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## Hague Agreement: diplomatic conference aims at improving international registration of industrial designs

Negotiators from WIPO's member states have converged on Geneva to attend a Diplomatic Conference to consider adoption of a new Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs.

Opening the meeting on June 16, the Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris, expressed confidence that "political goodwill will prevail", allowing consensus on a new multilateral agreement that would improve the existing system for obtaining international registration of industrial designs.

In its current form, the Hague Agreement is under-utilized, despite the fact that the system of international registration it establishes enables designers to obtain protection quickly and inexpensively in several countries through a single procedure, thus affording them the advantages of protection in overseas markets with a minimum of time and expenditure. Without the system, design owners would be required to file separate applications in each country in which they seek protection.

The Conference, which will continue until July 6, not only seeks to

Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal



enlarge the geographical scope of the Hague system by introducing features that will make it more acceptable to countries which have so far remained outside the system\*, but it also foresees the introduction of a number of new features sought by existing users of the system. These would include the possibility of deferring publication of the design, after international application, for up to 30 months, and the ability to file samples, rather than photographs or other graphic reproductions, of the design (features of particular interest to the textile industry).

These innovations and an eventual increase in the number of member countries would ensure that the

Hague system is an even more practical and cost-effective option for actual and potential users. "Such an expansion in the membership of the system would, of course, also increase its attractiveness for the users," Dr. Idris said. He stressed that an improved system for the registration of industrial designs is important not only for large corporations in industrialized countries, but also for small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in developing countries.

One of the main benefits of using the international registration system under the Hague Agreement is that as many as 100 designs can be included in each international application.

\* By and large those countries grant protection to industrial designs only after carrying out an examination to check whether the designs in question fulfill specific conditions such as novelty of design.

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In 1998, WIPO registered about 4,000 international deposits each covering on average 11 countries—the equivalent of about 45,000 national applications. While this figure is 40% higher than that recorded for 1988, it is still small when compared with

- the large number of such designs that are created and used globally
- the number of international registrations of trademarks under

the Madrid System (20,000), and of international patent applications filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) (67,000) – both administered by WIPO – in the same year

Only the following 29 states are currently party to the Hague Agreement: Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Liechtenstein,

Luxembourg, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, and Yugoslavia.

The results of the Hague Conference will appear in the next issue (July/August) of the WIPO Magazine.

## Spotlight on industrial designs

An industrial design is the ornamental aspect of a useful article; it is what makes the article attractive and appealing. It may be, for example, the shape or surface of an article, or its color or pattern.

Industrial designs are applied to a wide variety of industrial and handicraft products, from furniture and many household utensils to medical instruments and electrical goods to watches and textile designs. Designs appeal to the eye and the aesthetic sense of the buyers and therefore promote sales, thus adding to their commercial value.

Some of the advantages of industrial design protection include the following:

- it prevents unauthorized copying or imitation of registered designs, thus helping to ensure a fair return on investment
- it encourages fair competition, leading to the production of more aesthetically attractive and diversified products
- it acts as a spur to a country's economic development by contributing to the expansion of commercial activities and by enhancing the export potential of national products
- as industrial designs can be relatively simple and inexpensive to create, develop and to protect, they are accessible to small and medium-sized enterprises, even to individual artists and craftsmen, in both industrialized and developing countries.

For more information about industrial designs and the Hague Agreement visit the *Hague system* page on WIPO's website (<http://www.wipo.int>).

# WIPO Worldwide Academy

## Academy launches first cyber-learning course

The WIPO Worldwide Academy launched its first distance-learning course over the Internet on June 1. This innovative on-line teaching technique uses virtual means to bring specialized IP teachers closer to students and others interested in IP issues no matter where they live. Using a website designed specially for teaching and training purposes, the method allows anyone seeking more information about intellectual property to follow a range of specially crafted, educational IP programs "at their own pace, in their own space".

*"Distance should no longer be an obstruction to instruction."*

*Dr. Idris*

The six-part **Introduction to Intellectual Property** course covers copyright, related rights, patents, trademarks, geographical indications, and international registration systems. It is currently running first as a pilot project, in English, from June 1 to July 15, with some 100 on-line students—mostly from English-speaking African countries. The course is expected to be available to a worldwide audience in October 1999, in French and Spanish versions as well.

The course is the first of a series of Internet-based programs to be developed by the WWA under its distance learning program, which is geared to making course materials accessible to large audiences worldwide through electronic media. The course, which is a major component of the Academy's activities, is a concrete example of the commitment by WIPO's Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris to create broader awareness of intellectual property, especially in the context of increasingly knowledge-based economies and the strategic importance of intellectual property as a tool for economic,

social and cultural development.

The distance learning initiative takes full advantage of information technology and the Internet, offering new teaching methods, specially designed course materials, evaluation tools, tailored means of delivery, and expanded audiences. Every phase of the learning process has been restructured and modernized. The course, which takes about 40 hours of study time that can be spaced over a period of six weeks, includes self-assessment questions, tests, a glossary with links to the 21 treaties that WIPO administers and other sources of intellectual property information, as well as mechanisms for student-teacher interaction.

Teaching takes place in the virtual environment of the WWA web site (<http://academy.wipo.int>). A network of tutors is being established in various regions of the world to support students during their work. Students and teachers can interact as often as necessary during the course. Communication takes place through electronic mail after the tutor establishes a fixed



day to respond to queries. Replies of general interest are copied to all students. At the end of the program, students receive a certificate acknowledging their completion of the course.

In implementing this program, the WIPO Worldwide Academy is working in partnership with several institutions, including the University of South Africa, the Open University in the United Kingdom, Cornell University in the United States of America, and other leading universities in Asia, Latin America and the Arab countries.

For further information, please contact Mrs. Francesca Toso-Dunant, Head, Distance Learning Program at WIPO:

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# Global registration systems

## Provisional measures to strengthen protection of well-known marks

A set of new measures to improve the scope of protection for well-known marks was proposed by WIPO's Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) at its meeting in Geneva from June 7 to 11.

The new measures are encapsulated in a proposed resolution which will be submitted for formal approval by member states at the WIPO Assemblies meeting in September in Geneva. The text of the resolution can be accessed on the *Pressroom* page (see Update 99/63) of WIPO's website (<http://www.wipo.int>).

The resolution seeks to clarify, consolidate and supplement existing international standards of protection—as required under the WIPO Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)—and to facilitate their application.

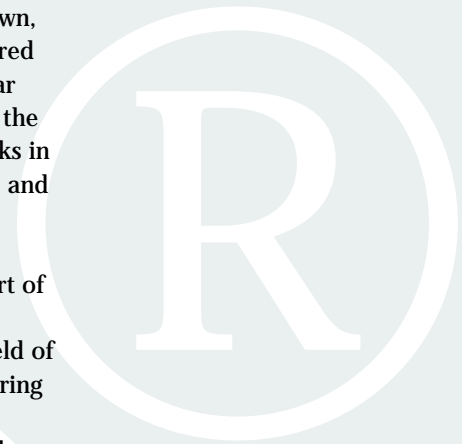
It sets out factors to be considered in determining whether a mark is well-known within a member state. For example, it stipulates that a mark shall be considered well-known if it is recognized in a least “one relevant sector of the public” rather than by the public at large.

The proposed resolution also outlines measures to resolve conflicts between well-known marks and other marks, business identifiers or domain names. The new standards require that a well-known mark be protected in a member state on

the grounds that it is well known, even if the mark is not registered or used in that country. Similar conditions are also set out for the protection of well-known marks in relation to business identifiers and domain names.

The proposed resolution is part of WIPO's policy to adapt to the rapid pace of change in the field of industrial property by considering new options to accelerate the development of international harmonized common principles and rules. This approach is designed to complement the traditional and more lengthy treaty-based approach to international standard-setting. While not legally binding, the resolution—if adopted by the Paris Union and the WIPO General Assembly—will have strong persuasive influence. The adoption of the resolution would not, of course, preclude the provisions from being incorporated into a treaty at a later stage.

The SCT also considered the broader issue of the use of trademarks and signs on the Internet and the possible consequences for international trademark law. The problems associated with the use of trademarks on the Internet stem from the territorial nature of intellectual property rights in contrast to the global, borderless reach of the Internet, on which a single act can have a simultaneous effect in practically all jurisdictions of the world. The question of whether it is necessary to improve existing standards or whether new international private law rules are required to address this problem will be the subject of further discussion by the SCT.





# Cooperation for development

## First meeting of new WIPO committee dedicated to development needs

A substantial, substantive agenda awaited participants attending the first session of the new WIPO Permanent Committee on Cooperation for Development Related to Intellectual Property, held in Geneva from May 31 to June 4.

Representatives of some 82 member states and 18 Inter-Governmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations discussed the broad range of activities undertaken by WIPO in this area, as well as plans for further expansion and development of these activities.

Among the subjects examined by the Committee were:

- recent WIPO activities geared to helping developing countries comply with their obligations under the TRIPS Agreement before the deadline of January 1, 2000
- the work undertaken by the WIPO Worldwide Academy—in particular, the creation of the new electronic distance-learning

module on intellectual property, which was demonstrated during the meeting (see page 4 )

- the establishment of the new Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Unit, which focuses on specific problems encountered by the increasing number of LDCs—a figure that has grown from 41 in 1990 to its current level of 48
- the work of the new Division for Infrastructure Services and Innovation Promotion—in its discussion the Committee stressed the need for concrete examples to be given to developing countries as to how innovation-based policies can stimulate national economies
- the progress of the pilot project designed to link the African Regional Industrial Property Office (ARIPO) and the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) to WIPONET (WIPO's global intellectual property information network) that will eventually

provide an electronic link between the IP communities in all WIPO member states (the pilot project will help WIPO test the functional and technical aspects of the network and gain practical knowledge and experience in realizing it)

- assistance given to developing countries in the field of electronic commerce
- in the copyright area—the work of the new Copyright Collective Management Division and the regional consultations on the protection of databases and rights of broadcasting organizations
- a draft plan of action for public outreach programs designed to help governments promote intellectual property issues and encourage invention and innovation.

The documents related to the above topics can be consulted on the *What's new* page of the WIPO website (<http://www.wipo.int>).



Photo: Antoni Neusser

Participants in the intensive first session of the new Committee



Photo: Antoni Neusser

*Deputy Director General, Mr. Roberto Castelo, (center) chaired the one-day seminar on intellectual property and economic development held in conjunction with the Committee meeting*

## Seminar explores link between IP and economic development

During the meeting of the Permanent Committee, one day was dedicated to a seminar on intellectual property and economic development. Organized by WIPO on June 3, it brought together experts from Brazil, India and Jordan, and from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), who dealt with topics such as:

- the role of intellectual property in promoting enterprise development and competitiveness in developing countries
- the Indian experience regarding intellectual property protection in relation to the development of its software industry
- the opportunities and challenges for developing countries with respect to industrial property and the pharmaceutical industry
- developments in biotechnology and the contribution of intellectual property towards food security, health and the environment
- the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement and the transfer of technology to developing countries.

## Major WIPO symposium on protecting geographical indications scheduled for September

A two-day symposium on enhancing the protection of geographical indications at the national and international level will take place in Cape Province, South Africa on September 1 and 2.

Organized by WIPO in cooperation with the South Africa Patent and Trade Mark Office, the symposium will include presentations by experts from France, South Africa and Switzerland as well as by officials of the Commission of the European Communities.

Registration details can be obtained from Mr. Marcus Hopperger, Head, Geographical Indications and Special Projects Section, Industrial Property Law Division at WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes, P.O. Box 18, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Tel: (41 22) 338 9605 or 8187 Fax: (41 22) 338 8830.

## Japan substantially increases its contribution to WIPO's cooperation for development program

The decision to more than double its annual voluntary contribution to WIPO's cooperation for development program was "a mark of generosity, foresightedness, and concern," on the part of the Government of Japan, said WIPO's Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris, as he welcomed the news of the increase for the period April 1999 to March 2000.

The donation of 230,350,000 Japanese yen (some 2.86 million Swiss francs)—managed by WIPO in the form of Funds-in-Trust—was not only "a sign of Japan's commitment to assisting developing countries strengthen their intellectual property infrastructure" but also "showed the confidence it placed in WIPO," the Director General continued.

The Funds-in-Trust program has grown substantially—both qualitatively and quantitatively—over the 12 years since its inception in 1987, when Japan donated about 320,000 Swiss francs to assist developing countries in the Asia and Pacific region modernize and reinforce their industrial property systems. For the period April 1998 to March 1999, that sum had grown to

- some 1 million Swiss francs to raise awareness of industrial property issues at the regional level among policy-makers and specialists and to promote the modernization of national intellectual property system in the region (including legal-technical advice, practical assistance in the installation and use of computer hardware and

software, professional training and a fellowship program for those involved in industrial property teaching or training activities) and

- some 356,000 Swiss francs for activities to promote economic and cultural development within developing countries of the region through the establishment and enhancement of a national infrastructure for the protection of copyright and related rights.

With the increased donation for the Japanese fiscal year 1999-2000, the Funds-in-Trust program will be further enhanced, particularly in the fields of information technology and the enforcement of intellectual property rights

## Singapore and WIPO sign new MoU on joint training program



Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Singapore and WIPO, concerning a joint training program for developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, was signed on June 18 by the Singapore Permanent Representative in Geneva, Ambassador See Chak Mun and WIPO Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris.

The MoU updates and extends the scope of a previous MoU signed in February 1997. Among the changes are:

Ambassador See Chak Mun and Dr. Idris signing the Memorandum of Understanding



## Guatemala hosts regional seminar on industrial property

A lively seminar, organized by WIPO and the Inter-American Association of Industrial Property (ASIPI), took place in Antigua, Guatemala at the end of April.

Around 130 participants, most of them young lawyers from Latin American countries and the United States of America, attended the event to discuss industrial property rights issues. Seminar topics included an overview of the main aspects of international treaties on industrial property, the protection of well-known marks, enforcement and border measures, legal protection against unfair competition, and a presentation of the report produced in the framework of the WIPO Internet domain name process.

Participants were keen to exchange their own experiences in IP law practice, particularly on

trademark issues, and showed a particular interest in the WIPO Internet domain name process.

Photo: Marcelo Di Pietro Peralta



*A colorful street scene in Antigua, Guatemala*

- the inclusion of copyright, as well as industrial property, so that the program now covers the entire intellectual property field
- the inclusion of current issues and topics, such as IP aspects of electronic commerce; new or emerging global issues; promoting technology transfer and innovation; effective enforcement of IP rights; and implementation issues relating to the TRIPS Agreement

- an increase in the number of participants
- a two-year review process – to assess effectiveness and any need for improvement of the cooperation.

The new MoU is now open-ended and foresees a yearly two-week training program to be held in Singapore for trainers from IP training institutes as well as officials of IP offices and representatives of industrial, commercial and research establishments.

# Arbitration and mediation

## Fifth mediation workshop

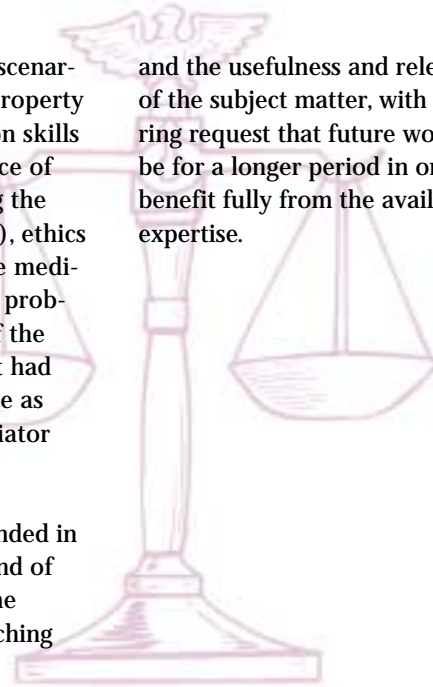
For the first time since its inception in 1995, the WIPO arbitration and mediation workshop for mediators in intellectual property was held outside Geneva. This, the fifth workshop in the series, took place in New York, where 32 participants from 13 countries attended two sessions, each lasting two days, during the week of May 17.

The training in mediation techniques was led by Professors Robert Mnookin (professor of law at Harvard Law School) and Gary Friedman (founder and director of The Center for Mediation in Law in Mill Valley, California).

Participants used two case scenarios, involving intellectual property issues, to practice mediation skills such as looping (the practice of listening to and confirming the information one has heard), ethics in mediation, managing the mediation process, and creative problem-solving. By the end of the workshop, each participant had had an opportunity to serve as both a party to, and a mediator in, each case.

The written evaluations handed in by the participants at the end of the workshop attested to the excellent quality of the teaching

and the usefulness and relevance of the subject matter, with a recurring request that future workshops be for a longer period in order to benefit fully from the available expertise.



## Global intellectual property issues

### Work on traditional knowledge continues in the Arab countries and the Caribbean

An extensive series of fact-finding missions on "traditional knowledge, innovations and culture of indigenous peoples, local communities and other holders of traditional knowledge and culture" that began in June 1998 is nearing completion, with missions to Arab countries (Oman, Qatar, Egypt, and Tunisia in February/March) and the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Jamaica in May/June).

The members of both missions had extensive discussions with government officials as well as visiting a wide range of institutions and individuals either using traditional knowledge, innovation or culture

Photo: Faith Odibo



The members of the WIPO missions had discussions with a wide range of individuals and bodies concerned with traditional knowledge, innovation and culture.

or concerned with their preservation. These included, among others, the following :

in the Arab countries

- the Oman Center of Traditional Music (Ministry of Information), which has documented more than 80% of Oman's musical traditions;
- the Traditional Medicine Clinic in Muscat which conserves and practices traditional Omani medicine and treatments;
- the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Folklore Center in Doha which collects documents and classifies expressions of folklore in GCC member states traditional pottery, architecture, costume and jewelry designs; traditional folk medicines, in particular folk medicine for mother and child illnesses; and folk music and dance;
- the National Art Development Industries of Mashrabeya (NADIM), which fosters young Egyptian artists knowledgeable in Egyptian folklore and traditional arts and crafts.
- The Tunisian Institut National du Patrimoine set up in 1993 to inventory, preserve and promote, the country's heritage in the fields of culture, archeology and history;
- the Center of Arab and Mediterranean Music *Ennejma Ezzahra*, which documents conserves and promotes traditional Tunisian music;

in the Caribbean countries

- the Moruga community in the southern part of Trinidad, who spoke of their wish to preserve the "Patois" language and traditional medicinal remedies;

- members of the Carib community, descendants of one of the "first peoples" who inhabited Trinidad and Tobago;
- the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development, which conserves, manages and sustains the development and use of the resources of the Iwokrama Forest in Guyana;
- the Institute of Jamaica, which establishes and maintains museums and galleries for artifacts and art treasures as well as national flora and fauna collections;
- the Maroons, descendants of a community of African slaves in Jamaica;
- the National Resources Conservation Authority of Jamaica.

Questions that the members of the WIPO teams discussed during the two missions included provisions for the protection of expressions of folklore in national legislation; the documentation and preservation of expressions of folklore; the use of trade secrets to protect traditional knowledge; the need for increased training on the intellectual property aspects of traditional knowledge;



Photo: Wend Wendland

*A Maroon community craftsman with a traditional Gumbay drum*

copyright issues related to broadcasting of performances of folk music and dance; the commercialization of expressions of folklore in general; and the potential use of geographical indications as a form of protection.

Photo: Shakeel Bhatti



*Young Egyptian artisans produce goods in traditional arts and crafts style*

WIPO MAGAZINE



# WIPO explores the means and methods of public outreach programs

As part of an ongoing effort to help create and promote intellectual property outreach programs in developing countries, WIPO on May 20 and 21 gathered together experts from around the world to discuss with the Secretariat effective means and methods of telling the story of intellectual property to the general public and public interest groups.

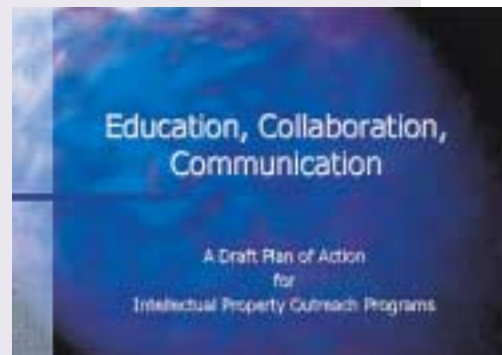
The main objective, was to develop a model public outreach program which could be the basis for demystifying intellectual property in WIPO's developing member countries. This "demystification" of IP—explaining simply and directly the concepts and the significance of intellectual property, without jargon, has been identified by WIPO's Director General Kamil Idris as one of the top priorities and challenges for the Organization, as well as for the intellectual property community. To achieve this, WIPO and national intellectual property offices worldwide must carry out public information and outreach programs that ensure that intellectual property is understood and that its protection and use are in the public interest.

The participants in the meeting considered how the message of intellectual property could best be explained, what the content should be, what form (printed or audiovisual materials, etc.) it should take, the target audiences, the timing and occasions for transmitting messages and the resources required.

Attending the meeting at WIPO headquarters in Geneva were senior officials from France, Kenya, Morocco, Peru and Singapore, the European Patent Office, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), and the International Publishers Association (IPA).

Over the two days of discussions, a firm consensus emerged: boosting public awareness of intellectual property is a priority on both the national and international levels. Participants agreed that only through large-scale campaigns of public awareness—targeting audiences ranging from government ministers to school children—can the wider economic, social, and cultural benefits of intellectual property protection be understood and appreciated.

In this context, it is recalled that both the Policy Advisory Commission and the Industry Advisory Commission when they met at WIPO in January and April, respectively, had identified public information and education as an important pillar of WIPO's work. These two Commissions, composed of eminent political, government and industry leaders, provide advice to WIPO's Director General on the vision, policies and directions of WIPO.



Images Catherine Jewell

# News from National Offices

## Estonian Patent Office celebrates 80th anniversary

A two-day program of celebratory events, including a "Jubilee Conference" took place in Tallinn on 20 and 21 May to mark the 80th anniversary of the Estonian Patent Office.

WIPO's Deputy Director General Mr. Shozo Uemura was among the invited foreign guests, who included heads and other high-level officials of a number of national intellectual property offices.

Mr. Uemura and the Estonian Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Mihkel Pärnoja, gave the opening addresses at the Jubilee Conference, which was attended by some 100 participants. Mr. Matti Pääts, Director General of the Estonian Patent Office, gave a keynote presentation that outlined the history and present situation of the legal protection of industrial property in the country. This was followed by seven short presenta-

tions giving an overview of the history of the Patent Office and of its activities over the last seven years.

## Iran's Industrial Property Information Center flourishes

Inaugurated in December of last year during a visit to the country by WIPO's Director General, Iran's Industrial Property Information Center is developing well. Housed along with the Industrial Property Office in the building of the State Organization for the Registration of Deeds and Properties, the Center in April established Internet connectivity as part of WIPO's modernization project for the country's industrial property office. This project includes an on-going computerization process which will eventually link the Industrial Property Office and the Center to WIPONET (WIPO's global information network which will provide network services, allowing the rapid exchange of data and electronic

filing to intellectual property offices worldwide).



An array of computer equipment in the Information Center provides electronic support for Mr. Abdollah Sultani, Head of the Registration Office for Companies and Industrial Property (right), two staff member of the Center (center), and a computer software expert and WIPO official (left).



## Jury for WIPO international architectural competition holds first meeting

The 18-member multinational jury appointed by the Director General of WIPO, Dr. Kamil Idris, to select the winner or winners of an international architectural competition to extend the Organization's Geneva headquarters, met for the first time on June 7.

Members of the jury will ensure that the selection process is undertaken in an objective and transparent manner, according to pre-defined standards, and will choose the competition winners.

The initial registration procedure for the competition, which began in November 1998, produced a response from some 800 architectural firms from 62 countries across the globe. The jury is expected to announce the winners of the competition in February 2000.

The growing importance and complexity of intellectual property

The jury includes a number of eminent architects from around the world (Czech Republic, France, India, Italy, Morocco, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, Venezuela) as well as senior government officials and legal experts and is supported by a team of technical experts. A full list of the names of the jury members can be obtained through the *Pressroom* page (linked through Press Release No. PR/99/175) of WIPO's website (<http://www.wipo.int>).

issues and the consequent expansion of WIPO's activities has created a pressing practical need for additional premises.

The competition was launched in early November.

It is composed of three independent elements:

- an office building providing 500 workplaces, several meeting rooms, a 300-place underground

car park, a 300-seat cafeteria, and a link to the main building

- a 600-seat, state-of-the-art conference room to be located close to the existing WIPO conference facilities

- additional parking for the main WIPO building.

Building is scheduled to start in May 2000.



Photo: Christian Poite

The site of the new premises (indicated by an arrow), opposite the WIPO headquarters building, which has become a Geneva landmark

## WIPO will "Support Artists and Their Rights" at the Festival de la Bâtie

A major annual Geneva arts festival—the Festival de la Bâtie—is receiving WIPO support this year. Director General Dr. Kamil Idris said he hoped the partnership would signal both the Organization's commitment to promoting and encouraging the contemporary creative arts—and the artists and performers that realize them—as well as the importance the Organization attaches to reinforcing links with the local community.

For the past 20 years, audiences from throughout Switzerland and the surrounding areas of France have attended performances by artists from all over the world in the areas of theater; rock, jazz, and electronic music; contemporary dance; literature; and the visual arts. Last year, a record 65,000 people attended the Festival's varied program.

WIPO's collaboration in this year's Festival, which runs from September 3 to 19, is a way for the Organization to reach out to the general public and deliver a vital message—that respect for the creative works of artists brings to the public at large better music, better art, better films, and better literature—thereby enriching everyone's lives. This is summed up in WIPO's slogan for the Festival: **Support Artists and Their Rights.**

As part of the Festival's program one or two public forums will be organized by WIPO to generate public awareness of issues relating to copyright and the many challenges that have arisen in this area. One of the most critical questions is how to ensure copyright protection in the digital age—for example, with regard to the dissemination of works through the Internet. The WIPO "Internet treaties" (the



WIPO  
Copyright  
Treaty and the  
WIPO

Performances and Phonograms Treaty) set down international norms aimed at preventing unauthorized access to and use of creative works on the Internet and other digital networks. Making the public aware of such problems is a vital step towards finding and implementing lasting solutions.



Photo: Lázló Broger

*Die Regierung – one of the groups performing at this year's Festival*

## Calendar of meetings

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 6 to 17 (Geneva)

**Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (Third Session)**

The Committee will continue its work based upon the results achieved at its second session, with regard to the draft Patent Law Treaty, and other issues.

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.

September 13 (Geneva)

**WIPO Industry Advisory Commission (Second Session)**

The Industry Advisory Commission will meet in its second session to follow up on discussions began at its first session held on February 4 and 5, 1999. This session of the IAC will focus in particular on the intellectual property implications of electronic commerce in light of the WIPO Conference on Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property that begins the following day.

Invitations: Members of the IAC. Eminent representatives of industry groups in the market sector compose the IAC.

September 14 to 16 (CICG\* Geneva)

**Conference on Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property**

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 asso-

ciated with electronic commerce, such as Internet domain names, patents, 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. The Conference will also examine the different levels of awareness and the resulting differential participation in electronic commerce.

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, the States members of WIPO; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

November 8 to 10 (Geneva)

**Working Group on Biotechnology**

To develop an inventory of current issues in the field of biotechnology related to intellectual property to serve as a basis for information exchange and study by WIPO.

Invitations: Experts from various sectors and interest groups relevant to biotechnology.

November 16 to 20 (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.

## Products

The following new products were issued by WIPO:

*Nice, Vienna and Locarno Classifications on CD-ROM in English and French (Locarno 7th Ed.)*  
NIVILO:CLASS, 60 Swiss francs

*WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) (Arabic, Chinese, Russian) No. 226(A, C, R), 10 Swiss francs*

*WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) (Arabic, Chinese, Russian) No. 227(A,C,R), 10 Swiss francs*

*Industrial Designs and The Hague Agreement: An Introduction (English) No. 429(E), Free*

*Les Dessins et Modèles Industriels et l'Arrangement de La Haye: Introduction (French) No. 429(F), Free*

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