

Questionnaire on the Term “Quality of Patents” and Cooperation between Patent Offices in Search and Examination

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The answers to this questionnaire have been provided on behalf of:

Country: Honduras
Office: National Intellectual Property Office of Honduras

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Q1. How does your office understand the term “quality of patents”?

Quality of patents:

The experience of the examiners in the problem/solution sense.
The quality of a background examination is based on several characteristics, such as the system, the database and access to information in international databases.
Applicability of international agreements to which Honduras is party and of national law.
Use of manuals and guides.
Writing the patent, which can give the examiner at the time of the analysis a better view of the scope of protection sought.

Q2. What experiences does your office have with respect to cooperation with other patent offices in the area of search and examination?

Cooperation mechanisms may include, for example, access to documents or databases of other offices, re-use of the search and examination results of other offices, use of expertise and resources available in other offices, collaboration agreements for search and examination, outsourcing search and examination, etc.

Honduras has direct cooperation with Mexico through CADOPAT and Peru through INDECOPI.

Free international databases: PATENTSCOPE, EPO, LATIPAT. We have also requested cooperation from various examiners of Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Q3. When performing on-line prior art search, patent examiners prepare a set of search queries to find relevant prior art. Does your office share (for example, via an official website), or exchange, such search queries with other offices?

Q4. In order to facilitate the cooperation, what kinds of platforms and tools to share information on search and examination are available in your office? Such platforms and tools

include, for example, WIPO CASE, databases allowing other offices to retrieve information and external databases used to retrieve information.

- (i) Platforms and tools provided by your office
 - The Patent Office of Honduras uses the IPAS 207 system.
- (ii) Platforms and tools used by your office
 - The Patent Office of Honduras uses LATIPAT.

Q5. What are the impacts of such cooperation to your office? If your office has different types of cooperation and each type of cooperation has different impacts, please indicate them separately.

Honduras uses the search report and written opinions of WIPO and other intellectual property offices.

It also uses the LATIPAT platform.

Q6. What kinds of capacity building and trainings are required for cooperation between patent offices in search and examination? Please indicate any specific capacity building needs to conduct such cooperation successfully.

Honduras requests collaboration in the following areas:

1. disseminating the experience obtained among regions, such as experiences and strategies that are used for the analysis of applications;
2. training on strategies for technical background searches in free databases and preparation of the relevant reports;
3. legal training, such as dispute resolution, oppositions, cancellations, arbitration and mediation, legal grounds for solid rejection decisions; and
4. opposition systems.

[End of Questionnaire]