

Contents

WIPO live on the web	2
WIPO Worldwide Academy (WWA)	
Video-conferencing takes off as training tool	3
WWA launches electronic conference on IP teaching	3
Special Academy session for Arab countries	4
Academy focuses on enforcement issues	5
Practical training seminars in Vienna and The Hague	5
Visits	
Director General visits Argentina	6
First visit by a WIPO Director General to Iran	7
Copyright	
The fight against piracy	8
Protecting work on global digital networks	9
Cooperation for development	
WIPO-WTO offer of help to meet TRIPS deadline strikes positive response	10
WIPO and ARIPO—supporting African creativity	10
Tunis hosts first WIPO Afro-Arab symposium	11
First IP meeting for BIMST-EC countries	12
Regional seminar in Daeduk on promoting use of IP system	12
Workshop tackles copyright issues	13
Training course for Asia and Pacific region on industrial property assets	13
IP symposium for the judiciary	14
Enforcement of IP rights and new "Internet Treaties"	14
Arbitration and mediation	
WIPO's Arbitration and Mediation Council welcomes a new member and news that the Arbitration and Mediation Center has administered its first case	15
Innovation promotion	
National Inventors' Week—Manila	16
Regional seminar focuses on inventors and inventions	16
WIPO medals	17
Large turnout for panel discussion on intellectual property and human rights	18
WIPO design seminar meets with success	18
Global intellectual property issues	
Mission examines traditional knowledge, innovation and culture in North America	19
WIPO standing committees	
SCCRR considers audiovisual performances, databases and rights of broadcasting organizations	21
SCIT reviews progress on WIPONET	23
SCP	24
Premises	
International architectural competition to extend WIPO's headquarters launched	25
Exhibition	25
Calendar of meetings	26
Products	28

Geneva
November/December
1998

WIPO live on the web

WIPO transmits audio and video coverage of meetings live over the Internet.

Now, you can hear the proceedings of selected meetings regardless of your location and download selected meeting documents via the Internet. All you need is:

- Internet access (WIPO Broadcasting and Video Services (WBS) can be accessed from <http://wbs.wipo.int>)
- a sound card
- RealPlayer software that can be downloaded for free from www.real.com

For the first time the actual proceedings of meetings can be heard and replayed. For example, participants at the first session of the WIPO Internet domain name consultations in San Francisco, United States on September 23, can hear the full proceedings from other consultations, listen to

individual speakers or just the concluding discussions at the Sydney, Australia round of consultations that took place on November 4, 1998.

Delegates to the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) (see further p.22) were given a demonstration of the new WIPO Broadcasting and Video Service (WBS) which they greeted with great enthusiasm. The Chairman of the SCIT working groups, Mr. E. Sherrif described this initiative as "moving from the islands of knowledge to the global

dissemination of global knowledge and information".

The demonstration and delegates' comments can be heard in full on: <http://wbs.wipo.int/SCIT/Tuesday/Tuesday.htm>, items 10 and 10.1.

The growing list of audio and visual archives can be seen at <http://wbs.wipo.int/Archives.htm>. While many recordings are available for anyone to listen to, some have been restricted to a select or registered audience.

If you need any help in gaining full access to WBS please contact



Photo: www.arttoday.com

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WIPO Worldwide Academy (WWA)

Video-conferencing takes off as training tool

Following the successful video conference set up between Geneva and New York during the closing session of the Special Academy on Enforcement in November 1998 (see p.5), the WWA will increase its use of video-conferencing as a component in its training courses and seminars.

Plans are already underway to organize live video-conferencing sessions with panelists in the ongoing Electronic Forum on teaching intellectual property (see following article) in order to discuss specific aspects of the conference program on-line.

Video-conferencing will help to optimize the benefits to developing countries from the range of training activities offered by the WWA. More requests for video-conferencing will enhance its distance-learning program as well.

WWA launches electronic conference on IP teaching

Discussion via the Internet is already under way between the 50 participants who have subscribed to the WWA's Electronic Conference on Strategies for Intellectual Property Teaching in Faculties of Law, Business and Engineering.

Launched on November 15, 1998 and scheduled to run for four months, the Electronic Conference, organized by WIPO and ATRIP (the International Association for the Advancement of Teaching and Research in Intellectual Property), is centered round a panel of seven academic experts and is aimed at gathering information and views on the best practices and strategies for the development of curricula on intellectual property, addressing both traditional and distance learning methodologies, with a special focus on developing countries.

To provide a basis for the discussion, those participating in the Conference—conducted entirely by electronic means—have been requested to reply by e-mail to a series of questions prepared by moderator Paul Torremans, a professor at the University of Leicester (UK).

Live video-conferencing sessions among participants are planned for mid-February 1999.

The conference site can be visited at <http://academy.wipo.int/conferences> where those wishing to

The panelists are from Australia, France, Ghana, India, Sweden, the United States, and Venezuela.

participate in the discussion will find a subscription form.

Worldwide
Academy

WIPO Worldwide Academy (WWA)

Special Academy session for Arab countries

A two-week special training session for senior government officials from Arab countries was held in Geneva in November/December 1998.

Speakers from Egypt, India, Jordan, Sudan, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Business Software Alliance (BSA) joined WIPO officials in presenting a broad range of topics on the protection, administration, and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

During the session, the participants visited a multinational company, where they discussed the company's activities in the Middle East and in the field of trademarks; the World Trade Organization, where they discussed the WTO's activities, with a particular emphasis on TRIPS-related questions; and the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, where they had a lively and practically oriented discussion on the administration of IP rights.

Topics covered during the session included the promotion of inventive and innovative activities in industry and commerce; the enhancement of competitiveness and economic development through the use of the IP system;

and information technology and IP information services. In addition, all participants gave oral presentations on the intellectual property systems and activities of their own countries. WIPO Deputy Director General Roberto Castelo made a closing presentation on the WIPO Cooperation for Development Program in the New Millennium.

Participants came from Bahrain, Djibouti, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.



Participants at the special academy session for senior government officials from Arab countries

Academy focuses on enforcement issues

Sixteen government officials from around the world gathered in Arlington, Virginia, in the United States, from October 26 to November 6, 1998, for a special Academy training session on enforcement of intellectual property rights.

The session was organized by WIPO in cooperation with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and presentations were made by U.S. officials and experts from the private sector on a range of topics related to enforcement. During the session, participants were able to visit the U.S. Customs Bureau and discuss border enforcement with officials there.

The highlight of the closing session of the special Academy was a video-conference between the participants in Arlington and WIPO Deputy Director General Roberto Castelo, and other WIPO officials in Geneva. The interactive exchange was well-received and the WIPO officials responded to many questions concerning both IP rights and the Organization's activities.

Participants were mainly from intellectual property offices and offices having enforcement responsibilities in Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Kenya, Panama, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.

Photo: Courtesy of the USPTO



A video-conference link during the training session allowed a lively dialogue between participants in the US and WIPO officials in Geneva

Practical training seminars in Vienna and The Hague

In November 1998, the WWA organized two training seminars on

- Administrative Issues in Patent and Trademark Procedures, held in The Hague and Geneva, in cooperation with the European Patent Office (EPO), the Benelux Trademark Office, and the Netherlands Industrial Property Office
- Industrial Property on the Internet, CD-ROMs, and On-line Databases, held in Vienna and Geneva in cooperation with the EPO.

The seminar in The Hague drew 15 participants from Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Jordan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, Uruguay, and ARIPO, who were exposed to all administrative issues relating to the new trends in patent and trademark procedures.

The seminar in Vienna was attended by 14 participants from Chile, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Viet Nam, and Zambia. Their intensive practical training course enabled them to get acquainted with the latest technologies for the retrieval of technical information from patent documents.

Visits

Director General visits Argentina

Upon the invitation of the Government, the Director General paid an official visit to Argentina from November 24 to 25. During his stay, he was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Carlos Menem. Together they reviewed the state of intellectual property protection in Argentina and expressed great satisfaction with cooperation between the country and WIPO. The Director General offered WIPO assistance to organize an expert mission to assist the Argentine Government in its process of becoming part of the WIPONET. The Director General also invited the President to visit WIPO in Geneva.

The substance of discussions in Buenos Aires included assistance to be provided by WIPO for training of Argentinean



The Director General together with Ms. Norma Félix (second from right) President of the Board of Directors of INPI and members of the WIPO delegation at the Presidential Palace in Buenos Aires

intellectual property law enforcement officials as well as in strengthening the operations of the Argentinian National Industrial Property Institute (INPI). There were also discussions on the country's recent and draft intellectual property laws. The question of Argentina's expected accession to the Patent Cooperation Treaty was also raised. This move has already been approved by the Senate in Argentina and is now before the Deputies Chamber for final approval.

Besides his program with members

of the Argentinean Government and private sector, Dr. Idris also participated in the opening of the WIPO Regional Seminar on the Importance of Intellectual Property Assets in Management Strategies in Latin America on November 25.

During his visit, Dr. Idris also met with a number of senior officials of the country, including the Minister of Justice, members of the Chamber of Deputies of the National Congress and the Secretary of Industry, Commerce, and Mining. There were also exchanges with members of the industrial property legal profession.

Argentina IP Fact File

Argentina is today party to seven treaties administered by WIPO and has been a member of WIPO since 1980. It is party to both the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.

In 1997, the Argentinian National Industrial Property Institute received 60,000 trademark applications, 6,300 patent applications and 1,500 industrial design applications, making it a leading user of intellectual property in Latin America.

First visit by a WIPO Director General to Iran

Dr. Kamil Idris receives the Islamic Republic of Iran's instrument of ratification to the Paris Convention during the first visit by a Director General of WIPO to that country. During his trip, which lasted from December 11-13, the Director General also opened the WIPO Asian and Pacific Regional Seminar on the Importance of Protection and Management of Industrial Property Rights for Developing Countries. In his opening remarks the Director General commented on the important international challenges that intellectual property faced in dealing with electronic commerce, domain names, bio-technology, bio-diversity and the role that he

hoped the WIPONET would play in establishing an information network to help the countries of the region.

Mr. Seyed Reza Zavareie, Deputy Head of the Judiciary, Member of the Guardian Council and Head of the State Organization for the Registration of Deeds and Properties accompanied the Director General throughout his visit during which their discussions focussed on strengthening the relationship between WIPO and the Iranian Industrial Property Office. Mr. Zavareie also addressed the need for protection of intellectual property rights in handicrafts that are of great value to Iranian national heritage; the Director General had the opportunity to view exquisite examples of such handicraft at the Iranian National Jewelry Museum. The Director General also noted that a bill that will allow for the

Iran IP Fact File

Iran has been a party to the Paris Convention (Lisbon Act) since 1962.

WIPO together with UNDP has been working on a technical cooperation project since July 1993 entitled Modernization of the Industrial Property Administration in Iran

In May, 1997, a follow-up project was begun nationwide by the Registration Organization of Deeds and Properties, with WIPO as implementing/cooperation

accession of Iran to the WIPO Convention is currently before the Islamic Consultative Assembly. He expressed a hope that Iran would soon become a member State of WIPO.

The Director General also took part in the inauguration of the Industrial Property Information Center that will provide information and research facilities to the government, education and private sectors.

During his visit the Director General also met with heads of the Judiciary, Foreign Ministry, Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Mines, UNDP representatives as well as prominent lawyers and university professors in Tehran. The Director General was impressed by the support expressed by all of his contacts for WIPO's objectives and the protection of



The Director General and Mr. Seyed Reza Zavareie (right) during the inauguration of the Industrial Property Information Center

Copyright

intellectual property rights in Iran.

The fight against piracy

On November 9, Mr. Eric Smith, President of the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) led a fascinating series of presentations on the various aspects of enforcement of copyright and the fight against piracy.

Presentations included "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" by the Motion Picture Association of America that put losses by film studios due to piracy at \$2.5 billion per year. This excludes the fortune made by organized

Time to download a compact disk (630MB)			
Year	Modem	Type	Download time
1980		300	4,704 hours
1991		14,400	98 hours
1994		28,800	49 hours
1997		56,000	25 hours
	ISDN (128kb/s)		11 hours
	T-1 (1.4 MB/s)		1 hour
	ADSL (5 MB/s)		17 minutes
	Cable (30MB/s)		3 minutes

Source: Interactive Digital Software Association

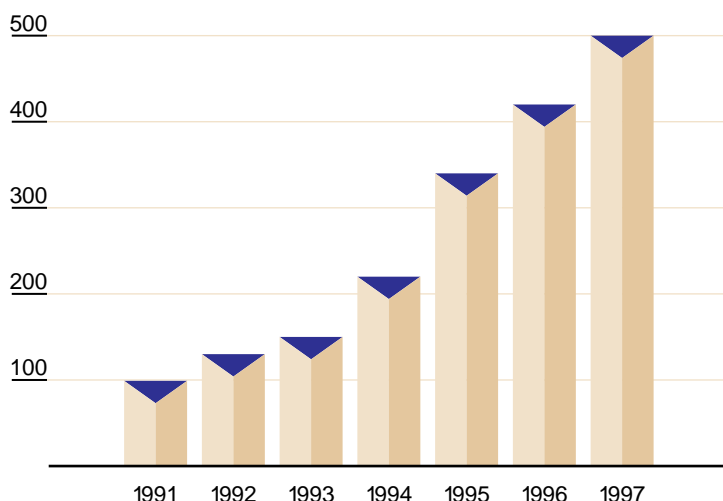
criminals with pirated films as well as the millions lost in taxes by governments.

The Interactive Digital Software Association (IDSA), which represents the video game and interactive entertainment software industry, presented its anti-piracy program. It estimates losses due to

piracy at 3.2 billion. This figure excludes losses in the United States, the European Union and on-line.

An overview by the Business Software Alliance, "Piracy Enters the Digital Age" focused on the flows of pirated products and estimated that in 1997 pirated software had a retail value of nearly \$13.5 million. It also emphasized the importance of the WIPO Internet treaties in taking account of technical developments and bringing copyright protection into the digital age.

Volume of CD Piracy Worldwide (million units)



Source: IFPI "Understanding & Solutions"

The final presentation was by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) that addressed the specific needs of the music industry.

The group pointed out that the invention of the CD-ROM facilitated piracy on a massive scale, causing losses of some \$5.3 billion annually.

Protecting work on global digital networks

Consultants from around the world met in Geneva from December 16 to 18 to discuss the difficulties in protecting material on the Internet and other digital networks from copyright infringement. The conference discussed two papers entitled the "Private International Law Aspects of the Protection of Works and Objects of Related Rights Transmitted through Global Digital Networks".

The consultants addressed the question of copyright ownership, jurisdiction issues and the difficulties in applying traditional copyright principles to global digital dissemination. They also considered the role of the Berne Convention, the TRIPS Agreement, and the WIPO Copyright Treaty as well as specific cases from the United States and European Union.

Participants agreed that the territorial approach of copyright protection had been considerably weakened by the power of the Internet and other digital networks to make protected works instantaneously available throughout the world.

Consideration was given to which territory the copyright owners must pursue their rights in, as well

as to which type of protection they may be entitled. Even copyright owners with strong cases will discover that protecting rights in a large number of jurisdictions will incur prohibitive legal costs. Possible solutions to this problem include consolidating infringing actions to one court with the closest connection to the case; possibly the court closest to where the copies were posted on the Internet or the country with the most significant relationship to the infringed work. The territorial discussion is further complicated by the fact that the protection offered in the various countries throughout the world varies significantly.

The consultants also discussed the need to develop international rules for the protection of copyright and the role that WIPO could play in furthering this end.



Photo: www.arttoday.com

Cooperation for Development

WIPO-WTO offer of help to meet TRIPS deadline strikes positive response

Some 23 responses, from developing and least-developed countries and territories, have been received to the joint initiative launched by WIPO and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in July 1998 to help developing countries that are members of the WTO meet the deadline for compliance with their obligations under the TRIPS Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

Under the joint initiative, the two organizations offer assistance in training, institution-building, modernizing intellectual property systems, preparing legislation and enforcement.

In response to the requests for assistance received so far under the joint initiative, a series of joint consultations, missions and seminars are being planned by

WIPO and WTO for the first half of 1999, including a joint symposium for Sub-Saharan and French-speaking African countries to be held in March in the Central African Republic.

Assistance under the joint initiative complements that given to some 80 developing and least-developed countries under on-going WIPO programs dealing with TRIPS implementation in the January to

WIPO and ARIPO – supporting African creativity

The need to link Africa “in the shortest possible time to the information super highway” was stressed by WIPO Deputy Director General Roberto Castelo in his opening address to the 22nd session of the **ARIPO*** **Administrative Council**, which took place in the Seychelles from November 23 to 27.

Mr. Castelo outlined WIPO’s work aimed at fulfilling this need, which included a pilot project to insert ARIPO into the new WIPO global information network

(WIPONET – see box) and a sub-regional action plan to create online electronic links between ARIPO and its member states.

He emphasized the determination of WIPO Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris, that Africa should obtain maximum benefit from the intellectual property system and that the access to intellectual property information are provided by WIPONET should be a tool for technology transfer and economic development for the continent.

The ARIPO meeting took place in conjunction with a **WIPO Regional Seminar on Support for African Inventors** (organized in cooperation with ARIPO), attended by participants from 19

countries in the region. Topics included challenges to the

Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, as well as the Seychelles.

African inventor; commercialization of an invention; industrial property automation in Africa; and the activities of ARIPO, and the policy of the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), in promoting inventive activity in Africa.

* African Regional Industrial Property Organization.

WIPO's global information network (WIPO_{NET})

Iran has been a party to the Paris Convention (Lisbon Act) since 1962.

WIPO together with UNDP has been working on a technical cooperation project since July 1993 entitled Modernization of the Industrial Property Administration in Iran

In May, 1997, a follow-up project was begun nationwide by the Registration Organization of Deeds and Properties, with WIPO as implementing/cooperation

The main problem areas were identified as

- lack of awareness about the patent system and the procedure for obtaining a patent – sometimes leading to disclosure of an invention before a patent had been obtained
- lack of resources for commercializing an invention and obtaining adequate industrial property protection
- lack of access to patent information material.

Participants recommended that WIPO produces a simple guide for inventors and also help national industrial property offices develop and implement outreach programs targeting inventors and researchers. The need for user access to computer equipment in IP offices and for greater on-line links between the IP offices and research and development centers and universities was also highlighted.

Tunis hosts first WIPO Afro-Arab symposium

Participants from all the Arab countries and some 15 African countries attended WIPO's first Afro-Arab symposium, which was held in Tunis from November 16 to 18.

The symposium, which focused on the new challenges in the management of copyright and related rights, was organized in cooperation with the Tunisian Ministry of Culture and opened by WIPO Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris, and Tunisian Minister of Culture, Mr. Abdelbaki Hermassi.

During the symposium, heads of national copyright offices, academics, lawyers and representatives of NGOs discussed the application of current norms for copyright protection in the context of the TRIPS Agreement (Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) and how participating countries proposed to meet their obligations under that

Agreement regarding copyright and related rights.

Discussion took place on various other subjects, including electronic commerce, piracy, the protection of expressions of folklore, and the administration of copyright on the Internet. Speakers addressing these and other issues included representatives from the International Federation of Musicians, the International Intellectual Property Alliance, and the Center for Arab and Mediterranean Music (based in

Participants came from Algeria, Bahrain, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, as well as Tunisia.

Tunis).

Among the recommendations drawn up by participants were the need for States to

- fulfil their obligations under the TRIPS Agreement

Photo:



Mr. Abdelbaki Hermassi, Tunisian Minister of Culture giving his opening address at the symposium, flanked by Dr Idris (left) and Mr. Abdelali Kheraidline, Director General of the Tunisian copyright office and Chairman of the Symposium (right)

- protect expressions of folklore (to include drawing up relevant national legislation and setting up a folklore center in Tunisia)
- organize training and education programs
- intensify intra-regional cooperation in IP
- give higher prominence to intellectual property questions,

Regional seminar in Daeduk on promoting use of IP system

The promotion of the use of the intellectual property system by the private sector was the theme of an important regional seminar organized in Daeduk, Republic of Korea, by WIPO and the International Intellectual Property Training Institute (IIPTI) and the Korean Industrial Property Office (KIPO) from November 17 to 19.

The seminar focused on the interests and concerns of the private sector with regard to the use and management of intellectual property. Some 32 foreign participants, mainly

First IP meeting for BIMST-EC countries

At the beginning of November, WIPO organized the first intellectual property meeting for the BIMST-EC countries, in Phuket, Thailand, in cooperation with the Department of Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand.

The main objectives of the WIPO Sub-Regional Forum on Cooperation in the Field of Intellectual Property among BIMST-EC Countries were to raise awareness of the importance of intellectual property rights as a useful tool in cultural and economic development and to provide a forum for an exchange of views and experiences in the protection and administration of intellectual property rights.

Some 16 senior officials from the

government officials, listened to presentations by seven speakers from India, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sweden, and the United States on topics ranging from the Use of modern information technologies

ministries of foreign affairs and heads of IP offices of the BIMST-EC countries attended the Forum and identified four areas of particular importance and relevance for future cooperation

- institutional linkages
- human resources development
- enforcement of IP rights

BIMST-EC

The BIMST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation) is a recently established sub-regional grouping. Its main objective is to foster socio-economic progress in member countries by promoting cooperation in eight priority sectors – trade, investment and industry, technology, infrastructure and transportation, tourism, energy, agriculture, and human resource development.

for the enhancement of industrial property information delivery services to Valuation of intellectual property assets: significance, parameters, methodologies and limitations.

The seminar ended with a roundtable discussion on awareness and institution building



19 countries were represented at the regional seminar in the Republic of Korea

Participants came from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Fiji, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam, as well as the Republic of Korea.

Workshop tackles copyright issues

An enthusiastic group of participants met in Zambia for WIPO Technical Workshop on Collective Management of Copyright in SADC Countries



Members of the Zambian National Ballet perform at the opening of the workshop

held in Lusaka from November 23 to 25, in cooperation with the Government of Zambia.

Representatives from ten African countries, mainly from national copyright offices, as well as from SADC (the Southern African Development Community) and the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) took part in the workshop.

Topics included the activities and status of performing rights societies and recording rights societies and the operations of

such societies, including membership, licensing philosophy and rules, assessment and payment of license fees, distribution rules, computerization of operations, and corporate and financial reporting.

Speakers came from the Copyright Society of Malawi (COSOMA), the South African Recording Rights Association Ltd. (SARRAL), the Southern African Music Rights Organisation (SAMRO), the Zambia Music Copyright Protection Society (ZAMCOPS) and the Mauritius Society of Authors (MASA).

Participants came from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, as well as Zambia.

The various presentations were followed by lively debate, which was only interrupted by the colorful entertainment that showcased the music and dance of the host country.

Training course for Asia and Pacific region on industrial property assets

A joint training course on licensing, technology transfer and valuation of industrial property assets for participants from 14 countries in the Asia and Pacific region was organized in Singapore from November 3 to 12 by WIPO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, and the Singapore Productivity and Standards Board.

The course was geared to providing information and improving knowledge and skills of officials from industrial property offices, technology transfer agencies and other concerned government ministries and departments in the stated areas.

Ten speakers, from Argentina, India, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and WIPO, with a wide variety of experiences and perspectives, made presentations that combined lectures with practical exercises to reinforce the principles and theories under discussion.

Participants were from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam, as well as Singapore.



Live performance by members of Zamcops at the closing of the workshop – from left to right Emmanuel Chanda, Brian Chengala, and Wapollinam M'Kandawire

IP Symposium for the Judiciary

On November 21 and 22 WIPO held a national Intellectual Property Symposium for the Judiciary in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, to provide a forum for discussions on obligations under the TRIPS Agreement and the new WIPO Internet Treaties. Discussions on these topics centered on TRIPS obligations regarding border measures and copyright protection.

Consideration then moved to litigation in the field of patents and industrial designs, where clarification was requested on the practice, in some countries of requiring experts to sit with judges in patent cases - the Trinidad and Tobago Patent Law contains a provision to this effect. Discussions also concerned provisions in some countries that require an applicant to supply information on corresponding foreign applications.

In the area of copyright and related rights particular attention was paid to the wide range of

protected works and what constitutes infringement; the right of rental on films and its implementation; secondary uses of sound recordings and how "equitable remuneration" can be assessed; and possible protection of early calypso music.

In the area of trademarks and geographical indications consideration was given to parallel importation, as well as the removal of trademarks from the register on the grounds of non-use or TRIPS obligations.

A lively discussion on the interpretation of the words "honest business practices" as set out in the Paris Convention dominated discussions on unfair competition and passing off.

The symposium concluded with a roundtable discussion on enforcement of IP rights and possible abuse of the Anton Piller and Mareva injunctions. The practice in United Kingdom courts of requiring the parties to report back to the court after the issue of such orders was discussed. The roundtable also considered new rules of procedure to eliminate delays in court proceedings and delivery of judgments.

Enforcement of IP Rights and the new "Internet Treaties"

From November 24 to 27, WIPO held a Regional Symposium on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights and the New "Internet Treaties" (WCT and WPPT) in Tashkent in cooperation with the State Patent Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The symposium was attended by some 60 participants. The first two days of the symposium considered:

- The status of protection and enforcement of copyright and related rights in Uzbekistan
- The TRIPS Agreement with special emphasis on enforcement
- Enforcement with respect to trademark counterfeiting - the experience of related industries
- Ways and means of developing an effective national IP rights enforcement strategy
- Copyright piracy - the experience of related industries.

The third day of the symposium was devoted to the two Internet treaties and included an overview of the new rights they create together with a special focus on their roles in the digital environment. While it was clear from the discussions that much work had to be done to improve national legislation before many countries could even consider becoming parties to the treaties, many expressed their thanks to WIPO for its efforts in explaining the additional protection they offer.

Photo: Christine Castro Hublin



Hon. Mr. Justice Michael de la Bastide Chief Justice, Trinidad and Tobago (left) and Judge Jan Willems, Vice-President of the Court of First Instance, The Hague (right) both gave presentations sharing their expertise and experience in interational treaties and litigation concerning intellectual property matters

Arbitration and Mediation

WIPO's Arbitration and Mediation Council welcomes a new member and news that the Arbitration and Mediation Center has administered its first case.

On November 19, 1998 the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Council (the Council) heard details of its first case, a large patent mediation involving parties from different jurisdictions that was submitted to the Center last May. The Council, which advises the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center on matters of planning and policy, also welcomed a new Council member, Mr. Guido Fernando Silva Soares, an arbitration specialist and Professor of International Law at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Mr. Soares' appointment brings the total number of Council members to eight.

An on-screen demonstration of the Center's procedures for the resolution of disputes arising from electronic commerce was greeted enthusiastically by the Council members. The demonstration clearly showed how an on-line system increases the speed and efficiency with which proceedings may be conducted by reducing the need for time-consuming and expensive in-person meetings

Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal



The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Council, the Director of the Arbitration and Mediation Center, and the Center's staff members

and hearings. The system enables all parties to a dispute to communicate on-line through secure channels; which may be expanded to include secure audio and video exchanges. The system also provides for automatic notifications, electronic fee payment, secure exchange and reading of documents, plus databases to support the logging and archiving of all submissions. An updated version of the WIPO Expedited Arbitration Rules is in preparation to complement the on-line dispute resolution procedure, which is currently under development.

The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center remains the primary international resource center for private intellectual property disputes. Its team of

legal professionals provides advice on the use of WIPO's Arbitration and Mediation contract clauses as well as of WIPO neutrals. The list of WIPO neutrals (arbitrators and mediators) now includes some 800 intellectual property specialists from 67 countries.

The Center will continue to work on its on-line and similar initiatives to keep pace with the new and growing need to swiftly resolve international intellectual property disputes.

The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center may be reached at:

Telephone (+) 41 22 338 9111
Fax: (+) 41 22 740 3700
E-mail: arbiter.mail@wipo.int
Web site: www.arbiter.wipo.int

Innovation Promotion

National Inventors' Week – Manila

An extremely enthusiastic and dynamic National Inventors' Week was organized in Manila from November 19 to 23, by the Technology Application and Promotion Institute (TAPI) of the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines and seven national inventors associations.



Mr. Yossifov accepting a certificate and medallion on behalf of WIPO from WIAPI President Dr. Lydia M. Marero

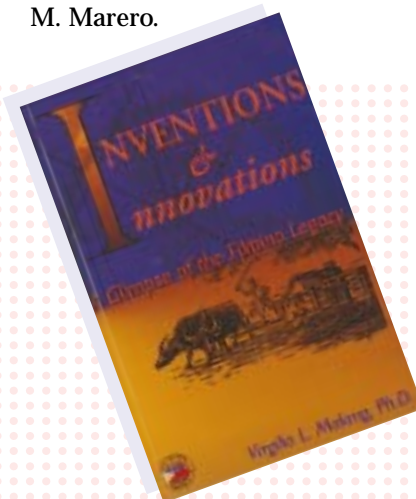
Mr. Vladimir Yossifov, Head of the WIPO Infrastructure and Innovation Promotion Section, gave one of the opening addresses at the event and also presented three WIPO Gold Medals (see WIPO Medals below) for outstanding invention, best college level invention, and best high-school level invention.

Following the opening ceremony, a book by Virgilio L. Malang,

entitled *Inventions & Innovations – A Glimpse of the Filipino Legacy*, was launched at a press conference. In a special chapter on Filipino WIPO Gold Medal awardees, the author presents the biographies of eleven winners who have successfully commercialized their inventions and examines the impact of the WIPO awards in that success.

During the week-long event, the Association of Filipino Women WIPO Awardees (AFWWA) was announced. The Association's objective is to develop closer ties and exchange experiences among WIPO Gold Medal-winning women inventors in the Philippines and around the world.

WIPO was presented with a special gold medallion and certificate on behalf of the Woman Inventors Association of the Philippines, Inc. in recognition of the contribution made by the Organization's Cooperation for Development Program. Mr. Yossifov accepted the certificate on behalf of WIPO from Association President Dr. Lydia M. Marero.



Regional seminar focuses on support structures for inventors and inventions

In the context of National Inventors' Week in Manila, WIPO organized a Regional Seminar on Support Services for Inventors, Valuation and Commercialization for Inventions and Research Results in cooperation with the TAPI (see above).

The Seminar, which took place from November 19 to 21, attracted over 80 participants from Argentina, Australia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Finland, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Switzerland, Thailand, Viet Nam. They included government officials, representatives of inventors' organizations and industry, as well as academics and researchers.

Presentations were made by experts from Argentina, Australia, Côte d'Ivoire, Finland, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, and WIPO on topics ranging from Strategies for Patenting Inventions and Research Results to Marketing and Business Planning. The seminar ended with a roundtable discussion on the Needs for Invention and Innovation Support Structures as a Public Service in Developing Countries.



WIPO medals

November and December saw the awarding of fourteen WIPO Gold Medals to inventors of merit in Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Peru, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea.

Algeria

During National Innovation Day, organized by the Algerian Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property (INAPI) in Annaba on December 7, 1998, Gold Medals were handed over to Djamel Mekina (best inventor) for an electrical safety device; to Sabah Mammeri (best woman inventor) for a new foam detergent product; and to the *El Mountada* Association of young people from the town of Médéa (best young inventor) for several pieces of work in the medical field, in particular, a stimulator to eliminate the secondary effects of acupuncture.

Argentina

Alberto Arturo Barbagallo received a WIPO Medal as winner of the Ladislao José Biro National Invention Prize organized by the National Institute of Industrial Property and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Mining for his invention in the field of medicine and the environment.

"Brussels Eureka '98" Belgium

Two WIPO prizes were awarded at "Brussels Eureka '98" - the 47th World Exhibition of Invention of Research and of Industrial Innovation. The medal for best woman inventor went to Svetlana Codreanu of the Republic of Moldova for a new method of microbiological synthesis of vitamin B12. The prize for the best inventor from a developing country was shared by Luis Quisber of Venezuela for a new electrolytic solution for oral or intravenous use to counter the effects of dehydration or loss of blood volume and Kabasele Muamba of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for two products to treat digestive problems and to counter infection.

Peru

Three inventors received WIPO Gold Medals at the Fourth National Inventors Competition organized by the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Intellectual Property Protection (INDECOPI). Carlos Alfonso Passaro Ponce de León won the best inventor award for a portable, manual cardio-vascular massage unit that can be operated by one person. Juan Alguilar Macizo won the best inventor award in the field of transport for a car luggage rack of variable width. Wesley Darió Ubillús Córdova won the best young inventor award for a high performance bottle for washing samples, with a valve to avoid the reflux of dirty water.



Mr. C. A. Passaro Ponce de León with his award-winning portable cardio-vascular massage unit

Philippines

During National Inventors' Week in Manila (see above) three WIPO Gold Medals were presented by the Head of the WIPO Innovation Promotion Section, Mr. Vladimir Yossifov. The Award for outstanding invention went to Cornelio L. Seño for a single blade rotary pump. May Ann Ah, Joseph Rey Basilio, John-John P. Cabibihan, Michael Chua, and Katherine King from De la Salle University won best college-level invention for an automated mango classifier. The medal for best high school-level invention was awarded to Bjorn T. Carreon, Archibald P. Sayo, and Neil Tristan M. Yabut from Manila Science High School for a method of determining bioherbicidal activity and weed specificity of leaf blight and leaf mold pathogens on the rice paddy weed *Sphenoclea zeylanica Gaertner*.

Republic of Korea

A WIPO Gold Medal for a digital protection relay to protect electric motors and lines widely used in the industrial field was presented to In-Suk Kim during the Korea Patent Exhibition '98, organized by the Korean Industrial Property Office and the Korean Invention and Patent Association.

Large turnout for panel discussion on intellectual property and human rights

More than 200 people filled the main conference room at WIPO headquarters on November 9, to participate in a panel discussion on intellectual property and human rights to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Organized by WIPO in collaboration with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the event was the first of its kind and brought together experts and interested parties from both the intellectual property and human rights communities.

In his opening remarks, WIPO

Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal



Mr. Adama Dieng, Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists chaired the panel discussion on intellectual property and human rights

Deputy Director General, Mr. Roberto Castelo, noted that although intellectual property rights were specifically recognized as human rights in the Universal Declaration, their human rights character had not yet been fully explored.

Representatives from WIPO member States, inter-governmental organizations, and

NGOs, as well as members of the public listened to six experts from Costa Rica, Kenya, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States present papers on topics ranging from Intellectual Property and the Right to Health, to Intellectual Property, Nationality and Non-Discrimination.

The papers presented in this landmark event will be published

WIPO design seminar meets with success

Over 100 participants from 16 countries made the trip to Geneva at the beginning of December to attend a one-day seminar devoted to the subject of the international protection of design.

Seven well-focused and informative papers were presented during the seminar by a team of experts that included Mr. Jean-Daniel Pasche, director of the Federation of the Swiss Watchmaking Industry (Fédération de l'industrie horlogère suisse) and Mr. Geoffrey Adams, design protection adviser to the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design.

The seminar began with presentations outlining the importance of design protection and of choosing the appropriate type of protection. The origins, basic principles and advantages of the Hague system for the international deposit of industrial designs were presented and discussed, followed by an examination of international deposit requirements and the presentation of a practical case – the examination by the International Bureau of an irregular application, and its regularization. The seminar was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The seminar was attended by representatives from Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as Switzerland.

Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal



The seminar examined all aspects of design protection as well as the importance and practicalities of international deposit

Global intellectual property issues

Photo: Richard Owens



Wild rice bed harvested by the Lakota tribe at Leech Lake, Minnesota

Mission examines traditional knowledge, innovation and culture in North America

The problems encountered by the indigenous peoples and other holders of traditional knowledge in North America in protecting their traditional knowledge, innovation and culture was the focus of a WIPO fact-finding mission to the region in November 1998.

The WIPO team began its work in the United States, specifically Minnesota, where it had discussions on intellectual property

aspects of traditional medicine and repatriation of cultural heritage in meetings organized by the North American Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Project.

The mission then visited the Wild Rice Project at Leech Lake, where it had discussions with members of the Lakota tribe who farm and harvest a particular variety of wild rice. The tribe wishes to continue to cultivate the rice (which they now successfully commercialize) according to traditional methods.

The members of the mission discussed possible trademark or geographical indication protection with members of the tribe, in the context of their concerns regarding retaining the integrity of the rice variety and the tribe's exploitation of it.

The members of the WIPO team then attended the Sixth Annual Region 9 Tribal Environmental Protection Agency Conference in San Francisco – where they had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the National Tribal Environmental Council, a group that is one of the most representative of the tribal groups in the western United States. In Seattle, discussions were held with members of the Tulalip tribe,



Inuit artist with soapstone (left) and whale-bone (right) carvings

Photo: Shakeel Bhatti

mainly fishermen, from the Puget Sound area.

The second week of the mission was spent in Canada, beginning in Vancouver, where the team held two roundtable discussions at the University of British Columbia on intellectual property, traditional knowledge and biodiversity. Aboriginal culture was the subject of discussions at the British Columbia Museum of Anthropology, which includes artifacts and artwork of the Salish, Nisga'a, and Haida peoples.

At the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, the WIPO team had the opportunity to discuss with the Blood tribe, intellectual property aspects of the repatriation of cultural heritage from museums in North America and other regions. They also learned about informal intellectual property-like regimes that have governed the use of tipi designs within the tribes. Within the customary practices of tribes, there were exclusive rights to the use of such designs, which were transferred and enforced within the tribes.

During their stay in Saskatoon, the members of the mission visited the Wanuskewin Heritage

Park and had discussions with members of the Cree, Dene, Métis, Lakota, and Dakota tribes (the Métis are a recognized Aboriginal group of mixed European and native American descent).

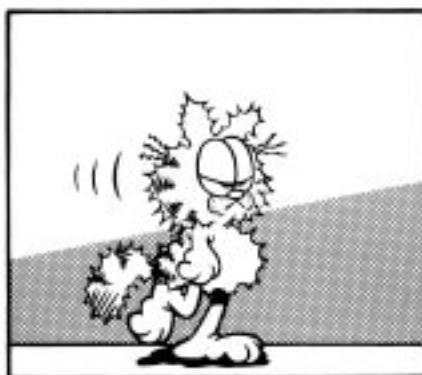
In Ottawa, the WIPO mission participated in a working group on Article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and also met with relevant government officials, including representatives from the Office of the Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Trade; the Intellectual Property Policy Directorate of Industry Canada; the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; and the Native Law Section of Justice Canada, as well as the Council for International Indigenous Affairs and the Arctic Council.

En route to Montreal, where they participated in a roundtable at the Cree Grand Council and met with representatives of the Mohawk nation, the WIPO team visited Baffin Island, where they had discussions with the Inuit on the use of certification marks for Inuit carvings, which are being extensively copied.

Following amendments to the Canadian Constitution in 1982 that sought to protect Canada's Aboriginal peoples – including the First Nations, the Métis and Inuit – there was a resurgence in the expression of indigenous culture and traditions. However, this flowering of interest in tribal traditions and practices, the WIPO team learned, has brought its own problems, such as blurred distinctions between cultures and traditions of individual tribes. Dance competitions between tribes, for example, have resulted in the incorporation in the costume of one tribe of successful or popular elements that are traditionally part of the costume of another tribe – such as bells or fans. In this context, the members of the mission, discussed the usefulness of documentation in preserving authentic and distinct elements of tribal culture and traditions.

The fact-finding mission is one of a series of eight such missions, to different regions of the world, to be completed by mid-1999. The first three – to the South Pacific, eastern and southern Africa, and South Asia were reported in the June, September, and October issues of WIPO Magazine; the others will be featured in future issues.

Garfield



SCCRR considers audiovisual performances, databases and rights of broadcasting organizations

SCCRR by March 1999 for discussion at its second session from May 4 to 11, 1999.

From November 2 to 10 the first session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCRR) took place in Geneva and was attended by some 300 participants from 86 countries and 47 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Discussions concentrated on three key protection issues.

- Audiovisual performances
- Databases
- Rights of broadcasting organizations

Audiovisual performances
Discussions on the protection of audiovisual performances focused on two key areas; the level of protection and the format of the agreement. All of the proposals considered included a high level of minimum rights for audiovisual performances. The two areas identified for further discussion were national treatment and the transfer of rights. These two issues will be discussed at regional consultations to be held on May 3, 1999 and again at the next session of the SCCRR to be held on May 4 to 11, 1999.

With regard to the format issue, whether to include the protection of audiovisual performances in a protocol to the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) or to draw up an independent treaty addressing the needs for audiovisual protection alone, the group decided that a

comparative table of the various proposals would be drawn up to facilitate discussions at the next meeting.

Databases
Discussions included whether any *sui generis* protection should be established in the field of databases, whether different systems of protection are necessary, and the impact that this protection would have on the free access to information. Various concerns were expressed regarding the interests of scientific research and education, the public interest in access to information, the interests of developing countries, and the international advantages of a free and open exchange of meteorological data. The group also discussed an international legal framework for the protection of databases, which would be flexible and could accommodate different systems of protection at a national level.

The Committee agreed that a study of the impact of database protection on developing countries, with special emphasis on the impact on the least developed countries would be carried out. More detailed discussions in the form of seminars and roundtables will be held in April 1999 before the issue is reexamined at the next session of the SCCRR.

Rights of broadcasting organizations
The rights of broadcasting organizations had already been

SCCRR

raised at an international level on several occasions, but discussions revealed that a significant amount of groundwork remained to be done. Regional seminars or roundtables to coincide with those on databases will be organized by WIPO in April 1999 to discuss the issues in more detail. Participants' proposals on the form of protection to be offered to broadcasting organizations would then be submitted to the

What is WIPONET?

WIPONET will provide electronic connectivity between intellectual property offices worldwide and facilitate the rapid exchange of data between these offices. The pilot phase of this project will be completed in the second half of 1999. Full deployment of the system is expected in the next 2 or 3 years.

Member States will be able to exchange intellectual property information in a cost-effective, highly secure environment. It is designed to provide a platform on which WIPO and its member States may build and run current and future processes and applications. It also serves as an important vehicle for the dissemination of published intellectual property information to communities such as the public, universities, research and development institutions and copyright users. Wherever possible, WIPONET will use standard Internet protocols, services, and industry standards.

SCIT reviews progress on the WIPONET

Three working groups of the WIPO Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) met in Geneva from November 16 to 20. The working groups considered a number of priority matters relating to the development of the WIPO's Global Information Network (WIPONET). The WIPONET project was launched by WIPO's member States in March 1998, with a two-year budget of some 22 million Swiss francs.

The three working groups were set up when the SCIT met for the first time in June 1998 and cover three clearly defined areas: Information Infrastructure, Information Security, and Standards and Documentation.

The Information Infrastructure Working Group:

The Information Infrastructure Working Group reviewed the status of the tendering process for the WIPONET project and the Secretariat's progress in establishing a list of technical specifications necessary to establish what sort of network services to provide to intellectual property offices worldwide. At present a variety of automation and access arrangements exist within the intellectual property offices of member States. Given the variety of these arrangements, it was decided that the WIPONET would provide a base level capability for all offices. The Secretariat will also undertake a series of regional WIPONET outreach sessions.

The Information Security Working Group

Information security issues relating to the exchange of unpublished, confidential, information using WIPONET, such as priority documents and electronic filing systems are of primary importance in the development of the Global Information Network. The Working Group considered various technical issues relating to information security including encryption, digital envelopes and digital signatures. It further considered a proposal for a pilot project to exchange secure,

authenticated requests for priority documents through the network. Intellectual property offices which, at the request of applicants, transmit a copy of the priority document to other offices issue priority documents (a copy of the first filed national applications on the basis of which the priority is claimed). The priority document is important for determining the deadline for subsequent applications to be filed in other countries. This pilot project will enable the exchange of secure, authenticated messages (using digital certificates and digital signatures) which request or acknowledge requests for priority document exchange. The secure electronic exchange of priority documents promises to significantly reduce the cost and resources consumed by the process of producing, transmitting and receiving copies of such documents in paper form.

The Standards and Documentation Working Group

The Standards and Documentation Working Group considered progress made in relation to the development of services offered by the WIPO Intellectual Property Digital Libraries (IPDL) project. WIPO's prototype IPDL provided access to selected international applications published under the PCT. In its second phase, the WIPO IPDL will provide access to two major sources of international data in the area of patents and trademarks. Using a common search interface, the IPDL will provide extensive search capability, multiple user selectable output presentation formats and display options, multilingual support and search query history facilities.

The content of the WIPO IPDL databases will be further developed to include the full text of international applications filed under the PCT and the intellectual property collections hosted on behalf of member States participating in the WIPO IPDL project.

With a view to promoting the widespread development and use of IPDLs at the national level, the Working Group considered a proposal to conduct a series of pilot projects to determine the applicability of various technical approaches. This exercise will be supported by the Secretariat which may provide assistance in the form of technical advice and financial support.

The Working Groups plan to hold two more sessions this year and noted June 7-11, 1999 and the second two weeks of October 1999 as possible dates.

SCIT

■ management of IP rights.

SCP – aiming at a patent law treaty for the millennium

The new Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) met from November 16 to 20, for the second time since its creation in March 1998.

Representatives from some 82 member States, 5 governmental organizations, and 26 NGOs participated in a discussion that focused, on the draft Patent Law Treaty that WIPO hopes will be ready for adoption at a Diplomatic Conference to be held in May 2000.

The proposed Treaty is designed to streamline the requirements set out by patent offices for the filing of patent applications. These requirements concern such issues as obtaining a filing date,

extending time limits, and restoring rights and priority claims.

To keep the draft Treaty as simple as possible and avoid creating different international standards regarding patent formalities, its provisions refer to those of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and its Regulations. During the meeting the SCP agreed that the International Bureau should conduct a comprehensive study regarding the interface between the PCT and the draft Patent Law Treaty.

A presentation was made to the Committee of the SCP Electronic Forum that was set up in July 1998 to accelerate its work through the electronic distribution and discussion of provisional documents.

The SCP agreed it would hold its next meeting in April 1999 and, in addition to continuing its work on the draft Treaty, it will consider the issue of fee reductions for applicants from developing countries.

SCP

Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal



Participants from some of the 82 member States represented at the SCP prepare for the start of one of the Committee sessions

Premises

International architectural competition to extend WIPO's headquarters launched

In early November, WIPO launched an international competition to extend its administrative headquarters in Geneva. The project, with a budget of 82.5 million Swiss francs, is expected to be completed by the end of 2002. The winning design must include:

- an office building providing at least 500 workplaces, several small meeting rooms, an underground car park for about 300 vehicles, a 300-seat

cafeteria, service areas and a link to the main WIPO building;

- a conference room offering about 600 seats for delegates and equipped with six-language interpretation facilities and appropriate computer and audiovisual equipment; this room should be located in immediate proximity to the WIPO conference and meeting facilities;
- enlargement and restructuring of the lower floors of the main WIPO building, notably to provide parking facilities for delegates and visitors, to take place in conjunction with the office building and conference room projects.

Requests to enter the competition must arrive no later than February

Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal



WIPO headquarters, Geneva with the new plot on which the new office building will be built in the foreground.

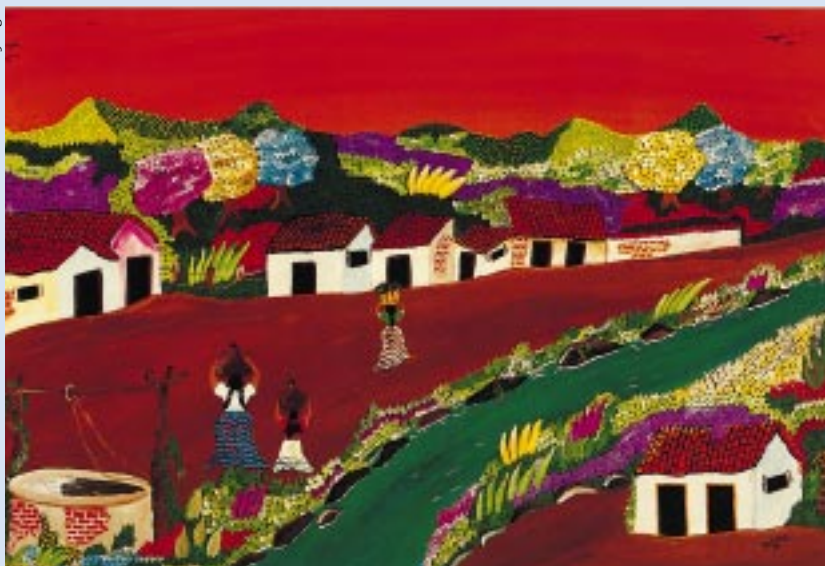
26, 1999 and may be sent by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to:

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
for the attention of
Mr. Francis Gurry
Legal Counsel
ARCHITECTURAL
COMPETITION
34, chemin des Colombettes

Exhibitions

From 24 November to 4 December 1998 an exhibition epitomising Carlos Mayorga's joyous use of colour and composition to capture the luxurious vegetation and rampant wildlife of many secret locations in Latin America took place at WIPO.

Carlos Mayorga



Ometepe

Calendar of meetings

- 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.
- March 15 to 17 (Geneva)** **Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (Second Session, First Part)**
The Committee will continue its work based upon the results achieved at its first session with regard to draft provisions on well-known marks.
Invitations: As members, the States members of WIPO and other delegations that the Committee has admitted as members; as observers, other States and certain organizations.
- April 26 to 28 (Geneva)** **Program and Budget Committee**
This Committee integrates the former Budget and Premises Committees. At its first session, it will consider the draft program and budget for the 2000-2001 biennium and related matters.
Invitations: As members, the States members of the former Budget and Premises Committees as at the time of their integration into the WIPO Program and Budget Committee, in September 1998; as observers, States members of WIPO and not members of the former Budget and Premises Committees of WIPO.
- May 4 to 11 (Geneva)** **Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights**
The Committee will continue its work concerning the preparation of a protocol or a separate treaty on audiovisual performances, concerning the issue of harmonization of the protection of databases, and concerning the preparation of a treaty on the protection of the rights of broadcasting organizations.
Invitations: As members, the States members of WIPO, and the European Community; as observers, other States and certain organizations.
- May 31 to June 1 (Geneva)** **Permanent Committee on Intellectual Property Development (PCIPD) (First Session)**
The Committee, as a result of the merger of the former Permanent Committee for Development Cooperation Related to Industrial Property (PC/IP) and Permanent Committee for Development Cooperation Related to Copyright and Neighboring Rights (PC/CR), will review and evaluate the activities carried out within the framework of the WIPO program for

cooperation for development, under the current Program and Budget, and make recommendations on the future orientation of the said program.

Invitations: As members, States members of the Committee; as observers, other States members of WIPO, State members of the Paris Union and/or Berne Union not State members of the Committee, and certain organizations.

June 16 to July 6 (Geneva)

Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a New Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs

The Diplomatic Conference is expected to adopt a new Act of the Hague Agreement as well as Regulations thereunder.

Invitations: As ordinary members, the States members of WIPO; as special members, the African Intellectual Property Organization; the African Regional Industrial Property Organization and the European Community; and, as observers, the States members of the United Nations but not of WIPO as well as certain intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

**September 14 to 16
(CICG, 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 November and December 1998:

PCT Treaty and Regulations (as in force from July 1, 1998) No. 275(G), 18 Swiss francs.

International Classification for Industrial Designs - 7th Edition
Classification internationale pour les dessins et modèles industriels - 7ème édition (English, French) No. 501 (E/F), 100 Swiss francs.

Guide to the International Deposit of Industrial Designs - 1998 Edition
Guide pour le dépôt international des dessins et modèles industriels - Edition 1998 (English, French) No. 623 (E/F), 35 Swiss francs.

Ces femmes qui inventent (French) No. 864, free.

Video - Protecting your Trademark Abroad (English) No. V428, 20 Swiss francs.

441(A) Annual Report 1997, free

WIPO publications may be obtained from the Information Products Section:

WIPO

34, chemin des Colombettes
P.O. 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, F for French, G for German), 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.

