

**Comments on the Second Draft of the IB Proposal Concerning SCIT Restructuring**

November 10, 2000  
Japanese Patent Office

1. Based upon the recent economic globalization and highly advanced information-oriented society, the SCIT was developed from the PCIPI --- which discussed IT issues including technical standards --- with the aim of comprehensively promoting discussion at WIPO about information technology; for example, establishment of a global network in WIPO and provision of intellectual property information over the network.
2. The IB proposal, submitted on October 13, 2000, suggests that the SCIT should be replaced by two organs: 1) an IT Advisory Group which is to give advice on IT strategies, and 2) a Standing Committee on Technical Standards and Documentation which is to discuss technical standards for intellectual property data/documents.
3. Taking into consideration the dramatic development of information technology in recent years, however, the JPO feels uncertainty about whether separate discussions regarding IT policies and technical standards can be conducted efficiently and constructively by these proposed parties. Thus, technical standards and IT policies should be discussed together as inseparable items.
4. The JPO proposes, therefore, that the SCIT Plenary be maintained as a system to comprehensively discuss IT policies and technical standards and recommend to the WIPO General Assembly, and the Program and Budget Committee if necessary, adoption of its (the SCIT Plenary) discussion results. To do so, the SCIT Plenary should meet at least once a year.
5. With regard to Working Groups, the SCIT Plenary should be given the authority to flexibly establish a Working Group focusing on a specific IT issue as the need arises. If there is a need for a specific discussion about IT policies, the SCIT Plenary should first decide on the establishment of a Working Group. The SCIT Plenary should then consider discussion results of the Working Group and make proposals/recommendations to the WIPO General Assembly and, if necessary, to the Program and Budget Committee.
6. The discussion about the revision of SCIT structure originated in the need for a clear definition of the relationship between the SCIT Plenary and Working Groups. Thus, the JPO believes that to give the clear definition to respective mandates of the SCIT Plenary and Working Groups

as well as their inter-linkages, as shown in paragraphs 22 and 23 of the Second Draft, is most important and a necessary and sufficient step, and no further revision for SCIT structure should be done.