

# Contents

**Industry Advisory Commission  
– WIPO and private sector look to the future** 2

**Visits**

- Constructive and forward-looking: talks between Director General and Russian Prime Minister 4  
WIPO Director General pledges support to India 5

**WIPO Worldwide Academy**

- Academy makes major commitment to African partners in distance learning and training 7  
Academy targets diplomats in first WIPO/UNITAR collaboration 8

**Innovation promotion**

- WIPO Gold Medals – 20 years on 9  
WIPO Gold Medals 10

**Global Registration Systems**

- Patent Cooperation Treaty registers record growth in 1998 11

**Global Intellectual Property Issues**

- Mission targets traditional knowledge in western Africa 13

**Cooperation for Development**

- WIPO facilitates discussion of electronic commerce in Central America 14  
WIPO pledges support for reprographic rights societies in Latin America and the Caribbean 15

**On-line**

- WIPO Internet Domain Name Process nears end 16  
SCIT affirms need for a strategic plan to cover all WIPO information technology-related activities 17  
Intellectual property databases hosted by WIPO on the Internet 18  
The WIPO Internet site also provides links to the following databases hosted by other organizations 19  
80 years of Canadian patent information now on Internet 20

**Obituary**

- Ragnhild Drode 21

**Calendar of meetings** 22

**Products** 24

# Industry Advisory Commission – WIPO and private sector look to the future

*“Without engaging in a dialogue with our constituents in industry, we cannot know the problems that confront them and the demands those problems place on the international intellectual property system.”*

With these words Dr. Idris launched a new partnership between WIPO and the private sector at a meeting with 17 top-level industry representatives – the founding members of the new WIPO Industry Advisory Commission (IAC) – in Geneva on February 4 and 5, 1999.

The members of the IAC discussed with WIPO the rapid changes taking place in their industries and the intellectual property needs arising from those changes. The ongoing dialogue with the IAC will allow WIPO to develop its norm-setting activities and global protection systems in line with the evolving needs of the market sector, the main user of the Organization’s services.

## Agenda

Three items featured on the agenda for this first meeting of the IAC

- electronic commerce –  
overviewing the implications and development of this multi-billion dollar industry that has become a subject of major economic and policy importance
- intellectual property and wealth creation – assessing the central role of intellectual property in creating jobs by attracting investments of both capital and knowledge assets
- managing change at the international level – discussing

means of ensuring that policy-makers keep up with rapid technological change.

As Dr. Idris stressed, the Commission’s advice and input will help “gain a better and methodical understanding of ways in which industry could best work with WIPO in order to realize our vision and materialize our program of activities for all countries, all peoples, and all nations.” Such input was essential to WIPO’s goal of releasing the enormous potential of the intellectual property system and its tools as instruments for economic growth and wealth creation in a world that is increasingly shifting towards a knowledge-based economy.

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## Conclusions

At the conclusion of the two-day meeting the Commission thanked the Director-General for the “outstanding first step” in reaching out to the private sector. Wide-ranging and fruitful discussions had taken place on

- the need for continual review and revision of existing business models and economic concepts, including in the intellectual property field, in response to the rapid rise of the digital economy
- the potential for intellectual property to be used to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries in a world that is increasingly shifting towards a knowledge-based

economy, by allowing the value in that knowledge to be captured

- the need to improve the general public’s understanding of intellectual property and its role in development
- the possibility of reducing the cost of obtaining and enforcing intellectual property rights (particularly in the patent field) by harmonized systems of protection and global titles of protection.

## Early warning

The creation of the IAC is part of Dr. Idris’s efforts to take into consideration the broadest range of opinions in the context of policy-making and medium-term planning for the Organization to

ensure that its work continues to be as sharply focused and as relevant as possible. He sees the Commission as providing a “sort of early warning system”, enabling WIPO to be alerted quickly to potential problems as well as be in a position to take full advantages of the many new opportunities that the new millennium will hold.

The views of the IAC will be presented to the Assemblies of WIPO member States in September; the Commission itself will meet again later this year.

*Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal*



*Some of the founder members of WIPO’s Industry Advisory Commission*

## Visits

### Constructive and forward-looking: talks between Director General and Russian Prime Minister

The Director General pledged WIPO's support to the Russian Federation in its efforts to enhance and strengthen its intellectual property protection system during a visit to Moscow on February 24 and 25, which included a meeting with Prime Minister Evgeny Primakov.

Dr. Idris described the talks as "constructive and forward-looking." Dr. Primakov echoed the Director General's satisfaction, concluding at the end of their meeting that "our views coincided."

#### P.M. Primakov

Dr. Primakov told the Director General that the issue of intellectual property is "of State importance." The Prime Minister said his country is mobilizing efforts to advance its economy and that intellectual property protection is

of "paramount" importance in this endeavor. Dr. Primakov said the Russian Federation appreciates the work of WIPO and expects the Organization to continue to provide legal and technical assistance to his country, including in human resource development.

Dr. Idris commended the Russian Prime Minister on his vision for the future which includes enhancing, upgrading and strengthening the intellectual property infrastructure. The Director General said intellectual property will be a major component in the knowledge-based economy of the 21st Century.

Dr. Idris and the Prime Minister strongly supported establishing intellectual property enforcement institutions and initiating serious efforts against piracy and counterfeit goods.

Dr. Idris welcomed indications by the Prime Minister that the portfolio of copyright and related rights will likely be institutionalized under the authority of Rospatent (Russia's agency for patents and trademarks). Dr. Idris said WIPO is prepared to help Rospatent to establish the necessary administrative, technical and legal infrastructure to support this project.

#### Law Revision

The Director General's talks with Russian officials also covered an initiative that is currently being debated in Moscow, namely a revision of the Civil Code that would include a part on intellectual property. Asked to comment on this process by the Director General of Rospatent, Mr. Alexander Korchagin, Dr. Idris evoked the potential negative effects of this action. Dr. Idris strongly urged the Government to consider the full implications of such a move. "Today the tendency goes against double regulation and double legislation," he said, adding that Russia already has good intellectual property legislation which can be adapted as the need arises. He noted that adjusting the Civil Code is a "difficult, complicated, expensive and time-consuming process." Double legislation is also likely to lead to problems of jurisprudence and interpretation.

Photo: Samar Shamoan



The Director General with Prime Minister Evgeny Primakov

Dr. Idris also voiced his concern about the project to include intellectual property provisions in the Civil Code during his meeting with the Prime Minister, Foreign Affairs officials, and the Deputy Chairman of the State Duma, Mr. Mikail Yuriev. The Director General suggested that a possible compromise could be a broad general reference to intellectual property in a Civil Code and maintaining detailed provisions in individual laws.

## Rospatent

In wide-ranging talks with Mr. Kortchagin at Rospatent, Dr. Idris also pledged WIPO's support to the Agency. The two sides agreed on the need to hold an annual forum in Moscow to promote understanding of intellectual property in the Russian Federation and other CIS countries. Workshops would also be arranged to provide training for officials involved in intellectual property and enforcement. Dr. Idris said the workshops would be tailor-made to respond to the needs of countries with economies in transition.

Mr. Kortchagin also requested WIPO's support in the country's struggle against piracy. Dr. Idris pledged WIPO's assistance in establishing enforcement institutions, training specialists, customs officials, the police, the judiciary and other relevant actors.

## Other Talks

The Director General also held talks with Acting Foreign Minister, Evgeny Goussarov, who said the Ministry attaches special importance to cooperation with WIPO. He said due attention should be paid to training personnel and called on WIPO to continue to provide assistance in this area.

Dr. Idris also exchanged views with the First Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Eduard Renov, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Mr. Pavel Khoroshilov, the Deputy Head of the Committee on Radio and Television, Mr. Anatoli Bliznets, as well as a member of the Russian Authors' Association. On Thursday, Dr. Idris met parliamentarians. Later, he addressed an audience of academics and students at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations where he was awarded a Medal of Honor in recognition of his contribution to the world of intellectual property.

## WIPO Director General pledges support to India



*The Director General takes part in a traditional ceremony to open the meeting organized by FICCI and IIPD in New Delhi*

*Photo: Wang Binying*

During his first official visit to India, the Director General pledged the Organization's support to the Indian government as well as to the private sector in the process of modernizing and upgrading the country's intellectual property system.

## Ministerial Talks

During his visit from February 7 to 10, the Director General met with India's Minister of Human Resource Development, Dr. Murli Monohar Joshi, Minister of Industry, Mr. Sikander Bakht, Minister of Finance, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, as well as representative of industry, attorneys and inventors.

The Director General and his delegation also traveled to Hyderabad, India's high-technology hub, where they met the Chief Minister. Mr. Chandra Babu Naidu and

Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. C. Rangarajan. Dr. Idris visited Hitech City and the Indian Institute of Information Technology, and noted the impressive pace of technological development.

In a meeting with Mr Sikander Bakht, Minister of Industry, the Director General pledged to support an \$18 million project financed by the Government of India to modernize the patent office. Dr. Idris said WIPO would provide technical and legal advice for this project. He also welcomed a proposal by the Minister to host a forum on policy development relating to intellectual property for Asian countries. The forum would be held in 1999 and would continue as an annual event.

The Director General described his wide-ranging talks in India as "useful and fruitful". During talks with key officials and business leaders, Dr. Idris underlined the positive developments and decisions taken by the Indian government to strengthen its intellectual property infrastructure. He praised the partnership that has developed between industry and the government in issues relating to intellectual property. He also emphasized the need to forge ahead with further modernization of the intellectual property system in India.

## Copyright

During talks with the Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister for Human Resources Development, the Director General praised India's advanced and modern copyright law, noting that it only needed minor amendments to conform to the TRIPs Agreement. He urged the Indian government to consider ratification of two key treaties - the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT), and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), which are both designed to ensure protection of works in the digital age. He noted India's active role in the drafting of new protocols on audiovisual performances, protection of databases, and the rights of broadcasting organizations.

## Other Issues

They also discussed issues relating to enforcement, emphasizing the need for training and human resources development. Dr. Idris and the Minister agreed to give priority to teaching intellectual property at universities, engineering and management institutions. The Director General outlined WIPO's program to study intellectual property issues in global areas such as protection of expressions of folklore, biodiversity, traditional medicines and indigenous knowledge.

Dr. Idris and the Minister of Finance, Mr. Yahswant Sinha, discussed the desirability of a national initiative on the promotion of inventors and innovations. The Director General said WIPO is ready to provide any technical advice the Indian government may require in this respect.

## Private Sector

At a meeting organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Institute of Intellectual Property Development (IIPD) in New Delhi, Dr. Idris outlined the main challenges and priorities for the intellectual property community in India and on the international front. He told an audience of some 150 people including policy-makers, government officials, attorneys, businesspeople and research and development representatives that India had made great and positive steps in upgrading its intellectual property infrastructure. He said the main challenge for the developing world lies in the "demystification" of intellectual property and ensuring the widest dissemination of information on this important issue that could play a key role in promoting trade, technology transfer, and investment.

## IP Fact file

India, the country with the world's second largest population, became a member of WIPO in 1975 and is currently party to six treaties administered by WIPO, namely, WIPO Convention (1975), Paris Convention (1998), Berne Convention (1928), Patent Cooperation Treaty (1998), Phonograms Convention (1975) and Nairobi Treaty (1983).

# WIPO Worldwide Academy

## Academy makes major commitment to African partners in distance learning and training

A mission in January 1999 by staff of the WIPO Worldwide Academy to the African region has laid the foundations for extensive WIPO involvement in distance learning and in the development of regional training centers there.

The first stop for members of the mission was the University of South Africa (UNISA), where they met with the Dean and other high-ranking university officials as well as members of the Law Faculty. Discussions centered on cooperation between the two organizations in the development and delivery of intellectual property distance learning courses and in the facilitation of intensive training courses associated with the courses.

The goal is the creation of a specific study course on intellectual property carried out by distance learning, that will lead to the award of a joint WIPO/UNISA diploma or certificate. More intensive, face-to-face training courses will also be jointly organized, and will take place in UNISA's recently-established residential campus facilities.

A Memorandum of Agreement between the two organizations is being finalized and it is hoped that the first courses developed through this new cooperation will begin in the last semester of 1999.

The development of regional training centers, equipped with appropriate facilities for residential training and distance learning,

was the main focus of visits to the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) and the African Intellectual Property Organisation (OAPI) – which provide regional fora for national IP offices from English-speaking and French-speaking African countries, respectively.

The delivery of distance learning courses at ARIPO and OAPI and in the national offices of their member States will benefit greatly from the implementation of the WIPO Global Information Network (WIPONET) project, designed to provide network services to intellectual property offices worldwide and facilitate the rapid exchange of data between these offices. The project will provide the technical

## UNISA's impressive track record

UNISA has been teaching intellectual property law for more than 60 of its 126 years of existence. Founded in 1873, it is South Africa's largest university and has been solely devoted to distance learning since 1946. Of over 120,000 students registered worldwide, 10,000 are enrolled in the Law Faculty, and, of these 1,600 are following courses on intellectual property law.

*Among UNISA's most famous graduates are South Africa's President, Nelson Mandela; Zimbabwe's President, Robert Mugabe; and Bishop Desmond Tutu, former Chairman of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission*

Corbis/David Turnley



Corbis/Peter Turnley



Corbis/Zen Icknow



Photo: Courtesy of UNISA



*The impressive UNISA premises – a fitting home for South Africa's largest university*

platform for the delivery of Internet-based training material.

Later this year, ARIPO will move to larger premises, while OAPI is planning to expand their existing premises with a new conference and training room. With additional space and state-of-the-art equipment, including video-conferencing facilities, ARIPO and OAPI are expected to enhance their capabilities as regional training centers.

The first WIPO distance learning on "Introduction to Intellectual

Property" will be offered as a pilot project in June 1999 to participants from ARIPO member states. The project will provide the WWA with useful feedback for the continuing development of distance learning materials.

Discussions with OAPI led to the conclusion of a Cooperation Agreement with the WWA to

provide training based on distance learning methodology for participants in training courses within the OAPI system. An important element of the cooperation is the participation in the project of selected universities, which will provide human resources and appropriate content for the development of course material.

## Academy targets diplomats in first WIPO/UNITAR collaboration

An intensive one-and-a-half day workshop was a double first for WIPO – the first WWA program devoted solely to professional diplomats and the first joint project undertaken by WIPO and UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research).

The workshop, held in New York on February 8 and 9, met with great enthusiasm from the 38 middle and senior level diplomats who participated. For some it was their first exposure to lectures dealing specifically with intellectual property rights. The workshop World Intellectual Property Rights: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century, aimed at stimulating awareness of the importance of intellectual property and its impact on social, economic, cultural, and technological development, and at highlighting the role of WIPO in promoting the protection of IP rights throughout the world, especially in developing countries.

Each presentation was followed by a lively discussion and participating diplomats expressed a wish for follow-up sessions, dealing with specific topics in depth.

The success of the workshop has led to the organization of a follow-up session in New York, to be held later this year, and to the organization of two sessions (in English and Spanish) to be held in Geneva in May.

## WWA, distance-learning, and the future

The WWA plans to extend the approach to regional capacity building taken in this first regional mission to other regions. Talks have been held with the Fédération Internationale des Conseils en Propriété Industrielle with a view to possible WIPO participation in the annual South East Asian Drafting Training Course (on drafting patent specifications) and with the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute of the University of London to consider the development of distance learning courses and materials, such as on-line teaching programs for patent attorneys and courses dealing with the IP aspects of agricultural science and biotechnology.



# Innovation promotion

## WIPO Gold Medals – 20 years on

Twenty years have passed since WIPO launched its Gold Medal Award program to encourage inventive activity by showcasing and rewarding the talents and ingenuity of inventors throughout the world. In that time, the program has grown dramatically, from 2 recipients in 1979 to 37 in 1998.



Photo: François Martin

*The first WIPO Gold Medal being awarded to inventor Mr. Gilbert Menguy at the International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva in 1979*

The first WIPO Gold Medal – for the best invention “meeting needs of and conditions in developing countries...” - was awarded in 1979, at the International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva, to Mr. G. Menguy (France) for an easily assembled, solar distiller producing water pure enough to be used as drinking water or for medical purposes.

A second category of Gold Medal – for best young inventor – was introduced in 1982, to encourage creativity among children. It was first awarded at the 41st Concours of School Children’s Inventions, organized by the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation (JIII), to Etsuko Izumisawa for a “memo-box” (a device for storing and dispensing materials for writing messages).

A few years later, WIPO marked the end of the UN Decade for

Women (1976 to 1985) with the establishment, in 1985, of a third category of award – for best woman inventor. The first such medal was awarded to Olympia N. Gonzales (Philippines) at the 19th Philippine Annual Inventors’ Week, for processes for preparing baby foods from local fruits and for preparing coconut milk, in a stable, diluted form.

To date, a total of 512 inventors from 75 countries (46 of which were developing countries) have received WIPO Gold Medals.

At the regional level, in 1988, WIPO and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) established jointly the WIPO-OAU Gold Medal Award scheme for African inventors. The winning invention is chosen by a jury of eminent scientists and the Award is presented every two years at the OAU Summit Meeting of Heads of

The awarding of WIPO Gold Medals has become a feature of exhibitions of inventions in countries such as Algeria, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Democratic Peoples’ Republic of Korea, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Niger, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, and Viet Nam. Requests from countries continue to grow.

State. Winning inventors have come from Niger (1988), Egypt (1991/1993), Nigeria (1995), and South Africa (1997).

International exhibitions that regularly feature the awarding of WIPO Medals, include the Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions, the Brussels "Eureka" World Exhibition, and the International Exhibition of Inventions in Casablanca.

The Organization will soon introduce a new award program – the WIPO Gold Medal Award for Innovative Enterprises – aimed at encouraging small and medium-sized companies to make use of industrial property rights in their product research, production, and commercialization strategies.

The promotion of inventive and innovative activities, in particular in developing countries, is one of

WIPO's major tasks. Indigenous inventiveness is an indispensable element of economic self-reliance and the inventor's role in that respect is primordial. The Organization's increasing focus on innovation promotion activities reflects the importance it attaches to that role.

The inventor and author George D. Margolin put it this way:

For lack of an inventor, an invention was lost  
For lack of an invention, a product was lost  
For lack of a product, a company was lost  
For lack of a company, an industry was lost  
For lack of an industry, thousands of jobs were lost



*Muhammad Ibn Musa Al Khawarazmi was a mathematician and astronomer born in 780 in Baghdad, whose major works introduced Hindu-Arabic numerals and concepts of algebra into European mathematics.*

## WIPO Gold Medals

In February, two WIPO gold medals were awarded at the 12th Khwarazmi International Award organized in Tehran by the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST).

Aliasghar Sheydakhan Gheshlaghi won the award for best young inventor for a CNC<sup>1</sup> for processing bodies of dissymmetrical geometric shape and Fereydoun Sabet Ghadam won the award for outstanding inventor for an application of magneto-hydrodynamics<sup>2</sup> in mechanical retarders.

1. CNC or computer numerical control is a system whereby a dedicated computer is used to control the movements and operations of a machine-tool. This invention defines the control functions necessary for processing parts which have a dissymmetrical geometric shape.
2. Magneto-hydrodynamics in the study of interactions between a conducting fluid and a magnetic field. In this invention magneto-hydrodynamic principles are applied in the design of mechanical retarding devices, such as braking systems.

# Global Registration Systems

Patent Cooperation Treaty registers record growth in 1998



*Deputy Director General François Curchod met with the Minister for Industry Sikander Bakht during the New Delhi seminar*

In addition to seeing the deposit by South Africa (on December 16\*) of the 100th instrument of accession to the PCT, 1998 also saw considerable growth in the use of the Treaty, with 67,007 international applications filed worldwide – an increase of 23.1% over 1997.

While applicants from the industrialized countries continue to be the main users of the PCT system, the statistics for 1998 show that inventors and industry in several

## India and the PCT

Following India's accession to the PCT in December 1998, an extensive training program was carried out in the country by WIPO staff members. The program included two training sessions on PCT procedures for 27 officials from the Patent Office in Calcutta and four national seminars on the PCT held in Calcutta, Chennai, New Delhi and Mumbai for a total of some 400 participants, including patent attorneys, patent examiners, scientists, and research scholars. WIPO Deputy Director General François Curchod participated in the New Delhi seminar, which was also attended by

the Minister of Industry of India Sikander Bakht. The response to the training program highlighted a huge demand for information on intellectual property, in general, and on the PCT, in particular. Many participants requested further seminars in other locations in the country.

The Indian government has approved a 25 million Swiss franc plan to modernize the national office, including the construction of a new building, the recruitment and training of 240 new examiners, and the computerization of operations (at present exami-

nation work is done manually as computers and EDP systems are not available).

On February 12, 1999, a high-level delegation from the Institute of Intellectual Property Development of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) visited WIPO headquarters. The delegation met with Deputy Directors General, Mr. Castelo, Mr. Curchod, and Mr. Uemura and visited PCT and trademarks operations. The 13-member delegation, headed by Dr. S. Narayan, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, consisted of senior representatives from the private sector.

developing countries and countries in transition (for example, Azerbaijan, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe) began using the system for the first time, while others made greater use of it (in particular, Brazil, Cuba, Czech Republic, Hungary, Indonesia, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan). Inventors and industry in the United States continued to be the biggest user of the PCT in 1998, with 42.3 % of all applications, followed by those of Germany (13.6%), Japan (9.1%), United Kingdom (6.5%) and France (5.0%).

WIPO Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris said "the PCT offers important possibilities to developing countries in establishing or developing their national patent systems in support of economic development". He encouraged all countries to "embrace the opportunities and advantages offered by the PCT" in their efforts to promote innovation and to attract

foreign investment through protection of intellectual property.

By filing only one international application with one Office, the PCT applicant can obtain the effect of regular national filings in any or all of the states bound by the PCT without initially having to furnish a translation of the application or pay national fees. The national patent granting procedure and the related high expenses are postponed, in the majority of cases, by up to 18 months (or even longer in the case of some Offices). The PCT system offers to patent applicants a user-friendly and cost efficient route for filing.

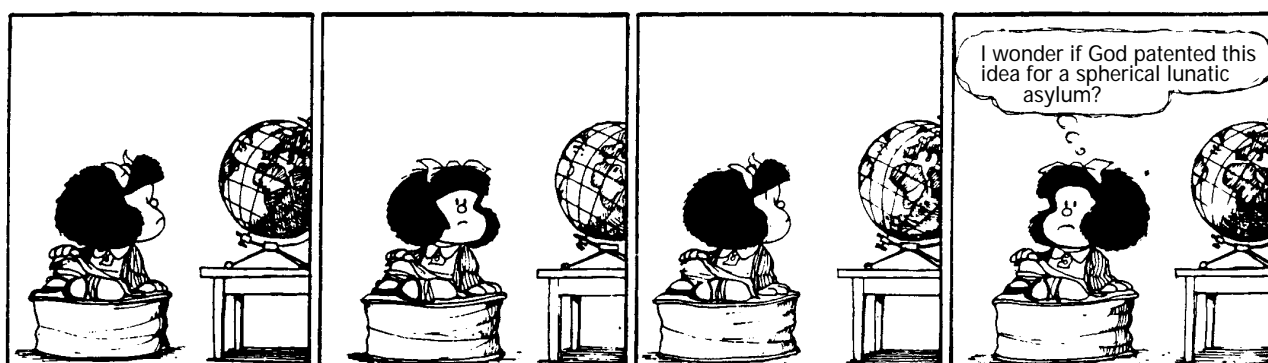
Recognizing the importance of the Internet as a means of communicating information to users and potential users of the PCT, WIPO uploaded numerous further PCT materials on the Internet, including the weekly publication of the PCT Gazette, of which Section I (Published

International Applications) is in fully searchable form.

In a continued effort to ensure automation of the PCT system, the International Bureau released the so-called PCT-EASY software on January 1, 1999. This enables applicants, through the use of more than 165 validation checks, to avoid making mistakes in preparing the request part of their international applications. In the future, the software will facilitate the handling of international applications by Offices.

In order to reduce the cost of filing international applications, the Assembly of the PCT Union decided in September 1998 to decrease the maximum number of designation fees payable with effect from January 1, 1999, from 11 to 10. It also decided to introduce a 200 Swiss franc reduction where applicants prepare, to the extent permitted, the request form using the PCT-EASY software.

## Mafalda



# Global Intellectual Property Issues

## Mission targets traditional knowledge in western Africa

A WIPO fact-finding mission visited Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, and Senegal, from January 18 to February 2, meeting with a wide range of individuals concerned with intellectual property issues, including government representatives, representatives of non-governmental organizations, research institutions, intellectual property lawyers, and the holders of traditional knowledge.

It was the sixth in a series of such missions to all regions of the world that seeks to explore the difficulties faced by holders of traditional knowledge in trying to protect their creativity and innovation, with a view to establishing the contribution the IP system can make to such protection.

The areas of traditional knowledge encountered most frequently by the WIPO team were those related to traditional medicinal knowledge and traditional textile production.

In Nigeria, for example, members of the mission visited the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD) in Abuja—a dynamic governmental institution headed by Professor Charles Wambebe, an internationally known pharmacol-

ogist. The Institute seeks to use basic raw materials from indigenous natural resources for research and development aimed at producing high-quality pharmaceutical products for fighting tropical diseases and other illnesses. It works directly with holders of traditional knowledge in this field, often employing them as consultants. While its work in the research and development sector is of primary importance, the Institute also aims to be involved in all stages of drug development and distribution, including manufacturing and marketing.

A further insight into traditional medicine was given during visits to a government research institute, the Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine (CSRIPM), in Mampong, Ghana, and a similar institute in Mali, and to hospitals using traditional medicines and techniques (including those for the treatment of psychiatric disorders) in Senegal. While in Dakar, the team had discussions with a respected traditional medicine practitioner, Dr. Jean Ndiaye, who works in cooperation with orthodox medical practitioners, using only medical compositions derived from plants. Dr. Ndiaye emphasized the importance of the spiritual elements of this type of knowledge.

The WIPO team had an opportunity to discuss traditional knowl-



*Dr. Ndiaye uses traditional knowledge and skills in treating his patients*

edge and techniques in textile production in Abeokuta (Nigeria) – a textile dyeing center, producing the famous “adire” cloth, using a “tie-and-dye” method. Textile production was also discussed during the visit to Mali, where the members of the mission met with the makers of the “bogolon” fabric – the so-called “mud cloth”, which is dyed using mud containing natural pigments. Problems have arisen regarding the manufacture of the fabric, with fabric-makers in other regions laying claim to the techniques traditionally used by the makers of bogolon. While they were in Mali, the members of the mission also visited the Dogon tribe, well-known for their traditional practices and craft in the sculpting of wooden masks and “doors.

One of several more general discussions the team had on intellec-

tual property issues took place during a visit to the Ashanti region of Ghana where the members of the mission were received by one of the paramount chiefs of the region, Nana Akuoko Sarpon who is also the Chairman of the National Commission of Culture. During the visit, they observed a traditional ceremony carried out by members of the chief's tribe and had fruitful discussions with him on intellectual property questions.



*Rich, blue "adire" fabric being laid out to dry*

## Cooperation for Development

### WIPO facilitates discussion of electronic commerce in Central America

From January 28 to 30 WIPO, together with SIECA (Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration) organized a sub-regional Central American Seminar on Intellectual Property in the Field of Electronic Commerce in Antigua, Guatemala, attended by some 50 participants from the sub-region.

The objective of the Seminar was to provide the countries of the

region with expert information on electronic commerce as well as a forum for discussion of related issues. Participants were also provided with the latest findings and recommendations from the Internet Domain Name Process that is now entering its final stages and provides much current, pertinent information on the difficulties of doing business on the web.

The Seminar provided a bridge of knowledge and understanding between the Internet and intellectual property communities. It included a series of roundtable discussions featuring heads of industrial property offices, directors of arbitration centers and

national coordinators of domain name systems.

Domain name system administrators present at the seminar expressed support for the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process recommendations to serve as guidelines in the administration of the country code top-level domains. In addition, the Seminar provided details of WIPO's major International Conference that will address the impact of electronic commerce on intellectual property and will take place in Geneva from September 14 to 16, 1999.

## WIPO pledges support for reprographic rights societies in Latin America and the Caribbean

WIPO, together with the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFRRO), the Copyright Office of Argentina and the Argentinean Book Chamber organized a Regional Seminar on the Collective Management of Reprographic Reproduction Rights for Latin American countries in Buenos Aires, Argentina from February 8 to 10. The collective management of reprographic rights is needed when the individual administration of copyrights is impossible or impractical. This is often the case

when photocopying small portions of work for internal use or when several rightsholders are involved in a single copying event, e.g. a feature article with pictures in a magazine.

The objectives of the seminar were:

- to underline the importance of the role of collective management societies in the exercise of reprographic rights
- to emphasize the need to extend this to digital reproduction

The seminar was opened by Mrs. Hilda Retondo, Director of the Copyright Office of Argentina, Mr. Olav Stokkmo, General Secretary of IFRRO and Mr. Ernesto Rubio, Director of the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, on behalf of the Director General of WIPO.

The seminar was attended by participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela representing the respective Book Chambers, Latin American RRO's (Reprographic Rights Organizations) copyright Offices, Author's Societies and Publishers.

Among other matters, the seminar considered models for the administration of reprographic rights together with case studies in Brazil, Mexico, the United States, Spain and Norway. Topics during these discussions included:

- representation
- licensing agreements with users
- collection and distribution of rights
- tariffs

WIPO will continue to provide support to facilitate the setting up of regional reprographic societies in this region.



Corbis/Francesco Venturi: Kea Publishing Service

A decorative panel hangs over the balconied windows of a facade in Buenos Aires, Argentina

# On-line

## WIPO Internet Domain Name Process nears end

The penultimate regional consultation within the framework of the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process took place in Brussels on February 17. The final meeting, which will take place in Washington on March 10, will complete this round of world-wide consultations organized to allow all interested parties to attend and participate in open discussions on the Interim Report of the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process, published at the end of 1998.

During each consultation the four main topics of the Interim Report were addressed. They are

- best practices designed to minimize conflicts arising out of domain name registrations
- the need for uniform dispute resolution procedures
- protection for famous and well-known marks
- the impact of adding new top-level domains on intellectual property

New issues have emerged from each consultation during lively exchanges between participants

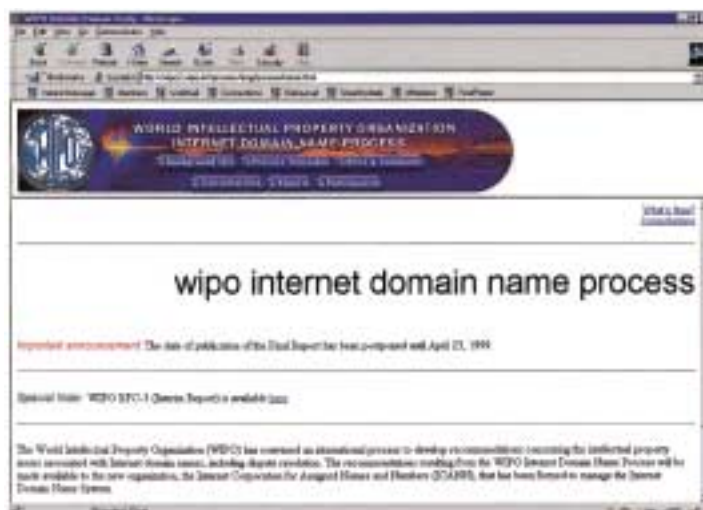
and the Panel of Experts that attend each meeting to share their experience, reply to questions and join in the discussion. A number of issues have attracted particular and repeated attention. These include:

- the availability of contact details and developing best practices that would maintain low entry barriers for domain name registrants but would also satisfy related privacy considerations
- the relationship between the proposed administrative dispute resolution system and the national judicial systems
- the need to define cybersquatting
- distinguishing between commercial and non-commercial domains

- the desirability of pro-active exclusions for famous and well-known marks
- the need for adequate differentiation in the introduction of new gTLDs

Comments on the Interim Report will be completed and incorporated into the Final Report to be ready by mid-April. This Final Report will then be presented for adoption to the new corporation established to manage Internet names and addresses ICANN, (The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) as well as to the member States of WIPO.

Anyone interested in reading the Interim Report can download a copy from the Internet in a variety of formats from <http://wipo2.wipo.int>





## SCIT affirms need for a strategic plan to cover all WIPO-information technology-related activities

The Second Plenary Session of SCIT (Standing Committee on Information Technologies) began with some 36 tasks on its work program that were grouped into five areas

- The WIPO Global Information Network (WIPONET)
- Computerization of intellectual property offices
- Tasks relating to WIPONET applications  
Intellectual Property Digital Libraries (IPDL)  
Electronic filing of patent and trademark applications  
Information technology support for the WIPO Worldwide Academy
- Continuation of its work on standardization

- The provision of information technology support for specified activities by other intellectual property offices

The meeting was briefed on progress with WIPONET (see box) and IPDL (see box). Delegates were given a demonstration of the Madrid Express Database which will provide free public Internet access to selected data on trademark applications filed under the Madrid System (see p. 18).

Priority was also granted to the urgent need for preparation of WIPO Standards for "electronic filing, processing and storing of patent applications".

The next meeting of the Standing Committee will take place in June 1999.

### IPDL continues to expand its database collections

Since work began on the digital libraries in June 1998 significant strides have been made to gather a vast amount of electronically accessible data that can be accessed via the Internet and a host of new information is now available from

<http://ipdl.wipo.int>.

*(See Intellectual property databases hosted by WIPO on the Internet below).*

## WIPONET, the secure, global communication network for IP offices

WIPONET will provide electronic connectivity between intellectual property offices worldwide to facilitate the future rapid exchange of data between these offices in a cost effective and highly secure format. The WIPO Project Director Mr. Yo Takagi describes it as "a state-of-the-art means of communication that will provide users with an important vehi-

cle for the global exchange of intellectual property information in the next century".

Companies who replied to invitations to tender for the project placed in the international press have now been sent the formal tendering documentation; WIPO will proceed to select a contractor for phase 1 of implementation which aims

to ensure that all intellectual property offices of member States are equipped with Internet facilities.

Phases II and III will cover the upgrade of services for the secure exchange of documents and the extension of connectivity to other organizations.

## Intellectual property databases hosted by WIPO on the Internet

As part of its project to establish a network of Intellectual Property Digital Libraries, WIPO currently hosts a growing number of intellectual property databases that provide a wealth of information on recent patents and trademark applications.

Database	Contents	Accessibility
PCT Database	The PCT database contains the first page data (bibliographic data, abstract and drawing) of published PCT applications. The first page data of applications published each week in Section I of the Gazette are added weekly to the database. The database currently contains data relating to applications published from January 1, 1997.	Free Access via: <a href="http://ipdl.wipo.int">http://ipdl.wipo.int</a>  or <a href="http://pctgazette.wipo.int">http://pctgazette.wipo.int</a>
Madrid Express Database	The Madrid Express database includes data relating to international applications and subsequent designations that have been received by the International Bureau but have not yet been recorded in the international register of marks, as well as data relating to international registrations and subsequent designations that have been recorded but not yet published in the WIPO Gazette of International Marks. The database is updated daily.	Coming Soon via <a href="http://ipdl.wipo.int">http://ipdl.wipo.int</a>  or <a href="http://madridexpress.wipo.int">http://madridexpress.wipo.int</a>
Dopales Patent Database	The Dopales Patent Database contains the first pages of patent documents of 18 Latin American countries published from 1991 to 1995. The system is currently in the prototype stage.	Access restricted via <a href="http://ipdl.wipo.int">http://ipdl.wipo.int</a>  or <a href="http://dopales.wipo.int">http://dopales.wipo.int</a>
Indian Patent Database	The Indian Patent Database contains the front page data of Indian patents. Sample data only at present.	Access restricted <a href="http://indpat.wipo.int">http://indpat.wipo.int</a>

## The WIPO Internet site also provides links to the following databases hosted by other organizations

Database	Contents	Accessibility
US Patent and Trademark Office: Patent Bibliographic Database	The USPTO Patent Bibliographic Database provides comprehensive, searchable access to United States Patent bibliographic data and abstracts issued from 1976 until the present. Data is updated weekly.	Free Access via: <a href="http://ipdl.wipo.int">http://ipdl.wipo.int</a> or <a href="http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html">http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html</a>
US Patent and Trademark Office: Patent Full-Text Database	The USPTO Full-Text Database provides access to the full text and full-page images of US patents published since 01.01.76. Data is updated weekly. (Images available from 31.03.99)	Free Access via: <a href="http://ipdl.wipo.int">http://ipdl.wipo.int</a> or <a href="http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html">http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html</a>
US Patent and Trademark Office: Trademark Database	The USPTO Trademark Database provides searchable access to the bibliographic text and images of pending and registered trademarks. Data is updated bi-monthly.	Free Access via: <a href="http://ipdl.wipo.int">http://ipdl.wipo.int</a> or <a href="http://www.uspto.gov/tmdb">http://www.uspto.gov/tmdb</a>
National Institute of Industrial Property: CIB-LN	CIB-LN enables you to: identify the International Patent Classification (IPC) code or codes that relate to your area of research in response to a natural language query; to store the code or codes thus identified for direct consultation of the associated patent database.	Free Access via: <a href="http://ipdl.wipo.int">http://ipdl.wipo.int</a> or <a href="http://www.inpi.fr/inpi/html/inbrevet.htm">http://www.inpi.fr/inpi/html/inbrevet.htm</a>
European Patent Office: esp@cenet	The esp@cenet system is a collection of inter-linked Web Sites enabling users to search for information that can be found on the front pages of patent documents published around the world. Searches can be performed by entering criteria in a simple HTML form to produce, where appropriate, a simple result list. From this result list, it is possible to view the bibliographic details and, where available, the abstract, full text and images of a document by clicking on the patent number.	Free Access via: <a href="http://ipdl.wipo.int">http://ipdl.wipo.int</a> or <a href="http://www.european-patent-office.org/espacenet/info/access.htm">http://www.european-patent-office.org/espacenet/info/access.htm</a>

Database	Contents	Accessibility
Canadian Intellectual Property Office: The Canadian Patent Database	The Canadian Patent Database provides access to over 75 years of Canadian data. The data consists of bibliographic data, textual data (titles, abstracts and claims) and image data of patent documents which are either laid-open applications (available for public viewing but not yet granted) or patents granted since August 1978.	Free Access via: <a href="http://ipdl.wipo.int">http://ipdl.wipo.int</a> or <a href="http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_cons/trade-marks/eng-doc/cover.html">http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_cons/trade-marks/eng-doc/cover.html</a>
Canadian Intellectual Property Office: The Canadian Trade-marks Database	The Canadian Trade-marks Database provides access to all pending and registered trademarks in Canada. Information can include designs, wares and services covered by the registration, owner's name and more.	Free Access via: <a href="http://ipdl.wipo.int">http://ipdl.wipo.int</a> or <a href="http://patents1.ic.gc.ca/">http://patents1.ic.gc.ca/</a>

## 80 years of Canadian patent information now on Internet

More than 1,300,000 patent documents can now be consulted by anyone with Internet access, thanks to a new Web site developed by the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) and IBM Canada Ltd.

The Canadian Minister of Industry John Manley said the new site would "make leading-edge technology developments readily accessible to all Canadians and help them perform more effectively in the domestic and international marketplace" as well as allowing prospective investors from around the world to access information that demonstrates Canada's growth potential.

The database holds some 80 years of patent information – both texts and images – and should cut government costs and help business

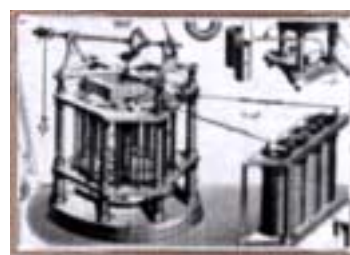
people obtain valuable information without having to travel across the country to the national office. The site should be popular as CIPO already receives 5,000 telephone calls and 500 on-line queries a month.

Sheila Batchelor, CIPO's Chief Executive Officer and also the current Chair of the General Assembly of WIPO, expressed her great satisfaction with the new Web site, which, she said, underscored Canada's leadership in the use of information technology and emphasized CIPO's continued focus on client service.

Updated weekly, the new system will help forge stronger links with intellectual property offices internationally by facilitating faster and more efficient exchange of information.



Patent Document Number 1034343: Concrete brick mixing, molding and curing system and method



Patent Document Number 2107751: Extendable arm for power and impact tools



Patent Document Number 2050969: Three dimensional, self-standing puzzle

## Obituary

### Ragnhild Drode

Mrs. Ragnhild Drode, an employee of WIPO for more than 25 years, died on February 23, 1999. She was 52 years old.

As a staff member at WIPO since 1973, she had been instrumental in the smooth running of the Organization's communications system. In an address to staff members, Dr. Idris remembered Mrs. Drode as "a delightful person, humane, with much dedication, finesse and a good sense of humor. WIPO has been built upon the tireless loyal work and dedication of Ragnhild Drode and people like her."



*Ragnhild Drode*

A book of condolences from Mrs. Drode's many friends at WIPO has been prepared for her husband, two children and her grandchildren.

# 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 consid-

er 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 organizations.

# Products

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

*Les Appellations d'origine (No 28)* (French) No.105(F), 15 Swiss francs.

*Contracting Parties or Signatories of Treaties Administered by WIPO*  
(English, French) No. 423(E, F), free.

WIPO publications may be obtained from the Information Products Section:

**WIPO**

34, chemin des Colombettes  
P.O. Box 18  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

phone: 41 22 338 91 11  
fax: 41 22 740 18 12  
e-mail: [publications.mail@wipo.int](mailto:publications.mail@wipo.int)

Orders should indicate: (a) the number or letter code of the publication desired, the language (E for English, F for French), 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 70, Switzerland.

