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Governing Bodies of WIPO

Governing Bodies of WIPO and the Unions Administered by WIPO

Twenty-Ninth Series of Meetings
(Geneva, September 23 to October 2, 1996)

From September 23 to October 2, 1996, the Governing Bodies of WIPO held their twenty-ninth series of meetings in Geneva. Delegations from 121 States, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 16 international non-governmental organizations participated in the meetings.¹

The following six Governing Bodies met:

WIPO General Assembly;
WIPO Coordination Committee;
Paris Union Assembly;
Paris Union Executive Committee;
Berne Union Assembly;
Berne Union Executive Committee.

The main subjects considered by the Governing Bodies and the main decisions that they adopted are summarized below.

Activities of WIPO from July 1, 1995, to June 30, 1996. Almost all the delegations expressed their appreciation for the volume and quality of the activities that had been carried out by WIPO in the reporting period and considered that those activities had been conducted with efficiency, creativity, dedication and success.

Particular satisfaction was expressed for the volume and quality of the development cooperation activities carried out by WIPO in favor of developing countries. It was emphasized that those activities had obtained their objectives and matched the expectations of the participating countries, and that they covered a variety of crucial areas such as the development of human resources, strengthening of the legal and administrative intellectual property infrastructure, automation of procedures for the granting of intellectual property rights, promotion of inventions and innovation, access to technological information contained in

patent documentation, and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

It was noted that the International Bureau gave foremost importance to the activities that assisted developing countries in analyzing the implications of the TRIPS Agreement for them, and in adapting their national legislation to the obligations established under that Agreement. In this connection, many delegations expressed their satisfaction with the successful conclusion, in December 1995, of the Agreement between WIPO and the World Trade Organization (WTO), including the work on the notification of intellectual property laws and regulations. The delegations of the recipient developing countries expressed the hope that WIPO's development cooperation program would expand in the future and that there would be a significant increase in financial resources allocated to it. A number of delegations of industrialized and other donor countries reiterated their willingness to continue giving support to WIPO in its development cooperation program, with funds and in kind.

A number of delegations expressed their satisfaction for the progress achieved by WIPO in the period under review in respect of norm-setting. Most delegations which spoke commended WIPO for the preparatory work that had led to the convening, in December 1996, of the WIPO Diplomatic Conference on Certain Copyright and Neighboring Rights Questions and stated their commitment to work toward the successful conclusion of that Conference. Several delegations expressed the hope that efforts made in connection with the draft Patent Law Treaty would soon culminate in success and also expressed the need to make progress toward the conclusion of the Treaty on the Settlement of Intellectual Property Disputes Between States.

Many delegations expressed their appreciation for the entry into force, in the period under review, of two major international instruments in the field

¹ A full list of the participants may be obtained on request from the International Bureau.

on trademarks initiated by WIPO and concluded under the auspices of WIPO, namely the Trade-mark Law Treaty (TLT) and the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol). A number of delegations also referred with appreciation to the entry into force and start of operations under the Eurasian Patent Convention (EAPC), a treaty in whose preparation the International Bureau played an important role.

A number of delegations referred with appreciation to the WIPO activities conducted in favor of countries in transition to market economy, in particular, seminars and meetings organized in, and WIPO consultant missions undertaken to, the region, to assist in the strengthening of national legislation and of the administrative intellectual property infrastructure, and in promoting regional cooperation.

Many delegations also emphasized the continuing success of the PCT as evidenced by the constantly increasing number of member States and growth of the number of international patent applications, as well as its essential role in WIPO's income. With respect to WIPO's other activities in international registration, appreciation was also expressed for the promising start of operations, on April 1, 1996, of the Madrid Protocol.

The International Bureau's activities in administering international classifications and patent documentation and in promoting the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, were also praised.

The Director General replied to the delegations as follows:

(a) He assured delegations that their comments and suggestions had been carefully noted and would be taken into account in the planning of the International Bureau's work in the remaining part of the current biennium and in the preparation of the draft of the program and budget for the subsequent (1998-99) biennium.

(b) In line with suggestions from certain delegations, he stated that the International Bureau would carry out a study, with the help of consultants, on international intellectual property issues arising from the new global information infrastructure, including Internet.

(c) In line with suggestions put forward by several delegations, the Director General stated that WIPO would no longer require the 13% overhead charge for administrative support costs for development cooperation activities funded by extra-budgetary resources from developing countries.

(d) He also stated that, in line with the suggestions made, the number of long-term fellowships offered by the International Bureau to nationals of developing countries for academic training in intellectual property would continue to increase in the future, as had already been the case in the current year.

(e) The Director General said that he fully agreed with the delegations that had stressed the importance of maintaining a balanced geographical distribution of staff within the Secretariat and also of filling a higher number of important posts by women. This was a continuous task, and he was confident that the improvement would continue also in the future.

(f) As far as the WTO and the TRIPS Agreement were concerned, the Director General said that cooperation with the WTO was highly satisfactory and WIPO's role in promoting the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement was both very important and extensive. "Mega symposiums" on the implications of the TRIPS Agreement had been organized by WIPO in 1996 and were to be organized again in 1997 in all the developing regions, and WIPO would finance the participation of all developing country members of WTO.

(g) Finally, the Director General said that, in line with the suggestions of several delegations, he intended to propose that part of the regular budget of WIPO which deals with development cooperation be once again increased, mainly from PCT sources, for the 1998-99 biennium. As for the special allocations provided for in 1995 for development cooperation and other activities relating to the TRIPS Agreement for the current biennium, it was the Director General's intention to propose that the special allocations not only be renewed but also be increased for the 1998-99 biennium.

Adjustment of the Program of the 1996-97 Biennium. The WIPO Coordination Committee and the Executive Committees of the Paris and Berne Unions noted the information provided by the International Bureau on certain matters related to the program of the current (1996-97) biennium, taking into account developments that had occurred since the program was adopted (in September - October 1995), namely that (i) a diplomatic conference for the adoption of a new treaty on the international registration of industrial designs would not be held before 1998; (ii) the International Bureau would study the feasibility of an international "deposit" system for nucleotide

and/or amino acid sequence listings; (iii) the International Bureau would study, with the help of consultants, the needs for and feasibility of the establishment of an international centralized system for the recording of assignments of patent applications and of patents; (iv) the International Bureau would conduct a preliminary study concerning a possible new treaty on intellectual property in respect of integrated circuits, in conformity with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement.

The General Assembly of WIPO and the Assembly of the Berne Union discussed preparations for the Diplomatic Conference on Certain Copyright and Neighboring Rights Questions, to take place in Geneva from December 2 to 20, 1996, and agreed on the date, membership and mandate of, and the financing of participation in, two consultation meetings to take place in Geneva, in October and November 1996, respectively. The said preparations included three regional consultation meetings to be held in Casablanca (Morocco), Chiang-Mai (Thailand) and Santiago de Chile, respectively.

The WIPO General Assembly and the Assembly of the Paris Union approved the inclusion in the draft Patent Law Treaty of certain additional topics, namely (i) the filing date of an application and unity of invention; (ii) the recordal of licensing agreements; (iii) belated claiming of priority, and (iv) restoration of rights where a limit of time has been missed, and extension of time limits which have not yet expired but whose extension has been requested. The Committee of Experts on the Patent Law Treaty would be informed, in a document, of the fact that the provisions concerning unity of invention and belated claiming of priority should be treated as having been presented in brackets by the International Bureau.

The General Assembly of WIPO and the Assembly of the Berne Union noted with approval the fact that WIPO would organize in Phuket (Thailand), in April 1997, the Unesco/WIPO World Forum on the Protection of Folklore, and that WIPO would finance eight speakers and 18 participants from developing countries.

Premises. The WIPO General Assembly unanimously decided to approve the recommendations made by the joint session of the Budget Committee and the Premises Committee, in September 1996, that the International Bureau organize an international architectural competition for construction of a building on the Steiner lot

(adjacent to the WIPO headquarters building in Geneva), and that a further study should be undertaken by a consultant to examine the various options available in Geneva, including the option to construct a building on the Steiner lot. The Budget and Premises Committees would review the report of the said consultant by mid-April 1997 at the latest.

Draft Treaty for the Settlement of Disputes Between States in the Field of Intellectual Property. The WIPO General Assembly decided that: (i) the draft program and budget for the 1998-99 biennium would contain an item for the holding of a diplomatic conference in the first half of 1998; (ii) the International Bureau should prepare by April 1997, documents containing a new text of the draft treaty and of the draft regulations and notes to serve as the basic proposal for a diplomatic conference, as well as background documentation; (iii) the said item of the draft program and budget for the 1998-99 biennium would be examined in the September/October 1997 session of the WIPO General Assembly, in the light of the said documents and the experience of the WTO international dispute settlement mechanisms.

Procedural Steps for the Appointment of a New Director General in 1997. The WIPO Coordination Committee adopted procedural steps for the appointment of a new Director General, as follows: (i) in October 1996, invitations would be sent to Governments to propose one or more nationals as a candidate or as candidates for the post of Director General of WIPO, the deadline for submission of candidatures being January 31, 1997; (ii) the WIPO Coordination Committee would meet on March 18 and 19, 1997, to nominate the candidate for the post of Director General who is to be appointed by the General Assembly; (iii) the General Assembly of WIPO and the Assemblies of the Paris and Berne Unions would have on their agenda for the 1997 ordinary sessions, to be held in September/October, an item entitled "Appointment of the Director General."

Staff Matters. The Governing Bodies approved the Director General's intention to promote (with effect on October 1, 1996) to the grade of Assistant Director General Mr. Thomas Keefer and to grade D.1 (Director grade) Mr. Roberto Castelo, Mrs. Carlotta Graffigna, Mr. Richard Owens and Mr. Jaime Sevilla.

Notifications Concerning Treaties Administered by WIPO

Strasbourg Agreement

Ratification

GREECE

The Government of Greece deposited, on October 21, 1996, its instrument of ratification of the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification of March 24, 1971, as amended on September 28, 1979.

The said Agreement will enter into force, with respect to Greece, on October 21, 1997.

Strasbourg Notification No. 48, of October 21, 1996.

Nairobi Treaty

Ratification

POLAND

The Government of Poland deposited, on October 22, 1996, its instrument of ratification of the Nairobi Treaty on the Protection of the Olympic Symbol, adopted at Nairobi on September 26, 1981.

The said Treaty will enter into force, with respect to Poland, on November 22, 1996.

Nairobi Notification No. 42, of October 22, 1996.

Trademark Law Treaty

Accession

GUINEA

Corrigendum

The second paragraph of TLT Notification No. 9, dated August 5, 1996, which deals with the date of entry into force, with respect to Guinea, of the Trademark Law Treaty, is replaced by the following paragraph:

Guinea being a member State of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the Treaty will enter into force, with respect to Guinea, three months after the date on which OAPI deposits its instrument of accession to the said Treaty.

TLT Notification No. 9 (Corrigendum), of October 18, 1996.¹

¹ See also *Industrial Property and Copyright*, 1996, page 267.

Registration Systems Administered by WIPO

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

Training and Promotion Meetings for PCT Users

Argentina. In August 1996, a government official of the National Institute of Industrial Property had discussions with WIPO officials in Geneva on PCT-related issues.

Israel. In August 1996, a government official of the Patents, Designs and Trademarks Office was given training in receiving Office procedures under the PCT at WIPO's headquarters, and had discussions on various PCT matters with WIPO officials.

Japan. In August 1996, two WIPO officials had discussions in Tokyo on various PCT-related matters, including, in particular, possible changes to the PCT system, with government officials of the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) and representa-

tives of the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA) and the Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA). They also discussed activities for promoting greater use of the PCT in Japan with managers of patent departments of several Japanese industrial companies and with patent attorney firms.

Turkmenistan. In August 1996, a government official of the Patent Office of Turkmenistan was given training in receiving Office procedures under the PCT at WIPO's headquarters, and had discussions on various PCT matters with WIPO officials.

United States of America. In August 1996, a WIPO consultant from the United States of America gave a lecture on the PCT at the American Patent Academy in Washington, D.C., to eight persons preparing an examination to become patent agents or patent attorneys.

Madrid Union

Training and Promotion Meetings for Users of the Madrid System

Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In August 1996, two government officials had discussions with WIPO officials in Geneva on the adminis-

trative procedures under the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Protocol Relating to that Agreement, in the light of the country's expected accession to the Protocol on October 3.

WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center

Japan. In August 1996, a Professor of Kanagawa University, Yokohama, discussed with WIPO officials in Geneva the services of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center in the context of Japanese needs.

American Bar Association (ABA). In August 1996, a WIPO official participated in the annual

meeting of that Association, organized in Orlando (Florida, United States of America) and attended by about 10,000 persons. He made a presentation on WIPO and the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center at a session entitled "Arbitration of Intellectual Property Disputes under the Arbitration Rules of WIPO."

Activities of WIPO Specially Designed for Developing Countries

Africa

Training Courses, Seminars and Meetings

WIPO African Regional General Introductory Course on Industrial Property for French-Speaking Countries of Africa (Burkina Faso). From August 7 to 16, 1996, WIPO organized that Course in Ouagadougou, in cooperation with the Government of Burkina Faso. There were over 30 participants from Angola, Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Zaire. Papers were presented by three WIPO experts from Burkina Faso (one) and France (two). Three WIPO officials participated in the Course as well as a representative of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), all of whom presented papers. The program of the Course included, *inter alia*, the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

WIPO Subregional Seminar on Intellectual Property for Magistrates of French-Speaking Countries of Africa (Côte d'Ivoire). From August 21

to 23, 1996, WIPO organized that Seminar in Abidjan, in cooperation with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. The Seminar was attended by 14 judges from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo, as well as 10 judges from Côte d'Ivoire. Papers were presented by two WIPO consultants from France, an expert from Côte d'Ivoire and three WIPO officials. The subjects covered included, *inter alia*, the relevant provisions of the TRIPS Agreement.

Assistance with Training, Legislation and Modernization of Administration

Botswana. In August 1996, at the request of the Government, WIPO prepared and sent to the authorities comments on the Industrial Property Act, 1996. The comments included reference to the relevant provisions of the TRIPS Agreement.

Burkina Faso. In August 1996, two WIPO officials had discussions with officials of the

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Handicraft, in Ouagadougou, on matters concerning development cooperation, including WIPO assistance in organizing a subregional seminar on innovation.

Mali. In August 1996, a WIPO consultant from Burkina Faso undertook a mission to Bamako to assess the progress of the project for the establishment of software (COSIS) for the automation

of procedures for distribution of copyright royalties at the Copyright Office of Mali.

Nigeria. In August 1996, WIPO organized a practical training program on copyright and neighboring rights for two officials from the Nigerian Copyright Commission at the Canadian Copyright Organization (CANCOPY) in Toronto.

Arab Countries

Assistance with Training, Legislation and Modernization of Administration

Jordan. In August 1996, a WIPO official visited Jordan and discussed with the Director of the Directory of Trade Registration and Industrial Property Protection of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, future WIPO cooperation with Jordan in the revision of the country's industrial property legislation as well as the

advantages of accession to the PCT and the Madrid Agreement.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) (New York). In August 1996, a WIPO official undertook a mission to the UNDP in New York to discuss the possible allocation of UNDP funds for a regional project for Arab countries in the field of intellectual property, to be executed by WIPO.

Asia and the Pacific

Training Courses, Seminars and Meetings

WIPO/Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Round Table on Intellectual Property Cooperation and the TRIPS Agreement (Thailand). From August 5 to 7, 1996, WIPO organized that Round Table in Chiang Mai in cooperation with the Department of Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand and the European Patent Office (EPO). There were 33 participants from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as a representative from the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. The participants included heads of intellectual or industrial property offices, customs and police officials and judicial officials. Three WIPO officials participated in the Round Table as well as resource persons from the United Kingdom, the EPO and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Round Table was funded under the EC-ASEAN Patents and Trademarks Program.

WIPO National Workshop on the Teaching of Intellectual Property Law (Nepal). On August 14, 1996, WIPO organized that Workshop in Kathmandu, in cooperation with the Department of Industries of the Ministry of Industry and the Faculty of Law of Tribhuvan University. There were 45 participants from Government, the legal profession and the above-mentioned University. A WIPO consultant from Thailand and a WIPO official presented papers. The subjects covered included, *inter alia*, the relevant provisions of the TRIPS Agreement.

WIPO National Seminar on the Implications of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) (Nepal). On August 15 and 16, 1996, WIPO organized that Seminar in Kathmandu, in cooperation with the Department of Industries of the Ministry of Industry and the Trade Promotion Centre of the Government of Nepal. There were 50 participants from government circles, the legal profession,

industry and business. Two WIPO consultants from Thailand and the United Kingdom and a WIPO official presented papers.

WIPO/Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM)/Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) National Seminar on the Benefits of the Intellectual Property System for the Malaysian Business Community (Malaysia). On August 28 and 29, 1996, WIPO organized that Seminar in Shah Alam, in cooperation with the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs of Malaysia, SIRIM and FMM. The Seminar was attended by 60 local participants from government circles, industry, the legal profession, universities and research institutions. Papers were presented by two WIPO consultants from Germany and the United Kingdom and three local experts. The Seminar was financed under the UNDP-funded country project. The subjects covered included, *inter alia*, the relevant provisions of the TRIPS Agreement.

Assistance with Training, Legislation and Modernization of Administration

Bangladesh. In August 1996, a government official held discussions with WIPO officials in Geneva on accession to WIPO-administered treaties, modernization of the industrial property administration and future cooperation activities.

Cambodia. In August 1996, a government official held discussions with WIPO officials in Geneva on accession to WIPO-administered treaties and future cooperation activities.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In August 1996, four officials of the Invention Office undertook a study visit to the German Patent Office in Munich, organized by WIPO, on automated patent administration and computerized documentation and information services.

Also in August 1996, three officials of the Invention Office undertook a study visit to the Chinese Patent Office (CPO) in Beijing on patent application procedures.

The above visits were financed under the UNDP-funded national country project, executed by WIPO, to modernize the industrial property system in the country.

India. In August 1996, WIPO prepared and sent to the authorities a draft Act on the Protection of Layout-Designs (Topographies) of Integrated Circuits, with a commentary on its main provisions. The comments included references to the relevant provisions of the TRIPS Agreement.

Also in August 1996, a WIPO official held discussions with government and UNDP officials, in New Delhi, concerning the possible funding of a program on strengthening the industrial property system in India for the period from 1997 to 2002.

Iran (Islamic Republic of). In August 1996, a government official held discussions with WIPO officials in Geneva on future cooperation in the field of industrial property, particularly the development and use of industrial property information systems.

Malaysia. In August 1996, a WIPO official visited the Annual Malaysian Invention and Design Exhibition (MINDEX/INNOTEX '96), in Kuala Lumpur, and presented two WIPO medals for the best invention and the best student's invention (see also below).

Also in August 1996, a WIPO official held discussions, in Kuala Lumpur, with officials of SIRIM on matters of mutual interest. He also participated in the Terminal Tripartite Review of the UNDP-funded project, executed by WIPO, on strengthening the industrial property system of Malaysia.

Mongolia. In August 1996, the former Minister for Culture, Mr. Nambaryn Enkhbayar, held discussions with the Director General and other WIPO officials in Geneva on matters relating to the possible accession of Mongolia to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. A WIPO official also accompanied him during discussions on copyright issues with officials of the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, in Berne, and the Swiss Society for Authors' Rights in Musical Works (SUISA), in Zurich.

Nepal. In August 1996, officials of the Department of Industries of the Ministry of Industry held discussions with WIPO officials in Geneva on questions relating to the draft industrial property law being prepared by the authorities on the basis of a draft that had been prepared by WIPO in

1994. The discussions also covered the relevant provisions of the TRIPS Agreement.

Also in August 1996, a WIPO consultant from the United Kingdom and a WIPO official held discussions with officials of the above-mentioned Department of Industries in Kathmandu, on the said draft industrial property law and the modernization of the industrial property system.

Still in August 1996, a WIPO consultant from Thailand undertook an expert mission to the Faculty of Law of Tribhuvan University on the teaching of intellectual property law.

Pakistan. In August 1996, a government official held discussions with WIPO officials in Geneva on the country's possible accession to WIPO-administered treaties, modernization of the industrial property administration and future cooperation activities.

Papua New Guinea. In August 1996, a government official held discussions with WIPO officials in Geneva on the country's possible accession to WIPO-administered treaties, modernization of the industrial property administration and future cooperation activities.

Philippines. In August 1996, a WIPO official visited Manila and discussed with government officials questions relating to various national initiatives for the promotion of inventive and innovative activities in the country. He also spoke about WIPO's activities at a workshop on the commercialization of inventions organized by the Technology Application and Promotion Institute, in Manila, for some 60 inventors, scientists and entrepreneurs.

Western Samoa. In August 1996, a government official held discussions with WIPO officials in Geneva on possible membership of WIPO, modernization of the industrial property administration and future cooperation activities.

EC-ASEAN. In late August and early September 1996, two WIPO consultants from the United Kingdom undertook a mission to Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand to promote the public awareness of intellectual property in ASEAN countries through the preparation of information materials. The mission was funded under the EC-ASEAN Patents and Trademarks Program.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Training Courses, Seminars and Meetings

Brazil. In August 1996, a WIPO official participated in a Seminar on Technology Transfer and the Legal Protection of Designs organized in São Paulo by the Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo. Around 100 participants attended that Seminar, including several senior government officials and entrepreneurs. The WIPO official made a presentation on industrial property and international competitiveness.

Assistance with Training, Legislation and Modernization of Administration

Bolivia. In August 1996, a WIPO consultant from Venezuela undertook a mission to the National Industrial Property Office in La Paz to train trademark examiners on the use of the *Trademark*

Registration Manual for Andean Countries which had been commissioned by WIPO.

Brazil. In August 1996, a WIPO consultant from the EPO undertook a mission to the National Institute of Industrial Property in Rio de Janeiro to provide training to the staff of the Patent Department in the examination of patent applications.

Colombia. In August 1996, a WIPO consultant from Cuba undertook a mission to the Directorate General of Industry and Commerce to advise on the establishment of industrial property information services. The mission was funded under the UNDP-financed inter-regional project for sectoral support.

Also in August 1996, WIPO organized for two representatives of the Society of Authors and Composers of Colombia a study visit to the Authors Society of Chile in Santiago de Chile.

Still in August 1996, a WIPO official attended a Seminar on Copyright and Neighboring Rights, organized in Paipa by the newly created Anti-Piracy Alliance of Literary and Artistic Works in Colombia and attended by public prosecutors, legal officials and police officers. He also participated in the inauguration of the new Documentation Center of the Colombian National Copyright Directorate.

Ecuador. In August 1996, a WIPO consultant from Venezuela undertook a mission to the National Directorate of Industrial Property in Quito to train trademark examiners on the use of the *Trademark Registration Manual for Andean Countries* which had been commissioned by WIPO.

El Salvador. In August 1996, a WIPO official had a meeting with government officials in San Salvador to discuss the draft proposed Agreement to be signed between the Government of El Salvador and WIPO for the execution of a technical cooperation program for the modernization and strengthening of the industrial property system in that country.

Mexico. In August 1996, a delegation of six parliamentarians visited WIPO to discuss with WIPO officials questions concerning, *inter alia*, the protection of folklore.

Nicaragua. In August 1996, two WIPO consultants from Chile and Venezuela undertook a mission, under the UNDP-financed inter-regional project, to the Industrial Property Registry in Managua to provide advice on the development of the automated system for the administration of trademark information and to adapt the said system to the new provisions and procedures established under the Protocol to the Central American Con-

vention for the Protection of Industrial Property (Trademarks).

Peru. In August 1996, a WIPO consultant from Venezuela undertook a mission to the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Intellectual Property (INDECOPI) in Lima to discuss preparations for the first Latin American Congress on the Protection of Industrial Property, to be organized by WIPO in Lima in November 1996.

Trinidad and Tobago. In August 1996, a WIPO consultant from the United Kingdom undertook a mission to Port-of-Spain to provide training to the staff of the Intellectual Property Registry in the international classification of marks. The mission was funded under the country project on modernization and strengthening of the industrial property system.

Venezuela. In August 1996, a WIPO consultant from Argentina gave lectures on copyright and neighboring rights at the University of Los Andes in Mérida, to the students of the postgraduate course on intellectual property.

Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA). In August 1996, two WIPO officials participated in San Salvador in a Meeting of the Heads of the Industrial Property Offices of the countries of the Central American Isthmus organized by SIECA. The meeting was attended by the heads of the industrial property offices of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, and by several representatives from the private sector of the said countries. The meeting discussed, *inter alia*, the draft Central American Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (inventions and industrial designs), prepared by WIPO at the request of the Central American countries. Cooperation between Central American countries and WIPO was also discussed.

Development Cooperation (in General)

Training Courses, Seminars and Meetings

WIPO Introductory Seminar on Industrial Property (Geneva). From August 28 to 30, 1996, WIPO organized that Seminar in Geneva, in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. It was attended

by 114 participants from Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon,

the Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Laos, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), as well as 40 officials from Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Lectures were given by a WIPO consultant from the United Kingdom and six WIPO officials. The program of the Seminar also covered the relevant provisions of the TRIPS Agreement.

WIPO/Sweden Training Course on Copyright and Neighboring Rights (Stockholm). From August 12 to 22, 1996, WIPO organized that Course in Stockholm, in cooperation with the Government of Sweden and with the assistance of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Seventeen government officials from Argentina, China, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa and Zimbabwe attended the Course. Papers were presented by two government officials and a university professor from Sweden, a gov-

ernment official from Ghana, two representatives of the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFRRO) and the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI), and three WIPO officials. At the end of the Course, the participants visited the headquarters of WIPO where they met with WIPO officials and attended a meeting to evaluate the Course. The subjects covered included, *inter alia*, the relevant provisions of the TRIPS Agreement.

WIPO/International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA) Symposium on the Commercialization of Patented Inventions (Malaysia). From August 18 to 22, 1996, that Symposium was jointly organized in Kuala Lumpur by WIPO and IFIA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs of Malaysia and the Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS). There were over 140 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Canada, China, France, Hungary, Iceland, India, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Togo, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Viet Nam and Hong Kong, as well as UNDP and OAPI officials. Presentations were made by experts from China, Hungary, Iceland, India, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States of America, as well as by a WIPO official. The Symposium ended with a roundtable discussion on the commercialization of patented inventions.

WIPO Medals

In August, 1996, a WIPO official presented two WIPO medals to the winners of the best invention and best student's invention of the Annual Malaysian Invention and Design Exhibition

(MINDEX/INNOTEX '96), organized jointly by the Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS) and the Malaysian Institute for Nuclear Technology Research (MINT) in Kuala Lumpur.

Activities of WIPO Specially Designed for Countries in Transition to Market Economy

Regional Activities

WIPO Seminar on the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) (Helsinki). On August 13 and 14, 1996, WIPO organized that Seminar in Helsinki, in cooperation with the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland. The purpose of the Seminar was to promote use of the Eurasian patent system among European patent attorneys. It was the first meeting on such a topic organized outside the territory of the nine countries party to the Eurasian Patent Convention (namely, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus,

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan). The Seminar was attended by over 50 participants, who were government officials from Finland and patent attorneys from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Two WIPO officials also participated in the Seminar. Four invited officials from the EAPO and the Russian Federation, as well as a WIPO official made presentations, which covered, *inter alia*, the use of the PCT route to obtain a Eurasian patent.

Contacts of the International Bureau of WIPO With Other Countries and With International Organizations

National Contacts

Netherlands. In August 1996, a WIPO official gave a paper on the system of deposit of microorganisms under the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure, at the Eighth International Congress for Culture Collections, organized in Veldhoven by the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS) and the Institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, under the auspices of the World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC).

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Industrial Property Rights Symposium on the Development of Industrial Property Systems towards the 21st Century (Japan). In August 1996, a WIPO official participated in that Symposium

organized by the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) in Tokyo and attended by about 200 representatives of government and industry of the 18 member economies of APEC.

Other Organizations

Association of European Performers Organizations (AEPO)/International Federation of Musicians (FIM). In August 1996, an AEPO representative and a FIM representative visited WIPO to discuss the organization of, and possible WIPO participation in, an international forum on the protection and exercise of performers' rights, in May 1997.

Institute of Computer Law (Oslo). In August 1996, a group of students from that Institute were briefed by WIPO officials in Geneva on WIPO's

activities and, in particular, the Diplomatic Conference on Certain Copyright and Neighboring Rights Questions which would be held in December 1996.

International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA). In August 1996, a WIPO official participated in the IFIA General Assembly held in Kuala Lumpur.

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). In August 1996, two WIPO officials attended the 62nd General Conference of IFLA held in Beijing.

International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI). In August 1996, a representative of IFPI visited WIPO and had discussions with WIPO officials on certain copyright issues raised by the application of digital technology.

Recent WIPO Publications

The following new publications¹ were issued by WIPO in August 1996:

¹ WIPO publications may be obtained from the Publications Sales and Distribution Section, WIPO, 34, chemin des Colombettes, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland (telex: 412 912 OMPI CH; fax: (41-22) 733 5428; telephone: (41-22) 730 9111).

Orders should indicate: (a) the number or letter code of the publication desired, the language (E for English, J for Japanese), 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.

Conference on Mediation, Geneva, March 29, 1996, No. 750(E), 170 pages, 20 Swiss francs.

WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center—Guide to WIPO Mediation, No. 449(E), 16 pages, free.

WIPO General Information brochure (1996 edition) (in Japanese), No. 400(J), 73 pages, free.

Calendar of Meetings

WIPO Meetings

(Not all WIPO meetings are listed. Dates are subject to possible change.)

1996

- December 2 to 20 (Geneva, CIGC¹)** **WIPO Diplomatic Conference on Certain Copyright and Neighboring Rights Questions**
 The Diplomatic Conference will adopt one or more multilateral treaties.
Invitations: As delegations, (i) States members of WIPO and (ii) the European Communities; as observers, States not members of WIPO but members of the United Nations, and certain organizations.
- December 6 (a.m.) (Geneva, CIGC¹)** **Information Meeting for Non-Governmental Organizations on Copyright and Neighboring Rights Questions**
 Participants in this informal meeting will be informed about the recent activities and future plans of WIPO in the field of copyright and their comments on the same will be invited and heard.
Invitations: Certain non-governmental organizations.

1997

- February 17 to 20 (Geneva)** **Committee of Experts on Trademark Licensing (First Session)**
 The Committee will study questions concerning the formalities and other legal aspects of trademark licensing.
Invitations: As members, (i) States members of WIPO and (ii) the European Communities; as observers, certain organizations.
- March 18 and 19 (Geneva)** **WIPO Coordination Committee (Thirty-Seventh Session)**
 The Committee will meet in its extraordinary session in order to nominate a new Director General and possibly also to deal with certain staff questions.
Invitations: States members of the WIPO Coordination Committee and, as observers, States members of WIPO not members of that Committee.
- March 21 (New York)** **WIPO Arbitration Conference**
 The Conference will provide a detailed review of the arbitration of intellectual property disputes under the WIPO Arbitration and Expedited Arbitration Rules. Representatives of WIPO, legal scholars and private practitioners will make presentations and conduct discussions on all important aspects of the said Rules, under the following headings: arbitration of intellectual property disputes and arbitration in the age of high technology; the arbitration clause; constituting the panel; interim relief; the conduct of the proceedings; the award; and the costs of arbitration.
Participation: Any person, against payment of a registration fee.

¹ CIGC: International Conference Center Geneva/Centre International de Conférences Genève.

- April 8 to 10 (Phuket, Thailand)** **Unesco/WIPO Worldwide Forum on the Protection of Folklore**
 The Worldwide Forum—organized by Unesco and WIPO in cooperation with the Government of Thailand—will review all the important aspects of the protection of folklore. It will also deal with the question of what legal measures may be envisaged in this field at the national and international levels.
Invitations: States members of Unesco and/or WIPO, selected intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and—against payment of a registration fee—any person.
- April 14 and 15 (Geneva)** **WIPO Budget Committee (Sixteenth Session) and WIPO Premises Committee (Seventh Session)**
 The two Committees will continue to consider, in a joint session, matters concerning WIPO's needs for new premises.
Invitations: States members of the Committees and, as observers, other States members of WIPO.
- April 16 to 18 (Geneva)** **WIPO Budget Committee (Seventeenth Session)**
 The Committee will consider the draft program and budget for the 1998-99 biennium.
Invitations: States members of the Committee and, as observers, other States members of WIPO.
- April 28 to 30 (Manila)** **WIPO World Symposium on Broadcasting, New Communication Technologies and Intellectual Property**
 The World Symposium—organized in cooperation with the Government of the Philippines—will review the present status and possible improvement of the legal regulation of the rights and obligations of those organizations (broadcasters, cable distributors, Internet, etc.) which make available to the public programs containing protected works, broadcasts, performances and phonograms.
Invitations: States members of WIPO, selected intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and—against payment of a registration fee—any person.
- September 22 to October 1 (Geneva)** **Governing Bodies of WIPO and the Unions Administered by WIPO (Thirtieth Series of Meetings)**
 All the Governing Bodies of WIPO and the Unions administered by WIPO will meet in ordinary session.
 They will, *inter alia*, review and evaluate WIPO's activities undertaken since July 1996, decide the program and budget of WIPO for the 1998-99 biennium and appoint the new Director General.
Invitations: States members of WIPO and/or the United Nations; certain organizations.

UPOV Meetings

(Not all UPOV meetings are listed. Dates are subject to possible change.)

1997

- April 29 and 30 (Geneva)** **Consultative Committee (Fifty-Third Session)**
Invitations: Member States of UPOV.
- October 27 (Geneva)** **Administrative and Legal Committee (Thirty-Seventh Session)**
Invitations: Member States of UPOV and, as observers, certain non-member States and intergovernmental organizations.
- October 28 (Geneva)** **Consultative Committee (Fifty-Fourth Session)**
Invitations: Member States of UPOV.
- October 29 (Geneva)** **Council (Thirty-First Ordinary Session)**
Invitations: Member States of UPOV and, as observers, certain non-member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

