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The Diplomatic Conference

Substantial Progress on Pact for Performers' Rights

At the Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of Audiovisual Performances, which met in Geneva from December 7 to 20, 2000, negotiators from over 120 countries provisionally agreed on a set of rules aimed at strengthening the rights of performers in their audiovisual performances. They achieved consensus on 19 of 20 provisions including national treatment, moral rights, and economic rights covering the right of reproduction, right of distribution, right of rental, and the right of broadcasting and communication to the public. It is the first time that audiovisual performers saw accorded to them moral rights against any distribution or modification of their performances that would be prejudicial to their reputations.

Provisional agreement on the increased protection of the rights of performers also covers protection against circumvention of technological protection used in the digital environment, such as encryption. In addition, it provides remedies against any act of removal or alteration of electronically embedded information to be used in the management of the rights, such as identification codes, indications of right owners, etc.

In spite of the significant progress in shoring up the rights of performers in their audiovisual performances, agreement could not be reached on the fundamental question relating to the right of transfer, namely the question of



Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal

The President of the Assembly of the Diplomatic Conference, Ambassador Nguyen Quy Binh, Permanent Mission of Viet Nam in Geneva, WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris, and WIPO Deputy Director General Mr. François Curchod.

how the performers' rights are acquired by the producers, by law or agreement. The conference considered a number of different proposals, but divergence between the United States of America and countries of the European Union could not be reconciled during the conference.

Provisional Agreement

The conference concluded by noting the provisional agreement reached on the 19 articles and recommended that WIPO member States reconvene the diplomatic conference in order to reach agreement on outstanding issues.

At the close of the conference, many delegations expressed disappointment at the outcome, namely, that an instrument had not been adopted. All delegations, without exception, pledged to continue their best efforts in the future to achieve consensus leading to the adoption of a new instrument in this area. Special thanks were expressed by many to the officers of the conference and to the WIPO secretariat under the leadership of Director General Dr. Kamil Idris as well as to the Chairman of Main Committee I, which dealt with the substantive provisions

of the draft instrument, Mr. Jukka Liedes, Special Adviser to the Finnish Government. Some 500 delegates from over 120 states and some 50 organizations attended the diplomatic conference.

The conference had sought to finalize an international instrument to safeguard the rights of performers against the unauthorized use of their performances in audiovisual media, such as television, film and video. The adoption of a new instrument would have strengthened the position of performers in the audiovisual industry by providing a clearer legal basis for the international use of audiovisual

works, both in traditional media and in digital networks.

Performers – such as, singers, musicians, dancers and actors – have enjoyed international protection for their performances since the adoption of the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations (the Rome Convention) in 1961. In 1996, the adoption of the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) modernized and updated these standards to cover the rights in respect of the use of their audio performances on the Internet. The Rome Convention and the WPPT, however, grant protection mainly in relation to sound recordings of performances.

International Federation of Actors

On December 12, 2000, the International Federation of Actors (FIA) held a press conference at WIPO to highlight the importance of the ongoing negotiations at the Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of Audiovisual Performances. The FIA represents hundreds of thousands of performers through 100 affiliated unions, guilds, and associations of professional performers in 70 countries. These actors, singers, and dancers were the most important stakeholders in the conference.

The celebrated Hong Kong actress Maggie Cheung and renowned singer/actress Susana Rinaldi from Argentina attended the press conference and spoke out for the rights of performers worldwide. “When my colleagues and I allow a producer to include our performances in a movie, we want to be able to ensure,” said Ms. Cheung, “that no one can misuse our work in any way that we have not authorized.”



Photos: Mercedes Martinez Dozal

The FIA press conference at WIPO.



Singer/actress Susana Rinaldi from Argentina, singer/actor Joe Mboulé from Cameroon, and actress Maggie Cheung from Hong Kong SAR.



Photo: Arttoday

“Even performers with successful careers need basic rights,” stressed Susana Rinaldi. “In some countries, the limited rights we have are often under attack. Rights are important for performers to make a living out of their work, the same as everyone else in our societies.”

Mikael Waldorff, FIA Vice-President from Denmark added, “In an increasingly internationalized entertainment industry, the need for global standards is urgent and long overdue.”

Visits

Cooperation Program Signed with Belarus



Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal

WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus Mr. Mikhail Demchuk at the signing of the cooperation program.

WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, Mr. Mikhail Demchuk, signed a program of cooperation that aims to strengthen intellectual property protection in the

Republic of Belarus on December 11, 2000. The program of cooperation between WIPO and Belarus will include a range of activities and training programs to modernize intellectual property legislation in Belarus, upgrade

enforcement mechanisms, and strengthen the role of intellectual property in the relevant fields of scientific, technological, and economic activities undertaken in Belarus.

Dr. Idris said the launch of the program of cooperation represents a significant step in promoting intellectual property in Belarus. He congratulated the government of Belarus for its vision and foresight in strengthening the national intellectual property system. The Director General said that in today's knowledge-based economic environment the intellectual property system is a crucial policy tool that enables a country to tap into its creative potential and to foster its economic and technological development.

Mr. Demchuk said the program would give added impetus to his government's efforts to strengthen the intellectual property system at the national level. He said that intellectual property is of pivotal importance to Belarus in its drive to convert its innovative potential into tangible economic assets and thereby to promote economic development.

The Deputy Prime Minister also extended an invitation to Dr. Idris, on behalf of the President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, to visit Minsk in 2001.



Photo: G. Litarovich

Victory Square, Minsk, Republic of Belarus.

New Dean Visits WIPO



WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris, Mrs. Paula Hutson, Dean John Hutson, and WWA Director Mr. Mpazi Sinjela.

Dr. John Hutson, the new Dean of the Franklin Pierce Law Center in United States of America (USA), visited WIPO in early December

2000. On his three-day visit to Geneva, Dean Hutson was keen to gain first hand knowledge of WIPO and the WIPO Worldwide

Academy (WWA) in order to maintain ongoing cooperation between the two institutions.

WIPO has sponsored the attendance of some 20 students at Franklin Pierce in recent years and currently has six long-term fellowships running for 2000-2001. The Franklin Pierce Law Center offers legal training leading to a law degree and advanced degrees, diplomas, and certificates in education law and intellectual property. Its student body is currently comprised of thirty-two nationalities.

Colombia Accedes to the PCT, WCT, and WPPT

The Colombian Permanent Representative in Geneva, Ambassador Camilo Reyes, deposited Colombia's instrument of accession to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) with WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris on November 29, 2000. Colombia is the 109th Contracting State of the PCT and the second South American nation to join the Treaty. The treaty will enter into force for Colombia on February 28, 2001.

Colombia's accession means that in any international application filed on or after February 28, 2001, PCT applicants may designate Colombia (country code: CO) as one of the countries in which they wish to seek patent protection. It also means that nationals and residents of Colombia may themselves file PCT applications as of that date.



WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris, Ambassador Camilo Reyes of Colombia, and the Head of the Colombian Copyright Office, Mr. Fernando Zapata.

Ambassador Reyes, accompanied by the Heads of the Colombian Industrial Property Office, Mr. Juan Moure, and of the Copyright Office, Mr. Fernando Zapata, also deposited the instruments of accession to the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT)

and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT). The WCT and WPPT are agreements that adapt the international system of copyright and related rights to the digital age. Both treaties will enter into force after ratification by 30 countries.

Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge



Photo: Arttoday

A display of Hmong handicraft on sale in the market place.

A WIPO inter-regional meeting in Chiang Rai, Thailand summarized the latest developments, within WIPO and elsewhere, in relation to intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and folklore, and developed a list of recommendations for governments and organizations. During the conference, held in cooperation with the Government of Thailand from November 9 to 11, 2000, participants exchanged views, discussed their own governments' policies, and coordinated plans of action on an inter-regional basis on these intellectual property topics of increasing importance to the countries they represent.

Representatives came from the African, Arab, Asian and Pacific, Latin American and Caribbean regions – developing and least developed countries – all rich in genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and folklore. Within this group, there was a growing

awareness that with the emergence of modern biotechnology, genetic resources have increasing economic, scientific, and commercial value to a wide range of stakeholders. Representatives were also keenly aware that traditional knowledge is attracting widespread attention and that tradition-based creations, such as expressions of folklore, have taken on economic and cultural significance in the global society.

However, participants stated that the current application of international and regional intellectual property instruments and national intellectual property laws and practices does not meet all the needs of these countries and their peoples with respect to regulating access to, and sharing the benefits of, genetic resources and protection of traditional knowledge and folklore. Several countries and regional organizations that are in the process of developing – or have already developed – proposals,

laws, regulations, and model laws and policies on these matters shared their experiences with the participants.

Among the themes addressed at the meeting were:

- The role of traditional medicines and practices in national health care systems.
- The intellectual property aspects of access to and benefit-sharing in genetic resources.
- Possible options for the protection of traditional knowledge: Insights from WIPO's Fact Finding Missions.
- The 1999 WIPO/UNESCO Regional Consultations on the protection of expressions of folklore.

The participants expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by WIPO in relation to the intellectual property aspects of the regulation of access to and benefit-sharing in genetic resources and the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore. They also welcomed the decision by the WIPO member States to establish the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

Recommendations

The inter-regional meeting made some interesting recommendations to governments, the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee and WIPO itself, namely:

- Governments should embark on a national consultation process to raise awareness of the issues and to involve all stakeholders in the development of national policies and strategies, particularly indigenous and local communities.
- Governments should identify, catalogue, record, and document the genetic resources and traditional knowledge, including expressions of folklore, held by their countries, communities, and peoples.
- Governments should develop and test policies, plans, and mechanisms, including intellectual property-based tools, for regulating access to and benefit sharing in genetic resources and the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore.

- The WIPO Intergovernmental Committee should, amongst other tasks, discuss and reach broad agreement on the meanings to be assigned to the various relevant terms and concepts (such as "genetic resources", "traditional knowledge" and "folklore"), their respective and mutual relationships with each other and with intellectual property, and a methodology of working which would take into account the links and distinctions between the subject areas falling within the Committee's scope.
- The WIPO Intergovernmental Committee should invite the presentation of experiences, in the form of existing or proposed legislation, procedures, mechanisms, projects, and case studies at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels.
- WIPO should assist in organizing further national, regional, and inter-regional meetings on genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and folklore.
- WIPO should offer increased assistance, information, and advice to developing and least developed countries in the form of legal and technical assistance, training and provision of equipment and other resources for the identification and documentation of genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and folklore.

Hill Tribes of Northern Thailand

Chiang Rai, Northern Thailand, the host of WIPO's meeting, is an area rich in tradition and customs. There are six large ethnic groups, so-called "hill tribes," and several smaller ones, each having its own characteristic art and culture. A brief introduction to some of these groups follows:

The most populous of these groups is the **Karen**, numbering approximately 300,000. The **Karen** typically live at low altitudes and are famous for producing the best *mahouts*, or elephant herders.

The **Hmong** live at high altitudes in houses with dirt roofs that extend virtually to the ground. **Hmong** clothing is very popular in Thailand and **Hmong** women can be found selling their handicrafts all over Thailand.

The **Akha** people are famous for their exotic and beautiful costumes. They also sell their unique handicrafts throughout Thailand.

The **Yao**, a people with a great sense of honor and stately de-



Hmong baby wearing a traditionally embroidered cap.

Photo: Arttoday

meanor, at one time held considerable prestige within the Chinese Empire, to the extent that an emperor of China once married a **Yao** princess. The **Yao** women wear a distinctive traditional costume consisting of a long black jacket with lapels of bright scarlet wool, and heavily embroidered, loose fitting trousers in intricate designs, topped off with a similarly embroidered black turban. Their exquisite embroidery is a marketable commodity in Thailand and beyond. (Extracts from "Northern Thailand's Mountain Peoples")

Promotion of Innovation and Invention

WIPO organized an Asian regional forum on intellectual property strategies for the promotion of innovative and inventive activities in Daeduk, Republic of Korea in cooperation with the International Intellectual Property Training Institute (IIPTI) and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and with the assistance of the Japanese Patent Office (JPO).

The forum, held from November 22 to 24, 2000, combined two meetings, the annually organized WIPO-KIPO Asian regional seminar and the major meeting organized within the framework of the Japanese industrial property Fund-In-Trust (Japan/FIT).

The forum welcomed 45 foreign participants from the Asia and the Pacific region in addition to some 30 local participants. There were nine foreign speakers invited by WIPO and five local speakers invited by the IIPTI. KIPO expressed its support for WIPO's program aimed at promoting inventive and innovative activities by sharing experience with other developing countries or countries in transition.

The forum had a four-fold objective:

- to review the current situation regarding promotion of inventive and innovative activities in the countries of Asia and the Pacific region, including least developed countries;
- to exchange experiences and views on the appropriate intellectual property strategy

for promoting innovative and inventive activities and for their valuation and commercialization;

- to discuss and explore appropriate measures for the promotion and validation mechanisms;
- to identify possible areas of cooperation among countries in the region so that the intellectual property system may encourage and strengthen research and development activities and facilitate the commercial application of inventions and creative ideas.

Opening Statements

KIPO Commissioner Mr. Lae-Gue Leem delivered an opening address stressing that intellectual property rights (IPR), the fruit of human invention, are valueless unless they bring wealth and honor to individuals, prosperity to nations, and an improvement in the standard of living. He also emphasized the importance of the creation and management of knowledge, which acts as a cornerstone for invention. He underscored the effort of the Korean government to drive pro-patent policy to accelerate the

cycle of IPR-creation and commercialization, and particularly its efforts to help and encourage inventive youngsters.

JPO Commissioner Mr. Kouzo Oikawa emphasized the increasingly important role of intellectual property due to changes in the industrial structure and the advent of the information technology revolution. He noted that, in the era of international economic competition across national borders, IPR is a key factor for success in business and national economic development. He also emphasized the importance of cooperation for the harmonization of intellectual property systems and to help certain regions to equally enjoy the benefits deriving from economic globalization. He indicated that to achieve success, in the forthcoming discussion about reform of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the countries and regions concerned would need to cooperate even more closely.

WIPO Deputy Director General Mr. Shozo Uemura highlighted the importance and priority for WIPO in assisting developing



countries, in particular in promoting the use of the intellectual property system. He outlined the past, present and future activities of WIPO in this regard. Mr. Uemura also reiterated the importance of the intellectual property system, which provides the legal basis for the protection of the intellectual capital of people and enterprises and a solid ground for technology transfer and exchange of technological information. He stressed that the effective use and commercialization of IPR contributes to the creation of wealth and to economic and technological development.

Future Japan/FIT Developments

The meetings and exchanges between government officials provided a good means of sensitizing policy makers about the promotion of inventive and innovative activities and the use of the intellectual property system. Participants appreciated the presentations of national experience in encouraging and promoting invention and innovation as a major contribution to economic and social development. JPO Commissioner Mr. Oikawa made the following suggestions:

- To develop a network of intellectual property in the Asia and the Pacific region through the Japan/FIT arrangement, so that the intellectual property offices can share and exchange information on a continuous basis.
- That the next Japan/FIT meeting should deal with the future vision of intellectual property in the 21st century, with the participation of the heads of intellectual property offices of the Asia and Pacific region.

Telecom Asia 2000

WIPO was among the more than 500 exhibitors gathered for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecom Asia 2000 hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of China from December 4 to 9, 2000. The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center saw over 50,000 participants and visitors at its site during the six-day exhibition and forum.

WIPO participated in the Telecom exhibition to build awareness among new target groups – persons from research and development and management and marketing in the telecommunications sector as well as the general public – about the importance of intellectual property and its protection, and WIPO and its activities. The WIPO exhibit highlighted, in particular, the private sector services offered by the Organization through, among others, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the Madrid and Hague systems for the protection of marks and designs, and WIPO's domain name conflict resolution procedure.

High-level private sector and government representatives visited the stand and WIPO's activities received extensive press coverage. Many of the 500 exhibitors use the PCT, Madrid, and Hague systems to protect the innovative and creative products that they were marketing at Telecom.



The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center.



Over 50,000 participants and visitors attended Telecom Asia 2000.



The WIPO stand in the Exhibition Center.

Photo: WIPO

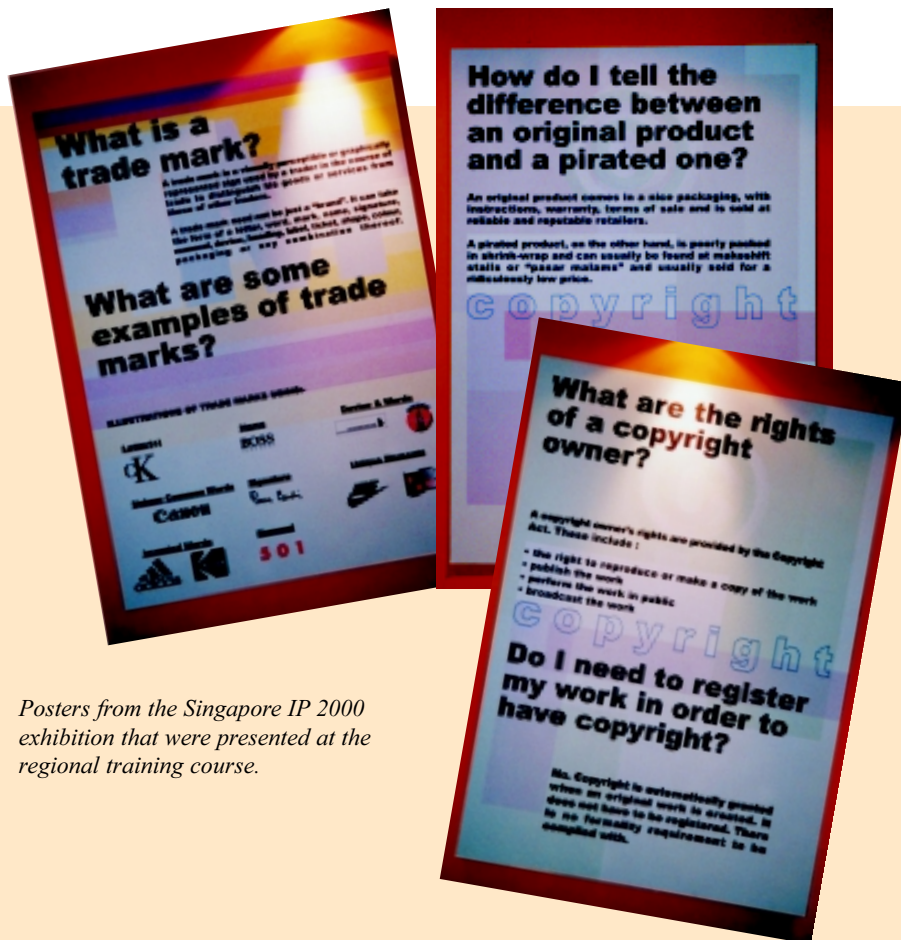
Demystifying Intellectual Property

The first regional training course focusing specifically on public outreach and the demystification of intellectual property was held in Singapore from November 28 to December 6, 2000.

Jointly organized by WIPO and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), the course provided a broad outline of various approaches to public outreach activities aimed at promoting understanding and respect for intellectual property and its protection.

The course featured speakers from the Law and Business faculties of the National University of Singapore, the intellectual property offices of Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong SAR, representatives of private sector companies involved in public outreach, and WIPO. Aspects of public outreach covered ranged from creating and maintaining a corporate image for an organization, choosing target audiences, specific messages, and the media to deliver them, and issues involved in developing and maintaining a website to best disseminate information.

Opening remarks were made by Mr. Anthony Chong, Director, Technical Cooperation Directorate, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Professor Wong Poh Kaw, Director, Center for Management of Innovation and Technopreneurship of the National University of Singapore (CMIT-NUS) and



Posters from the Singapore IP 2000 exhibition that were presented at the regional training course.

Mr. Geoffrey Yu, Assistant Director General of WIPO.

Attending the course were 25 trainees from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Several representatives of local institutions in Singapore attended as well.

The trainees – many of whom had yet to organize public outreach

activities in their own countries – responded enthusiastically to the various presentations. The course culminated with several workshops in which participants developed their own model public outreach campaigns, targeting specific areas (such as anti-piracy), as well as audiences (school children, young adults, etc.). They developed a variety of slogans as well, showing great promise for creating effective campaigns upon their return home.

IP 2000

Highlighting Intellectual Property & Its Potential

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), with the support of WIPO, recently launched "IP 2000 – Intellectual Property & Its Potential", an exhibition and event aimed at raising public awareness on intellectual property issues in Singapore.

IP 2000, organized in the central hall of a popular shopping mall, featured a showcase on police enforcement efforts, a recreation of WIPO's "At Home with Invention" exhibition, featuring local inventions for the home, as well as answers to questions on intellectual property protection provided by local intellectual property lawyers. Two local artists, screenwriter and actor Jack Neo and the singer/actress Fann Wong, who opened the event with acting Minister for Environment and Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, Mr Lim Swee Say, served as anti-piracy ambassadors in extensive radio, television, and press coverage of the events. To capitalize on publicity generated by the events, IPOS cooperated with a local advertising agency to create and place anti-piracy slogans on city buses.

The event marked the first time a national IP office has reproduced WIPO's "At Home with Invention" exhibition. WIPO published a booklet on the exhibition, which IPOS reproduced for distribution at the exhibition. As part of its efforts to encourage World Intellectual

Property Day on April 26 (adopted by the WIPO General Assembly in September, 2000) WIPO plans to send information on the exhibition, as well as the booklets, to all member States in the hope that they may be able to recreate their own version of the exhibition as part of public awareness efforts for the World Day.



Photos: Siew Tiong Khong

The IP 2000 "At Home with Invention" (above) and the anti-piracy exhibits (below).



IPC Reform

The acceleration of technological growth in the 1990s has meant that previously effective working methods require adjustment or outright change. WIPO has been no exception to this rule. In 1999, the Committee of Experts of the International Patent Classification (IPC) Union determined that the IPC revision methods, in force for almost 30 years, no longer ensured that necessary changes were introduced into the IPC in a timely fashion. The committee decided to launch a reform of the IPC.

IPC Advanced Seminar

Previously, a new IPC edition appeared every five years to introduce changes necessitated by the development of technology. However, the rapid increase in the number of patent applications, which accompanied the technological growth of the 1990s, signaled to WIPO that the revision methods of the IPC required adjustment. In 1998, WIPO organized the IPC Advance Seminar to reconsider critically the current state and future perspectives of the IPC as an internationally accepted patent classification system.

The seminar participants agreed that the IPC, being the only patent classification used worldwide and being applied in almost 100 countries and several international organizations, remained an important search tool and retained its universal value foreseen, almost 30 years ago in the Strasbourg Agreement. They recognized, however, that in view of the increasing reliance by searchers upon text-

based access and retrieval of information, the IPC henceforth should be used in concert with text-searching means. They discussed the changes that would be necessary in the IPC to ensure its efficient and effective use in the electronic environment, and agreed that accommodating the Classification to the electronic age would require substantial changes

both to the IPC itself and to the methods of its revision and use.

The IPC Advanced Seminar outlined recommendations to the IPC Committee of Experts aimed at accommodation of the IPC to the electronic age. The recommendations related to the following broad categories: IPC general structure and principles; IPC revision period



and implementation of the results of the revision; IPC revision procedure; and IPC training.

Launch of the IPC Reform

The IPC Committee of Experts considered the recommendations at its 28th session in March 1999. They endorsed the seminar's view that the IPC maintain its value as a universal language-independent search tool and agreed that the current state of the IPC and methods of its revision and use limit its potential, especially in the electronic environment, and must be addressed.

The Committee decided that a reformed IPC, functioning in digital libraries interconnected by global information networks, should be created for the electronic society of the 21st century. Members agreed that consistent application worldwide, uniform rules of use, high searching power, and the possibility of accommodating additional search tools on a common platform should characterize such a reformed classification. A multi-layer composition with different layers of classification or indexing details addressed to different types of users would represent the optimal structure for such a classification.

The Committee defined a list of 13 tasks for the IPC reform, which it later expanded to include several additional tasks. For the elaboration of the IPC reform tasks, the Committee created a special IPC body – the IPC Reform Working Group. They also entrusted the

Working Group with the elaboration of long-term goals for development of the IPC and the drafting of the strategic plan for the reform. In view of the need for continuing revision of the IPC in order to accommodate changes necessitated by technological progress, the Committee decided that, during a transitional revision period, the IPC revision and the IPC reform should be carried out in parallel. Thus, the first session of the IPC Reform Working Group took place in May 1999.

At its seventeenth session, in September 1999, the Assembly of the Special Union for the International Patent Classification considered and approved the decision by the IPC Committee of Experts to start the IPC reform. The Assembly also invited the members and observers of the IPC Union to provide necessary internal resources during the period of the reform.

Current State of IPC Reform

At its twenty-ninth session, in March 2000, the IPC Committee of Experts considered the report of the IPC Reform Working Group on the first results of the elaboration of the IPC reform. At this session, the Committee approved a strategic plan for the development of the IPC and indicated that the plan should not only serve as guidance for carrying out IPC reform but also as a basis for the further development of the IPC in the 21st century.

With regard to the long-term goals of the development of the IPC, the strategic plan outlines the neces-

sary actions required in order to achieve the goals and provides other details. For example, for the design of the reformed IPC, the strategic plan indicates that the overall structure of the IPC will be designed to be a two-level system, which will better satisfy the needs of different categories of users. Its core level will be used for obligatory classification of patent documents, for general information purposes, including dissemination of information, and for searching smaller, national patent collections. Its advanced level, which will be completely compatible with the core level and will represent a more extensive elaboration of the core level, will be used for searching international patent collections. All documents available in the advanced level will also be available in the core level.

The IPC Reform Working Group continued consideration of the reform tasks in 2000 based on the IPC reform program for that year approved by the Committee of Experts. The results of the IPC reforms carried out in 2000 will be reported to the next session of the Committee of Experts.

Cooperation for Development

Meeting of Heads of Intellectual Property Offices

WIPO's Latin America and Caribbean Bureau recently held two meetings for heads of intellectual property offices, the first for Caribbean countries in Saint Lucia and the second for Latin American countries in El Salvador. The participants listened to country reports by each delegation on the situation of intellectual property (IP) in their country in order to examine priority areas for cooperation with WIPO in 2001.

In the global economy, an effective IP system is crucial for the economic development and cultural and technological advancement of developing countries. Thus, meeting participants were encouraged to analyze and prioritize the areas for development identified by each government, so that the 2001 WIPO Program of Cooperation for Development could be better tailored to meet their needs. WIPO, through its Cooperation for Development program, aims to encourage and facilitate accession to the treaties administered by the Organization and to strengthen the IP system.

Caribbean countries

Representatives from 12 Caribbean countries, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent



The island of Saint Lucia.

Photo: Artibday

and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, attended the conference. Also present was the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The heads of the Caribbean offices expressed the urgent need for the full automation of the IP offices in their respective countries to enable them to discharge their statutory functions more efficiently and to provide IP related services to information technology users. They also highlighted and discussed extensively the importance of broadening and strengthening efforts for the development and execution of public awareness programs on intellectual property.

Several Caribbean ministers responsible for intellectual property were new to the post;

several participants suggested that the countries would benefit from a study visit by the ministers to WIPO headquarters to meet with the Director General and other WIPO officials. The office heads also outlined the need for continued training in areas of trademark in the Caribbean countries. They also discussed the possibility of having a regional seminar on enforcement to provide them with assistance in that sector.

Presentations on the work undertaken by WIPO in the Caribbean region in the area of electronic commerce and intellectual property and collective management of copyright and related rights demonstrated the results of past cooperation.

Latin American Countries

The countries represented at the meeting for Latin American countries were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, and observers from two regional organizations, the Andean Community General Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Central American Economic Integration Treaty (SIECA).

After exchanging information and views on the latest developments concerning industrial property in Latin America, the heads of the IP offices focused on automation and the provision of new services for industry and research centers as priority areas requiring development. Many perceived decentralization as the best way to diversify services and provide technical support to users in different locations. Among others, they would like to provide more assistance to small and medium size enterprises and to indigenous communities on traditional

knowledge, biodiversity, folklore, and genetic resources.

The heads of the IP offices expressed interest in improving the management of their offices and further promoting IP in their countries. They would like to provide information on intellectual property to the general public through radio and television, to children on the web, in museums, and at all levels of their education, as well as to police officers, customs officials and prosecutors during training.

Following the analysis of priorities, presentations and discussions continued on the following topics:

- Industrial property and globalization, external relations and international trade.
- Enforcement of IP rights: the role of justice, police, and customs administrations.
- Corporate image and communication strategies of industrial property offices.
- The promotion of links between industrial property offices, innovative enterprises and research institutions.

Modernizing Kenya's Industrial Property Office



Photo: WIPO

The Kenyan Assistant Minister of Tourism, Trade, and Industry, Mr. Albert Ekerapa, Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama (from WIPO), and KIPO Director, Professor Norah Olembo.

The ongoing modernization of the Kenya Industrial Property Office (KIPO) dates to mid-1966, when KIPO addressed a letter to WIPO requesting assistance aimed at strengthening and modernizing the administration of their industrial property system. KIPO wanted to exploit the benefits of such a system to support economic and technological development in Kenya. Discussions between WIPO and KIPO officials resulted in a Nationally Focused Action Plan (NFAP) outlining the objectives, expected output, and activities to be undertaken by the two organizations.

In the spring of 1997, WIPO sponsored a mission for three KIPO staff members to study and find out whether the computerization system in the South Africa Patent, Trade Mark and Copyright Office would be suitable for KIPO. However, the study determined that although the South African system offered

excellent results, it was not appropriate for Kenya. The Kenyan Office preferred to carry out substantive examinations of patent applications, which is less of a priority within the South African system.

In 1998, WIPO sent a consultant to assess KIPO's automation needs under the NFAP. He compiled a report detailing the specific needs of the office in terms of the type and quantities of equipment needed for each activity. To prepare for the receipt of the equipment, WIPO had a local area network (LAN) installed in the three floors of the KIPO office.

In November 1999, WIPO purchased and delivered to KIPO equipment that included computers, printers, a fax machine, video camera, and photocopiers. This equipment enabled KIPO to computerize its operations and intensify its

outreach program. The consultant returned to Kenya in June 2000 to train KIPO officers in the use of the equipment provided by WIPO.

KIPO has already reaped many benefits from the NFAP, such as:

- Easy, quick and efficient computerized search and retrieval of information.
- More efficient execution of office work such as typing and printing letters and certificates.
- Monetary savings from printing their own forms.
- Use of video equipment in filming events for use as teaching material.

Trademark and patent agents have commended KIPO for its improvement in efficiency and the increase in speed of service. The higher number of inquiries from the public about industrial property shows that KIPO is already making a greater impact nationally.

WIPO will continue to work with KIPO at modernizing and strengthening the intellectual property system in Kenya. The positive results of the NFAP will spur future activities, building on what has already been accomplished.

Information Technology at WIPO

The use of information technology at WIPO has grown consistently over the years. The following provides a brief look at where the secretariat stands today in terms of hardware and access to information.

Hardware figures at WIPO

WIPO has 1,200 networked personal computers (PCs), over 1,000 local printers, 70 large-capacity and 20 small network printers, as well as some 60 servers. This extensive stock of computer equipment is spread across seven buildings. Under WIPO's permanent replacement program, PCs are replaced after three years' usage, with many used PCs contributed to the Geneva Diplomatic Community Network (GDCnet). Helpdesk

assistance for all users is provided by six staff members. Five other staff members provide network assistance.

WIPO database figures

In a normal work week:

- The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) users initiate an average of 41.5 million database requests, equating to 8.3 million per online day.
- The International Registration Department (IRD) users and their overnight processing responses initiate an average of 31.0 million database requests, equating to 6.2 million per day.
- The Finance Department users initiate an average of 10.5 million database requests, equating to 2.1 million per online day.

In compressed form, the three WIPO databases (PCT, IRD, and Finance) consume 10.5 gigabytes (GB) of storage for actual data and 6.1 GB of storage for the indexes.

Speed of connection to UN ICC

The United Nations International Computer Center (UN ICC) is WIPO's Internet service provider. WIPO has two 2-MBit/sec links to the UN ICC which in turn have an 8-MBit/sec, always-on link to the external world via the Internet.



"I haven't read it yet, but I've downloaded it from the Internet."

Calendar of Meetings

February 5 to 8 (Geneva)

Permanent Committee on Cooperation for Development Related to Intellectual Property (PCIPD)

The Committee 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, the States members of WIPO; as observers, selected intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

February 20 (Geneva)

Conference on Intellectual Property Questions Relating to the Country Code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs)

This Conference is part of the ccTLD program recently launched by WIPO at the request of its member States. The WIPO Conference on Intellectual Property Questions Relating to the ccTLDs will devote particular attention to future trends for the country domains, the treatment of intellectual property in the ccTLDs from the various regions of the world and how rightsholders are coping with infringements.

Invitations: Participants from the public and private sectors and ccTLD administrators.

March 6 to 9 (Geneva)

Working Group on Constitutional Reform (Third session)

The Working Group will continue its work based on the results of its second session (July 4 to 6, 2000).

Invitations: States members of WIPO and of the Paris and Berne Unions.

March 12 to 16 (Geneva)

Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)

The Committee will continue its work on the draft provisions on the protection of marks and other industrial property rights in relation to the use of signs on the Internet, and on geographical indications. The Committee will also discuss its future work.

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

March 19 to 23 (Geneva)

Working Group on the Modification of the Regulations Under the Lisbon Agreement (Second session)

The Working Group will discuss proposals on the modification of the Regulations Under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and Their International Registration, drawn up in light of the discussions that took place at the first session of the Working Group, with a view to those modifications being submitted for adoption by the Assembly of the Lisbon Union at its next session.

Invitations: As members, the States members of the Lisbon Union; as observers, the States members of the Paris Union that are not members of the Lisbon Union, and certain organizations.

April 23 to 27 (Geneva)

Program and Budget Committee

The Committee will consider and discuss proposals with regard to WIPO's Program and Budget for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Invitations: As members, the States members of the Program and Budget Committee, as observers, all Member States of WIPO which are not members of the Committee.

April 30 to May 3 (Geneva)

Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (First session)

The First Session of this Intergovernmental Committee Meeting is to provide a forum in which member States can discuss three primary themes: intellectual property issues that arise in the context of (i) access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing; (ii) protection of traditional knowledge, whether or not associated with those resources; and (iii) the protection of expressions of folklore.

Invitations: States members of WIPO, and as observers, certain organizations.

May 7 to 11 (Geneva)

Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (Sixth session)

The Committee will continue its work based on the results of its last session (April 11, 12 and 14, 2000) in particular, on matters concerning the protection of rights of broadcasting organizations.

Invitations: As members, the States members of

WIPO and/or of the Berne Union, and the European Community; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

May 14 to 25 (Geneva)

Standing Committee on the Law of Patents

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

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

June 11 to 15 (Geneva)

Working Group on the Modification of the Common Regulations Under the Madrid Agreement and Protocol (Second session)

The Working Group will be presented with proposals for the modification of the Common Regulations Under the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Protocol Relating to that Agreement, drawn up in light of the discussions that took place at the first session of the Working Group, with a view to those modifications being submitted for adoption by the Assembly of the Madrid Union at its next session.

Invitations: As members, the States members of the Madrid Union; as observers, the States members of the Paris Union that are not members of the Madrid Union, and certain organizations.

June 18 to 21 (Geneva)

Working Group on Constitutional Reform (Fourth session)

The Working Group will continue its work based on the results of its third session (March 6 to 9, 2001).

Invitations: States members of WIPO and of the Paris and Berne Unions.

June 25 to 29 (Geneva)

Advisory Committee on Enforcement of Industrial Property Rights (ACE/IP)

The Advisory Committee will review the work initiated subsequent to its first session, address certain issues which were raised but not discussed at its first session, and plan its long-term future work.

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

September 20 to 22 (Geneva)

WIPO Expo on Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property

To follow-up on the International Conference of September 1999, the WIPO Expo on Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property will address the latest developments in e-commerce and intellectual property – legal, technical and policy-orientated.

Invitations: Participants from the public and private sectors and government officials.

September 24 to October 3 (Geneva)

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (Thirty-sixth Series of Meetings)

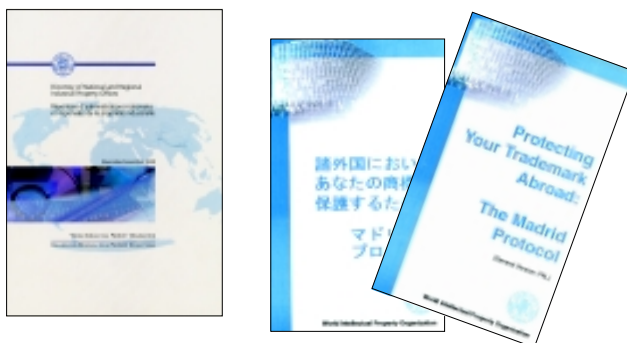
All Bodies of the Assemblies of the member States of WIPO will meet in their ordinary sessions.

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

New Products

The following new products were issued by WIPO:

- *Directory of National and Regional Industrial Property Offices/ Répertoire d'administrations nationales et régionales de la propriété industrielle* - November/novembre 2000 (English/French) No. 601(E/F), 35 Swiss francs
- *Video - Protecting your Trademark Abroad - General Version* (English PAL) No. V428E/PAL, (English NTSC) No. V428E/NTSC, (Japanese NTSC) No. V428JP, 20 Swiss francs



Corrigendum

The article on “Marcas 2000” in the January issue of the WIPO Magazine should have read that the exhibit at the Capitolia in Havana drew some 1000 visitors, not 100 as was indicated. The WIPO Magazine regrets the error. The Editor.

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