

C. PCT 1464

January 6, 2016

Madam,
Sir,

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as a receiving Office, International Searching Authority, International Preliminary Examining Authority and/or designated/elected Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). It is also being sent to certain organizations that are invited to attend sessions of the PCT Working Group as observers.

Background

At its eighth session, the PCT Working Group discussed a proposal prepared by the International Bureau (see document PCT/WG/8/7) for better coordination of patent examiner training between national Offices, taking into account questions of effective long term planning, sharing of experiences in delivering effective training, and matching needs for examiner training with Offices able to supply the respective training. The discussions are summarized in paragraphs 42 to 46 of document PCT/WG/8/25, with a full record in paragraphs 89 to 108 of document PCT/WG/8/26 Prov.

The Working Group expressed strong support for the International Bureau to increase its role in coordinating patent examiner training between Offices, and agreed on the follow-up below (see paragraph 46 of document PCT/WG/8/25):

“46. The Working Group requested the International Bureau to issue, as a first step, a Circular requesting information from Offices on examiner training activities carried out by Offices for the benefit of other Offices, notably from developing countries. This would better inform the next phase of discussions on how the International Bureau could act as a coordinating body to most useful effect.”

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Accordingly, this Circular is addressed to Offices which in the past have provided training in substantive patent examination for the benefit of examiners from other Offices or which have contributed to the provision of such training activities (for example, by making available experts or other resources) where such activity was organized by another Office, WIPO and/or other organizations ("donor Offices").

In addition, in order to provide a complementary picture of patent examiner training activity, this Circular is also addressed to Offices whose examiners in the past have received training in substantive patent examination organized or co-organized by other Offices, WIPO and/or other organizations ("beneficiary Offices"). It should be noted that an Office may have been in the past both a donor and beneficiary Office.

The Circular concerns only training for examiners in substantive examination of patents. It does not concern any training on examination of formalities, for example, training related to the functioning of an Office as a PCT receiving Office.

Questionnaire

Both donor and beneficiary Offices are invited to provide information on examiner training activities by replying to the relevant questions set out in Part A (for donor Offices) or Part B (for beneficiary Offices) of the attached Questionnaire. The replies should cover all relevant activities carried out in the period between 2013 and 2015.

With a view to sharing best practices and training resources, this Circular further requests information regarding the management and delivery of examiner training within Offices. All Offices are thus invited to provide the requested information by replying to the relevant questions set out in Part C of the attached Questionnaire.

- ./ Your Office is invited to complete the Questionnaire preferably by using an electronic copy, ticking the respective check boxes and entering data in tabular fields provided with certain questions, as appropriate. An electronic copy of the Questionnaire is available from the WIPO web site at <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/circulars>.

Replies to this Circular should be returned by February 26, 2016, preferably by e-mail to Mr. Kenichiro Natsume, Director, PCT International Cooperation Division (email: pcticd@wipo.int; fax: (+41-22) 338 7160). For clarifications please contact Mr. Lutz Mailänder, Head, International Cooperation on Examination and Training Section (email: lutz.mailander@wipo.int). Responses received will be taken into account in preparation for discussions at the ninth session of the Working Group, due to take place from May 17 to 20, 2016.

Yours sincerely,



John Sandage
Deputy Director General

Enclosure: Questionnaire on Substantive Patent Examiner Training