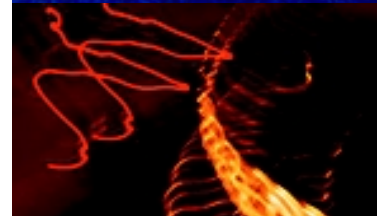
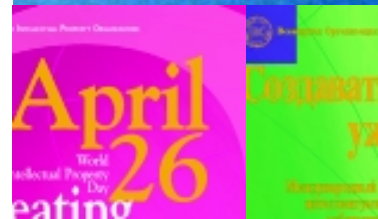


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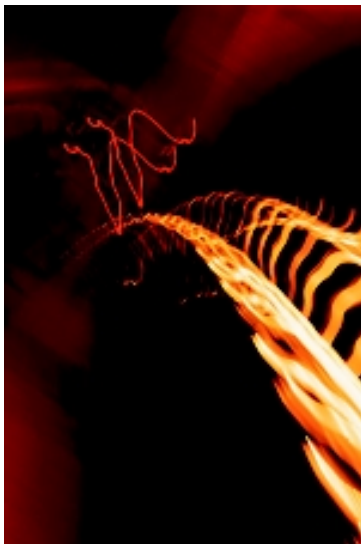


Geneva, May 2001

INTERIM REPORT ON DOMAIN NAMES

WIPO is seeking extensive public comment on an interim report that will culminate in a series of recommendations that aim to prevent abusive registration of domain names on the Internet. The interim report is the third and final request for comments in this process and is available at: <http://wipo2.wipo.int/process2/rfc/rfc3/>. The interim report serves as the basis of discussions during the regional consultations on policy issues, which started in April and will end in May.

At the request of its member States, WIPO initiated the Second WIPO Internet Domain Name Process last July to study the abuse of certain identifiers in the Internet domain name system.



The first such WIPO Process (1998-1999) made recommendations targeting the abusive registration of domain names that infringe trademarks or service marks - known as "cybersquatting."

The Second WIPO Process examines the bad faith, abusive, misleading, or unfair use of:

- ▶ personal names;
- ▶ International Nonproprietary Names (INNs) for pharmaceutical substances;
- ▶ names of international intergovernmental organizations;
- ▶ geographical indications, indications of source and geographical terms; and
- ▶ trade names.

The comments received on this interim report will, together with the discussions at the regional consultations, form the basis of recommendations in a final report, which WIPO expects to publish in mid-year. The final report will be submitted to WIPO's member States and provided to the Internet community, including the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

WIPO Assistant Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, who oversees WIPO's work relating to electronic commerce, expressed hopes for a broad participation in this process. "We are trying to conduct a transparent process where all opinions

within the Internet community are taken into account," said Mr. Gurry. "This is the last chance for contributions to be made before final recommendations are issued. We look forward to a fruitful exchange of opinions."

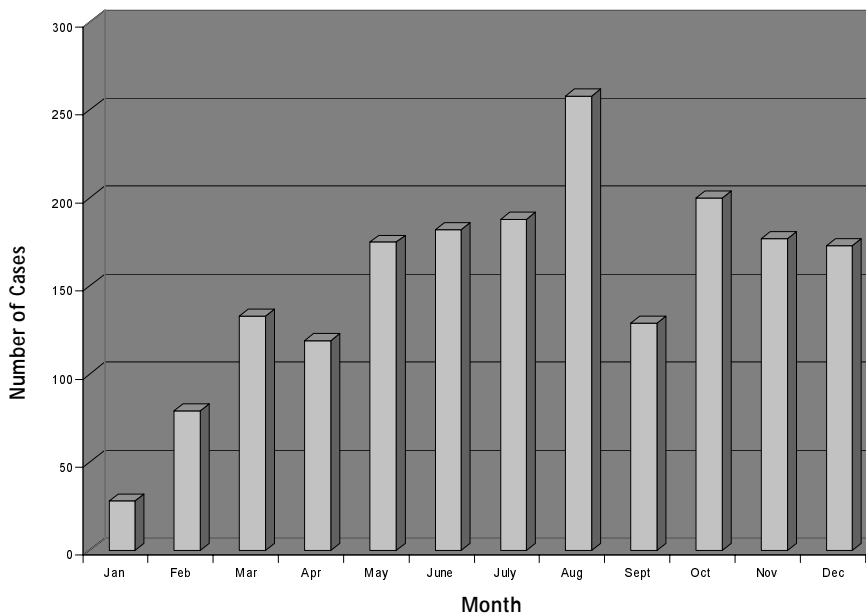
Persons wishing to comment on the interim report can do so by writing to WIPO, submitting their comments online at <http://wipo2.wipo.int/process2/rfc/index.html>, or by e-mail to process.mail@wipo.int, or by attending the regional consultations and joining in the open discussions. The meetings still to be held include:

- ▶ Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 10;
- ▶ Melbourne, Australia, May 24;
- ▶ Washington, D.C., May 29;
- ▶ Valencia, Spain, May 30.



AWARD FOR ARBITRATION CENTER

**gTLD Domain Names Cases
January-December 2000**



to promote alternative dispute resolution in corporate law. The award is in recognition of the WIPO's Domain Name Dispute Resolution Service as a fair, economical, and effective approach to resolving domain name disputes.

The Center received 1,841 generic top-level domain (gTLD) cases in 2000, concerning over 3,200 domain names. In comparison with other domain name dispute resolution service providers, the Center's caseload represents approximately 65% of all cases filed under the ICANN Uniform Dispute Resolution System. The filing rate has risen steadily from one filing per calendar day in January 2000 to six per day at the end of the year, reflecting market confidence in the procedure.

The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) have together been awarded the 2000 Center for Public Resources (CPR) Award for Excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution, in the category of Outstanding Practical Achievement. Founded in the United States of America in 1979, CPR's mission is

Of the gTLD cases filed, panels have rendered decisions on 1,007 complaints. In 4 out of 5 cases, complainants have prevailed, obtaining transfer of the domain names. Some 279 cases were terminated primarily based on transfers agreed between the parties. A total of 1,286 cases were resolved in 2000.



MEASURES TO PROTECT USE OF TRADEMARKS ON THE INTERNET

At a meeting of WIPO's Standing Committee on Trademarks (SCT) from March 12 to 16 in Geneva, representatives from 84 member States agreed on measures that would provide a clear and predictable legal framework for those who use trademarks or other distinctive signs on the Internet. WIPO will submit the draft provisions on the protection of marks and other distinctive signs on the Internet for final adoption as a joint recommendation to its General Assembly in September. The intent of the provision is to make all rights in distinctive signs which are of a territorial nature Internet-compatible, particularly, trademarks, trade names and geographical indications.

Every commercial entity relies upon signs to distinguish itself, or its goods and services, from those of its competitors. By building recognition and goodwill, companies inspire confidence in their brands and this enables them to obtain certain commercial advantages within a competitive market place. The off-line world regulates the protection of these signs on a territorial basis. However, for companies operating within virtual markets, the signs are an indispensable marketing tool which offer a presence as global as the Internet itself and for which, at present, there is no clear, consistent, and predictable legal framework.

The draft provisions would help national courts and other competent authorities apply existing laws to legal problems resulting from the use of signs on the Internet. In particular, they apply to issues resulting from the tension between territorial rights that govern the use of signs in the off-line world and a global communications medium, such as the Internet, which offers a potentially global presence for any sign used. The draft provisions address three main issues.

► **First: Conditions for recognition of use of an Internet sign in a particular country**

The conditions under which the use of a sign on the Internet can be considered to have taken place within a particular country are of crucial importance. Only use that can be deemed to have taken place within a particular country can contribute to establishing, maintaining or infringing an industrial property right protected in that country. The provisions establish the general principle that use of a sign on the Internet can only be considered to have taken place in a particular country if it has had a "commercial effect" or commercial repercussions in that country. A detailed list of factors which can be relevant in determining whether such use has had a "commercial effect" are outlined in the provisions. These include actual delivery of goods or service, language, interactivity of

the web site, and registration of the web site under a country code top-level domain (ccTLD).

► **Second: Measures enabling concurrent use of signs on the Internet**

In the off-line world where the protection of signs, such as trademarks, trade names and geographical indications are territorial – having legal effect only within the country in which they are granted – different owners can hold industrial property rights in identical or similar signs in different countries. If used in cyberspace, these signs can create problems because rights that coexisted in the off-line world suddenly come into conflict on the Internet. Such use might infringe on another protected right under the law of a country in which the right of the Internet user is not recognized.

To address such potential conflicts, the provisions introduce a "notice and avoidance of conflict" procedure which benefits right holders and other legitimate users, such as those who use their personal name or a sign which is considered generic or descriptive in a country to which they have a close connection, provided they use their sign in good faith. As a consequence of the notice, Internet users will not be subject to any injunction, or held liable for any damages occurring before notification. They

would not be forced to undertake a worldwide search for conflicting registered or unregistered rights before using their sign on the Internet, an obligation that would place a heavy burden in particular on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) wishing to take full advantage of the global virtual market. Once notified of a conflicting right, the user is required to take certain measures to avoid conflict and liability. In this regard, the provisions advocate the use of disclaimers to enable legitimate users to avoid such liability.

Third: Accounting for territoriality of industrial property rights in determining remedies

An injunction to cease every use of a sign on the Internet would go far beyond the territory in which a conflicting right in that sign exists. When determining remedies, therefore, it is necessary to take the territorial limitation of marks or other rights in signs into account. Under the provisions, courts are required to be flexible in considering limitations of use to avoid a commer-

cial effect in the state or states in which the infringed right is protected, and to avoid any confusion with the owner of that right through the use of, for example, disclaimers or gateway web pages. Under the provisions, it is not possible to prohibit the use of a sign on the Internet completely if the user of that sign is acting in good faith and owns a right in a sign or is otherwise permitted to use that sign.

The next meeting of the SCT will take place from September 10 to 14.

Promoting the Madrid and The Hague Systems

Promotion of the Madrid and The Hague systems of international registration of marks and industrial designs with the aim of facilitating the accession of states to these systems is of increasing importance at WIPO. For these purposes, WIPO recently created a new division, Developing Countries – the Madrid and The Hague systems, within the sector of Cooperation for Development. The division will provide assistance and information on the advantages of the systems to potential contracting parties, in particular from developing states and countries in transition.

Participants at different WIPO conferences, committees, and other meetings can use the opportunity to meet WIPO officials in order to receive first-hand information on how the systems of international registration of marks and industrial designs work. In this photo, WIPO officials are providing explanations on the Madrid system to Mr. Hu Nam Tran, Director of the Trademark Division, National Office of Industrial Property, Vietnam, Mr. Mustafa Dalkiran, Trademark Assistant Examiner, Turkish Patent Office, Turkey, Mr. Gift Sabanda, Senior Industrial Property Officer, ARIPO, and Mr. Gurbanyaz Hommadov, Head of the Intellec-



tual Property Department, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Turkmenistan. They were attending the sixth session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs, and Geographic Indications.

REINFORCED TIES WITH ROSPATENT

WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris and the Director General of the Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks (ROSPATENT) Dr. Alexander D. Korchagin reviewed on April 6 in Geneva co-operation between their respective organizations and agreed to strengthen ties. The talks, which will further reinforce positive co-operation between the two organizations, reaffirmed the need to continue efforts to raise the profile of intellectual property among key policy makers and the general public.

Dr. Idris and Dr. Korchagin reconfirmed their commitment to continue to support the Moscow International Forum on Intellectual Property. High-level policy makers from developing countries and economies in transition attended the first forum held in October 2000.

Dr. Korchagin welcomed WIPO's plans to launch a Russian version of its website by the end of the year. The WIPO Worldwide Academy (WWA) will also offer on-line distance learning facilities in Russian once the language site is operational.

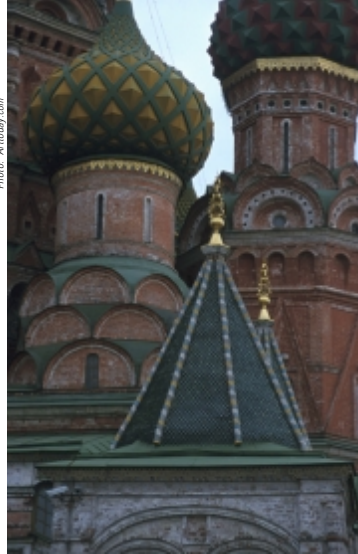


Photo: Alamy.com

Another topic discussed was the need to increase the use of the intellectual property system by small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Last year, WIPO established a division dedicated to promoting use of the intellectual property system by SMEs, which form the backbone of many economies. ROSPATENT will also take into account the specific needs of SMEs in its programs.

Dr. Korchagin, who was accompanied by Mr. Alexander Ashikhin, Director of the Federal Institute of Industrial Property and Mr. Konstantin Shakhmuradov, Senior Counsellor at Russia's Mission in Geneva, also informed the Director General about a notable increase in the number of trademarks and patents registered in the Russian Federation. In 2000, trademarks registrations grew by 40 percent and the number of patents issued increased by 15 percent as compared with the previous year. This is a sign of positive economic activity and innovation.

Dr. Idris also welcomed efforts by ROSPATENT to raise awareness of intellectual property matters both among the public and private sectors. Discussions also touched on other areas of relevance to intellectual property, namely traditional knowledge, genetic resources, and folklore. These issues are of direct relevance to Russia, which boasts a rich cultural heritage.

The Russian Federation is party to 14 WIPO-administered international treaties and has been a member state of WIPO since April 1970.



CLASSIFICATION TOOLS FOR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The International Patent Classification (IPC) Committee of Experts met in Geneva from February 19-23 and decided to create a special task force with the mandate to provide advice on future development of the Traditional Knowledge Resources Classification (TKRC). The task force will include the following members: China, India, Japan, United States of America, and the European Patent Office (EPO).

The decision followed a presentation by the Indian delegation of a governmental project for establishing a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) relating to traditional medicine in India. The delegation explained the structure of the TKRC developed for providing access to traditional knowledge data. The Committee welcomed the initiative of India and agreed that TKRC should be studied in detail. To conduct such a study, the Committee created a task force which will look into the development of the TKRC, in particular with a view to its expansion to documentation of other countries, and to investigate how its proper relationship to the IPC should be established.

The need for the documentation and information aspects of traditional knowledge, for example, in possible procedures for the grant of intellectual property rights, is becoming increasingly apparent. In this regard, it is important to provide access to traditional knowledge published data as searchable prior art. Accessing this

type of information has proven difficult so far. Appropriate classification tools will prove indispensable for the retrieval of traditional knowledge information.

Based on the prototype TKDL developed in India, WIPO's program on traditional knowledge is undertaking a pilot project to test the applicability of existing intellectual property documentation standards for the integration of traditional knowledge into existing administrative procedures of intellectual property offices. The objective of this activity is to identify requirements which will enable the integration of standardized traditional knowledge documentation into existing procedures for examination, publication, granting and registration of intellectual property titles. The project will also identify requirements to facilitate the electronic exchange and dissemination of standardized documentation regarding traditional knowledge.

The structure of the IPC has influenced the development of the TKRC. The IPC could be applied for the classification of traditional

knowledge relating, for example, to traditional medicine. However, the development of more detailed classification tools for traditional knowledge, such as TKRC, would significantly increase the efficiency of information retrieval. In informal consultations, certain industrial property offices suggested that, for its better use, TKRC should be linked, or even partially integrated, to the IPC.

The task force plans to continue the elaboration of the TKRC taking into account recommendations made by WIPO aimed at the simplification of the classification structure and use of more general terminology, in order to facilitate further expansion of the system to documents of other countries. ♦



Photo: Arttribe.com

IPDL PROJECT FULLY OPERATIONAL IN 2001

Following an extensive period of prototype design and evaluation, the Intellectual Property Digital Library (IPDL) Project will become fully operational in 2001 and will expand its existing collections. The IPDL will provide additional functionality to meet the needs of both government sectors and individual users, such as a full-feature text search and retrieval system, a persistent-identifier resource location system, electronic mail-based document retrieval service for bulk retrieval and downloading, document linking and rendering services, and a web-based user interface in three official WIPO languages.



The IPDL Project provides Internet access to various intellectual property data collections hosted by WIPO. The collections include:

- ▶ PCT Gazette: **first page data** from Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications published since 1997, which includes bibliographic data, abstract and drawing;
- ▶ Madrid Express: data relating to international applications and subsequent designations that have been received by WIPO but have not yet been recorded in the international registry 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;
- ▶ JOPAL: JOurnal of non-Patent Literature, short bibliographic data on articles published in leading scientific and technical periodicals completed by the symbols of the International Patent Classification.

In July 2000, the IPDL Project received full endorsement from member States at the Standing Committee for Information Technology (SCIT) to proceed with activities to provide access to PCT **full-text data**, from April 1998 to the present, and complete Madrid and The Hague Convention registration data. Member States also approved the addition of functional

services for IPDL users and the development of standards for intellectual property office electronic data integration into the IPDL system.

In 2001, a first milestone for IPDL was the completion of the new Internet interface design to match the improved look and feel of the WIPO website. This transition introduced new features, such as:

- ▶ making all existing IPDL collections accessible through a single site;
- ▶ the creation of a single account that would allow access to all IPDL collections, while maintaining separate search histories for each collection;
- ▶ the search interface and feature set uniformity across all collections.

The IPDL team is now working on the design, procurement and implementation of a hardware system to support the collections, and on streamlining the production and delivery of electronic PCT full-text data. They are also evaluating a recently completed prototype for the full Madrid collection and proceeding with development work required to support recent PCT rule changes, new SPIDI data format changes, and the provision of new IPDL features and services.

The IPDL team plans to kick-off work to develop standards by organizing a workshop during the second quarter of 2001. The standards workshop will gather a number of experts from within and outside the intellectual property community to analyze and select potential standards for broadly distributed intellectual property digital libraries.

The Digital Library is available to the general public free-of-charge at <http://ipdl.wipo.int>, supporting fully searchable information retrieval and display by users on demand.

WIPO organized a regional symposium on the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) and their impact on industries involved in copyright issues in Guangzhou, China, from March 27 to 29. The objectives of the symposium were to discuss major issues concerning the adherence to, and the implementation of, the WCT and WPPT (WIPO Internet Treaties), to provide a forum for the participants to exchange views on the subject, and to promote adherence to the treaties for their entry into force.

- ◆ In addition to some 100 Chinese participants, 36 senior officials, responsible for the copyright policy, attended from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The themes addressed in the symposium were the following:

- ▶ The role of copyright and related rights in the global information society;
- ▶ From physical products to on-line delivery: Importance of the WCT and the WPPT in providing a secure environment for business;

- ▶ Overview of the process of adherence to, and implementation of, the WCT and WPPT;
- ▶ Key issues of the implementation of the WCT and the WPPT;
- ▶ Private international law aspects of the issues under the WCT and WPPT.



The symposium concluded with a panel discussion on the issues of adherence to the Internet Treaties in the Asia and Pacific Region. Many of the representatives said their countries have revised, or are preparing revision of, their copyright laws to include provisions to comply with the two treaties. Some countries plan to deposit their instrument of ratification at WIPO in the second half of this year.

Further promotional programs – aimed at both legislators as well as members of the intellectual property community – are planned for the region, to help explain the benefits of the treaties and provide assistance on legislative questions.



WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY



The first World Intellectual Property Day was observed on April 26, as an opportunity to highlight the significance of creativity and innovation in people's daily lives and in the betterment of society.

Last September, WIPO member States decided to designate April 26, the date on which the Convention establishing WIPO entered into force in 1970, for special activities to highlight the importance and practical use of intellectual property.

WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris paid tribute to society's inventors and creators, both past and present. "I invite the peoples of all nations on this first World Intellec-

tual Property Day to join us in recognizing the contribution of inventors and creators in making our world a better place," he said. "We all share in the fruits of their ideas, their imagination, their talent and hard work. Join us in saluting their dedication and perseverance, and help us in encouraging the innovators of tomorrow."



Dr. Idris also took the occasion to thank the staff of WIPO for their work in helping the Organization's efforts in "constructing an environment in which invention, innovation and creativity can flourish and make a real contribution to economic, social and cultural well being."

As part of its activities to mark World Intellectual Property Day, WIPO launched an international essay competition. Conducted by

WIPO's Worldwide Academy, the competition is open to university students around the world and carries a prize of 1,000 Swiss Francs.

WIPO also encouraged its member States to reproduce an exhibition entitled "At Home with Invention." To assist national authorities in mounting this exhibition, the Organization produced a CD-ROM featuring its own exhibition, which recreated a simple home to illustrate how various aspects of intellectual property surround us in everyday life. WIPO sent a second CD-ROM to national authorities featuring posters from around the world aimed at raising awareness of intellectual property issues.



By press-time, some 34 member States of WIPO had informed the Organization of events planned in their countries for World Intellectual Property Day; the events were posted on the WIPO website at www.wipo.int/world-ipday. The countries include: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica,



Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Lithuania, Mali, Moldova, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. and Viet Nam.

In additions, some 20 media outlets provided coverage of the day, including the Tribune de Genève



(Switzerland), The Guardian (on-line) (UK), The Observer (Sunday edition) (UK), Kuwait News Agency (Kuwait), The Daily Gleaner (Jamaica), Nación (Costa Rica), The Daily Dawn (Pakistan), People's Daily (China), La Prensa (Nicaragua), Le Temps and La Presse de Tunisie (Tunisia).

To mark the occasion, WIPO released the following message:

Creating the Future Today - this is the theme of the first World Intellectual Property Day on April 26, 2001. Four words that underscore the importance of innovators and artists to the development and growth of societies everywhere.

We owe the inventions, designs and works of art that ease our workload, improve our living conditions and enrich and beautify our surroundings to a long line of men and woman whose creativity and invention have led us from the inkwell to the Internet and from railways to rockets.

Let us use this first World Intellectual Property Day to salute these special individuals who power us forward and give us the opportunity to create a better future. They are an encouragement to all and should inspire us to work together - men and women, young and old, of every nation - towards a universal culture of creativity.

We salute them and pledge ourselves to ensuring that their works are put to good use for the common benefit of all countries.

COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Asia-Pacific Intellectual Property Officials Meet

WIPO, in cooperation with the Malaysian Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, organized the Asia-Pacific roundtable meeting of heads of intellectual property (IP) offices in Kuala Lumpur from February 19 to 21. Senior officials of IP offices and supervising ministries from 20 countries in Asia

- ▶ the trend towards autonomy and increased service orientation of IP offices,
- ▶ technology information and automation projects,
- ▶ the promotion and diffusion of intellectual property through public outreach and education programs,
- ▶ new programs on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs),
- ▶ developments involving new and emerging IP issues relating to electronic commerce, traditional knowledge, and the review process of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement).

an overall increase in trademark and patent applications and grants, including domestic applications. Participants noted that in light of new and emerging issues that have implications on intellectual property rights and rapid technological developments, much work remains to be done. The meeting identified the following areas requiring further focused assistance from WIPO:

- ▶ Modernization and automation of the intellectual property system;
- ▶ IP education and awareness programs for specific target groups;
- ▶ Developing IP teaching capabilities, using various opportunities at WIPO such as the distance learning program and long-term fellowships;
- ▶ Continuous training and retraining in technical areas of patent, trademark and industrial design examination and in the new fields of integrated circuits, geographical indications, trade secrets, biotechnology, genetic resources and SMEs;
- ▶ Continued enhancement of understanding of treaties administered by WIPO such as the WIPO Internet treaties and those concerning global IP protection systems, and the advantages of adhering to these treaties;



and the Pacific region participated in the meeting. They analyzed the IP needs and priorities at the national, regional and sub-regional levels; and formulated general orientations for future cooperation between WIPO and the participating countries as well as proposals of horizontal cooperation among the participating countries themselves.

During the meeting, the officials exchanged relevant information on developments and experiences involving legislative, administrative and infrastructure issues influencing the modernization of intellectual property (IP) in the region, such as:

Cooperation and Development

Mr. Narendra Sabharwal of WIPO gave an overview of the cooperation for development activities of WIPO in Asia and the Pacific for the biennium 2000-2001 and on recent initiatives relating to SMEs and least developed countries (LDCs).

The participants discussed the concrete benefits arising from such assistance including strengthening of offices, streamlining of procedures, a more-IP aware public, more accessions to the global IP protection systems, activation of national IP inter-agency committees and emergence of IP associations as well as

Intellectual Property Cooperation Among SAARC Members

- ▶ Continued awareness-building and participation in the international debate relating to IP or IP-related issues of e-commerce, traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore and information and communications technology;
- ▶ Collective administration of copyright and related rights.

The meeting offered an opportunity for countries in the region to share information on national situations in the IP field, including recent developments and future plans as well as to learn from each other's experiences in terms of strategies and approaches to emerging IP challenges. The officials found such sharing and exchanges of great value and requested that WIPO convene this type of meeting regularly.

Bangladesh hosted the WIPO forum for intellectual property cooperation among member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on March 20 and 21, organized in cooperation with the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The forum emphasized the need to promote closer cooperation and understanding among the SAARC countries in the field of intellectual property, as well as to make it an effective tool to contribute to regional growth and development.

Senior officials responsible for intellectual property rights policies and administration from SAARC countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as representatives of the national chapters of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the SAARC Secretariat participated in the forum. They considered the priority areas for collaborative work among SAARC countries for policy development, cooperative planning, and consultation mechanism in the area of intellectual property. The forum resulted in the adoption of a statement reflecting the main intellectual property policy concerns of SAARC countries.

Accordingly, in order to address certain emerging intellectual property issues, the SAARC members will cooperate to develop proposals for model legislation, mechanisms, contractual terms and prac-

tices for regulating access to and benefit-sharing in genetic resources, and for the protection and conservation of traditional knowledge and folklore, which could contribute to the development of internationally accepted standards. They will embark on a program to identify, catalogue, record, and document genetic resources and traditional knowledge, including expressions of folklore. The SAARC members plan to coordinate as far as possible their positions on the issues and tasks discussed in the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore.

The SAARC members discussed the forging of links between the intellectual property offices and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to promote the use and management of intellectual property for enhancing competitiveness. The forum emphasized the need for the formulation of national strategies to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs by use of the intellectual property system. A SAARC regional study will assess the intellectual property needs of SMEs and explore avenues for promoting intellectual property services to add value to SMEs.

The forum emphasized the need for a modern and well-functioning intellectual property system for successful participation in the global economy and trading system. The

ARAB STATES MEETING ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

required administrative and institution infrastructure entails forging functional linkages between intellectual property administrations and all other relevant national institutions. In the process, participants agreed, the SAARC members need to enhance and sustain sound management policies and work procedures, and the national capacity for protection, management, and use of intellectual property rights.

To facilitate policy developments, speedy and effective implementation of work relating to intellectual property cooperation among SAARC countries, the forum recognized the need to:

- formulate a SAARC Framework Agreement on Intellectual Property Cooperation, and,
- include the subject of strengthening intellectual property cooperation among member States of SAARC in the policy agenda and its work program.

WIPO organized a meeting on new issues in intellectual property for the Ambassadors to the League of Arab States (LAS) in Cairo, Egypt, on April 10. The meeting was held under the framework of the bilateral understanding between WIPO and the LAS.

Representatives from the all the LAS member States attended the meeting. The LAS Secretary General, Dr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel-Meguid, identified the promotion of intellectual property protection in the Arab countries as a key priority. The LAS has grown from six members to 22 in recent years, and awareness of the importance of intellectual property is growing at varying rates in the member States. The Secretary General mentioned that the LAS now had an Intellectual Property Unit and stressed the importance of intensifying the cooperation between WIPO and LAS.

The LAS representatives had many questions about various intellectual property issues. Intellectual property, especially traditional knowledge, is of increasing importance in the LAS countries and the Ambassadors agreed on the need for a thorough understanding of the issues. The Ambassadors expressed their hope that WIPO, in conjunction with the Intellectual Property Unit of LAS, would organize more in-depth meetings on intellectual property.

Before leaving Cairo, WIPO representatives participated in a meeting organized for judges at the National Center for Judicial Studies of the Ministry of Justice. During the meeting, Counselor Aly El Sadeq expressed a keen interest in formalizing an agreement of cooperation with WIPO. Some 50 judges attended the event.



Photo: AlHady.com

MODERNIZATION OF AFRICAN REGION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SYSTEMS

The nationally focussed action plans (NFAPs) to modernize the intellectual property systems in Botswana, Ghana and Mauritius are now nearing completion and yielding benefits for the participating countries. The WIPO Cooperation for Development Bureau for Africa developed the plans in cooperation with the respective governments to establish new work procedures for the grant of patents and the registration of trademarks, service marks, and industrial designs.

In 1998, WIPO conducted assessment missions in the three countries and identified the critical needs for modernization of the intellectual property systems. The resulting NFAPs had a threefold objective:

- ▶ Computerization of the trademark registry
- ▶ Computerization of the patent registry
- ▶ Capacity to publish information in-house

The aim was to increase productivity through well-established and computerized intellectual property offices, and thus contribute to the enhancement of the overall efforts of intellectual property institution-building and human resource development. The NFAPs would result in cost-effective intellectual property systems and offices with

the capacity to run effective and efficient outreach programs to raise public awareness on intellectual property.

WIPO, through its cooperation for development program, aims to ensure that not only intellectual property offices, but also potential users, such as universities, chambers of commerce and industry, and research and development institutions, have their technical capacities strengthened to promote their interests. The NFAPs will also encourage the different stakeholders in the intellectual property system to establish and strengthen consultative and cooperative mechanisms.

Installation and Training

The installation of automated systems to simplify patent and trademark registration procedures and manage information started in 1999. The intellectual property offices in the three countries received computer software and hardware from WIPO; various patent offices in Africa and Europe provided the necessary training on in-house desktop publishing techniques, and patent and trademark registration procedures. WIPO also organized missions, seminars, and training courses in each country to provide assistance when needed.

The desktop publishing equipment has already resulted in savings and greater efficiency for the offices.



The equipment will assist in establishing outreach programs for new constituencies and potential users, especially women, youth and the general public through, among others, trade fairs and school programs.

The Botswana office is currently proceeding with data entry for the processing of applications on the automated trademark registry. The office has asked WIPO for further assistance with the process. Trained personnel from two neighboring countries have helped provide this assistance. Some fine-tuning of the systems in Ghana and Mauritius is also taking place. WIPO expects to complete the three projects by the end of the year.



IN GENEVA

Intellectual Property for Ambassadors

On February 19, the WIPO World-wide Academy (WWA) organized the first session of the WIPO Academy on Intellectual Property for Ambassadors in Geneva. The purpose of the session was to demystify intellectual property and to raise awareness of the importance of intellectual property rights as a useful tool for social, economic, cultural and technological development. Special emphasis was given to emerging issues and challenges as well as opportunities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the 21st century.



Photo: Mercedes Martinez Diazal

WIPO Academy session for ambassadors.

Ambassadors from the Permanent Missions of Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Ghana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, the League of Arab States (LAS), and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) attended the session, as well as special representatives of the ambassadors from Colombia and Saudi Arabia.

During the discussions, the ambassadors encouraged WIPO to continue providing technical assistance to developing countries in the implementation of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). They also highlighted the importance of the transfer of technology to developing countries, and discussed patent protection of pharmaceutical products and its impact on developing countries. They noted the possible role of governments and WIPO in the registration and administration of domain names, and commented on the lack of access to information technology in most of the least developed countries. The ambassadors also expressed concern about access to genetic resources and the protection of traditional knowledge

During the last roundtable discussion, the ambassadors from Egypt, Sudan, Thailand, and the LAS made the following suggestions:

- ▶ To develop training courses and materials for use by negotiators of developing countries;
 - ▶ To update the WIPO intellectual property glossary in all the languages of the United Nations to keep up with the rapid development of information technology in recent years;
 - ▶ To maintain and strengthen the traditional face-to-face training programs while developing distance learning programs as a complement, in view of the lack of access to the Internet in many developing countries.
-
- ▶ To institutionalize and regularize the WWA sessions for ambassadors, especially before important WIPO conferences or meetings take place, to enable a comprehensive briefing on the issues under discussion;
 - ▶ To prepare standard textbooks on intellectual property that could be used for other training programs;

International Exhibition of Inventions



Photos: Sylvie Castonguay

WIPO awarded two medals at the 29th International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva from April 4-9. The exhibition featured over 1000 inventions by researchers and inventors from 44 countries. The event is a unique opportunity for inventors from all over the world to display their inventions and for potential business partners to establish joint ventures or licensing contracts.

Mr. Jorge Orihuela (below left), from Peru, is the inventor of a device for the construction of walls that allows vertical alignment of the bricks to make them stable. The device improves productivity and quality in construction. Mr. Orihuela received the WIPO award for best invention from a developing country.

The WIPO award program seeks to stimulate inventive and innovative activity around the world, particularly in developing countries. The award serves to attract and enhance public recognition of inventors and their work. Offering awards to inventors also improves the image of inventors through recognition of their merits as creators who contribute to national wealth creation and development.



A jury of 68 international specialists evaluated the merits of the inventions for the various prizes to be awarded. WIPO presented awards for the best invention from a developing country and for the best invention by a woman.

Mrs. Sophie Bouriez de Hauteclocque (above left), the French inventor of the millimeter triangle for drawing, measuring, or sectioning parallel, perpendicular or diagonal straight lines, received WIPO's award for best invention by a woman. Her transparent triangle, with a millimeter screen printed on the entire surface, with zero on the right angle and an axis finder on the hypotenuse, is an efficient and precise tool for architects, designers, craftsmen, and school children.

CALENDAR of meetings

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

MAY 7 TO 11

GENEVA

Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) (Fifth 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 19

GENEVA

Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (Fifth session)

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.

MAY 21 TO 25

GENEVA

Committee on Reform of the PCT

The meeting will consider proposals for a reform of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) system.

Invitations: As members, the States members of the PCT Union and the International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities; as observers, the States members of the Paris Union that are not members of the PCT Union and certain organizations.

MAY 28 TO 30

GENEVA

Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) – Standards and Documentation Working Group

This is the first meeting of the revised Working Group, and as such, consideration will be given to its working methods and work program, including an update on the work on electronic filing standards and the revision of WIPO standards.

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

MAY 31 AND JUNE 1

GENEVA

Extraordinary Session of the WIPO Coordination Committee

The WIPO Coordination Committee will meet, in extraordinary session, to consider the appointment of senior officials.

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

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: As members, the States members of WIPO and of the Paris and Berne Unions.

SEPTEMBER 3 TO 7**GENEVA****Information Technology Projects Working Group (First session)**

The Working Group will focus on establishing its working methods and work program. *Invitations:* As members, the States members of WIPO and the Paris Union; as observers, certain organizations.

SEPTEMBER 10 TO 14**GENEVA****Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) (Seventh session)**

The Committee will continue its work based on the results of its sixth session.

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

SEPTEMBER 19 TO 21**GENEVA****WIPO Second International Conference on Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property**

To follow-up on the International Conference of September 1999, the WIPO Second International Conference on Electronic Commerce and

Intellectual Property will address the latest developments in e-commerce and intellectual property - legal, technical and policy-oriented. *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.

NOVEMBER 5 TO 16**GENEVA****Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (Sixth session)**

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

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

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(New bound edition 2001 version),
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60 Swiss francs



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