the PCT user, receiving Offices, the International Bureau, and the International Searching and Preliminary Examination Authorities will be greatly facilitated.

### **The Technical Aspect**

In its advancement of the PCT electronic filing project, WIPO is working in close cooperation with patent offices that have already developed electronic filing solutions. This project is also closely linked to WIPO's IMPACT (Information Management for the Patent Cooperation Treaty) Project, ensuring that the two systems will communicate with maximum efficiency.



Currently, the electronic filing project is in its prototype phase, in which existing electronic filing systems (and PCT-EASY) are being evaluated with a view to identifying components that can be incorporated in the PCT electronic filing system. WIPO is currently establishing a pilot group of PCT users to test initial versions of the electronic filing components early in 2002. This exercise, known as the PCT electronic filing pilot, will entail the electronic filing of PCT applications together with a paper copy at WIPO's PCT receiving Office. Once the pilot is successfully completed, PCT applicants will have the choice of filing electronically or on paper with WIPO's PCT receiving Office.



# THE COLLECTION OF IP LAWS AND TREATIES

WIPO makes a valuable contribution to the development of intellectual property law by collecting and making available up-to-date information on intellectual property legislation. Since the late 19th century, WIPO – and its predecessor organization BIRPI – has facilitated and promoted the dissemination of the legislative texts it receives from member States of the conventions and agreements it administers.

At present, the texts include the national laws of 213 countries and dependent territories, as well as multilateral and bilateral treaties, representing some 6,625 texts. All of these texts are centralized in a documentation and information service, and made available to the public online, through the Collection of Laws for Electronic Access (CLEA), in printed form, through the monthly periodicals *Intellectual Property Laws and Treaties* and *Lois et traités de propriété intellectuelle*, and on the IPLEX CD-ROM. The oldest legislative text archived is the French Patent Law of July 5, 1844.

The legislative texts are transmitted to WIPO by the countries concerned under the Paris Convention for legislation regarding industrial property, and by those concerned under the Berne Convention for legislation regarding copyright. WIPO is also informed by the World Trade Organization (WTO) of intellectual property legislation notified to the

Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) by members of the WTO under the TRIPS Agreement. These texts are subsequently communicated by the WTO to WIPO under the Agreement between the two organizations.

## Documentation and Information Service

This service maintains the collection of all intellectual property legislative texts received by WIPO. The texts available in the collection are organized as follows:

### Industrial Property

- I. General texts
- II. Patents
- III. Utility Models
- IV. Industrial Designs
- V. Trademarks
- VI. Indications of Source and Appellations of Origin
- VII. Trade Names and Unfair Competition
- VIII. Employees' Inventions
- IX A. Multilateral Treaties
- IX B. Bilateral Treaties

### Copyright and Related Rights

In 2000, WIPO received 511 legislative texts; during the first half of 2001 it received 158.

The legislative texts are available for consultation on request. The service currently receives an average of 70 such requests per month from universities, governments, private entities and researchers, and from within WIPO.



## Collection of Laws for Electronic Access (CLEA)

CLEA is an electronic database of intellectual property legislation, first published on the Internet in September 1999 (<http://clea.wipo.int> or <http://www.wipo.int/clea>). WIPO continuously expands and updates the information on CLEA, which provides easy access, free of charge, to a wide range of legislation. The increasing frequency of hits to the CLEA database attests to its value as an information resource on legislation. Between January and mid-September 2001, the CLEA website had received some 2.8 million hits, compared with 2.3 million hits for all of 2000. The site receives visits from an average of 3,500 different users each month.

The CLEA database contains full legislative texts in the field of intellectual property and bibliographic references relating to each text. The legislative texts are in English, French and/or Spanish. They feature embedded hyperlinks and are fully searchable. They consist of treaties administered by WIPO, legislation of the European Communities (EC) and national legislative texts communicated to WIPO. In September 2001, 1,909 documents were available on the CLEA database.

The bibliographic references in CLEA contain, on each legislative text, information such as dates of entry into force, publication references, a brief description of the text, language availability, titles in different languages and references – with hyperlinks – to other legislative texts. In September 2001, 2,570 bibliographic references concerning the legislative texts of 60 countries, the EC and treaties administered by WIPO were available on the CLEA database.

At present, approximately 90 percent of the legislative texts notified to the WTO by the countries concerned under the TRIPS Agreement and of which WIPO has received the relevant legislative texts are included in CLEA.

### ***Intellectual Property Laws and Treaties and Lois et traités de propriété intellectuelle***

*Intellectual Property Laws and Treaties* and *Lois et traités de propriété intellectuelle* are the oldest monthly periodicals of the Organization. WIPO has been publishing legislative texts in their most recent versions in the periodicals since 1885 for industrial property and since 1888 for copyright and related rights. These publications represent a key source of documentation on intellectual property legislation, recent and past. The English and French versions reach a combined total of some 1,900 subscribers monthly.

Over the years, the legislative texts, which can be separated from the periodicals and kept in loose-leaf binders, have constituted the paper Collections of Laws and Treaties. The 12 binder Industrial Property Laws and Treaties Collection contains the laws of 105 countries published by WIPO from 1976 to the present, and the six-binder Copyright and Related Rights Laws and Treaties Collection contains the laws of 115 countries published from 1980 to the present.

To prepare the texts for publication, WIPO:

- selects from the legislative texts received those most appropriate for publication;
- ascertains from the competent authorities that the texts received are the most up-to-date versions;

- establishes consolidated versions of legislative texts on the basis of the basic laws and all amendments thereto, if such consolidations have not already been officially established by the national authorities;
- edits the texts to ensure their accuracy as to form and substance as well as their conformity with the original versions.

As of January 2002, the periodicals will be published in electronic form.

### **IPLEX CD-ROM**

The IPLEX CD-ROM is a database containing intellectual property legislative texts in English and French. The texts are from the paper Collections of Laws and Treaties, and WIPO plans to gradually make the contents of the CD-ROM and the paper-based Collections concurrent. The most recent edition of the IPLEX CD-ROM was published in May 2000. A new version of IPLEX is planned for 2002.



# PROMOTING IP IN THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION



*Drummer girl  
in Kataragama,  
Sri Lanka*

*Photo: Caille Conri*

The course provided basic training for newly recruited as well as experienced officials from 22 countries in the region. The participants discussed various issues involving the use of the intellectual property system as an instrument for social, cultural and economic development in their countries.

## **Discussions with the Sri Lankan Government**

WIPO's representatives held extensive discussions with government officials in Colombo to assess their future needs in the intellectual property area. Those discussions will help strengthen the existing relations between the government and WIPO as well as provide an opportunity to review WIPO's activities in the country.

The Sri Lankan officials expressed enthusiasm for intensifying efforts aimed at increasing understanding of intellectual property, such as the production of film documentaries, leaflets, brochures and other publicity material. They outlined the successful public outreach program launched earlier in the year under the auspices of WIPO, which, the officials said, has had a tremendous impact in bringing intellectual property closer to the Sri Lankan people. It was seen as a popular and effective program, and the officials underlined the need to continue the program to build on the results already achieved.

WIPO organized a training course on intellectual property for developing countries in the Asia and Pacific Region in July in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The objective of the course was to provide basic knowledge of intellectual property law and the administration and enforcement of intellectual property rights as well as to encourage and promote creativity and innovation. WIPO representatives also used the opportunity to discuss with Sri Lankan officials the country's needs in the strengthening of its intellectual property system.

This is the seventeenth year in a row that WIPO has organized the course in Colombo. Over the years, the course has had a positive impact on human resource development in the field of intellectual property in the Asia and Pacific Region.

WIPO also supports a project to modernize the intellectual property administration of the National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO). The project will automate NIPO's operation and improve the running of the office. WIPO works closely with NIPO on the project to ensure that the information technology solution used for the office will suit their current and future needs.

With technical and financial support from WIPO as well as continued assistance in training staff, the government hopes to strengthen its intellectual property system to promote further understanding and use of intellectual property in Sri Lanka.



# PCT NATIONAL SEMINAR IN MALI



Photo: Sven Holstenson

*In the region of Mopti, Mali, on the bank of the Niger river.*

WIPO held a seminar on patents and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in Bamako, Mali, from August 21 to 23, addressing the theme of patents as an instrument for social and economic development. The seminar, organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Handicraft and Tourism, attracted some 60 participants from industry, universities and government as well as researchers and inventors.

The seminar highlighted the particular relevance and importance of the intellectual property system to countries such as Mali in their strategy for social and economic development. The second day of the conference underlined the role of the PCT as a source of technological information and the legal arrangements necessary for the commercial transfer of information. On the final day, discussions centered on the Malian experience in the area of patenting and acquisition and transfer of technology through patents.

Mali has been party to the PCT since 1984. The issues of patenting and technological transfer were extensively discussed, as were questions relating to emerging intellectual property issues such as traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore.



# WIPO LAUNCHES RUSSIAN WEBSITE

WIPO launched in September a Russian language version of its website in a bid to give wider access to important intellectual property-related material. Users can now access intellectual property resource material in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish on the WIPO website: <http://www.wipo.int>.

"Access to information is critical in today's knowledge-based societies," said WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris. "The addition of Russian to the WIPO website will enable an even larger number of people to access important reference materials relating to intellectual property, a key tool in capturing the value of knowledge."

In the first six months of this year, the WIPO website, consisting of the main site plus 12 subsidiary sites, registered some 85 million hits from all over the world, more than three times the number for the same period last year. WIPO is increasingly using opportunities afforded by the Internet to disseminate information relating to intellectual property. Work will begin on a Chinese-language version of the WIPO website in 2002.



WIPO was assisted in the creation of the new version of the site by the Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks (ROSPATENT) of the Russian Federation.

The Russian website contains most of the treaties that are administered by WIPO, as well as general information about WIPO and intellectual property. It also provides a schedule of forthcoming meetings and access to a broad selection of conference documents. Pointers are also provided to information that is available in other languages.



## **OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 2** (GENEVA)

### **Preparatory Working Group of the Nice Union for the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Twenty-first session)**

In the framework of the new revision period, the Preparatory Working Group will consider and make decisions on proposals for changes to the eighth edition of the Nice Classification, which will subsequently be submitted to the nineteenth session of the Committee of Experts of the Nice Union for adoption.

*Invitations:* As members, States members of the Preparatory Working Group of the Nice Union; as observers, States members of the Paris Union which are not members of the Working Group, and certain organizations.

## **NOVEMBER 5 TO 9** (GENEVA)

### **Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (Sixth session)**

The Committee will continue its work on further harmonization and other issues relating to patent law.

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

## **NOVEMBER 12 AND 13** (GENEVA)

### **WIPO Workshop for Arbitrators**

An annual event for all parties interested in WIPO arbitration procedures.

*Invitations:* Open to interested parties, against payment of a fee.

## **NOVEMBER 14** (GENEVA)

### **WIPO Workshop on Domain Name Dispute Resolution**

An event for all parties interested in WIPO Internet domain name dispute resolution.

*Invitations:* Open to interested parties, against payment of a fee.

## **NOVEMBER 26 TO 30** (GENEVA)

### **Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) (Sixth session)**

The Committee will continue its work based on the results of its last session, in particular on matters concerning the protection of rights of broadcasting organizations.

*Invitations:* As members, States members of WIPO and/or of the Berne Union, and the European Community; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

## **NOVEMBER 28 AND 29** (MONTEVIDEO)

### **Symposium on the International Protection of Geographical Indications**

This two-day Symposium will provide a forum for the exchange of information on the protection of geographical indications at the national, regional and international levels and on future trends in that area.

*Invitations:* Registration is open to government representatives as well as participants coming from the private sector.

## **DECEMBER 3 TO 7** (GENEVA)

### **Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) (Seventh Plenary session)**

The Plenary will receive reports from its Working Groups on Standards and Documentation and Information Technology Projects and will continue its discussions, started in January 2001, on restructuring.

*Invitations:* As members, the States members of WIPO and the Paris Union; as observers, certain organizations.

## **DECEMBER 10 TO 14** (GENEVA)

### **Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (Second session)**

The second session of this Committee will consider and discuss progress made with the work program supported by Member States at the first session of the Committee held from April 30 to May 3, 2001.

*Invitations:* As members, the State members of WIPO, and as observers, certain organizations.



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## UPDATE: THE WIPO INTERNET TREATIES

The WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), known together as the "WIPO Internet Treaties," received several new ratifications over the summer, bringing the treaties closer to the 30 ratifications each treaty must have before it enters into force.

Georgia deposited its instrument of ratification of both Internet treaties on July 4. Lithuania and Peru deposited their instruments of ratification of the WCT, the former on June 18 and the latter on July 30. The WCT now has 27 ratifications while the WPPT has 24. WIPO remains optimistic that the treaties will receive the necessary ratifications to enter into force by year-end.

### Ratifications

<b>WIPO Copyright Treaty (Status on September 25)</b>	<b>WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (Status on September 25)</b>
Argentina	Albania
Belarus	Argentina
Bulgaria	Belarus
Burkina Faso	Bulgaria
Chile	Burkina Faso
Colombia	Chile
Costa Rica	Colombia
Croatia	Costa Rica
Ecuador	Croatia
El Salvador	Ecuador
Georgia	El Salvador
Hungary	Georgia
Indonesia	Hungary
Japan	Latvia
Kyrgyzstan	Lithuania
Latvia	Mexico
Lithuania	Panama
Mexico	Paraguay
Panama	Republic of Moldova
Paraguay	Romania
Peru	Saint Lucia
Republic of Moldova	Slovakia
Romania	Slovenia
Saint Lucia	United States of America (24)
Slovakia	
Slovenia	
United States of America (27)	