



JAPAN PATENT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

3-4-2, KASUMIGASEKI CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO 100-0013, JAPAN

TEL. 81-3-3581-1211 FAX. 81-3-3581-9188

<http://www.jpaa.or.jp/english/index.html>

Mr. Francis Gurry
Director General
World Intellectual Property Organization
34, chemin des Colombettes
CH - 1211 - Geneva 20
Switzerland

January 6, 2010

Re: JPAA Submission to WIPO on WIPO Document SCP/13/4 -
Client-Attorney Privilege

The Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA), being the professional association of more than 8,000 patent attorneys practicing in all aspects of intellectual property law in Japan, hereby submits its comments on the issue of Client-Attorney Privilege addressed in WIPO document SCP/13/4 published on February 25, 2009 for the thirteenth session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP).

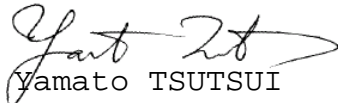
The JPAA appreciates that the SCP has conducted substantial research and discussions on the laws of many countries. Although it is meritorious to continue such research and discussion, it would also be worthwhile to simultaneously consider what options are available to resolve any issues that arise. For this purpose, the JPAA strongly encourages the SCP to establish a Working Group for resolving the issue of Client-Attorney Privilege.



Page 2 of 2
January 6, 2010
WIPO

The JPAA recognizes the necessity of establishing a solution for the issue of Client-Attorney Privilege at the international level, and strongly supports the idea of a treaty on "Client-Attorney Privilege," which should cover Japanese patent attorneys both in private practice and in industry in relation to their clients. As correctly stated in document SCP/13/4, such a treaty is necessary to enable clients, including intellectual property owners and third parties in each and every country, to freely and confidentially communicate with IP advisers within their own country and foreign countries.

Sincerely yours,


Yamato TSUTSUI

President of the JPAA