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WIPO MAGAZINE

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Geneva
October 1998

WIPO gets to grips with electronic commerce issues

Electronic commerce has assumed major economic and policy importance as the Internet continues its remarkable expansion. WIPO has stepped up measures to tackle the intellectual property issues of key importance in maintaining the stable operating environment needed for the successful development of electronic commerce and to raise the global awareness of electronic commerce issues.

These measures include:

- the conclusion, in 1996, of the two WIPO "Internet treaties" (the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty)
- the formation of a Steering Committee to meet informally with the Director General and provide advice on WIPO's activities in this area
- three regional consultation meetings to be held in early 1999 in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to give information on ways in which electronic commerce is affecting intellectual property and to assist interested parties in formulating a timely response
- the holding of a major international conference, in September 1999, following the three regional meetings, to address general developments in electronic commerce and their implications for intellectual property and to include workshops on areas associated with electronic commerce such as the WIPO "Internet treaties"
- the development of an on-line, Internet-based dispute-resolution system, aimed at the resolution of disputes involving intellectual property and domain names (often arising from "cybersquatting"*)
- undertaking an international process (the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process) to develop recommendations regarding the intellectual property issues associated with domain names.

Photo: TIB



The relevant WIPO home pages are as follows:

for electronic commerce -

<http://www.wipo.int>

for domain names -

<http://wipo2.wipo.int>

*A practice whereby individuals deliberately obtain for themselves domain names that match or are close to some company trademark. The practice of "cybersquatters" of selling their domain names to companies that claim they are similar or identical to their trademark names has aroused some controversy.

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WIPO's international Internet domain name consultations

An intense first series of global consultations under the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process has just drawn to a close. A fruitful information-gathering exercise took place, both by means of a dedicated WIPO interactive web site on the Internet (<http://wipo2.wipo.int>) and through regional meetings, held in eleven countries throughout the world from September 23 to November 4, 1998.

The WIPO Process aims at developing recommendations concerning the intellectual property issues associated with Internet domain

names and making them available to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a new organization set up to manage the Internet Domain Name System.

The consultations concerned mainly:

- preventing and resolving disputes involving domain names and trademarks (including cybersquatting)
- the need to give special protection on the Internet to well-known trademarks
- the introduction of new generic top-level domains.

To date, WIPO has received more than 300 electronic, oral, and writ-

ten contributions to the consultation process; 848 participants have attended the series of worldwide consultations; and 1,070 people from 70 countries have formally registered to participate in the Process. Success has been due in large measure to the wide and varied experience of participants — government officials, members of the business, legal and public interest communities, Internet technologists, and private individuals — in using and administering the Domain Name System.

In January and February 1999, a second series of meetings will be held in Toronto, Singapore, São Paulo, Dakar, Brussels, and Washington, DC, to assist in finalizing WIPO's recommendations to ICANN.

commerce

The first series of regional consultations were held in

San Francisco (US)



Tokyo (Japan)

Brussels (Belgium)

Hyderabad (India)

Washington, DC (US)

Budapest (Hungary)

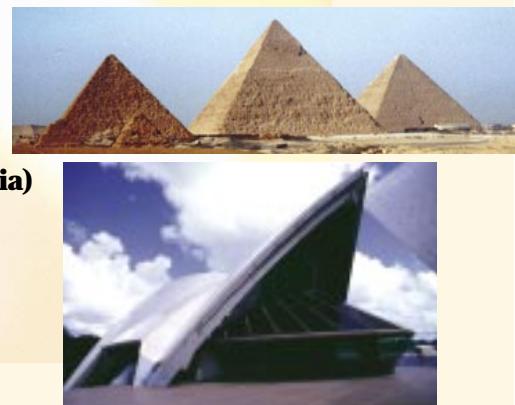
Mexico City (Mexico)

Cairo (Egypt)

Cape Town (South Africa)

Sydney (Australia)

Asunción (Paraguay)



Domain names

The Domain Name System forms a key navigational system for the Internet, allowing computer sites to be accessed through their own particular domain name, for example, **.wipo** or **.uspto**, along with a generic top-level domain (g-TLD), such as **.com** and **.org** and **.int** or a country-code top-level domain (cc-TLD), such as **.uk** (for the United Kingdom) and **.za** (for South Africa). The WIPO g-TLD is **.int** which, along with its own personalized part of the domain name makes up the Organization's electronic address, which is **www.wipo.int**. As domain names are easy to remember, they are increasingly being used to advertise, and help consumers locate, companies doing business on the Internet. It is this simple and efficient system which

has spurred and supported the remarkable expansion of global electronic commerce. It has also given rise to a growing number of conflicts between Internet domain names and trademarks, for example, in the One in a Million case, successful action was taken against a cybersquatter by the owners of significant marks in the United Kingdom, including Marks & Spencer, J. Sainsbury, Virgin Enterprises, and British Telecom. WIPO's involvement in the intensive worldwide debate on the management of the Internet Domain Name System stems from the urgent need to resolve those conflicts and is a result of its expertise in the intellectual property area.

WIPO gets to grips with electronic commerce issues

Idris discusses electronic commerce on Canada trip

During a visit to Canada at the beginning of October, the Director General met with the Canadian Minister for Industry, Mr. John Manley, and other key government officials, business leaders, and intellectual property specialists for discussions with a particular emphasis on intellectual property issues relating to electronic commerce.

While in Canada, Dr. Idris addressed the OECD* Ministerial Conference on Electronic Commerce, which took place in Ottawa from October 7 to 9, 1998. During his address, he emphasized the complex challenges posed by electronic commerce to the existing legal framework of intellectual property rights and discussed WIPO's role in establishing appropriate ground rules for this commercial medium in the area of intellectual property.

The Conference was seen as a "major milestone in the international community's efforts to maximize the economic and social benefits" offered by electronic commerce, a medium which is fast assuming major economic and policy importance (projections suggest that the volume of electronic commerce could rise to US\$300 billion by the year 2000).

The Director General also attended a series of roundtable discussions on themes central to the evolution and global growth of electronic commerce (such as security considerations and the need to strengthen technological infrastructure), as well as the importance of raising public awareness of the potential social and economic benefits to be derived from it.

Electronic commerce takes center stage at international symposium in Budapest

Representatives from 16 European countries attended the WIPO International Symposium on the Internet, Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property held in Budapest from October 20 to 22, 1998.

Organized in cooperation with the Hungarian Patent Office, the symposium was opened by the Minister of Economy, Mr. Attila Chikán, and attracted some 120 participants.

The first day was devoted to an overview of the challenges for the protection of intellectual property posed by the Internet and electronic commerce. This was followed by an account of responses to those challenges in various regions of the world by Mr. P. Waterschoot, Director, DG XV/E, Commission of the European

* Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Communities, Brussels, Ms. M. Peters, Register of Copyrights, Copyright Office, Washington (DC), and Mr. S. Alikhan, Hyderabad, India.

Participating countries were: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey, as well as Hungary.

The program for the second day concentrated on two main topics, the first being the copyright issues raised by the Internet and electronic commerce, with specific reference to the two WIPO "Internet treaties" (the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty). There was agreement among participants that it was in the interests of each country that wished to benefit from the Internet and electronic commerce to ratify or accede to the WIPO Internet treaties and that, in most

countries, implementation would not require a great legislative effort. The second topic was the use of the Internet to obtain information on, and to administer, intellectual property rights, with particular emphasis on WIPO's Global Information Network and its Intellectual Property Digital Library (IPDL) project.

The third day was devoted to the Budapest regional consultation as part of WIPO's international Internet Domain Name Process consultations (see article on page 3).

The symposium was characterized by stimulating and informative discussion among the participants which contributed to clarifying both the challenges involved and the possible responses to those challenges; the proceedings are being prepared by the Hungarian Patent Office and publication is expected in January 1999.

Photo: The Hungarian Patent Office



Ms. Zsuzsa Töröcsik, head of electronic publishing at the Hungarian Patent Office, addressing participants



commerce

WIPO "Internet treaties" make their mark in the US

The two landmark WIPO "Internet treaties"^{*} provided the model for the new *Digital Millennium Copyright Act* that became law in the United States on October 28, 1998. In his statement at the signing ceremony,

President Clinton referred to the two WIPO treaties as "the most extensive revision of international copyright law in over 25 years. [They] will grant writers, artists, and other creators of copyrighted material global protection from piracy in the digital age.

"Among other things, the new US legislation creates penalties for anyone circumventing high-tech-

nology, anti-piracy protections, such as encryption, used to block un-authorized access or copying. Vice President Gore said that "By creating clear rules for the digital highway, we will make commerce between businesses and with consumers safer."

* The WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT)

Cooperation for development

New WIPO Least Developed Countries Unit

The establishment of WIPO's new Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Unit is deeply rooted in

country, was one of the architects, in those meetings, of the aid target, and the time frame, for resources to be transferred to LDCs from developed countries. This was in addition to his major contribution in articulating the problems of LDCs in the transfer, adoption and development of

The current set of criteria for identifying LDCs are based on:

- per capita GDP of \$765 or less (US\$ annual average from 1992-1994)
- augmented physical quality of life index (APQLI) of 47 or less ¹
- economic diversification index (EDI) of 26 or less; ²
- population size.

Globalization brought about by technological advances involves arguably the most fundamental redesign of the world's political and economic arrangements since the industrial revolution. Countries whose initial conditions make them less suited to take advantage of the opportunities presented by globalization are at risk of becoming further marginalized.

At present 39 of the 48 LDCs are members of WIPO. The main framework for concerted WIPO action to assist developing countries, including LDCs, is in the Organization's cooperation for development program, which seeks, through the provision of technical assistance and cooperation with governments, to establish or modernize intellectual property systems and, under the policy directives of the Director General, to develop the human and institutional capacities of LDCs.

Currently, WIPO has some 44 projects in 38 LDCs, but there remains a significant amount of work for the Organization to do in enhancing national legislation, introducing new legislation, providing manpower training, and contributing to institution-building.

After his election, the Director General took a personal initiative

Photo: www.arttoday.com



the Organization's commitment to the cause of development and to alleviating basic developmental problems. Indeed, WIPO's Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris, has a personal commitment to the cause of LDCs dating back some 20 years, to the preparatory meetings for the first United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1981. Dr. Idris, then a diplomat for his

technology within the wider context of the Group of 77 developing countries.

The list of "least developed" countries was established by the UN General Assembly in 1971 and is reviewed every three years. The first list comprised 24 countries, the current list has doubled to 48, 33 of which are in Africa, 14 in Asia and the Pacific, and 1 in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

to address the marginalization and developmental problems of LDCs. In his acceptance speech of 22 September 1997, he said

"This globe is at the eve of a new century. An era of rapid technological advancement is upon us...The speed of change enlarges the gap between the most advanced and the least advanced. I consider it to be the responsibility of an international organization to endeavour, through its program of cooperation for development, to mitigate the disadvantageous effects of rapid change on the developing and least developed countries."

The establishment of the WIPO Least Developed Countries Unit in October 1998, following the decision of the WIPO General Assembly in September of that year, is part of that commitment to deal with the special concerns of LDCs and to improve their overall capacity to respond to the opportunities offered by the globalizing world economy.

The new Unit will coordinate WIPO's technical cooperation activities in LDCs, ensuring that they focus on the specific requirements of the countries concerned and that they complement technical cooperation activities undertaken by other agencies. In addition to the development activities being undertaken by WIPO's regional bureaus, the Unit will design a program and highlight a set of activities tailored specifically for LDCs, that will be pursued in close cooperation with the bureaus.

The focus of the Unit's objectives and strategies will be on strengthening managerial and technical capacities and enhancing the ability of public administration and the private sector to formulate and implement appropriate intellec-

tual property policies and to provide the service infrastructure to support intellectual property rights. Technical assistance will concentrate on capacity-building in human resource development and institution building; preparations for the implementation of the Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement); technology transfer; and the use of the Internet and electronic commerce. Special attention will also be given to the enactment of laws, rules and regulations governing intellectual

Africa (33)

Angola
Benin
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gambia
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mozambique
Niger
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Sierra Leone
Somalia

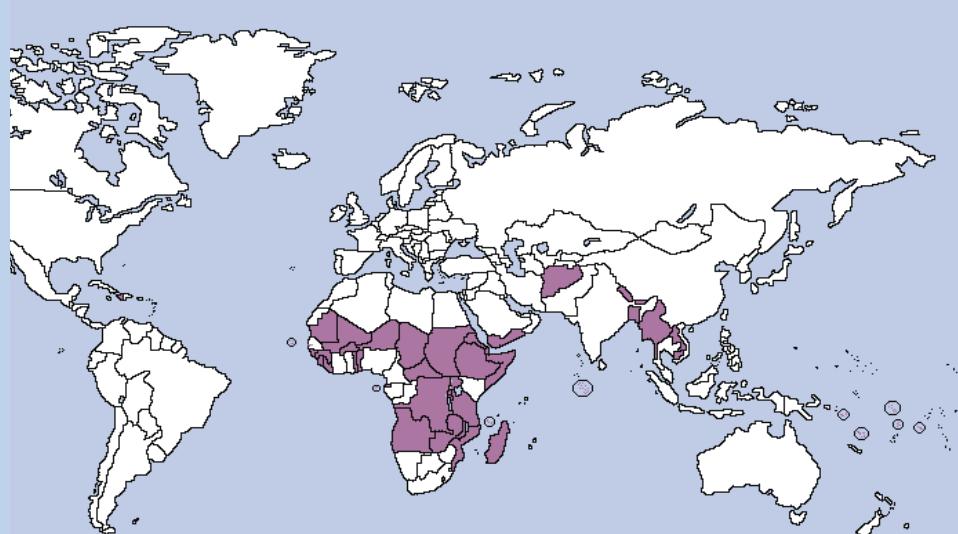
Sudan
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda
Zambia

Asia&Pacific (14)

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Cambodia
Lao PDR
Maldives
Myanmar
Nepal
Yemen
Kiribati
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tuvalu
Vanuatu

Latin America &Caribbean (1)

Haiti



LDCs (see list above) are shown in color on the map

property in LDCs, in particular with regard to industrial designs, geographical indications, unfair competition, and plant varieties; the protection of traditional knowledge and biotechnology and recognition of their importance in the development of LDCs; and the protection of indigenous technology and folklore. The Unit will, thus, ensure that the level of technical assistance to LDCs is increased and that its effectiveness is maximized.

¹ APQLI is a composite index of 4 indicators: (i) child mortality, age under 5; (ii) calorie supply as a percentage of minimum daily requirements, or percentage of population undernourished; (iii) adult literacy rate; and (iv) combined primary and secondary school enrollment ratio.

² EDI is a composite of the following indicators: (i) combined indicator of manufacturing, and modern services as a share of GDP; (ii) indicator of the concentration of goods and services exports; (iii) per capita electricity consumption per year; and (iv) an indicator of vulnerability to natural disasters, which is in the process of being developed.



Photo: Louise van Greunen

Thousands of jacaranda trees scattered throughout Pretoria give it its nickname of "jacaranda city"

"Jacaranda city" hosts regional colloquium on the teaching of IP law

Invited participants from 15 countries as well as many academics involved in the teaching of intellectual property law in various South African universities attended the WIPO African Regional Colloquium on the Teaching of Intellectual Property Law held on the Sunnyside Campus of the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria from October 12 to 15, 1998.

A packed three-and-a-half day program included the presentation of 13 papers. Each paper was followed by an intense debate on the issues involved, enriched by the quality of the interventions made by the participants, all of whom came from highly academic backgrounds.

At the close of the colloquium, the participants adopted a resolution recommending that speedy action be taken by WIPO, in cooperation with their respective

Participating countries were: Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, as well as South Africa.

national governments and competent authorities, in seven areas that included:

- establishment of a network of teachers and researchers in intellectual property law in the African region
- intensification of contacts and schemes that can assure pur-

poseful and sustained coordination of networking activities with WIPO support

- assistance in the design, development, and application of curricula on intellectual property law subjects
- increased support for participation of African intellectual property teachers and researchers in the activities of ATRIP
- technical assistance in the provision of comprehensive information, advice, and strategies regarding the obligations undertaken by African countries under the TRIPS Agreement, particularly regarding preparation for the upcoming review negotiations
- assistance in dealing with new developments in the field of intellectual property
- support for the setting up of an intensive short-term teaching and training program ("trainer of trainers" program) for teachers, trainers, researchers, judicial staff, legal practitioners, customs and other law enforcement personnel as well as policy-makers at all levels.



The Registrar of South Africa, Mr. MacDonald Netshitenzhe (left), with two other participants in the colloquium

University of South Africa

UNISA is a university with no residential student body, specializing solely in distance learning. Support services, including video and teleconferencing services, are delivered from the main campus, five main learning centers, and eleven satellite learning centers. The University has some 124,212 students currently enrolled in its various courses and has more than 450 examination centers worldwide.

UNISA has been teaching intellectual property law for more than 60 years.

are fundamental for the well-being of performers in Africa.

The first part of the meeting dealt with the protection of intellectual property rights at national and international levels and included analysis of international treaties, in particular the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty and the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting

■ the possibility it gave for performers to meet among themselves and, for the first time, discuss questions of common interest, in particular the role of performers' unions

■ the quality of the participation, with speakers who focused admirably on the African background and reality; they included representatives of the Nigerian Copyright

Photo: Simon Ouedraogo



Representatives from host country, Malawi, at the colloquium in Lilongwe

Sub-regional colloquium on protecting performers' rights held in Malawi

The first meeting of its kind to be organized for English-speaking African countries, the WIPO Sub-Regional Colloquium on Intellectual Property and the Protection of Performers' Rights, attracted 32 representatives from governments and the national musicians' and actors' unions of the English-speaking countries concerned.

The Minister of Education, Sports and Culture of Malawi traveled specially from Blantyre to open and to close the colloquium, which was organized in Lilongwe by WIPO and the Association of European Performers' Organizations (AEPO) in cooperation with the Malawi Government, from October 19 to 21, 1998. The colloquium aimed to offer a forum for governments to meet with performers and to tackle issues that

Organizations. The second part of the meeting covered issues of social protection of performers in Africa through the existing associations or unions and also examined the possibility of establishing infrastructures for the protection of performers' rights in Africa either within the existing collective management societies of authors/unions or as new organizations.

The success of the colloquium came in large measure from:

■ the possibility it gave for performers to meet with government officials and to raise questions of concern

Commission, SENA (the Netherlands), and the Swedish Artists' and Musicians' Interests Organization (SAMI), professors from Belgium and South Africa, and the Secretaries General of FIA (Fédération internationale des acteurs) and FIM (Fédération internationale des musiciens).

Participating countries were: Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, as well as Malawi.

TRIPS Agreement is focus of Harare meeting

The intricacies of the TRIPS Agreement* were thoroughly explored during an African introductory course organized in Harare (Zimbabwe) by WIPO in cooperation with the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO).

The course, which took place from September 30 to October 9, 1998, brought together some 25 partici-

The extensive program covered the TRIPS Agreement, in depth, as well as relevant WIPO treaties, development cooperation in the intellectual property field (including WIPO's cooperation for development program), technology transfer and practice in the region, and the practicalities of running a national IP office.

The course met with great satisfaction from the participants, who were particularly enthusiastic about the opportunity to undertake practical exercises (using information technology) and examine case studies. The success

Roving seminar on industrial property held in Ethiopia

A roving seminar on industrial property, organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Ethiopian Government, took place in Nazareth and Bahir Dar from October 14 to 16 and from October 19 to 20, 1998, respectively.

A message from the Director General to seminar participants stressed the importance of intellectual property for developing countries, especially the least developed countries, such as Ethiopia, in the light of the rapid changes taking place in the world due to technological development.

More than 50 professionals from a number of government agencies and from the private sector attended each of the seminars. Participants profited fully from the occasion and from the presence of experts from the Swedish Patent Office, the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland), and the Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission, as well as an inventor from Nigeria and WIPO staff members, to ask questions, make comments, and highlight problem areas with a view to seeking solutions.

Presentations by the experts included transfer of technology arrangements; a strategy for the exploitation of patented inventions; how to encourage youth to be inventive; patent documents as a source of technological information; and the use and dissemination of technological information contained in patent documents in Ethiopia.



Photo: Mary Slater

Participants in the WIPO introductory course on the TRIPS Agreement and other aspects of industrial property

pants from 17 countries and from the Organization of African Unity, and speakers from the African Centre for Technology, ARIPO, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), a Tanzanian university, and two trademark attorneys' offices.

of the course was due in large measure to the excellent presentations given by the experts from the region.

* Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

Participating countries were: Botswana, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, as well as Zimbabwe.

At the conclusion of the seminar, the participants agreed on a set of recommendations that included:

- WIPO technical assistance should be enhanced in the areas of training, human resources, and institutional developments
- the Regional Trade and Industry Offices in Bahir Dar and Nazreth should serve as their respective regional focal points for intellectual property matters
- Ethiopia should accede to the various WIPO-administered treaties, in particular those which are relevant to the development of an intellectual property system, taking into account its national interest
- celebration of regional science and technology week and/or month in early 1999 or immediately thereafter, as decided by the Regional Committee
- regional offices dealing with intellectual property matters should be connected through

Internet facilities to the database of the Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission

- close working relations between the national and foreign patent offices for exchange of information and experiences should be established.

Opening speeches were delivered by the Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry, Mr. Kaoru Yosano, and WIPO Deputy Director General, Mr. Roberto Castelo. Mr. Yosano noted that, in its efforts to overcome certain economic difficulties, his Government envisaged doubling the nation's intellectual assets by the year 2001 through promoting investment in technological development and in information technology, and stressed the importance of giving adequate protection to intellectual property rights. "It is our belief that intellectual property boosts national wealth," he said. In his address, Mr. Castelo elaborated upon WIPO's priorities during the current and the next biennium, and reiterated the Organization's commitment to assisting the developing and least developed countries in their efforts to modernize their intellectual property systems.

Forum identifies IP policy priorities

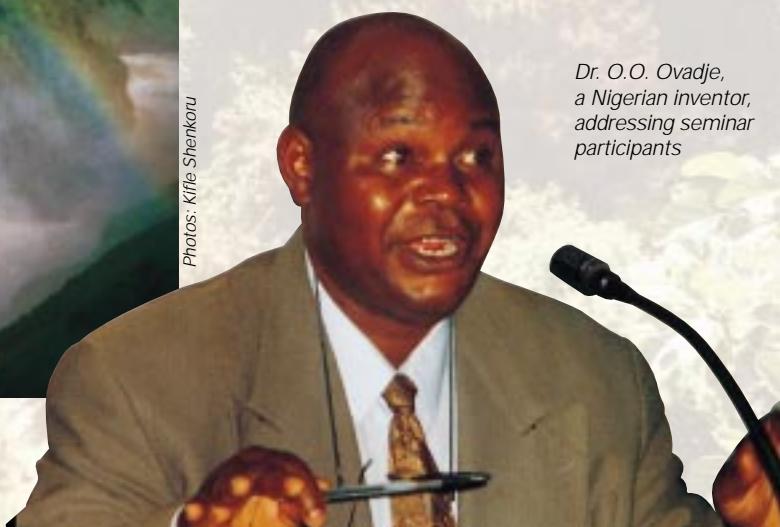
Senior policy-makers in intellectual property from 22 countries of Asia and the Pacific gathered in Japan to discuss a wide range of intellectual property policy matters at a recent Forum organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Japanese Patent Office. The WIPO Asian Regional Forum on Intellectual Property Policy Development, held in Tokyo from October 5 to 7, 1998, examined and identified what those senior officials saw as policy priorities towards and beyond the turn of the century.

Some 90 participants attended working sessions devoted to presentations and discussions on five main themes, each of which was followed by informative and stimulating discussion among the speakers and participants, who were mostly the heads of national intellectual property offices and senior officials in the relevant ministries.

Dr. O.O. Ovadje,
a Nigerian inventor,
addressing seminar
participants

Blue Nile waterfall, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, one of the sites of the roving national seminar

Photos: Kifle Sherkuu





Mr. Castelo during his opening address to participants in the Forum

Participating countries were Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam, as well as Japan.

The discussions led to the adoption of a Joint Statement, highlighting the major issues of intellectual property policy development examined during deliberations in the Forum. It covered seven main areas:

- the international framework for intellectual property and the modernization of the intellectual property system
- global intellectual property issues
- the development and promotion of the industrial and social use of intellectual property
- information technology and the global information network
- effective enforcement mechanisms

- human resource development
- strengthening cooperation among developing countries in the Asia and the Pacific region.

Participants expressed their satisfaction with the relevance of the subject matter of the Forum and the contribution it had made towards strengthening intellectual property systems.

The high-level representation, active interchange, and adoption of the Joint Statement resulted in a very successful outcome, providing policymakers with a valuable opportunity to elaborate strategies to address policy challenges in the field of intellectual property.

WIPO's "Internet treaties" take center stage in Shanghai

Experts from Australia, China, Japan, the United States and the European Union joined some 75 participants from 14 Asian and Pacific countries and the host country, China, in Shanghai for a regional workshop on copyright and the WIPO "Internet treaties" (the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO

Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT)) and a regional consultation concerning a protocol on audiovisual performances and related matters. The two events were organized by WIPO in cooperation with the National Copyright Administration of China (NCAC) on October 12 and 13 and on October 14 to 16, 1998, respectively.



Participating countries were Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, as well as China.

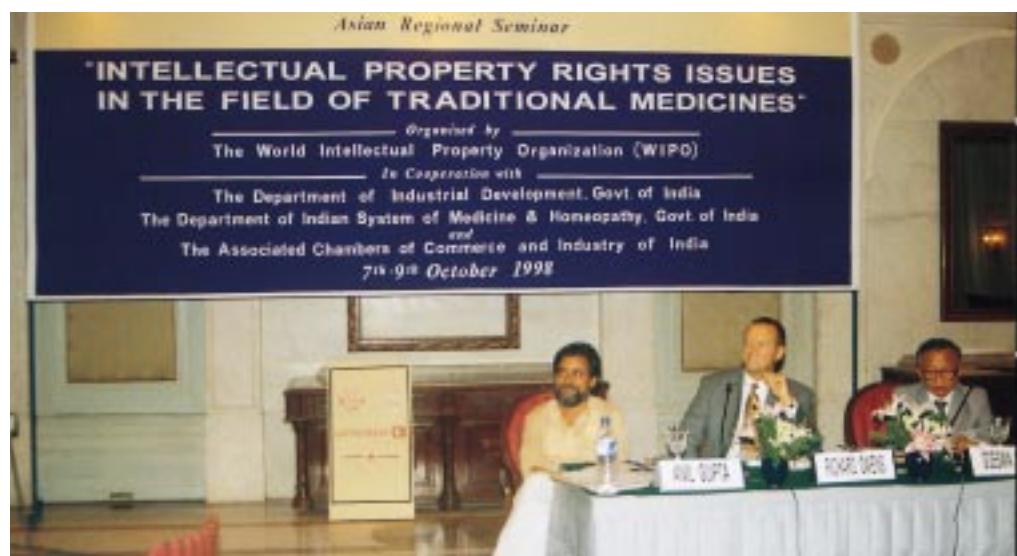
During the workshop, key issues concerning the implementation of the Internet treaties from the viewpoint of rights owners and service providers and from that of public interest were presented, followed by discussion concerning adhesion to, and implementation of, the new treaties, in general, and in the Asia and Pacific region, in particular.

The regional consultation discussed proposals received by WIPO concerning a protocol to the WPPT on audiovisual performances; the speakers from Japan, the United States, and the European Union presented their own countries' proposals directly. The representatives of the Asia and Pacific group then discussed the proposals and formulated its own opinion, which was submitted to the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights that will meet in Geneva in November (see the next issue of this Magazine).

and the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) and was opened by the Indian Minister for Health, Mr. Dalit Ezhilmalai. In his address, the Minister thanked WIPO for its initiative in tackling the issues and noted the urgency involved, stating that

- identify measures to promote the contribution of intellectual property systems to the development of traditional medicines.

In an intense exchange of information and views, speakers and participants discussed many issues including patentability in



Traditional medicines and IP rights

An enthusiastic reception was given to the first WIPO seminar to deal with intellectual property rights issues in the field of traditional medicines. Held in New Delhi from October 7 to 9, 1998, it was attended by 25 government representatives responsible for IP rights and traditional medicines from 14 countries in the region and by some 30 local participants.

The seminar was organized jointly by WIPO, the Indian ministries of health and of industry,

"due to non-availability of exhaustive information in a codified manner, patent and trademark rights have been awarded for subjects...covered under traditional medicines, knowledge and experience already known, and, therefore, in the public domain."

With the aid of five foreign speakers from China, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, the European Patent Office, and the World Health Organization and two local speakers, the Seminar sought to:

- identify the intellectual property needs, rights and expectations of the holders and practitioners of indigenous medicines

the fields of biotechnology and pharmacology; the use of databases of indigenous knowledge and traditional medicines (including those created by the WHO in cooperation with some of its member States) as a basis for international IP protection; and providing healers and herbalists with easy access to relevant databases in their local language as part of a benefit-sharing program to widen their knowledge.

Participating countries were Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam, as well as India.

Heads of IP offices converge on Dubrovnik for WIPO symposium

The heads and leading staff members of the industrial property offices of 25 countries in transition attended a three-day WIPO Symposium on Intellectual Property and Industrial Property Offices in Countries in Transition from September 28 to 30, 1998 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

In total, some 50 participants took part in the lively discussion that followed the presentation of each of the program topics dur-

Participating countries were Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, as well as Croatia.

ing this very active symposium, organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Croatian State Intellectual Property Office. Several participants also submitted written comments.

The program topics were:

- the role of industrial property offices in the economic development of countries in transition
- special legislative issues concerning the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, with special attention to biotechnology and computer technology
- information technology, electronic commerce, and intellectual property.

All participants expressed the wish for a similar meeting to be convened in 1999, focusing on the development of the management of IP offices in countries in transition. Such a subject was of particular relevance as new offices had been established in 17 of the countries of the region only a few years previously and these offices, in particular, were in need of help in dealing with a number of management problems.

Kishinev hosts regional seminar on enforcing IP rights

Some 138 participants from 9 countries, mainly from patent and copyright offices, ministries of justice, the judiciary, the police, and customs authorities, met in Kishinev in the Republic of Moldova on October 21, 1998 for the start of a two-day regional seminar on the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

The seminar, which was organized in cooperation with the State Agency on Industrial Property Protection (AGEPI), was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Oleg Stratulat, and received extensive media coverage. Speakers included representatives of the World Customs Organization, the Dutch and Belgian Anti-Counterfeiting Associations, and the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry.

The topics under discussion included the TRIPS Agreement (with particular reference to enforcement, trademarks, geographical indications, and copyright and related rights); the role of customs in enforcement of IP rights; and enforcement with respect to trademark counterfeiting and with respect to copyright piracy.

Discussion centered on:

- the insufficiency of legislative provisions covering action by the police or customs officials
- the lack of cooperation between various government bodies involved in enforcement procedures

Photo: Serguei Zolotin



Participants in the Dubrovnik symposium during the presentation of one of the program topics

- the lack of technical and financial resources
- the lack of initiative from rights holders in attacking counterfeit goods
- the need for the State to introduce procedures aimed at easier discovery of counterfeit or pirated goods, for example, by attaching numbers or holograms (see *WIPO studies anti-piracy security device in three Caribbean countries* on page 16.)

Participating countries were Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Hungary, Romania, Russian Federation, and Ukraine, as well as the Republic of Moldova.

Regional seminar on licensing for scientists and researchers held in Kyiv

The Great Hall of the Presidium of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences (NASU) was the venue for the WIPO Regional Seminar for Scientists and Researchers on Licensing organized in cooperation with NASU and the Ukrainian State Patent Office in Kyiv from October 5 to 7, 1998.

The seminar was attended by a massive 327 participants, including 35 from the national academies of science and patent offices of the 11 CIS countries (Armenia,

Academies of Sciences (IAAS), who is the creator of more than 500 inventions, mainly in the field of electrical welding. The opening and award ceremony received extensive television coverage.

The presentations at the seminar, given by experts from France, Germany, and the Russian Federation, included:

- the valuation of intangible assets for the purposes of licensing
- negotiation skills for licensing technology
- methods of calculating the license fee
- franchising.



Photo: Serguei Zatine

Mr. Boris Paton, President of NASU and the IAAS, receiving a WIPO Gold Medal for his outstanding contribution as an inventor

Visit of delegation from Russian Federation

A delegation comprising five members of the State Duma (parliament) of the Russian Federation and two officials of the Moscow Bar Association visited WIPO headquarters in October. The delegation reviewed current legislative issues related to the proposed intellectual property chapter of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation; the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement; and issues linked to the country's interest in the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) and of Hungary and Yugoslavia.

At the opening of the seminar, a WIPO Gold Medal was awarded to Mr. Boris Paton, Academician and President of NASU and of the International Association of the

Discussion among participants centered on topics such as the lack of development of licensing activities in most academic bodies and the possibility of creating a coordination body within the IAAS to exchange experiences and to develop common approaches to licensing.

Intellectual Property Week in Jamaica

The week of October 12 to 16, 1998, was officially designated Intellectual Property Week by the Government of Jamaica and a series of events were organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Technology in collaboration with WIPO. Intellectual Property Week was opened by the Minister of Commerce and Technology, Mr. Phillip Paulwell and the Deputy Director General of WIPO, Mr. Roberto Castelo.

The aim of the Week was to provide a forum for discussion and information gathering on intellectual property and to increase awareness of the need for intellectual property rights protection.

Events included a WIPO workshop on intellectual property for the University of the West Indies, a WIPO symposium on intellectual property for the judiciary, and a WIPO national seminar on intellectual property rights, with pre-

sentations from experts from the World Trade Organization, the Max Planck Institute (Germany), CARICOM, the Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency, Microsoft, and the Integrated Copyright Group Inc.

WIPO workshop on IP for the University of the West Indies

A workshop aimed at promoting the management and teaching of intellectual property for the University of the West Indies (UWI) was held on the national campuses of the University in Trinidad and Tobago (October 5 and 6); Barbados (October 8 and 9); and Jamaica (October 12 and 13).

Speakers from Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States as well as academics from the UWI presented a comprehensive range of topics, including the use of protected matter for educational purposes; ownership of intellectual property in universities; the role of a university IP office in the selective dissemination of technological information; universities and research contracts and industry; and commercial exploitation of intellectual property and know-how.

WIPO studies anti-piracy security device in three Caribbean countries

In response to requests from the governments of Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago, WIPO conducted a feasibility study on the possible implementation in those countries of antipiracy security devices known as Banderoles, to be used on music sound carriers such as CDs, music cassettes, and vinyl records.

The Banderole is a specially treated sticker, sequentially numbered, and often used in conjunction with holograms, officially placed on music sound carriers, to distinguish between legal and illegal or pirated copies. Other, ancillary benefits can accrue from a well-created Banderole system, such as accurate music sales data, a dispute resolution mechanism, creation of a cultural development fund, and revenue enhancement for the government.

After a background paper had been distributed to all interested

circles to sensitize them to the relevant issues involved, WIPO conducted a fact-finding mission to the three countries, from October 11 to 24, 1998. The mission received extensive media coverage in all three countries and discussions on the issues took place on television and radio, at public meetings, and with all levels of concerned government departments.

A report has been submitted to ministers in charge of intellectual property in the three countries, to the heads of the IP offices, and to all other interested parties. It was also decided to circulate the report to heads of IP offices in other developing countries to help in assessing intellectual property, economic, and piracy related issues in the respective music industries.



MERCOSUR countries discuss copyright issues

Government experts from the four MERCOSUR countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) participated in a meeting in Rio de Janeiro, from October 19 to 21, 1998, organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce

and Tourism of Brazil. The meeting was aimed at promoting the exchange of information and exploring areas of coordination and cooperation among the MERCOSUR countries in the field of copyright and related rights.

The experts discussed possible harmonization of laws and coordination of policies in specific areas, including duration of rights, collective management, satellite and cable transmission, and exhaus-

tion of rights, as well as possible harmonization of policies concerning enforcement procedures, anti-piracy measures, and trade facilitation.

At the end of the meeting, the experts requested that WIPO organize other such meetings and specified a number of studies they would like WIPO to undertake in relation to copyright and related rights in the MERCOSUR countries.

Visits

DG on official visit to Italy

A full program of events had been prepared for Dr. Idris's first official visit to Italy on September 24 and 25, 1998.

In Rome, the Director General met with Under-Secretaries of State Mr. Salvatore Ladu (Ministry of Industry and Trade), Mr. Rino Serri (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and Mr. Arturo Parisi (Office of the Council of Ministers). Among the subjects discussed were the orientation of the Organization's program and budget for 1998-99, and the strengthening of cooperation between WIPO and Italy.

Photo: Francesca Toso Dumant



Dr. Idris with Professor Gustavo Ghidini, professor of industrial law at LUISS University

Dr. Idris attended, as a guest of honor, a seminar held by LUISS, a university specialized in business administration, and by the Italian Society of Authors and Publishers (SIAE) at which he gave a presentation on the current role of WIPO on the threshold of the new millennium.

In Milan, the Director General visited the Italian Organization for Unification (UNI) and spoke at a seminar organized at UNI by the Intellectual Property Centre (IPC) on New Ways of Developing and Managing Intellectual Property in Italy.

Spotlight on the WIPO Worldwide Academy

There is growing realization of the vital importance of intellectual property as the oil that keeps the global economy moving. This has resulted in national and international intellectual property systems being thrust into ever greater prominence and subjected to increasingly heavy demands. Such challenges cannot be met without the availability of trained, competent staff. The WIPO Worldwide Academy is dedicated to the

development of these human resources, an essential component in national and international efforts to modernize and effectively use the intellectual property system. The main elements of its program are:

- training, teaching, and advisory services using information technology, including distance-learning approaches and a pedagogic guidance and information service

- inter-regional training courses, fellowships, and internships
- meetings on intellectual property issues for policy advisors, decision-makers, and special target groups.

The following are some of the activities the Academy has undertaken in the past few months.

Photo: CEIPI



Participants in the industrial property training course at the CEIPI in Strasbourg

Participants from 75 developing countries attend two major IP training courses

Some 150 participants from 75 developing countries attended two major training courses on industrial property and on copyright and related rights, organized by the WIPO Worldwide Academy in September and October. Both began by a three-day introductory seminar at WIPO headquarters in Geneva, following which participants split into small groups, each of which received up to three weeks of intensive training on specific IP issues in a host country.

Over 100 participants from 60 developing countries attended the industrial property training course in September. In addition, the introductory seminar was also attended by some 50 members of

Worldwide



photo: Antoni Neusser

the national permanent missions in Geneva as well as representatives of some of the national offices who were conducting the further training.

Following the seminar, participants, divided into small groups, were assigned either to a national industrial property office in Austria, Egypt, France (in cooperation with the Center for International Industrial Property Studies (CEIPI), Strasbourg), Germany, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, or Sweden or to the European Patent Office or the Benelux Patent Office. This further training focused on areas such as patent documentation and information, patent searching and examination techniques, and legal, administrative, and economic aspects of industrial property.

Furthermore, participants in the course organized in Strasbourg had two weeks of practical training at the national industrial property offices of Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Israel, South Africa, and Switzerland.

Over 50 participants from 45 developing countries and from the South African Development Community (SADC) attended the training course on copyright and

Participants in the training course on copyright and related rights at WIPO headquarters in Geneva

Participants came from*

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Pakistan, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

related rights; the introductory seminar was also attended by some 30 members of the national permanent missions in Geneva as well as representatives of some of the copyright organizations and national offices who were conducting the further training.

As with the industrial property course, following the seminar, the

participants split up into groups, with each group being assigned either to a national copyright office or copyright organization in Algeria, Finland, France, Portugal, Spain, or Switzerland.

* Those countries in blue participated only in the industrial property training course and those in red participated only in the copyright training course.



Spectacular architecture in the special session's host city, St Petersburg

Photo: Jaime Sevilla

Academy special session concentrates on TRIPS

The Tavrichesky Palace in St. Petersburg was the venue for a watershed special session of the WIPO Worldwide Academy in June/July 1998. It was the first session of the Academy for senior policy-making government officials to be held outside WIPO headquarters and the first to be devoted entirely to one subject – the Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement).

Organized at the specific request of the 12 participating countries, which were in the process of negotiating accession to the World

Trade Organization, the program of the session concentrated, in particular, on the legislative revisions and administrative arrangements that had to be put in place to fulfill TRIPS obligations.

Participating countries were: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, as well as Russian Federation.

Nine foreign speakers were invited by WIPO, from the World Trade Organization (Geneva), the European Commission (Brussels), the US Patent and Trademark Office (Washington, DC), the European Patent Office (Munich), the World Customs Organization (Regional Intelligence Liaison Office, Warsaw), the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (London), the International Intellectual Property Alliance (Washington, DC), and the International Trademark Association Enforcement Unit (London).

The 25 participants included two deputy ministers of justice, a member of parliament, and twelve heads of industrial property offices and/or copyright administrations.

The objectives of the sessions were to inform participants of the main elements and current issues relating to intellectual property and to highlight the policy considerations behind them. It was hoped that the sessions would enhance the ability of participants, on their return to their respective countries, to contribute to the formulation of government policies on intellectual property questions, particularly on cultural, social, technological, and economic development.

Geneva sessions for policy-makers

Two "ordinary" sessions of the WIPO Worldwide Academy for senior policy-making government officials were held at WIPO headquarters in June 1998, for participants from 14 countries from Asia and the Pacific and Central and Eastern Europe¹, and from the Organization of African Unity, and in July 1998, for participants from 14 Latin American countries².

¹ Albania, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

² Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.



Participants at the WIPO Worldwide Academy special session in St. Petersburg

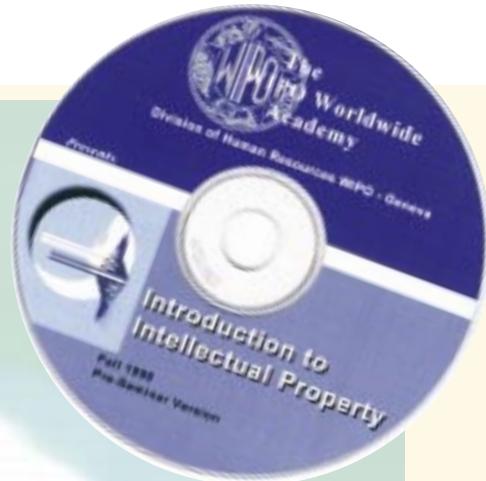
Photo: Jaime Sevilla

Introducing intellectual property – on CD-ROM

In the autumn of 1998, the WIPO Worldwide Academy issued an Internet reactive CD-ROM containing an introduction to intellectual property in electronic form. The CD-ROM was designed prin-

cipally to form part of the Academy's distance learning program but is also used as background information for those who will be attending Academy sessions and the introductory seminars on intellectual property.

The content of the CD-ROM is currently being adapted into a fully structured distance-learning course for Internet delivery in early 1999.



Seminar on industrial property for Latin American countries

Rio de Janeiro was the host for a seminar on industrial property for Latin American countries, organized jointly by WIPO and the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) of Brazil, from October 13 to 23, 1998.

The following countries were represented: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

It was attended by 14 participants from 13 Latin American countries and from the Secretariat for Economic Integration of Central America (SIECA).

Topics treated during the intensive nine days of meetings included the processing of patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications; the role of national offices in the transfer of technology; licensing and franchising agreements; and the INPI automation program and administrative appeals system.



Participants at WIPO headquarters in Geneva after ten days of copyright training in Stockholm

Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal

Copyright training takes place in Sweden and Switzerland

Twenty participants from around the world attended a training course on copyright and related rights that began in Stockholm (from August 17 to 26) and ended at WIPO headquarters in Geneva (on August 27 and 28).

Organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Swedish Government and with the assistance of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the very comprehensive training course covered

national and international protection, in general, as well as concentrating on certain specific topics, such as the World Trade Organization and the TRIPS Agreement, the protection of folklore, and the two WIPO "Internet treaties" (the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty).

Participants came from Botswana, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ghana, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Malawi, Palestine, Peru, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Global intellectual property issues

South Asia mission spotlights traditional knowledge and culture

A better understanding of the intellectual property needs and expectations relating to the cultural heritage and wealth of traditional knowledge in South Asia was the goal of a recent WIPO fact-finding mission to the region. It is the third in a series of such missions to all regions of the world that seeks to explore the difficulties that confront holders of traditional knowledge in trying to protect their creativity and innovation.

The mission met with a wide range of experts during its travels in Sri Lanka, India, and Bangladesh.

Work began in Colombo (Sri Lanka) where discussions at the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Academy of Sri Lankan Culture highlighted both the tangible aspects of the nation's culture, such as architecture, and the deeply rooted intangible aspects, such as folktales and traditional music. The rich plant resources of the island were the subject of meetings with the Environmental Foundation, which is examining issues related to biodiversity in the country, and with officials from the Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine, who are involved in a project funded by

the World Bank to document the medicinal plants of the island. The mission also visited the Research Institute for Indigenous Medicine where they had detailed discussions with researchers trained in Ayurvedic medicine.

Travelling on to India, the mission visited Chennai, where traditional agricultural practices and the conservation and documentation of plant genetic resources were the subject of discussion during a visit to the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. In Bombay, talks with the Director General of the Indian Performing Rights Society centered on possible protection of Indian traditional music and literature. En route for New Delhi, the mission stopped at Ahmadabad to participate in a one-day Consultation on Intellectual Property Rights of Grassroots Innovators during which they met with a large number of artists, farmers, traditional healers and herbalists and other informal innovators. Topics discussed included:

- whether specific instruments of intellectual property rights protection are needed for individual, collective, or combined innovations
- how scientists, NGOs and innovative communities and individuals who contribute to developing and adding value to innovations can share in the rights and receive returns from those rights

Ayurvedic medicine is a holistic system of healing that evolved among the Brahmin sages of India some 3,000 to 5,000 years ago. Several elements distinguish it from other approaches to health care, for example:

- it focuses on maintaining overall balance of energy rather than on individual symptoms
- it applies remedies that are matched to the constitution of each specific individual
- it recognizes the indivisibility of mind and body and seeks to heal fragmentation and disorder of that mind-body complex.

- whether certain knowledge should be considered outside the patent regime.

Many of the grassroots innovators who participated in the Consultation work together as SRISTI (the Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions) and are trying to use the patent system to protect their traditional knowledge and innovations. For example, they have amassed the traditional knowledge of 15 veterinary healers to produce a veterinary medical kit for which they have filed a patent application.

WIPO treaties

In New Delhi, the mission met with numerous government ministries, research institutes, and NGOs as well as participating in the WIPO Asian Regional Seminar on Intellectual Property Issues in the Field of Traditional Medicines (see the report of this seminar on page 13).

Moving on to Lucknow, the mission focused its attention on issues related to traditional knowledge of medicinal plants, with discussions with the Indian Institute of Management, the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and the Central Drug Research Institute.

The mission ended in Dhaka (Bangladesh) where discussions with a wide range of government officials concentrated on the role of intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge in the agriculture of the country. The mission also held meetings with a private sector company using traditional medicinal knowledge from the Unani tradition to produce and market herbal products.

New diplomatic conference at WIPO

At a meeting at WIPO headquarters on October 5 and 6, 1998, member States decided to hold a Diplomatic Conference in Geneva from June 16 to July 6, 1999 to negotiate and adopt a new Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs.

The Hague Agreement is one of 21 treaties currently administered by WIPO (for the text of those treaties and the lists of member States, visit WIPO's web site at <http://www.wipo.int>). It was signed in 1925 and revised several times – most recently in 1979 – but a new Act has now become necessary. The text of the basic proposal for this new Act and its regulations are also available on WIPO's web site.

The beauty of the Agreement is that it simplifies the procedures

The member States of the Hague Agreement are: Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, and Yugoslavia (29).

and reduces costs for those wishing to register industrial designs by allowing them to make a single international deposit with WIPO that has effect in all or any of the 29 States party to the Agreement.

The facilities offered by the Agreement are well used – more than 6,200 deposits, renewals, or prolongations of international industrial designs were made with WIPO in 1997 – and prospects for growth in this area in the coming years are bright.

New revision of the Locarno International Classification for Industrial Designs

A new (seventh) edition of the International Classification for Industrial Designs established under the Locarno Agreement of 1968 has just been published by WIPO, in English and French. It contains 32 classes and 223 subclasses and an alphabetical list of goods that has 6,600 entries, from "Aspirators (Saliva -) [dental]" to "Zip fasteners (Sliders of -)". The new edition of the Classification will enter into force on January 1, 1999.

New video on Madrid Protocol

WIPO has just produced its first video – **Protecting Your Trademark**

Abroad: The Madrid Protocol.

It is aimed at encouraging trademark owners in the United Kingdom to use the system for the international registration of marks set up under the Madrid Protocol; but it also provides a simple, general introduction to the Protocol and its advantages.

The video was given its first showing, outside WIPO, in September, at the Congress of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents (CIPA) in London, where it was very well received.

Copies of the video, which is in VHS-PAL format and lasts ten minutes, can be purchased from the WIPO Information Products Section for 20 S.Frs.

To date, the video has been requested for audiences as far-ranging as Armenia, Kenya, and Sweden.

New edition of International Patent Classification

The last meeting of the International Patent Classification Committee (IPC) of Experts in the current (sixth) revision cycle took place on 21 to 29, October, 1998. The 21 members of the

Committee who were represented finalized their work regarding amendments to the IPC. This clears the way for the preparation of the seventh edition of the Classification, which will be published in paper and electronic form (on CD-ROM and on the Internet) in June 1999 and will enter into force on January 1, 2000.

WIPO awards



In October 1998, WIPO gold medals were awarded to inventors from Italy and Malaysia.

Andrea Surace received a WIPO gold medal for best young inventor at the Inventions Exhibition in Reggio Emilia (Italy), held on October 25, 1998, for a motorized leisure vehicle for use on water.

A WIPO gold medal for best invention was given to Mohamad Sulong and Ronnie C. W. Tan at the 1998 International Invention, Innovation, Industrial Design and Technology Exhibition (I-TEX '98), which was held from October 10 to 13, 1998 near Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). Mr. Sulong and Mr. Tan had invented a new process for clarifying crude palm oil slurry by filtration.



WIPO treaties

WIPO attends information events in Frankfurt and New York

Increasing public knowledge of the Organization and its work

For the first time in many years, WIPO attended the Frankfurt Book Fair, which takes place each year in early October. The Organization's booth was one of 20 manned by the various specialized agencies that were set up within the common stand organized by the United Nations. The Fair, open to professionals in the book trade from Wednesday to

Friday and to the public at the weekend, is one of the most important in the world, spreading over 18 floors in six different halls, with a shuttle bus to carry exhibitors and visitors from one hall to another.

Later in the month, WIPO set up a stand, again alongside the other specialized agencies, at the UN Information Fair that took place in New York from 20 to 23 October 1998. The Fair was opened by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Louise Fréchette and was held in the main entrance hall of the UN Secretariat building.



WIPO staff members from Geneva headquarters and the New York Coordination Office at the UN Information Fair

Year 2000

WIPO Year 2000 statement

WIPO plans to continue to do business through the millennium boundary and is taking all necessary steps to ensure that problems do not occur with dates and leap years.

The current situation within WIPO with regard to preparations for the year 2000 is as follows:

1. An assessment has been made throughout WIPO to identify areas concerned within the Organization. This assessment is now being verified.
2. Plans to implement a number of minor changes are under discussion.
3. All work to complete the preparations is scheduled to be finished by the end of 1998.
4. WIPO's preferred input is a four digit year.

Please address any questions or suggestions to y2k.mail@wipo.int

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Year 200
Year 2000

National news

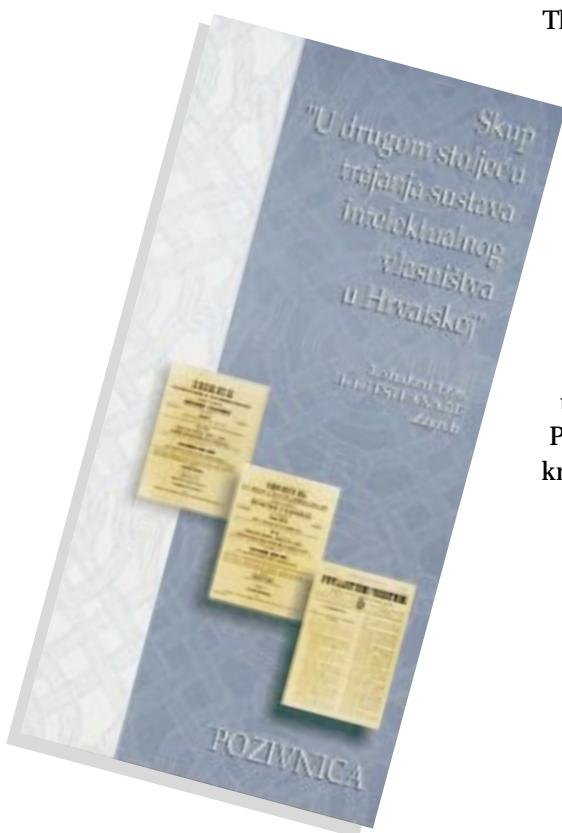
100 years of IP protection in Croatia

A symposium to celebrate the “long historical tradition of intellectual property in Croatia”, stretching back over 100 years, took place on November 3, 1998 in Zagreb. Entitled *In the Second Century of the Existence of Intellectual Property in Croatia*, it was organized by the State Intellectual Property Office, under the auspices of the President of the Republic, Dr. Franjo Tuđman, and was opened by the President’s personal representative, Professor Ivica Kostović.

Among some 100 participants were the heads of the intellectual property offices of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany and Poland and representatives from the IP offices of Hungary, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the European Patent Office.

Eight papers were presented on the history of the intellectual property system in Croatia by academics, government representatives, and invited foreign speakers, including a WIPO staff member, who spoke on *The World Intellectual Property Organization – Responses to the Challenges of the New Age*.

The IP office of Croatia was established in 1992 as the Republic Industrial Property Office. In 1996, its competencies were widened to include copyright matters, and it became eventually the State Intellectual Property Office, as it is known today.



During this short period the national office has developed into a well-functioning entity, with up-to-date automation and computerization of its operations.

The number of trademark applications has almost doubled from 924 in 1992 to 1,708 in 1997 and the number of patent applications has increased from 620 in 1992 to just over 700 in 1997. Croatia is a member of the major WIPO treaties, including the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the PCT (since June 1998).

New Thai IP&IT court

The new Thai Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court has been set up in order to allow Thailand – a member of the World Trade Organization – to better “fulfill its obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and to create a user-friendly forum for settlement of disputes in international trade.”

The new court aims to provide a “convenient, speedy and fair” means of resolving intellectual property and international trade cases.

Products



The following new product was issued by WIPO in October 1998:

Catalogue of Products 1998 (English) (E), free.

WIPO publications may be obtained from the Information Products Section:

WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
PO. Box 18
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

phone: 41 22 338 91 11
fax: 41 22 740 18 12
e-mail: wipo.mail@wipo.int

Orders should indicate: (a) the number or letter code of the publication desired, the language (E for English,), 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.

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. <i>Invitations:</i> 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. <i>Invitations:</i> Specially invited experts and interested organizations.

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January 18 to 22 (Geneva)	Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (Second Session) The Committee will continue its work based upon the results achieved at its first session with regard to draft provisions on well-known marks and issues relating to trademarks and the Internet. <i>Invitations:</i> As members, the States members of WIPO and other delegations that the Committee may admit as members; as observers, other States and certain organizations.
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. <i>Invitations:</i> 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. <i>Invitations:</i> 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. <i>Invitations:</i> As members or observers, the States members of WIPO; as observers, other States and certain organizations.