

**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: **Saudi Arabia**

Office: **Saudi Patent Office (SPO)**

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Q1. Various aspects may be relevant to the concept of “quality of patents”. It may relate to, for example, quality of patent procedures and management in the office, quality of search and examination, quality of granted patents or quality of a patent system. In addition, the expression “quality of patents” may be understood differently depending on the perspectives of various stakeholders, for example, the perspectives of a patent office, an applicant etc.

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

A1. The concept of Quality of Patents includes all the procedures inside the Saudi Patent office, which aims to satisfy the applicants and the stakeholders through commitment to issue patents that meet the requirements of the patent law.

Q2. What types of cooperation with other patent offices does your office have with respect to search and examination?

Those types of cooperation may include, for example, access to documents/databases of other offices, use of search and examination work products, expertise and resources available in other offices, collaborative search and examination, outsourcing search etc.

A2. We have an ongoing cooperation with The State Intellectual Property Office of China regarding CPES and we plan to cooperate with WIPO and GCC in the near future.

Q3. When performing prior art search, patent examiners prepare search strategies and queries (for example, indications of databases and publications, classification codes, search terms and key words used) to find relevant prior art.

Does your office share (for example, via an official website), or exchange, such search strategies and queries with other collaborating offices?

A3. No, we don’t have this kind of service at the moment but we plan to exchange search and examination reports with GCC soon. In addition, we are planning to provide Full-Text data to European Patent Office within the ARABPAT Project.

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

A4 (i). Right now, we have no platforms or tools to offer, but we do have a search engine for bibliographic data only and we plan to replace it to use WIPO Publish instead.

(ii) Platforms and tools used by your office

A4 (ii). Now, we only use CPES database provided by The State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO), but we do plan to subscribe to WIPO CASE in the near future.

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

A5. Right now, we have no cooperation with other offices.

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

In this context, the capacity building is understood to refer to various activities and trainings that support development of knowledge and skills of office employees for effective cooperation between offices in search and examination.

A6. Any cooperation between patent offices should aim to mutual benefits where each office share with another office its difficulties and the way they overcome that difficulties. Because the core business of any patent office is search and examination, the cooperation should cover every aspect in the search and examination such as following:

- **How to accelerate examination process.**
- **How to improve the quality of search and examination.**
- **How to search in the prior art in an effective way.**
- **Knowing about the different databases which are used for searching in the prior art.**
- **How to examine complicated applications in the field of biotech or pharmaceutical.**

To do this, we suggest classifying patent offices into three categories based on their experience, facilities, number of filing applications, number of examiners.

[End of Questionnaire