

Contents

**Director General presents draft program and budget
for 2000-2001 to member states** 2

**Significant moves toward consensus at the final meeting of
Panel of Experts for the Internet Domain Name Process** 3

Visits

Director General pledges continued support during constructive visit to Slovakia 4

DG's visit strengthens ties with Japanese trade and intellectual property specialists 5

Cooperation for development

WIPO and Ecuador outline projects in MOU 6

First WIPO post-graduate course is held in Venezuela 7

WIPO supports the teaching of intellectual property law in Russian 8

WIPO holds regional seminar on information technology in Beijing 9

WIPO organizes its first regional meeting of directors of copyright offices 10

Ibero-American directors of Industrial Property offices exchange national experiences 10

WIPO focuses on enforcement in Chile 11

Copyright

WIPO and US Copyright Office co-sponsor worldwide seminar on copyright and related rights in Washington 12

Global Registration Systems

The Turkish Patent Institute prepares for implementation of the Madrid System 13

The Austrian Patent Office finalizes preparation for the entry into force of the Madrid Protocol 13

SCT makes progress toward strengthening international protection for well-known marks 14

Innovation promotion

WIPO Gold Medals 15

Exhibitions

Los Amantes de Sumpa 16

Commemorating the 55th Session of the Commission on Human Rights 16

WIPO examiners preview stars of the Geneva Motor Show 17

Calendar of meetings 18

Two new Assistant Directors General appointed 20

Products

PCT Wheel 20

Director General presents draft program and budget for 2000-2001 to member states



WIPO Director General Kamil Idris presented the Organization's draft program and budget for 2000-2001 to member states on March 26, describing it as a "do more with less" approach.

The draft, which he referred to as a "global intellectual property development strategy", was finalized after two rounds of informal consultations with member states in January and March 1999. The proposal will be formally presented to the member states at the April meeting of the Program and Budget Committee, which will make recommendations to the WIPO Assembly. The program and budget will be formally adopted by the Assembly in September.

The program's introduction states that the secretariat will continue to build on achievements made in the last biennium that were aimed at modernizing WIPO and equipping the Organization with a strategic planning outlook and a broad-based policy development mechanism. Efforts towards increased transparency, accountability and efficient management will be pursued.

The draft program and budget for 2000-2001 seeks to ensure that WIPO remains on track to be a modern, forward-looking organization that is efficient, transparent and

accountable to its member states and the private sector which it services. Emphasis will continue to be placed on modernizing and strengthening the global intellectual property system, streamlining international cooperation in the field of intellectual property, increasing participation of civil society in further developing the intellectual property system, and technical cooperation programs for developing countries and countries in transition.

The Director General underlined that in the next millennium, economic growth and intellectual property will go hand in hand. "The next century, according to our vision of this Organization, will be the century of the mind and the century of the digital economy in which intellectual property will be a driving force."

Dr. Idris said "If this assumption is correct, then WIPO should be empowered with the capacity and ability to convert this knowledge into innovation and convert innovation into wealth and social good." He emphasized that to succeed in the next century, WIPO "must

unleash its great potential and the complementarities and synergies within this Organization."

In addition to building on achievements made over the past two years, activities in 2000-2001 will focus on training staff, obtaining the necessary premises, facilities and equipment as well as exploring new global intellectual property issues. Proposals are also made to continue to improve and enhance the impact on the market sector of the three chief WIPO activities: progressive development of international intellectual property law, global protection systems and cooperation for development. WIPO will continue to work with developing countries to further enhance the capacity of national intellectual property system and promote international and regional cooperation.

The draft proposes a budget of 409.7 million Swiss Francs (CHF) for the 2000-2001 biennium, representing an increase of 8.1 percent over the 1998-1999 biennium (378.9 million CHF). Projected income for the same time period is 409.8 million

The *WIPO Magazine* is published monthly by the Office of Global Communications and Public Diplomacy, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It is not an official record and the views expressed in individual articles are not necessarily those of WIPO.

The *WIPO Magazine* is distributed free of charge.

If you are interested in receiving copies, contact:

The Publications Officer
WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
P.O. Box 18
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
phone: 41 22 338 91 11
fax: 41 22 733 54 28
e-mail: wipo.mail@wipo.int

For comments or questions, contact:

The Editor
WIPO Magazine
(at the above address)

Copyright ©1999 World Intellectual Property Organization
All rights reserved. Articles contained herein may be reproduced for educational purposes. No part may, however, be reproduced for commercial purposes without the express written consent of the Office of Global Communications and Public Diplomacy, World Intellectual Property Organization, P.O. Box 18, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

CHF as compared to 391.8 million CHF in the previous biennium. The surplus in the 2000-2001 biennium is therefore expected to be negligible.

Another feature of the 2000-2001 draft program and budget is a reduction in the contributions by member states of 10 percent below the 1999 level, which is in itself 10 percent below the 1998 level. Unlike other specialized agencies of the United Nations, WIPO is mostly self-financed, generating its income from services it renders to the private sector. In presenting the draft program to member states the Director General said "We are not proposing any increase in the contributions of member states; on the contrary, we are proposing just the opposite." Dr. Idris noted that "Contributions for the 2000-2001 biennium would therefore be some 15 per cent below the average level for the 1998-1999 biennium."

The draft also contains a proposal to once again lower the fees of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) by an average of 13 percent effective January 1, 2000. If approved by the member states, the cumulative effect of this measure (including two earlier PCT fee reductions in 1998 and 1999) would mean a 29.2 per cent reduction in the income of the PCT.

Dr. Idris said that while there is a proposed 8.1 percent program increase as compared to the previous biennium, the 10 percent reduction in contributions by member states and the 13 per cent proposed cut in PCT fees, "this is in actuality a below zero growth budget if we really consider all those elements in a broader scope." Dr. Idris added this is what he meant by a 'do more with less' approach.

The draft program and budget document is available on the Internet at <http://www.wipo.int>.

Significant moves toward consensus at the final meeting of Panel of Experts for the Internet Domain Name Process



Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal

Experts meet for the final time for the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process

The Panel of Experts, convened for the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process, met for the third and final time on March 25-26, 1999 to consider, inter alia, the final text for the Report of the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process. The meeting succeeded in making significant progress toward consensus on the Reports' final recommendations.

The experts met with Mr. Gurry (Assistant Director General and Legal Counsel) and the WIPO Electronic Commerce Section, to examine the comments received following the final stage of the Process, and to discuss the recommendations contained in WIPO's Interim Report, which was published on December 23, 1999. The meeting was full and productive, with significant movement toward consensus amongst the experts on the recommendations, which focus, in particular, on:

- best practices for domain name registration authorities, including the appropriate collection and availability of domain name applicants' contact details;

- a mandatory administrative dispute resolution system for conflicts involving abusive registration of domain names;
- whether an exclusion system should be established in new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) to protect globally famous and well-known marks; and
- the impact upon intellectual property rights of the introduction of new gTLDs.

The experts, who represent broad geographic and sectoral interests, bring to the Process their considerable expertise in trademark law, Internet technologies, administration of the Internet domain name system and public interest concerns. (Further details of the fifteen panel experts can be found at <http://wipo2.wipo.int>).

The Report of the WIPO Internet Domain Name Process is due to be published, and will be available on the web site, at the end of April, 1999. It will be presented to member states at the General Assembly in September.

Visits

Director General pledges continued support during constructive visit to Slovakia

The Director General wrapped up a two-day official visit to the Republic of Slovakia from March 9 to 10, 1999, with a pledge to continue to support the Government in strengthening and enhancing its intellectual property infrastructure.

He described his talks with top-ranking Slovak officials as “constructive, useful, and effective.” He rated the trip as a “success” noting that WIPO will continue to provide the necessary technical and legal assistance to Slovakia in the field of intellectual property.

During his talks, the Director General pointed out the changing nature of the world economy and how intellectual property will be a key component of the knowledge-based economies of the new millennium. He urged the government of Slovakia to speed up the process of ratifying two key treaties – the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), which Slovakia

has signed. Dr. Idris received positive indications from the Deputy Prime Minister for Legislation, Mr. Lubomír Fogas, that Slovakia would consider ratification of these two treaties that provide new standards of protection for the digital environment. They also discussed technical and legal assistance from WIPO with respect to implementation of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS) by Slovakia.

During his visit, Dr. Idris met with Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Eduard Kukan, Deputy Prime Minister for Legislation, Mr. Lubomír Fogas, Deputy Chairman of the National Council, Mr. B. Bugár, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy, Mr. Martin Hudoba, the President of the Slovak Office for Industrial Property, Mr. J. Králik, and the Chancellor of the University of Matej Bel, Mr. O. Tomecek. Mr. Tomecek presented the Director General with a Medal of Honor reserved for special guests.

Dr. Idris also responded favorably to requests for technical and legal assistance by WIPO to Slovak officials. This was raised at talks with the Foreign Minister, Deputy Chairman of the National Council, and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy.

The Director General also addressed a gathering of businesspeople, industry representatives, lawyers and non-governmental persons. Dr. Idris spoke about current trends in intellectual property and future challenges. He said WIPO will continue to take a leading role in the progressive development of international intellectual property law. Dr. Idris said this will be of utmost importance in light of the changing nature of economies that are becoming knowledge-based. He said the main component of the economy in the digital age of the next century will be intellectual property.

Slovakia is party to 17 conventions administered by WIPO.



Photo: Wang Binyang

The Director General meets with Mr. Eduard Kukan, Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister (second from left)

DG's visit strengthens ties with Japanese trade and intellectual property specialists

Dr. Kamil Idris visited Tokyo on March 15, 1999, where he held intensive and constructive talks that he described as "serious and useful" with high-ranking Japanese officials.

Dr. Idris said the visit to Tokyo was a success and marks a new phase of strengthened relations between WIPO and Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO) in particular.

The Director General met with Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Mr. Kaoru Yosano, Vice-Minister for International Affairs at MITI, Mr. Hisamitsu Arai, and JPO Commissioner Mr. Takeshi Isayama.

The Director General and his Japanese interlocutors discussed several key issues of mutual importance. These included the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the Madrid Protocol, the WIPO Worldwide Academy, development cooperation activities, information technology, and harmonization of industrial property laws.

MITI Minister Kaoru Yosano expressed the firm support of MITI and the JPO for WIPO's current and future activities. He



The Director General meets with Mr. Kaoru Yosano, Vice-Minister for International Affairs

also discussed ways the PCT could be improved to be beneficial to applicants from all member States of the treaty, including developing countries. The Minister evoked the benefits the PCT offers to developing countries, a view shared by the Director General.

Talks also touched on the continuing automation process at WIPO with respect to the processing of PCT applications. Automation efforts by the JPO, which uses advanced electronic filing methods, are pertinent to WIPO where

priority has been given to upgrading and modernizing the system.

Discussions also considered relations between WIPO and Japan. Japan is an active participant in the work of WIPO. For the past 12 years, Japan has been contributing funds to WIPO to finance technical cooperation activities in Asia. Last year, the contribution amounted to some 1 million Swiss Francs. WIPO is grateful for this support and looks forward to continued backing from Japan for its technical cooperation activities.

Cooperation for development

WIPO and Ecuador outline projects in MOU

Photo: Mercedes Martínez Dozal



The Director General accepts Ecuador's instrument of accession to the Paris Convention from the Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. José Ayala Lasso

The Director General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, H.E. Mr. José Ayala Lasso signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on March 22, outlining technical cooperation in the fields of copyright and industrial property.

The Ecuadorian Institute of Intellectual Property
The Memorandum of Understanding, signed in the context of WIPO's cooperation for development program, will support the development of effective national intellectual property systems. Under the terms of the agreement, WIPO will support the recently established Ecuadorian Institute of Intellectual Property (IEPI) in developing a strong, modern and fully operational intellectual property infrastructure in Ecuador. The IEPI, established in 1998, is the official body in

Ecuador responsible for industrial property, copyright and plant variety rights issues. All of these projects will be undertaken in the 2000-2001 biennium.

Mr. Ayala Lasso expressed his country's gratitude to WIPO and the Director General for their support in his country's efforts to develop a progressive intellectual property infrastructure. He said he looked forward to WIPO's assistance in ensuring the success of the Institute.

The Institute seeks to develop Ecuador's economic and human resource potential to secure economic, social and cultural benefits. Dr. Idris congratulated Ecuador "on pursuing the improvement of the country's intellectual property system with admirable imagination and dynamism".

The Paris Convention

The Paris Convention was the first major international treaty to address the need to protect industrial property rights. It lays down basic international principles primarily governing the protection of patents, trademarks and industrial designs.

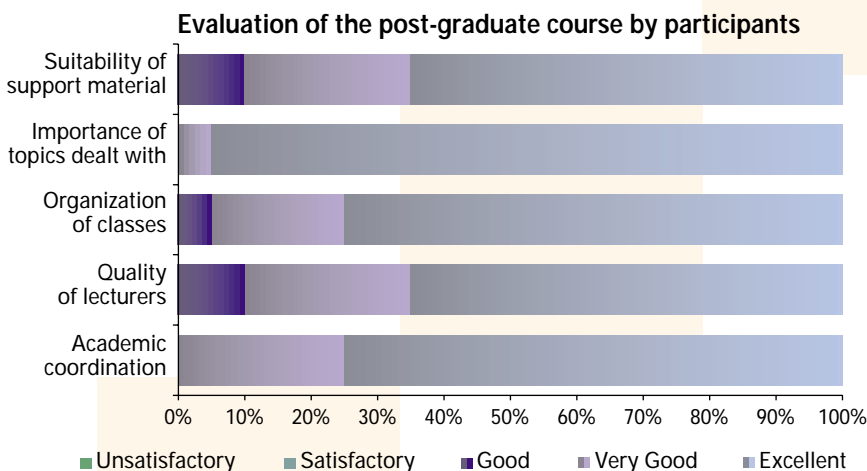
The Paris Convention

The Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. José Ayala Lasso, also deposited Ecuador's instrument of accession to the Paris Convention on Industrial Property on March 22. With this accession, all countries in the Latin American region are now party to the Paris Convention. Ecuador's accession will benefit the country's technological and economic development and enhance the international intellectual property cooperation that WIPO actively promotes.

First WIPO post-graduate course is held in Venezuela

In March, at the University of Los Andes, Mérida, Venezuela, WIPO, in cooperation with the Government of Venezuela, CER-LALC (Regional Center for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean), IIDA (Inter-American Copyright Institute), and SIECA (Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration) organized its first post-graduate course on copyright and neighboring rights for intellectual property professors from Latin America.

The objective of this intensive one-month course was to furnish intellectual property specialists with the necessary information and materials on copyright and neighboring rights so that on their return to their colleges they were equipped with up-to-date knowledge to effectively teach their students this subject. This joint initiative with regional organizations to formally teach copyright and neighboring rights aimed to target



key persons and develop skills that would then be spread throughout the region. Preliminary assessments carried out at the end of the course indicate that in this respect the project was most successful.

The University and participating students requested that WIPO hold a similar course next year. In the meantime, WIPO will continue to work with the University of Los Andes to develop copyright teaching modules. As a mark of thanks for its work, the University awarded

WIPO an honorary medal commemorating its 1785-1985 bicentenary. This was accepted, on behalf of the Director General, by the Deputy Director General Mr. Roberto Castelo.

Students came from: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The University of Los Andes

Situated high in the Andes, the City of Mérida is proud of its University and its massive student population. Some 10% of its population of 400,000 are students. The University has a very high percentage of post-graduates, some 5,000 of which 200 study intellectual property. It is hoped that this latter figure will increase with the concerted effort by both the University and WIPO to provide additional intellectual property modules.



WIPO Deputy Director Mr. Roberto Castelo accepts an honorary medal awarded by the University of Los Andes

WIPO supports the teaching of intellectual property law in Russian

From March 29-31, 1999, WIPO, with the cooperation of the Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks (Rospatent) and the Law Council, Teaching and Methodical Association of the University of Russia (TMAU) held a regional seminar on the teaching of intellectual property law for some 80 participants from countries of the CIS and the Russian Federation.

The seminar was opened by Mr. Alexandre Korchaguin, Director General of Rospatent and Professor Yevgeny Sukhanov, Chairman of the Law Council, TMAU and Dean Faculty of Law, Moscow State University.

Presentations were given by invited speakers from Belgium, Russian Federation, United States of America, the Eurasian Patent Office and WIPO. Each presentation was followed by active question and answer sessions as well as general discussions. On the second day of the seminar, ten of the participants made presentations.

The seminar concluded that:

- intellectual property law should be included either as a specialized course or as part of the civil law course in all law faculties and some other insti-

Photo: Corbis/Charles O'Rear



tutions. Views varied on whether it should be a post-graduate course or form part of the basic syllabus.

- While many institutions already included intellectual property on the basic syllabus, often as a 32-hour course, there were no standard requirements issued by the Ministry of Education, and therefore the status of the course was uncertain.
- Several participants noted a lack of specialized Russian literature for teachers and students.

Participants at the seminar greatly appreciated the provision of a number of publications, most notably "Introduction to Intellectual Property" in Russian. There were also requests from the Ukraine, Georgia and the Russian Federation to hold similar seminars in these countries.

Participants to the Seminar came from : Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

WIPO holds regional seminar on information technology issues in Beijing

In cooperation with the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO) and with the assistance of the Japanese Patent Office (JPO), WIPO organized an Asian Regional Symposium on Intellectual Property and Information Technology in Beijing from March 23 to 25.

Participants in the symposium – some 75 individuals from a host of countries in the region, including speakers from Asia, the Pacific, Europe, and North America – discussed the policy and practical considerations of using information technology in establishing databases, network connectivity, and supporting the modernization of intellectual property systems. They also explored means of exchanging intellectual property information electronically between governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the use of the Global Intellectual Property Information Network (WIPOnet).

Much of the discussion revolved around identifying the technical assistance needs of developing countries, as well as areas of cooperation between those countries and developed countries.

Several key points emerged from the discussions, including:

- The increasing need for means of electronic filing of intellectual property registrations via the Internet, including relevant software applications
- The need to further improve public telecommunications infrastructures in developing countries to facilitate electronic exchange of intellectual property information
- The need for operational support for parties participating in the WIPOnet project
- The need for training in office automation to facilitate the move from paper to electronic records

Participants also discussed the necessary revision of existing laws for the introduction of electronic commerce, as well as means of avoiding conflicts between e-commerce legislation and existing intellectual property administrative procedures.

Those participating in the symposium came from the following countries: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.



Participants at the seminar gathered in the magnificent entrance hall of the new Chinese Intellectual Property Training Center

WIPO organizes its first regional meeting of directors of copyright offices

From March 1 to 2, WIPO held a meeting of Directors of Copyright Offices in Latin America Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. While similar meetings have been regularly organized in the region for directors of industrial property offices, this was the first time that directors of copyright offices were given an opportunity to exchange information on a regional level. The meeting was chaired by Mr Fernando Zapata, Director

General of the Copyright Office of Colombia.

The meeting was attended by the directors of 16 Latin American countries, each of which made a presentation of the copyright situation in their respective countries. The meeting also addressed the WIPO cooperation for development program for Latin American countries and future activities to be undertaken in the region.



Participants from both regional meetings of directors of copyright offices

Participants came from: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Ibero-American directors of copyright offices exchange national experiences

On March 3 and 4, 1999, WIPO together with the Copyright Office in Santafe de Bogotá organized a Meeting of Directors of Copyright Offices of Ibero-America in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. This meeting took place immediately after the above-mentioned meetings of the Latin American Directors of Copyright. The same Latin American officials were joined in the Ibero-American meeting by their counterparts from Spain and Portugal.

The meeting that was opened by the Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs, Mr. Jorge Mario Eastman and attended by 18 directors.

Discussions focused on the following topics:

- status of accessions to the WCT and WPPT as well as progress on an international instrument for the protection of audiovisual performances

WIPO focuses on enforcement in Chile

- collective management of copyright in Ibero-America
- anti-piracy campaigns
- automation of copyright offices
- promoting copyright protection in Ibero-America
- teaching of copyright at the university level.

The second day of the seminar included a presentation by the Regional Center for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC).

The Meeting provided an excellent forum for exchanging national experiences in the field of copyright protection and many participants left with concrete plans for improvements in their national administration systems.



WIPO focuses on enforcement in Chile

In March, WIPO organized two seminars on the enforcement of intellectual property rights in Chile with the cooperation of the Department of Industrial Property, Ministry of Economics.

The first took place in Santiago with the additional assistance of "Carabineros" (the Police Force) on March 8, 1999 and was attended by some 100 participants.

The second took place in Valparaiso. It was organized with the cooperation of the national customs authorities and was attended by some 50 customs officials. Both events provided information on:

- the legal framework of intellectual property, including national legislation and the TRIPS Agreement
- details on enforcement procedures.

They were good occasions to acquaint government officials not normally aware of intellectual property matters with these subjects. The two events were part of WIPO's active program of assistance to developing countries in enhancing their intellectual property enforcement capacities.

Copyright

WIPO and U.S. Copyright Office co-sponsor worldwide seminar on copyright and related rights in Washington

In conjunction with the International Copyright Institute (ICI) of the United States Copyright Office, the WIPO Worldwide Academy sponsored a seminar on copyright and related rights in Washington, D.C., from March 17 to 24.

The international seminar drew some 16 participants from as many countries (see box) for an exhaustive six-day program of presentations on copyright and related rights from U.S. government officials, representatives from the private sector, and WIPO staff members.

As part of the seminar the participants, representing national intellectual property offices and the judiciary in their respective countries, enjoyed tours of the Library of Congress, the U.S. Copyright Office, and the National Digital Library. The latter is a project of the Library of Congress to transfer large parts of its collection into electronic form as a means of both document preservation and more efficient access for scholars. During the seminar sessions, WIPO officials gave presentations on treaties in copyright and related rights as well as on WIPO's Cooperation for Development Program. Speakers from the U.S. Copyright Office presented introductions to the U.S. copyright system, and a representative from the Office of the U.S. Trade



Participants at the worldwide seminar in Washington D.C.

Representative discussed the international trade aspects of copyright.

The questions of technology and enforcement were of key interest throughout the program. Presentations were given on copyright and related rights in the information society, protection of computer programs and databases, as well as new issues – arising as a result of the rapid development of new Internet technologies – concerning the protection of audiovisual and printed works.

U.S. law enforcement officials from the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Customs Service spoke on new challenges involved in the enforcement of copyright and related rights protection, as well as legal issues involved in

prosecution of intellectual property-related crimes.

Of particular interest to participants were a series of working lunches and dinners sponsored by various business groups and non-governmental organizations that provided an opportunity for relaxed discussion among experts in their fields. Such events were hosted by the Recording Industry Association of America, the Business Software Alliance, Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) and the American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers (ASCAP), the International Intellectual Property Alliance and the Motion Picture Association of America.

Global Registration Systems

The Turkish Patent Institute prepares for implementation of the Madrid System

On March 9, a seminar on the Madrid Protocol was organized by WIPO and the Turkish Patent Institute (TPI) in Istanbul in preparation for the future implementation of the Madrid Protocol in Turkey.

The seminar was opened by Mr. Metin Sahin, Minister for Trade, and a keynote address was given by Mr. Ugür Gürsüd Yalçiner, President of the TPI, who then chaired the seminar. Presentations

were also given by Mr. Erdogan Karachmet and Mr. Mustafa Senoglu of the TPI and by Mrs. Marianne Panchaud, Nestlé, Vevey, and Mr. Wolfgang Festl-Wietek, Trademark Attorney, Munich, the latter two explaining the advantages of the system from the point of view of industry and the trademark profession.

Participants comprised around 300 trademark attorneys, lawyers and industrialists. The formal presen-

tations were followed by a lively question and answer session. Many of the questions suggested that the participants already have a good grasp of the fundamentals of the system of international registrations. The Turkish Patent Institute displayed a sound understanding of the Protocol and the Common Regulations, auguring well for the future implementation of the Protocol later this year.

The Austrian Patent Office finalizes preparations for the entry into force of the Madrid Protocol

On April 9, 1999 officials from WIPO and the Austrian Patent Office met to discuss the practical consequences of the entry into force of the Madrid Protocol in respect of Austria on April 13, 1999.

As an introduction to the Protocol, a summary of the main differences between the Agreement and the Protocol was given. This was followed by detailed discussions on:

- the kinds of international applications
- the language regime: the Austrian Patent Office informed WIPO officials that the choice will be given to applicants to file in either English or French - applicants will have the possibility to complete the international application form in German
- the notion of "interested office"
- direct presentation and presentation through an Office of requests of recordal of a change in the International Register and of subsequent designations
- cancellation of the international registration at the request of the Office of origin and transformation of the international registration into national or regional applications.

SCT makes progress toward strengthening international protection for well-known marks

After four years of deliberations, WIPO member States made significant headway in extending the scope of international protection available to owners of well-known trademarks. In its meeting from March 15 to 17, The Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), concluded with an agreement on key issues for a draft resolution on well-known marks.

This draft resolution on the Protection of Well-Known Marks will be submitted for approval to the meeting of the Assemblies of the WIPO member states in September. It is part of an effort by WIPO to complement the more lengthy treaty-based approach to the adoption of internationally

harmonized industrial property principles and rules.

Participants at the meeting finalized five of six articles in the draft resolution. These cover definition of well-known marks, determination of whether it is well known in a particular member State, and the scope of protection of well-known marks. They agreed to defer consideration of the sixth article on conflicts between well-known marks and domain names to their next meeting in June 1999.

The draft resolution builds on the Paris Convention on Industrial Property and the TRIPs Agreement (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property), and establishes specific criteria for the definition of well-known trade-

marks. It also seeks to broaden the scope of international protection of well-known marks by outlining the conditions to determine whether a mark is well-known in a given country. The holder of a well-known mark, according to the draft resolution, is free to use any evidence that may support such a claim. The draft stipulates that a well-known mark shall be protected in a specific country on the ground that it is well known, even if the mark is not registered or used in that country.

The meeting was attended by delegations of 71 member States and the European Communities, two intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and 18 non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

What is SCT?

The SCT was established by WIPO member States in March 1998. In addition to WIPO member States, the Committee is open to selected IGOs and NGOs. It allows member states to set priorities, coordinate and streamline the Organization's on-going work in the progressive development of the international law of trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications.



Reaching agreement on key issues for a draft resolution on well-known works

Innovation Promotion

WIPO Gold Medals

Ten-year-old Erika Ohgaki of Japan received a WIPO Gold Medal for an ingenious robot insect that can move over the surface of water. Mr. Shozo Uemura, WIPO Deputy Director General, handed over the award at the Exhibition of the entries for the 57th Concours of Schoolchildren's Inventions held in Tokyo in March.

Erika's robot is modeled on the water strider, a long-legged insect that can run swiftly on water. A motor and a spring are used to make the robot's legs move energetically, propelling it forward by pushing the water backwards using hinged webs attached to the tips of its legs. By using the force of the motor and a lever, the robot can also expand its wings like a real water strider.

Erika's invention—a robot water strider that can move over the surface of water



A WIPO Gold Medal was awarded to Mr. Reinout Meltzer, who retired this year, after eight years as President of the Dutch Inventors' Association (Nederlandse Orde van Uitvinders - NOVU), in recognition of his

achievements as an inventor, promoter of inventors and innovation, and of his involvement in international cooperation amongst inventors' organizations.



Erika Ohgaki, aged ten winner of a WIPO Gold Medal, together with Mr. Shozo Uemura, Deputy Director General

Exhibitions

Los Amantes de Sumpa

On March 22, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador H.E., Mr. José Ayala Lasso opened the Exhibition “Los Amantes de Sumpa” by the Ecuadorian painter Néelson Román in WIPO headquarters. The artist’s work was inspired by an archeological find of two entwined lovers buried together in a tomb in Ecuador. In his work he used objects that are found naturally in Ecuador including shells, sponges, feathers, corn and terracotta as well as vibrant blues and reds reminiscent of tropical birds of paradise.

The Exhibition is open from 9-5 at WIPO headquarters Geneva, from March 22 to April 2, 1999.



“Los Amantes de Sumpa, el amor desenterrado;” an extract from the exhibition by Nelson Román

Commemorating the 55th Session of the Commission on Human Rights



“Freedom” by Emanuela Lucaci

From March 26 to April 17, WIPO together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights commemorates the 55th Session of the Commission on Human Rights with an exhibition entitled “Freedom” by the Romanian artist Emanuela Lucaci. The exhibition, which includes paintings and artistic installations, is at the Palais Wilson in Geneva, which houses the Office of the High Commissioner.

WIPO examiners preview stars of the Geneva Motor Show

Many of the stars of the Geneva Motor Show, that took place from March 3-15 1999 had already been previewed by WIPO examiners. These previews took place when the designs of these, the cars of tomorrow, were registered under the Hague Agreement.



Under the Hague System, the ornamental aspects of an article, its shape, colors or overall design may be protected. This protection is entirely independent of any other intellectual property right in the article such as a trademark.



Calendar of meetings

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 (Second Session)

The Committee will continue its work concerning the preparation of a protocol or a separate treaty on audiovisual performances, concerning 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/or of the Berne Union, and the European Community; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

May 31 to June 3 (Geneva)

Permanent Committee on Intellectual Property Cooperation for 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, the States members of WIPO; as observers, certain organizations.

June 7 to 11 (Geneva)

Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (Second Session, Second Part)

The Committee will complete its work with respect to provisions on the protection of well-known marks, and will begin its work with regard to the use of trademarks on the Internet.

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.

June 14 and 15 (Geneva)

Standing Committee on Information Technologies (Third Session)

The Committee will discuss and prepare a draft strategic plan for the twenty-first century with a view to providing overall policy directions to all information technology-related activities within the SCIT.

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.

June 15 (Geneva)

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

The Secretariat of WIPO will give background information on the Diplomatic Conference (see below).

Invitations: All States and organizations invited to the Diplomatic Conference (see below).

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.

July 5 to 7 (Geneva)

Intergovernmental Committee, Rome Convention (convened jointly with ILO and UNESCO)

The Intergovernmental Committee will review the status of the international protection of neighboring rights under the Rome Convention.

Invitations: States members of the Intergovernmental Committee and, as observers, other States members of the United Nations and certain organizations.

August 2 and 3 (Geneva)

Roundtable on Intellectual Property and Indigenous Peoples

To facilitate an exchange of views among policymakers and indigenous people concerning more effective application and possible improvements of the intellectual property system to protect traditional knowledge.

Invitations: Member States of WIPO; international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned; representatives of indigenous groups and local communities and members of the public.

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 of WIPO, other States members of the United Nations, international/regional organizations, 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.

November 8 to 10 (Geneva)

Information Meeting on Biotechnology

To study intellectual property aspects of biotechnology in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the potential role of the industrial property system in facilitating access to and transfer of related technology.

Invitations: Member States of WIPO; international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

November 15 to 19 (Geneva)

Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (Third Session)

The Committee will continue its work based on the results of its second session (May 4 to 11, 1999).

Invitations: As Members, the States members of WIPO and/or of the Berne Union, and the European Community; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

Two new Assistant Directors General appointed

The WIPO Coordination Committee, meeting on 18 and 19 March 1999, endorsed a decision by the Director to appoint two new Assistant Directors General. The Committee agreed to the appointment of Mr. Francis Gurry, a national of Australia, and Mr. Geoffrey Yu, from Singapore, to these key posts.

Mr. Gurry is Legal Counsel at WIPO and Mr. Yu is the Director of the Office of Global Communications and Public Diplomacy. In presenting their nominations to the Committee, the Director General said that both candidates had made valuable contribu-

tions to the Organization and their executive capacities were widely recognized. The Organization now has three Assistant Directors General. The third Assistant Director General is Mr Anthony Keefer, a national of Canada.

The Committee also endorsed proposals by Dr. Idris for five promotions to the level of Director. The promotions include two women, bringing the number of women Directors at WIPO to six. Five women have been promoted to the level of Director since Dr. Idris took over as Director General in November 1997. This is a clear reflection of the Director

General's commitment to gender balance within the Organization. The new Directors are:

Mr. Joachim Muller (Germany) as Financial Controller.

Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama (Nigeria) as Director of the Africa Bureau.

Ms. Dolores Jiménez-Hernández (Mexico) as Director in the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development.

Mr. Vladimir Yossifov (Bulgaria) as Director of the Division for Infrastructure Services and Innovation Promotion.

Ms. Wang Binying (China) as Director in the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development.

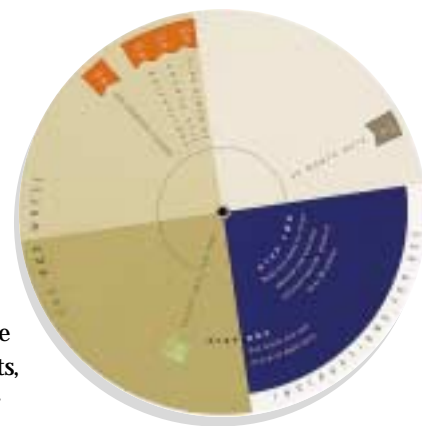
Products

The following new products were issued by WIPO in March 1999

Patent Cooperation Treaty and Regulations Under the PCT
(as in force from January 1, 1999) English No. 274(E), 18 Swiss francs.

General Information Brochure (Japanese) No. 400(J) free

The PCT Wheel was created by patent attorneys from Davies Collison Cave, Melbourne, Australia and enables PCT users to quickly calculate the 18-month due date for international publication, as well as the time limits for submitting priority documents, filing a demand for international preliminary examination, and entering the national or regional phase under PCT Chapters I and II. The PCT Wheel is distributed free of charge by WIPO with the kind permission of its creators. A limited number are still available.



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: publications.mail@wipo.int

Orders should indicate: (a) the number or letter code of the publication desired, the language (E for English, F for French etc.), 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 70, Switzerland.