

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

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

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Q1 How does your office understand the term "Quality of patents"?

First, the Patent Office of the Intellectual Property Protection Department has initiated a number of services when the fees decision no. 410/2014 has been issued on Dec. 2014. Since then, the examination of patent applications took place in order to grant patent certificates pursuant to the Patent Law no. 30/2006. A number of internal circulars have been issued in order to smoothen and ease up the execution of patent services and examination procedures.

Second, the technical examiner conducts the search procedure by looking and finding out the prior art documents throughout the free worldwide and commercial databases. The relevant prior art documents are being determined within the boundaries of the requested claims of an application for protection purposes.

It is also worthy to be mentioned that the Patent Office has granted (36) patent certificates since 2015 up until now.

The Patent Office has a technical examination expert who reviews and assures all the technical decisions done by the technical examiners before it is approved by the patent office. This protocol is implemented in the Patent Office to enhance and maintain the quality of all issued technical decisions which guarantee the quality of all patent publications. All the patent applications & certificates are also being issued after a number of technical search and examination procedures and a number of legal examination processes that are done by a IP legal consultant and legal examiners to reassure their validity to guarantee not to be revoked in the future.

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

Please be informed that the Patent Office of the Intellectual Property Department is conducting all the technical and legal examination and search & examination procedures for all the patent applications filed without the having any terms of cooperation or collaboration between our patent office and any other patent offices in the area of search and examination.

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?

The same answer from Q2 is applied.

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 the Intellectual Property Department is currently working towards establishing an internal database specified for patents. This database will utilize the institution of a new platform that will allow applicants to register and file patent applications electronically all the way until the grant period.

(ii) Platforms and tools used by your office

The Patent Office is using and utilizing the available electronic free databases on the Internet, such as, Patentscope and Espacenet. Also, the Office has a paid subscription with Minesoft database which provides the technical examiner the ability to login and conduct search and examination procedures for filed applications.

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.

The answer from Q2 is also applied.

However, the Patent Office of the Intellectual Property Department in the State of Qatar is a member of the GCC Patent Office pursuant to their system. Thus, the Patent Office receives a number of the GCC applications that has passed the formal and substantive grant conditions so it can be reviewed legally and technically during a certain period of time based on the GCC Patent law of the office to eliminate any possibilities of objections. If no objection has been made during the allowed time, the GCC Patent Office officially issues the grant certificate to the applicant.

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.

- Prepare memorandums with other patent offices to enhance and widen the range of cooperation and collaboration which will result in mutual benefits.
- Exchange of expertise between patent offices by visiting other patent offices and/or conducting workshops.
- Improve the level of examiners by focusing on training them in some of the largest and most respected patent offices, such as, USPTO, EPO, JPO.
- Share information, data and decisions between patents offices to facilitate and speed up the mechanism of action.