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Geneva  
September 1998

# Assemblies of WIPO Member States meet in Geneva

## Statement of the Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, Ms. Sheila Batchelor

Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal



Ms. Sheila Batchelor

The WIPO General Assembly, which took place in Geneva from September 7 to 15, 1998, was concluded by an encouraging statement by the Chair, Ms. Sheila Batchelor. There follow a few selected passages.

“The first ever Program Implementation Overview by the Director General which was before us for consideration was most

warmly welcomed by all member States. In addition, the streamlined and disciplined way in which the Assemblies themselves tackled the consideration of this agenda item last week, established different standards of dialogue for future Assemblies to take into consideration. That more remains to be done to bring the vision of results-based program implementation to full fruition is not a sign of failure, but a sign of strength and forward movement. Major change is not accomplished overnight, but takes perseverance, focus, and commitment. But no one can doubt that we have firmly established the direction in which we wish to go and are committed to its full accomplishment.

I wonder how many of us realize the tremendous pressure which our demands for action have placed on every member of the International

Bureau. They have worked with such professionalism that it has seemed seamless and effortless to us, but behind the scenes were dedicated individuals who worked nights and weekends to deliver to us, often at the expense of their home and family life.

And so, in closing, to Kamil and the International Bureau, congratulations to you individually and collectively, for the flying start to the new mandate. The world will continue to unfold at an ever-increasing pace and we have given you a packed agenda for action, but we do hope that you will have at least some time in the not too distant future to slow down a bit, catch your breath, reflect a little and to practice what is known in North America as balancing work and family life. And then refreshed and recharged, begin to prepare for our next Assemblies.”

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## Member States approve work carried out so far

On September 7, 1998, Dr. Kamil Idris presented his first report on the work of the Organization to WIPO's member States. In introducing the report, Dr. Idris noted that substantial progress had been made in implementing the initiatives he had launched on taking office a year previously and highlighted some of the developments that had taken place in that time.

The report itself covered the period from January to July 1998. In keeping with the approach of the WIPO Program and Budget 1998-1999, where emphasis is placed on transparency and accountability, the report sets out the objectives of each of WIPO's 18 programs, the work carried out so far, and the practical results achieved.

The member States noted with approval the remarkable amount of work carried out during the comparatively short period of time and welcomed the new directions and initiatives that the Organization was pursuing.

A summary of this report is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.wipo.int>

## Reforms at WIPO

At the September meeting of the General Assembly, the member States of WIPO discussed proposals for reform submitted by the Director General.

WIPO has grown considerably over the past few years. The Secretariat has expanded upon its traditional areas of work and embarked upon a host of new activities. Such radical changes inevitably bring a need for reform. During the General Assembly, the member States addressed priority needs that included:

- simplification of the administration of WIPO's finances,
- policies and practices for the nomination and appointment of Directors General,
- simplification of the decision-making process for the member States of WIPO.

With regard to the issues linked to WIPO finances, the General Assembly decided that the Program and Budget Committee should, at its next session, discuss a policy for a long-term strategy on the budget surpluses and reserve funds of WIPO.

With regard to the policies and practices for the nomination and appointment of Directors General, the member States agreed to the principle of a six-year term of office, that would be renewable once, and to an appropriate amendment to the WIPO Convention.

## Changes in WIPO Committees

### WIPO's two permanent committees on development cooperation to merge

During the meetings of the Assemblies, WIPO member States agreed to initiate procedures for the merging of the Permanent Committee for Development Cooperation Related to Industrial Property and the Permanent Committee for Development Cooperation Related to Copyright and Neighboring Rights into a single body - the Permanent Committee on Intellectual Property Development. The merging of the two Committees reflects the fact that an expanding number of issues cover both industrial property and copyright and it is increasingly difficult to maintain a strict division between matters which pertain only to industrial property and those which relate only to copyright.

### Integration of the Budget and Premises Committees

Member States also agreed to integrate the WIPO Budget Committee and the WIPO Premises Committee into a single body - the WIPO Program and Budget Committee. The integration of the two committees will take account of current practice (the committees have been meeting in joint session for the past three years) and will ensure that proceedings are conducted in a cost-effective and coherent manner.

### General Assembly confirms the programs of WIPO's new standing committees

The General Assembly of WIPO has confirmed the work programs of the three new standing committees it set up last March.

The Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) is to continue its preparatory work on a draft Patent Law Treaty. The next meeting of the SCP will be held in November 1998 in order to pursue this project with a view to a decision by the WIPO General Assembly in 1999 on the holding of a diplomatic conference as early as the year 2000.

The Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) will give priority treatment to the examination of provisions on well-known marks. In the long term, those provisions may be incorporated in a treaty.

The Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) will closely monitor the implementation of the WIPO Global Information Network (known as WIPO<sub>NET</sub>) and, more particularly, the preparation for the call for tenders for the deployment of the Global Information Network, the setting up of Intellectual Property Digital Libraries (known as IPDLs), projects for the computerization of intellectual property offices, and standards for data exchange over the network.

The Standing Committees are designed to provide an effective machinery for setting priorities, allocating resources, and ensuring the coordination of ongoing work in the international development of the law of patents, trademarks, industrial designs, and geographical indications. They also aim to facilitate global access to intellectual property information thereby fostering the protection of intellectual property rights. Finally, they will consider the impact of digital technology and global information networks on copyright and related rights.

### WIPO takes measures to raise global awareness of electronic commerce issues

In their September meetings, WIPO member States approved a number of measures designed to raise awareness of electronic commerce issues in all regions of the world.

The measures include:

- the formation of a steering committee that will meet informally with the Director General to provide advice on WIPO's activities in this area,
- a series of regional consultation meetings in Africa, Asia and Latin America designed to give information on ways in which electronic commerce is affecting intellectual property issues and to assist interested parties in formulating a timely response to these issues,
- a major international conference which will address general developments regarding electronic commerce and the implications of those developments for intellectual property, to be held in Geneva in the spring of 1999.

## Premises

### WIPO to launch an international architectural competition

The construction of a new building to provide at least 500 workplaces, plus a new conference center, capable of seating 600 delegates was approved by the

WIPO General Assembly in September. An international architectural competition will be launched in November 1998 to design the new buildings, plus an extension to the WIPO car park. The design will be required to integrate both materially and aesthetically with WIPO's present buildings and incorporate the latest information technology requirements of the Secretariat.

The total budget for all three projects is 82.5 million Swiss francs and they should all be completed by the year 2002.

The decision is an important one in the process of bringing together WIPO staff members who are presently situated in ten different sites in the Geneva area. Meanwhile, preparations for the renovation of the present headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization, that WIPO has already purchased, are well under way and it is hoped that a significant number of staff members, some 430, will move there as early as 2001. ■

### New WIPO Information Center opens - spotlight on women inventors

The beginning of September saw the opening of the new WIPO Information Center. The ceremonial ribbon was cut by Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris and Ms. Sheila Batchelor, Chair of the General Assembly of WIPO, in the presence of delegates from the Organization's 171 member States, invited guests from the United Nations, representatives of the press, and members of staff.

The multi-faceted Center contains a bookshop, a souvenir boutique and a cyber-corner giving access to WIPO's website on the Internet. It also has an exhibition area, currently devoted to showcasing women inventors. This exhibition - **Women Invent** - is scheduled to run until March 31, 1999 and features some 200 inventions created by women and girls from around the world. Illustrated panels,

videos, and some of the actual inventions themselves all contribute to an intriguing voyage of discovery into the creativity and inventiveness of women - from the advances in chemistry and physics

made by two-time Nobel prize-winner Marie Curie to the air harmonica constructed from discarded soft drinks containers by Michiko Araki, a 12-year-old Japanese school-girl.

***The WIPO Information Center is situated in the lobby of WIPO's headquarters building at 34 chemin des Colombettes, Geneva. It is open to the public from Monday to Friday from 9h to 17h. The exhibition - Women Invent - will run from September 8, 1998 to March 31, 1999.***



Ms. Batchelor (center) and Dr. Idris being shown around the Information Center

Photo: Mercedes Martínez Dozal

## Visits

### Director General visits Finland

On September 29 and 30, 1998, Dr. Kamil Idris paid an official visit to Finland to discuss the Organization's program of work and further strengthen cooperation between Finland and WIPO in the field of intellectual property.

The Director General was received by the President of Finland, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari with whom he discussed a host of issues that WIPO and Finland will be working on together. These included:

- highlighting the importance of the global protection of intellectual property to create economic growth and wealth
- the organization of an international conference to promote innovation and strategies of marketing and commercialization.

During his visit the Director General also met with the Minister

of Trade and Industry where discussions focused upon:

- the implications of international trade on intellectual property protection
- the Internet and electronic commerce.

The Minister expressed his support for the progressive development of international intellectual property law and WIPO's work in this area.

During his meeting with the Minister of Culture, the Director General offered to support the organization of a forum on folklore to take place in Finland in the year 2000.

The Director General also visited the National Board of Patents and held discussions with the Deputy Speaker of Parliament and many other representatives from the field of intellectual property covering a variety of areas, all of which will be followed-up in the ongoing program of work with WIPO and Finland. ■

## Internet Domain Name Process

### First regional consultation takes place

Stanford University, California, US, was the setting for the first of a series of WIPO one-day regional consultations that are part of the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process.

The objective of these consultations is to provide a forum for those from the business and trademark world as well as Internet experts and other interested parties to express their views on four main topics to be addressed by the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process:

- dispute prevention
- dispute resolution
- protection of famous and well-known marks
- the introduction of new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs).

During the Stanford University round of consultations, issues that attracted particular interest were:

- the nature and extent of current problems encountered by owners of trademarks with respect to domain names

## Exhibitions



San Francisco

Photo: www.arttoday.com

WIPO artists bring color to the Gallery with images from around the globe

From September 7 to 18, 1998 four WIPO staff members, Carlos Mayorga, Victoria Menezes, Djamila Moh and Zhang Shaoqing held an exhibition of their work in the WIPO Gallery entitled

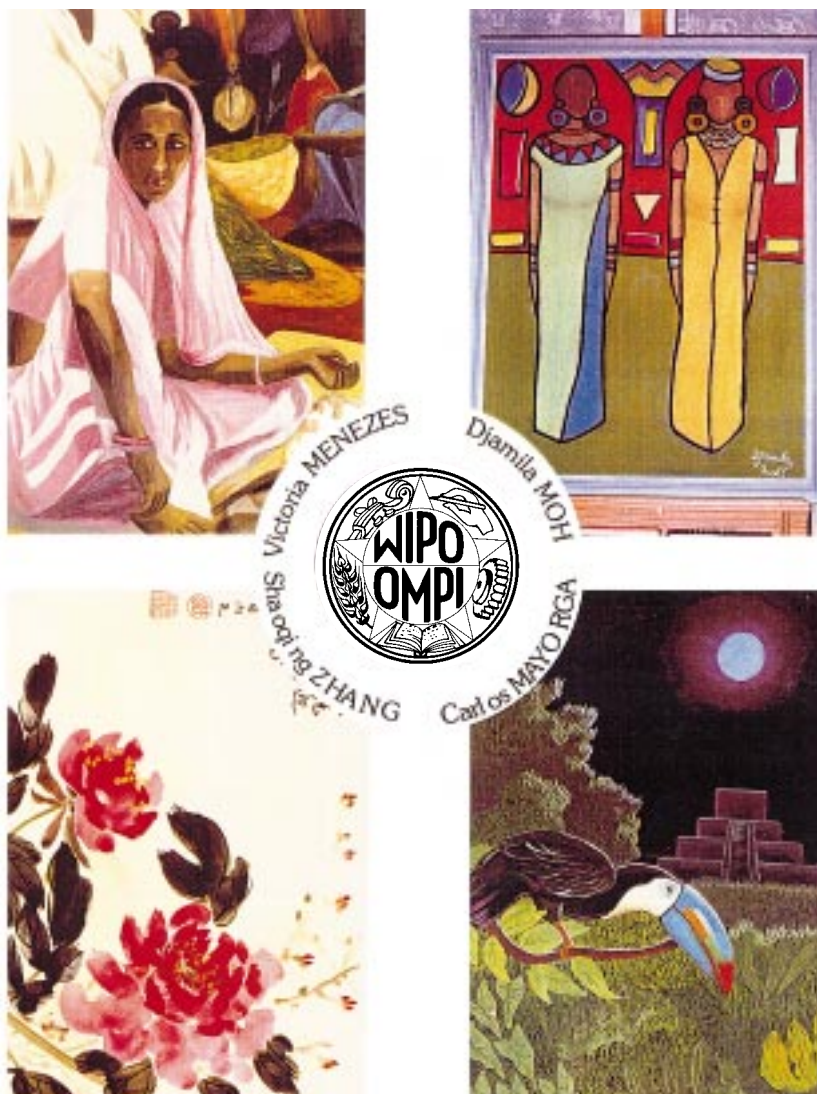
*Quatre artistes - Quatre collègues.* All four artists expressed themselves using their own most distinct techniques working in ink, water colors, oils, or pastels.

Images from throughout the world, Africa, China, Europe, India, and Latin America were much appreciated by visitors, staff members and delegates at the WIPO General Assembly. ■

- the need to secure reliable contact details of domain name registrants - and the consequences of such details not being available
- the use of gateway pages, directory and listing services as a means of avoiding disputes
- the role of alternative dispute resolution for resolving domain name conflicts

These views will be taken into account by WIPO when it prepares its recommendations to the new organization being formed to administer the domain name system.

The transcript of this, the first regional consultation is available at <http://wipo2.wipo.int>. ■



## The United Nations Women's Guild Art Exhibition

From September 21 to 28, 1998, the United Nations Women's Guild organized its second annual Art Exhibition at WIPO.

Twenty-nine women artists from a variety of cultures presented their works that included oils, acrylics, water colors, painting on silk, and traditional illumination art. The United Nations Women's Guild expressed the hope that "this presentation will shed a ray of light on the diversity existing in this world." ■

*"...a ray of light on the diversity existing in this world"*



Organizers and artists of the United Nations Women's Guild Art Exhibition

## Cooperation for Development

and performers, proved very receptive to the objectives of the Seminar - to promote awareness of the protection of intellectual property, in particular the role it can play in cultural and economic development and to provide information on how intellectual property rights are exercised, managed, and enforced.

The Seminar was organized by WIPO jointly with the Justice Department of Samoa and with the assistance of the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan. The opening ceremony, which was

Participating countries included: the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Photo: Hang Gao



### WIPO South Pacific seminar excites lively interest

The role of intellectual property in cultural and economic development was the theme of a WIPO Sub-Regional Seminar for South Pacific countries held in Apia, Samoa from September 23 to 25, 1998.

Participants from ten South Pacific countries as well as representatives of the South Pacific Forum and the University of the South Pacific and some 60 local participants, including a large number of artists



broadcast on the local television network, included a keynote address by Minister of Justice Molioo Teofilo Vaeluaga.

Presentations were made by three guest speakers from Australia and Japan and three WIPO staff members. Topics ranged from WIPO's Cooperation for Development program, to the administration of an industrial property office, the importance of collective management of copyright, and the protection of folklore. There were also sessions devoted to reports from participants on intellectual property protection in their own countries and a closing roundtable discussion on the modernization of intellectual property legislation in South Pacific countries.

Great satisfaction with the Seminar was expressed by all those concerned and the discussions it provoked underscored the strong interest in the protection of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage that is characteristic of the South Pacific region.

Interest in the Seminar was particularly keen among Samoan participants. The country has experienced a recent, rapid development in the intellectual property field. It became a member of WIPO in October last year and has just adopted a new Copyright Act (which entered into force on September 1, 1998). It is also in the process of updating its industrial property legislation. ■

## Regional Seminar on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights under the TRIPS Agreement

From July 15 to 17, 1998, WIPO organized a Regional Seminar on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights under the TRIPS Agreement in Guatemala de Ascención. The meeting was attended by some 100 participants from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. In addition to the broad topic of enforcement, the seminar also covered a host of issues including:

- obligations to protect intellectual property rights under the TRIPS Agreement
- arbitration in the framework of the TRIPS Agreement
- new rights under the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT).
- the new Copyright Law of Guatemala and the new institutional structure for the protection of intellectual property in Guatemala.

Some 100 participants from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama attended the Seminar.

This Seminar was carried out as part of an on-going program of training in Central American countries and will be followed by

a sub-regional seminar on the Collective Management of Copyright to be held at a later date in Costa Rica.

This seminar was also organized with the cooperation of the Secretariat for Economic Integration of Central America (SIECA) and the Regional Center for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC). ■

## Regional Seminar on Copyright and Related Rights for University Professors

The focus of this Seminar was the introduction of the subject of copyright and related rights into the university curricula of Central American universities. In addition, issues related to the legal protection of works in the academic and research fields were also addressed.

The Seminar, which took place in Antigua on July 13 and 14, 1998, was organized with the assistance of SIECA and CERLALC and attended by 30 participants from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

The Seminar was opened by Mr. Guillermo Castillo, Vice-Minister of Economy, Mr. Haroldo Rodas Melgar, Secretary General of SIECA, Ms Monica Torres, coordinator of Copyright of CERLALC and a representative of WIPO on behalf of the Director General.

Topics discussed during the seminar included:

- copyright in the 21st century
- objects and subjects of copyright, economic rights, and moral rights
- the TRIPS Agreement and its relationship with the Berne and Rome Conventions
- transfer of copyright and new rights
- rental and lending.

The keen interest of participants led to many of the sessions running beyond their expected duration, and there were requests for similar seminars to be held in other countries of the region. ■

Participants came from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

## Kuala Lumpur hosts two major WIPO copyright meetings for the Asian region

Two issues of increasing importance for Asia - the collective management of copyright and related rights and the challenges raised in the copyright field by new technologies - were the subject of intense discussion at a roundtable and a seminar organized, in Kuala Lumpur, for 15 countries in the region by WIPO and the Intellectual Property Division of the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs of Malaysia.

The three-day **Regional Roundtable on the Protection and Collective Management of Copyright and**



Participants from 15 countries in the region attended the WIPO copyright meetings in Kuala Lumpur

Photo: Mohammed Mochtar

**Related Rights** was opened, on August 24, 1998, by the Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Dato' S. Subramaniam. In his address, the Deputy Minister noted that although the concept of collective administration was "something quite new, not only to Malaysia but probably also to this part of the world," it was seen "as a long-term solution for the overall enhancement of copyright protection for both local and foreign works."

Some 60 Malaysian participants joined the 29 foreign participants for a comprehensive series of presentations by invited speakers from Finland, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore.

A full afternoon was dedicated to a panel discussion on the legislative and practical requirements of the Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) for the fight against piracy. Discussion was led by a panel of five experts from China, Malaysia, and the United States of America.

Assistance from WIPO was proposed to those countries in need of speeding up the process of revising their national legislation

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*"something quite new, not only to Malaysia but probably also to this part of the world,"*

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to comply with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement by the deadline of January 1, 2000.

Two morning sessions were devoted to country reports by representatives from all the participating countries.

Participants came from: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The Roundtable was followed by a three-day **Regional Seminar on the WIPO "Internet Treaties" - the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT)**. The Seminar was opened by the Minister for Domestic Trade and Consumer

Affairs, Dato' Seri Megat Junid bin Megat Ayob. In his address, the Minister stressed the challenges to the copyright field posed by the extraordinary development of information technology and the fact that the WIPO "Internet Treaties" were intended to respond to those challenges and "to give right holders a powerful new weapon to combat Internet and other on-line piracy."

The work of the Seminar began with the presentation of two papers by experts from Malaysia and India, followed by an overview of the two WIPO "Internet Treaties" and the presentation by each participating country of:

- its policy regarding the Internet and new technology, in general
- its interest in adhering to the WCT and the WPPT and the steps that would have to be taken to achieve such a goal
- the compatibility of its legislation with the provision of the two treaties.

The second day consisted of panel discussions, led by seven panelists from Finland, Malaysia, Singapore, and the United States of America, during which discussion centered on key issues in the implementation of the WCT and the WPPT.

The third and final day consisted of a briefing on WIPO's program for further international harmonization in the field of copyright and related rights, followed by a lively session of questions and comments. ■

## National WIPO seminars on intellectual property for customs officials

Additional training activities in the field of copyright included two seminars on intellectual property for customs officials:

- The first was held in Montevideo, Uruguay on August 27 and 28, 1998.
- The second was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on August 31 and September 1, 1998.

Both provided an international forum for the discussion of intellectual property matters and, most importantly, an opportunity to exchange experiences on the implementation of the border measures provided for in the TRIPS Agreement. Discussions included a lively debate on measures to detect pirated goods. Similar seminars will be held in Brazil and Paraguay soon. ■

## WIPO and WTO hold joint symposium on TRIPS Agreement

On September 16, 1998, the main conference room in WIPO headquarters in Geneva was filled to capacity for a one-day Symposium on the Process of Implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, organized jointly by WIPO and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The subject of the Symposium was dictated by the urgent need for developing countries to implement their obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) by January 1, 2000; this deadline applies to 70 countries that are members of WTO.

In July of this year, WIPO and the WTO launched a joint initiative to help these countries meet their



The Chairman of the morning session, Ambassador István Major, Chairman of the Council for TRIPS, in discussion with WIPO Deputy Director General, Mr. Castelo (left) and WTO Deputy Director General Mr. Lavorel (right).

Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal

obligations, which include bringing their national legislation into line with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement and putting in place infrastructure and enforcement mechanisms for the protection of intellectual property rights. The Symposium was designed to provide further assistance in that respect.

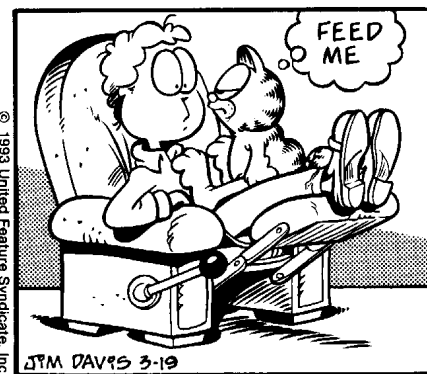
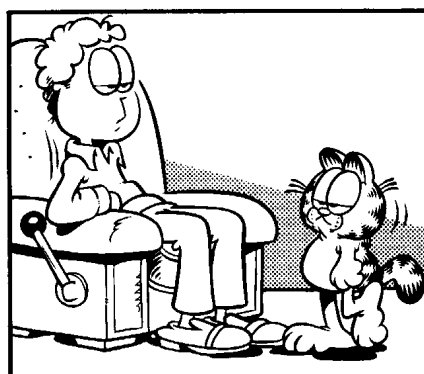
After opening speeches by Mr. Roberto Castelo, Deputy Director General of WIPO and Mr. Warren Lavorel, Deputy Director General of the WTO, the program began with an overview of the implementation process, from the perspective of the WTO. Presentations on the activities and role of the Council for TRIPS, on the legislation reviews at the WTO, and on the WTO dispute settlement system, gave an overall picture, with enough specifics to stimulate a lively discussion among the participants and the presenters.

This was followed by case studies and regional overviews. High-level speakers from Trinidad and Tobago, Egypt, the Philippines, and Mexico gave presentations on matters relevant to their respective countries, while WIPO staff members gave regional overviews of TRIPS implementation issues and outlined the cooperation offered by WIPO with respect to the revising of national legislation.

The Symposium ended with a roundtable discussion on problems, solutions and the outlook for the year 2000, with six panelists giving interesting and highly informative input on different aspects of implementation.

During the presentations and discussions, several issues were emphasized, including the burden placed on developing countries both in implementing their obligations under the TRIPS Agreement and in keeping pace with the rapid globalization of economies; the necessity for raising public awareness of these issues; and the readiness of both WIPO and the WTO to give technical assistance to developing countries in complying with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement, in accordance with the joint initiative undertaken by the two organizations. ■

The TRIPS Agreement is a major WTO agreement. It mandates compliance with provisions contained in several of the international treaties administered by WIPO, including the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, and the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.



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## WIPO Awards

### WIPO rewards creativity

In September 1998, the creativity of inventors in Bulgaria, the Democratic Republic of Korea and Argentina was recognized by WIPO through the awarding of four gold medals and eight diplomas.

During the Sixth Exhibition of Invention, Research and Innovation "East-West Euro Intellect" held in Sofia from September 14 to 19, Maria

Shopova received a WIPO gold medal for outstanding woman inventor for a method of diagnosing and treating cancer that uses porphyrin.

Three gold medals were handed over at the award ceremony of the National Exhibition of Inventions and New Techniques in Pyongyang on September 20. Mrs. Janu To Sun received a medal for outstanding woman



inventor for a process for creating artificial milk powder from beans and other grains - of particular importance for babies who are allergic to cow's milk or unable to digest lactose properly. Mr. Pak Chan Sik and Mr. Pak Kyong Do received medals for outstanding inventions for, respectively, an agent that accelerates the hardening of concrete and increases its strength and for a method of producing and cultivating new hot-house cucumber seeds that, among other attributes, can thrive at low light and temperature levels.

Eight young inventors were the recipients of WIPO diplomas (for the 8 to 14 year and 15 to 20 year age ranges) during the *Olimpiada Argentina de Inventiva 1997 - 1998*, which took place in Buenos Aires.

## Accessions

### India accedes to the Paris Convention and the Patent Cooperation Treaty

On September 7, 1998, India deposited its instruments of accession to two international treaties - the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) - with WIPO Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris.

Dr. Idris warmly welcomed India's accession to the two treaties, a welcome that was echoed by the international intellectual property community, particularly trade and industry circles, and other countries bound by the treaties.

India is the 151st country to adhere to the Paris Convention, which counts among its contracting States all the main trading nations of the world.

The PCT system is expanding rapidly. The number of member States has more than doubled in the last seven years and India's accession brings the total to 98.

Both treaties will be binding on India as of December 7, 1998.

Therefore, under the PCT, it will be possible to designate India in international applications from that date.

Dr. Idris stated that India's accession to the Paris Convention and the PCT "will benefit the country's technological and economic development and enhance the international intellectual property cooperation that WIPO so actively promotes." ■



The Indian Delegation depositing the instruments of accession to the Paris Convention and the PCT with the Director General

# Global Registration Systems and Services

## Singapore accedes to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works

On September 21, 1998, the Singapore Permanent Representative, Ambassador See Chak Mun deposited his country's instrument of accession to the Berne Agreement for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.

The Berne Convention, as revised, will enter into force, with respect to Singapore on December 21, 1998. On that date, the Republic of Singapore will also become a member of the International Union for the Protection of Literary and Artistic works ("Berne Union"), founded by the Berne Convention. ■

## PCT fees reduced

As of January 1, 1999 the maximum designation fee under the PCT system will be reduced from 1,650 Swiss francs to 1,500 Swiss francs. It is believed that this fee reduction will be of most benefit to small and medium-sized firms.

Users of the PCT system are already well aware of the advantages of filing an international patent application—by filing one application they can simultaneously seek protection for an invention in each of a large number of countries. (some 98 from December 7, 1998).

The designation fee refers to the number of countries that are "designated" for protection. Under the previous fee schedule, the sum of 150 Swiss francs was charged for the first eleven countries, this fee will now be charged only in respect of the first ten countries representing a saving of 150 Swiss francs for all those who choose to designate 11 or more countries in an application.

PCT fees for international applications had already been reduced in January 1998. These reductions included decreasing the basic fee and the designation fee by 15 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

At present, the maximum designation fee is paid in respect of more than 50 percent of all PCT applications. ■

## Industrial designs publication fees reduced

The publication fees for industrial designs will be reduced by 20 percent as of January 1, 1999.

The reduction will follow the considerable cost saving when publication of the Industrial Designs Bulletin moves from paper to CD-ROM. Publication fees for black and white reproductions will drop from 41 to 33 Swiss francs whilst fees for color reproductions will fall from 330 to 264 Swiss francs.

A presentation on the plans of the Secretariat regarding publication of international designs on CD-ROM will be discussed at the Advisory Meeting of Users of the Hague System on October 7, 1998 at WIPO Headquarters, Geneva. ■



Ambassador See Chak Mun (right) deposits Singapore's instrument of accession with Dr. Kamil Idris



## Global Intellectual Property Issues

### PCT-EaSY moves ahead

Any person who files using the electronic filing system (PCT-EaSY) will receive a 200 Swiss franc reduction on their international fee from January 1, 1999.

The use of WIPO's PCT-EaSY software is currently confined to selected registered applicants and receiving offices, as part of a pilot test. It is however intended that the PCT-EaSY software that operates on Windows 95/98 or NT will be available free of charge from the end of this year. Any one interested in being included on the mailing list for PCT-EaSY should contact WIPO at the normal address on the back cover or by e-mail: [pcteasy.help@wipo.int](mailto:pcteasy.help@wipo.int) or fax (+41 22) 338 80 40

### WIPO mission focuses on traditional knowledge in eastern and southern Africa

The difficulties faced by the indigenous peoples and local communities of eastern and southern Africa in protecting their traditional knowledge, innovation and culture were at the heart of a WIPO fact-finding mission to Uganda, Tanzania, Namibia, and South Africa in September.

In all four countries, the government departments responsible for intellectual property provided valuable support in organizing some of the meetings as well as vital information on their national intellectual property systems.

The mission started in Uganda, where its members gained insight into traditional healing methods during a meeting with healers from THETA (Traditional and Modern Health Practitioners Together against AIDS), an organization trying to bring together the best in traditional and modern healing methods for the benefit of AIDS patients; and during a visit to the nearby rural village of Mpigi, which has a well-organized and extensive health-care project, based on traditional knowledge, that includes a vast herbal farm.

The members of the mission also visited the center for the study of indigenous music at Makerere



Photo: Faith Oulibo

*Part of the extensive herbal farm that is central to the Mpigi health-care project*

University and had discussions with the directors of the National Theatre and the Uganda Museum as well as with government officials and academics.

The next stop was Tanzania, where a visit to a rural Maasai village allowed the members of the mission to discuss with village leaders the protection of the traditional values and knowledge that guide their lives and those of their people.

Discussions were also held with government officials, members of the Institute of Traditional Medicine (at Mukimbili University College of Health Sciences) and NGOs.

From Tanzania, the mission continued to Namibia, where a full day was devoted to two roundtable discussions, with NGOs and with members of the National Biodiversity Task Force. The members of the mission then travelled to the Umaheke region where they met with the Governor and had discussions with several groups of indigenous peoples from that region.

The final part of the journey led to South Africa, where as well as

meeting with government officials, academics and NGOs, the members of the mission participated in a national workshop on indigenous knowledge systems in South Africa. They also met with members of a San community in the desert area in the northwest of the country, who included three of the last few surviving speakers of one of the local indigenous languages (currently being documented by a Canadian ethno-linguist).

The fact-finding mission is one in a series of such missions, to different regions of the world, to be completed by mid-1999. The first, to the South Pacific, was reported in the June issue of the *WIPO Magazine*; the others will be featured in future issues. ■

Photo: Wend Wendland



In Tanzania, members of the mission held discussions with Maasai village leaders



## WIPO loses two directors, Ludwig Baeumer and Joachim Bilger, in the Swissair MD111 crash

It was with great shock and pain that the World Intellectual Property Organization learned of the tragic and premature deaths of two dear friends and esteemed colleagues, Ludwig Baeumer and Joachim Bilger, on the Swissair flight 111 off the coast of Canada on September 2, 1998.

Their sudden disappearance is an enormous loss to the Organization, to the Secretariat and to the member States. They were both directors who held key positions in the Secretariat.

Neither man will ever be forgotten by all those who had known him. Condolence books with messages to Ludwig and Joachim's families have been prepared by their friends and colleagues and sent to their respective families, as silent witness of the esteem and affection in which they were held.

Representatives of WIPO's member States have paid many tributes to both Ludwig and Joachim and observed a minute's silence in memory of them at the beginning of the WIPO General Assembly. As a lasting reminder of these fine men, two meeting rooms in WIPO's headquarters have been dedicated to their memory and will be known as the Ludwig Baeumer Room and the Joachim Bilger Room.



Mr. Ludwig Baeumer

*Truly a pillar of the international intellectual property community, for 30 years, Ludwig Baeumer was WIPO's expert on industrial property law. He initiated much of the ground-breaking work that led to the adoption of many of WIPO's international treaties over the past three decades and was instrumental in ensuring that such treaties remained current, and*

*responded to the changing needs of industrial property. He was also intensively involved in preparing WIPO's latest international treaty, the draft Patent Law Treaty.*

*He was born in Bielefeld, Germany, on April 8, 1937. Between 1956 and 1960 he gained a Doctor Juris degree from the University of Münster and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Berkeley, California. Before joining WIPO he worked as a Research Associate at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Patent, Copyright and Competition Law in Munich.*

*In his time here at WIPO Ludwig made many dear friends who have spoken of his exceptional playing of the cello and his love of simple pleasures, such as walking in the hills around Geneva. His friends and colleagues have remarked on his qualities as a consummate professional, possessing the highest integrity, a most cultivated man of exemplary courtesy. WIPO has lost a good man, a man of worth and integrity.*



Mr. Joachim Bilger

*The driving force behind WIPO's radical Program and Budget 1998-1999, Joachim Bilger brought a wealth of financial vision to WIPO when he joined in 1993, and since had set the new coordinates for the Organization's course, firmly tethered to the principles of transparency and accountabil-*

*ity. A significant achievement for an organization of some 700 people and an annual income of about 200 million Swiss francs*

*Joachim Bilger was born on July 9, 1949, in Oehningen, Germany. Between 1970 and 1976 he studied at the universities of Heidelberg, Munich and Tübingen, receiving a LL.M in Law, Economics and Public Administration. He was later awarded a Magister and post-graduate diplomas in Political Science from the University of Paris-Sorbonne, and in International Relations, Management and European Studies from the European Institute of Advanced International Studies. He also received a Certificate in British Economics and Politics from the University of Cambridge, England.*

*His death had an immediate and visible impact on the Organization not only because it had lost one of its prominent helmsmen, but also because a formidable personality had disappeared. As one of his colleagues said "he was not just my boss, he was a friend, the kind of man you would always be happy*

# Calendar of Meetings

**November 2 to 10 (Geneva)      Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (First Session)**

The Committee will discuss issues concerning the development of copyright and related rights, particularly the implementation of the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, the protection of audiovisual performances, the protection of databases and the protection of the rights of broadcasting organizations.

*Invitations:* As members, the States members of WIPO and other delegations that the Committee may admit as members; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

**November 9 (Geneva)      Intellectual Property and Human Rights**

The Panel Discussion, organized in coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will discuss issues concerning intellectual property rights and aspects of economic, social and cultural development.

*Invitations:* The States members of WIPO, intergovernmental organizations, specially invited experts and certain interested organizations and academics.

**November 16 to 20 (Geneva)      Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (First Session, second part)**

The Committee will continue to discuss and consider issues to be dealt with in the area of patent law, in particular, the draft Patent Law Treaty.

*Invitations:* As members, the States members of WIPO and other delegations that the Committee may admit as members; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

**December 14 and 15 (Geneva)      Advisory Committee on Management of Copyright and Related Rights in Global Information Networks (First Session)**

The Advisory Committee will review the operation of those electronic copyright management systems (ECMS) and electronic identification systems which exist or are under development.

*Invitations:* Interested organizations and specially invited experts.

**December 16 to 18 (Geneva)      Group of Consultants on the Private International Aspects of the Protection of Works and Objects of Related Rights Transmitted Through Global Digital Networks**

The group of consultants will discuss the above-mentioned aspects on the basis of two studies to be prepared by experts.

*Invitations:* Specially invited experts and interested organizations.

# 1999

**February 8 to 12 (Geneva)**

**Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT)  
(Second Plenary Session)**

The Committee will discuss policy matters and recommendations made by its Working Groups concerning the establishment of a global information network and its applications, including Intellectual Property Digital Libraries.  
*Invitations:* As members, the States members of WIPO and certain organizations; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

**June 23 to 25  
(Palais des Nations, Geneva)**

**Conference on Intellectual Property and Electronic Commerce**

The Conference will address the impact of electronic commerce on intellectual property and will include plenary sessions on general developments in electronic commerce and their implications for intellectual property, as well as workshops on the various areas of WIPO's work program associated with electronic commerce, such as Internet domain names, the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), work on a protocol to the WPPT on audiovisual works, the use of trademarks on the Internet and the use of electronic commerce tools in the delivery of intellectual property services.

*Invitations:* Member States, international/regional organizations, other States, non-governmental organizations and any interested members of the public, against payment of a registration fee.

**September 20 to 29 (Geneva)**

**Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (Thirty-fourth Series of Meetings)**

All Bodies of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO will meet in their ordinary sessions.

*Invitations:* As members or observers, the States members of WIPO; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

# Products

The following new products were issued by WIPO in September 1998:

*Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, Protocol and Regulations (as in force January 1, 1998)* (Arabic, Spanish) No. 204 (A/S), 15 Swiss francs.

*WIPO General Information* (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish) No. 400 (A/C/F/R/S), free.

*Annual Report (English, French, Spanish)* No. 441 (E/F/S), free.

*Summaries of Treaties Administered by WIPO* (21 leaflets in accompanying folder) (English) No. 442 (E), free.

*Women Invent - Women Inventors Awarded a WIPO Gold Medal or Other Distinction* (English, Spanish) No. 864 (E/S), free.

*Directory of Associations of Inventors* (bilingual English and French) No. 622 (E&F), free.

WIPO publications may be obtained from the Information Products Section:

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Orders should indicate: (a) the number or letter code of the publication desired, the language (A for Arabic, C for Chinese, E for English, F for French, R for Russian, and S for Spanish), the number of copies; (b) the full address for mailing; (c) the mail mode (surface or air). Prices cover surface mail. Bank transfers should be made to WIPO account No. 487080-81, at the Swiss Credit Bank, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.



# New Program and Budget 1998-99