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## Patent Law Treaty is Finalized and Diplomatic Conference Closes with Signing



Photo: Mercedes Martinez Dozal

*The Diplomatic Conference gets underway.*

Forty-three countries signed on Friday, June 2 a landmark agreement that will simplify and streamline procedures for obtaining and maintaining a patent. The Patent Law Treaty (PLT) was adopted on June 1 and opened for signature at the end of a three-week Diplomatic Conference held under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The Diplomatic Conference brought together high-level representatives from some 150 states from May 11 to June 2. The Patent Law Treaty is the culmina-

tion of five years of negotiations and is a major step towards further international harmonization of patent law. The PLT promises to reduce the cost of patent protection and to make the process more user-friendly and widely accessible.

WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris welcomed the adoption of the PLT and applauded delegates for the positive spirit of cooperation and compromise that had prevailed during negotiations. "Successful completion of the PLT is a major step in the broader process of reducing patent costs around the world," said Dr. Idris. "The next

step is to work towards harmonization of legal substance, and eventually towards a single global standard of protection."

The Director General pointed out that ultimately the biggest savings in patent-related costs would come about when intellectual property offices around the world are able to share results of search and examination procedures. In past sessions of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), and at the September 1999 session of the WIPO Assemblies, a significant number of delegations expressed the wish to take up the question of further harmonization of patent laws upon conclusion of the PLT. This is reflected in the WIPO Program and Budget for the 2000-2001 biennium. The SCP will hold its next meeting in November 2000.

### Advantages

Once it enters into force, the PLT will harmonize and streamline, on a worldwide basis, formal patent procedures relating to national and regional patent applications and

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maintenance of patents. Inventors seeking patent protection must as a first step meet certain formality requirements in order to avoid rejection of their application and a consequent loss of rights. These formalities currently vary from one country to another. In standardizing them, the PLT offers both inventors and national and regional patent offices a number of advantages:

- Use of standardized forms and simplified procedures that reduce the risk of error;
- Cost reductions for inventors, applicants and patent attorneys;
- Elimination of cumbersome and complicated procedures;
- Improved efficiency of patent offices and lower operating costs;
- Possibility to introduce electronic filing of patent applications and related communications;
- Reliance on a predictable maximum set of patent formalities in all countries party to the PLT (including the incorporation of provisions under the Patent Cooperation Treaty regarding form or contents of an international application), resulting in easier access to foreign patent systems;
- Exceptions from mandatory representation;
- Enhanced legal certainty for applicants filing in their home country and abroad;
- Relief and re-instatement of rights in case of missing certain time limits;
- Possibility to obtain a filing date, even if the main part of the application (description) is filed in a foreign language.

The PLT achieves a major goal of international simplification by incorporating the requirements for PCT international applications into national and regional laws. Thus,



*Standing, from left: Ambassador Nacer Benjelloun-Touimi of the Kingdom of Morocco, President of the Diplomatic Conference, Dr. Kamil Idris, Director General of WIPO, and Mr. Francis Gurry, Assistant Director General of WIPO, watch as Mr. James W. Mayson (seated), the delegate from Liberia, signs the PLT.*

under the PLT, the requirements and procedures for national and regional patent applications, and those for PCT international applications, will be harmonized. This will eventually lead to standardized formal requirements and streamlined procedures for all patent applications worldwide.

### Signatories

A total of 104 countries and three intergovernmental organizations (the Eurasian Patent Organization, the European Patent Organization and the African Regional Industrial Property Organization) signed the Final Act of Treaty, a document that bears witness to the Diplomatic Conference, and its outcome, and acknowledges the participation of the delegations at the meeting.

The PLT is open for signature by WIPO member States until June 1, 2001. Signature entitles a government to ratify the treaty at any time. WIPO member States

that do not sign the PLT within the one-year period are entitled to accede to the treaty at any time. The PLT will enter into force after ten countries deposit their instruments of ratification or accession with the Director General of WIPO.

The PLT was signed by the following countries at a ceremony at WIPO headquarters in Geneva: Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zambia.

## Diplomatic Conference on Audiovisual Performances Set for December, 2000



*...The making of a film or other audiovisual work involves contributions from many different individuals, often from many different countries.*

Member States of WIPO endorsed the convening of a Diplomatic Conference from December 7 to 20, 2000 to establish an international agreement on the rights of performers in their audiovisual performances. This issue topped the agenda of an intensive round of discussions in April at WIPO headquarters.

Representatives of 74 member States and the European Community, meeting under the auspices of the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), recommended by consensus the holding of a Diplomatic Conference to build on the existing protection of performers' rights provided for under the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations (1961). Five intergovernmental organizations and 34 non-governmental organizations, including

representatives from the film industry also attended the meeting. The SCCR's recommendation was endorsed by the WIPO General Assembly, which mandated WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris to decide on an appropriate venue for the Diplomatic Conference. The new international agreement to be established will address the moral and economic rights of performers in audiovisual performances and will also adapt the protection of those rights to the digital environment.

The question of performers' rights in their audiovisual performances has been the subject of debate since the conclusion of the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) in December 1996. At that time, WIPO member States opted to address this question as a separate issue instead of as part of that treaty.

Increasingly, the film productions that are delivered to our cinema

and television screens are produced and financed across national borders. Such arrangements underline the importance of creating an international operating environment which clearly defines the intellectual property rights of all parties involved.



## Panel Studies Intellectual Property Dimensions of Privatization

An eight-member panel of experts with extensive experience in policy-making and international affairs met at WIPO in May to consider the intellectual property aspects of privatization. It was the first meeting of the WIPO ad hoc Advisory Panel on Privatization.

Panelists discussed the intellectual property dimensions of privatization in the policy and implementation process. They agreed that a significant niche exists in this little-researched area, and that the panel and WIPO might do useful work for the benefit of all countries regardless of their level of development.

The panel agreed to further explore and analyze the historical experience of privatization with respect to its intellectual property aspects, to consider the current methodological procedures and standards prevalent in the field of valuation of intellectual property assets and their



*Members of the WIPO Advisory Panel on Privatization.*

effectiveness, and to consider how WIPO might move towards formulation of a dynamic and practical role in this area. The panel will present its findings in a report to the Director General in due course.

The panelists agreed to meet again later this year to continue discussion of these key issues.

The Panel Coordinator is Mr. N. K. Singh, Secretary to the Prime Minister of India. The other panelists are: Professor Edward S. Ayensu, Member of the Inspection Panel, the World Bank; Professor Klaus Gretschmann, Director General, Economic and Financial Affairs, Federal Chancellery of Germany; Mr. K.G. Anthony Hill C.D, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jamaica in Geneva; Mr. Jorge Alberto Lozoya, Secretary, Ibero-American Cooperation, Madrid; Professor Anne O. Krueger, Professor in Humanities and Sciences and Director, Center for Research on Economic Development and Policy Reform, Stanford University; Ambassador Mr. Philippe Petit, Permanent Representative of France in Geneva and Mr. Patrick Smith, former Director General, Australian Industrial Property Organization.

## WIPO and Uruguay Sign Cooperation Agreement

The Minister of Industry, Energy, and Mining of Uruguay, Mr. Sergio Abreu, and WIPO Director General Dr. Kamil Idris signed on June 2 a Technical Cooperation Agreement in the field of intellectual property. The Agreement provides for the establishment of a Fund-in-Trust, financed by the Government of Uruguay and administered by WIPO, which will cover cooperation activities in several areas related to the strengthening of the National Directorate for Industrial Property and the development of the intellectual property system of Uruguay.

Uruguay has committed an initial amount of US \$300,000 to the Fund-in-Trust for the period 2000-2003. This contribution, in addition to WIPO's own budget for its cooperation for development program, will enhance efforts to

promote and strengthen the national intellectual property system in Uruguay.

"I welcome the decision by the Government of Uruguay to set up this Fund-in-Trust to cover programs aimed at strengthening the intellectual property system in that country," said Dr. Idris. "This is a sign of Uruguay's recognition of the importance of the intellectual property system in promoting economic, social, cultural development."

WIPO's Funds-in-Trust program manages resources provided by given countries for activities carried out by the Organization in developing countries. It is designed to raise awareness of intellectual property issues and to promote the modernization of national intellectual property systems. The

program provides a framework for offering legal technical advice, institution building for the administration of intellectual property, assistance in the development and use of information technology and management techniques, human resource development, and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

The Uruguayan Minister was accompanied by Mr. Carlos Pérez del Castillo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Uruguay in Geneva, Mr. Carlos Sgarbi, Minister Counselor at that Permanent Mission and Mrs. Rosario Lagarmilla, Director, National Directorate of Industrial Property (DNPI) in Montevideo.



Photo: airtoday.com

*Palacio Legislativo, Uruguay, Montevideo.*

# WIPO-USPTO Academy on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

The WIPO Worldwide Academy (WWA) in May jointly organized with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), in Arlington, Virginia (U.S.A.) the third special session of the WIPO Academy on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights.

The main objectives of the Academy session were to equip participating senior law enforcement officials, especially judges, prosecutors and customs officers, with knowledge and skills in the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR). Special emphasis was given to discussions of the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on border measures and customs procedures.

The program included detailed presentations on provisions of the TRIPS Agreement, enforcing intellectual property rights at borders and the experiences of the U.S. and Canadian officials in investigating intellectual property rights infringement. The program also addressed the role of rights' holders in investigating infringement of intellectual



Photo: aritoday.com

*The Jefferson Memorial, a Washington D.C. landmark near the USPTO.*

property rights, civil and criminal enforcement measures, as well as enforcing these rights on the Internet.

Presentations and demonstrations were made by officials of the USPTO, experts from the U.S. Department of Justice and other government agencies as well as representatives from industry.

In order to develop a better understanding of the U.S. Customs Services and its role in enforcing intellectual property rights, the participants paid a visit to the U.S. Customs Port in Baltimore, Maryland, where they observed how customs authorities at the port identify and handle pirated and counterfeit goods and products.

They also visited a U.S. Federal Court where intellectual property cases are heard.

On the last day of the program, a new training module, designed by the USPTO for programs on enforcement, drew the active involvement of both participants and lecturers in a problem-solving scenario. The case was an analysis of a rights-infringement case and appropriate remedies.

Participants came from China, Egypt, India, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Nigeria, Oman, Republic of Moldova, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zambia.

# Cooperation for Development

## Modernization of Intellectual Property Systems in Least Developed Countries

The WIPO Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar on Modernization of Intellectual Property Systems in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal in May with a twofold objective:

- To contribute to the modernization of the intellectual property system of the LDCs;
- To provide inputs for the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs to be held in Brussels in May 2001.

Eleven of the 13 LDCs in the Asia-Pacific region were represented among the 45 participants. Twenty-six participants from Nepal came from a number of government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including representatives from higher educational institutions, artists and officials from collective management offices.

The opening ceremony emphasized the importance of intellectual property for the economic and social development of developing countries and, in particular, LDCs. Various participants emphasized



*Kathmandu, Nepal.*

that LDCs in the region should respond to changes in the world brought about by technological advances.

During the three-day seminar presentations were made on the following topics:

- The role of intellectual property in the social and economic development of LDCs;
- The implementation of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS);
- Enforcement, dispute settlement and transitional and institutional arrangements under the TRIPS Agreement;
- The challenges and opportunities of information and communication technologies for LDCs;
- Global intellectual property issues and LDCs in the Asia-Pacific region;
- WIPO's technical assistance for LDCs.

A rich exchange of views and experiences followed the presentations and participants raised several questions concerning the TRIPS Agreement, institution building in intellectual property and other related developmental issues.

The LDCs, despite their commitment to fulfill obligations under the TRIPS Agreement, face certain severe constraints such as shortage of resources, a weak intellectual property infrastructure,



*The participants in the Seminar for Least Developed Countries*



the lack of skilled personnel and inadequate awareness of and information on the various treaties and conventions in the field of intellectual property. The LDCs require more technical assistance to facilitate their adherence to international treaties and to fulfill their obligations under the TRIPS Agreement, in particular in establishing effective enforcement mechanisms.

The representatives expressed a desire to find a balance between the exclusive rights of individuals, public interests, and benefits to civil society. Participants agreed that wealth created through the intellectual property system should be equitably distributed among the parties concerned in accordance with the relevant international treaties.

Participants highlighted the importance of addressing global intellectual property issues such as protection and use of genetic resources and the protection of folklore and traditional knowledge with a view toward identifying the positive impact of those issues on LDCs and promoting awareness of them among stakeholders in LDCs, and with a view toward ensuring the promotion of their wide application and practices with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge.

They also acknowledged the need to pay close attention to intellectual property rights for electronic commerce and to continuously promote education and training and enhance awareness of intellectual property protection and management in the digital environment.

A final request from participants was that the deliberations of the seminar be used to provide inputs to the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs.

## Management of Copyright Offices – Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

WIPO held a workshop in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on the management and administration of GCC copyright offices in mid-May. Smaller copyright offices in the region often operate with a staff of ten or less people and, hence, the personnel have many responsibilities. The workshop dealt with problems the offices face as they deal with issues of enforcement, legislation, providing public relations and legal assistance to right owners, and handling the copyright deposit system.

Representatives from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates listened to presentations from speakers from the United States Copyright Office and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore on the structure, initiatives and policies of their offices. Problems specific to the GCC in relation to the deposit of works were identified. Possibilities for the automation of a system of deposit of works, as well as WIPO assistance in developing such a system were discussed.

The representatives of the GCC offices sought ideas for promoting awareness of copyright and encouraging creativity. On the second day of the

seminar, they were presented with some practical solutions, including television advertising, effective posters and the creation of web-sites. They visited six of the more than 65 web-sites that have been created by intellectual property offices worldwide. Further proposals for promoting their offices involved organizing competitions and games, visits to schools and the holding of seminars. The GCC copyright offices were encouraged by speakers to maintain an “open door” policy and good lines of communication with the general public.



*The logo of the GCC (top) with the symbols of member countries.*

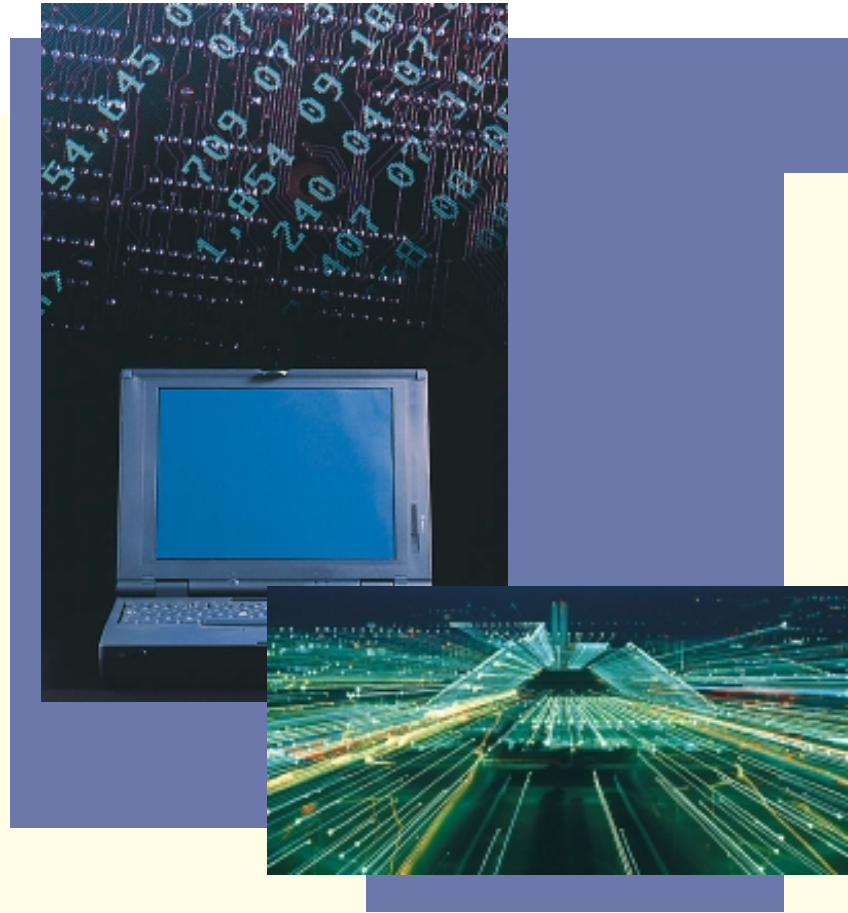
## Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property for Development for Caribbean Countries

The first WIPO Regional Meeting on Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property for Development for Caribbean Countries was held in Kingston, Jamaica on May 15-17. The meeting was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Technology of Jamaica and was held during a week that was designated by the Jamaican authorities as Intellectual Property Week 2000.

Delegates from the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago were present along with representatives of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, and international participants from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The private sector was also well represented in the meeting.

Presentations and discussions covered various dimensions of the issues involving electronic commerce and intellectual property, including emerging issues, WIPO's work on domain names, trademarks and related dispute resolution, on-line content and copyright issues, other legal and jurisdictional aspects of electronic commerce, and telecommunications.

The gathering was the first WIPO Regional Electronic Commerce meeting at which the WIPO "Primer on Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property Issues"



was presented. The delegates were provided with copies of the document.

The topic of domain names was given in-depth treatment, with all aspects of domain name administration and best practices receiving attention. A special effort had been made to organize the attendance of administrators for the Caribbean domain name country codes. The WIPO Internet Domain Name Report and WIPO's model documents for domain name registration, dispute resolution policy and procedural rules were

presented, and delegates expressed interest in using these documents to adopt new dispute resolution policies, as well as having the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center provide dispute resolution services.

Four other Electronic Commerce meetings are expected in the coming months, in Chang Mai, Thailand, São Paulo, Brazil, Amman, Jordan and tentatively Beijing, China.

## Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights for the Caribbean Region

Delegates from the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago met in Nassau, Bahamas, from May 24 to 26 to study the development and implementation of a collective management system for copyright in the Caribbean region. Various questions were examined in order to set up a proposed regional center that would be known as the "Caribbean Copyright Link" (CCL).

Participants discussed several key questions:

### ■ Where to locate CCL?

Delegates moved to locate the CCL in Trinidad and Tobago, for its general regional and international accessibility. A regional center would be expected to centralize documentation and royalty distribution functions for national authors' societies throughout the region. It would have the authority and capability to conduct regional and international negotiations of all types and to develop and implement regional policy with respect to intellectual property legislation and related regulations, rights administration and market development for regional intellectual property right-owners. It would also apply and implement international documentation across the region.

- **How to develop the collective management systems in place at the national level?** The British authors' society, the Performing Rights Society (PRS), which administers rights

in some countries of the region with local agents, will cease such activity progressively when properly established authors' societies are in place, and when their activities will be in compliance with the statutes of the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) and the Common Information System (CIS) standard.



*The Cloisters, a 14<sup>th</sup>-century Augustinian monastery transported to Paradise Island, Bahamas from France in 1968.*

Photo: Sylvie Castonguay

- **What would CCL do?** CCL would have a twofold purpose: to provide data management services to national collective management organizations in the Caribbean, and to represent, promote and defend the interests of the Caribbean collective management organizations in regional and international issues relevant for

the region. Four national authors' societies, COSCAP in Barbados, JACAP in Jamaica, HMS in St. Lucia and COTT in Trinidad and Tobago, will constitute the founding members of CCL.

The regional system is expected to be operational by the end of 2001. In order to achieve this goal, WIPO is cooperating with the Spanish authors' society (SGAE) to develop software specially geared for the Caribbean national societies and the regional center. Further cooperation will come from PRS and CISAC.

The regional system has been designed to initially cover collective management of musical works. It is flexible enough to address at a later stage other categories of works and rights which can be managed collectively, such as reprographic rights, related rights, photographic works, etc. When completed it is expected to have an impact in terms of developing better social and economic conditions for the rights' owners concerned, as well as the transfer of collective management know-how to Caribbean nationals and to avoid duplication of activities in the region. It is expected to help speed transmission of information and connection between authors' societies. It will assist in the matching process and increase royalty distribution in the region and royalty collection in foreign markets, as the documentation of musical works will be consolidated. The system is expected to reduce the costs of collective management operations overall.

## Workshop on Business Dimensions of Intellectual Property Takes a Practical Approach

As part of a response to concerns often expressed by representatives of developing countries at WIPO seminars, the Organization has designed a new program to help develop skills in how to negotiate licensing agreements for technology, with the emphasis on using actual negotiations of mock cases based on “real life” licensing situations. WIPO cooperated with the International Trade Centre (ITC), a joint agency of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to organize such workshops.

The workshop is expected to be offered in all four regions of WIPO’s Cooperation for Development program. The first took place from May 8-12 in Cape Town, South Africa.

The program consisted of three days of presentations and seminars by ITC and WIPO representatives as well as outside consultants, followed by two days of interactive case studies. This was a key part of the program as the participants were able to immediately put into practice the information absorbed in the opening days of the seminar, as well as to assess the immediate results.

The participants displayed keen interest from the start. They listened closely to speakers who had extensive experience in the private sector negotiating technology-licensing agreements, as well as a good combination of legal knowledge and business acumen. Intense questioning followed the presentations.



*The WIPO and ITC team at the Capetown workshop.*

### Case Study

On the afternoon of the second day, participants were provided with the first case study: A detailed document of 16 pages pertaining to the licensing agreement between two companies from two different countries. The licensing involved a patented process for reducing emissions during the refining of copper sulfide. The case study included a summary of the issues, previous correspondence between the two parties, various internal memos and other documents of the agreement process.

Each case took up a full day, half a day for preparation and the other half for the negotiations with opponents. The teams put much energy and enthusiasm into the preparations and negotiations. They used the names of individuals mentioned in the case and referred to each other in that manner throughout their preparations and during the negotiations. They adopted the formalities and

behaviors of the boardroom, each side conferring with their “legal advisors” or “financial consultants” whenever an impasse was reached.

By the end of the negotiations, the teams had reached satisfactory “win-win” deals which took into account the pluses and minuses of the particular process, the decisions to license (as opposed to sell), what elements of the process they would license, the type of license (exclusive, non-exclusive), rights to sub-license, know-how and other technical assistance, the form and timing of payments (down payment or royalties), percentages of royalties and other relevant considerations. A spontaneous and enthusiastic round of applause broke out when agreement was finally reached and the two team leaders shook hands.

In the final round-up each team leader wrote out the essential elements of the deal on a flip chart and explained to all the participants

their initial strategies, their goals, as well as what they achieved and on what they compromised. Each negotiation ended with a different deal and each deal was well thought out, well-negotiated and left both sides content. The speakers, who had overseen the entire process, shared their observations of what was right and what was wrong and their views on the overall deals reached.

### A Different Approach

This workshop was different in two significant ways. First, it was not devoted to intellectual property *per se* but to the *use and economic exploitation* of intellectual property. This made intellectual property and its relevance real and tangible to the participants. It provided them with some basic skills and an ability to participate as equal partners. They expressed enthusiasm for the program, which they agreed was of great practical use.

Secondly, the implementation of the workshop through interactive case studies was a key element. The participants were not merely listening to lectures, but were required to spend two days in role-playing, negotiating an actual agreement. The learning dividend of this approach is a key factor in the success of this kind of workshop.

The experience gained from running the program is expected to provide enough material for the preparation and publication of a practical guide for small and medium enterprises on the negotiation of technology licensing agreements. If successful at the regional level, it is envisaged that the workshop could be handed over to national intellectual property offices and be given on the national level.

## WIPO Sub-Regional Roundtable on the Implementation of TRIPS

From May 9 to 11, a roundtable was held in cooperation with the Government of Botswana in Gaborone to examine to what extent the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement has been implemented by African States, in order to better identify the areas in which assistance would be needed.

exchange views and share relevant experiences. During the last session devoted to discussions of countries' verbal reports, the participants briefed the meeting on the current situation and difficulties encountered by their countries regarding the implementation of the Agreement and accession to WTO.



Photo: Claudine Platret

*Geoffrey Onyeama, Director of the WIPO African Bureau, in discussion with participants.*

A total of 54 participants from Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe and the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) attended the roundtable.

The first two-and-a half days were devoted to the examination of different aspects of, and developments in relation to, the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement. The last half-day session was dedicated to a roundtable during which the participants articulated specific problems faced by them in the implementation of various requirements under the Agreement.

The topics presented and the discussions that ensued gave the participants an opportunity to

In particular, they outlined the following:

- The need for a focal point in each country for coordination among the different government units dealing with the TRIPS Agreement.
- The assistance that could be provided by WIPO and WTO to these countries.
- The non-compliance of certain intellectual property laws with implementation.
- The difficulties involved in the preparation of notifications.
- The need for WIPO to organize seminars for police officers, custom officials and judges on the TRIPS Agreement and particularly on enforcement.
- The assistance WIPO can provide to African countries to set-up collective administration.

## WIPO Gold Medals Awarded at Genius 2000

Two WIPO Gold Medals were awarded in Budapest, Hungary at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inventors' Olympiad held in May. The Olympiad is a competition for inventors-to-be which aims at enhancing creativity, especially in youths.

Rodica Teodorescu, a Romanian biologist, received the WIPO Gold Medal in recognition of her work as a woman inventor. Her invention entitled "Biocolon" consists of flakes containing lamella of biophilic lactate bacteria and is for use in gastro-enterology applications. Biocolon is a new medicine that can be effectively used to normalize intestinal flora.

The second WIPO Gold Medal was awarded in the category of environmental science to László Hoffman. A chemist and physicist of Hungarian origin, Mr. Hoffman invented the "Geofil Bubbles." The lightweight Geofil Bubbles are manufactured via a proprietary recycling technique from solid wastes with high glass content. Geofil Bubbles strongly adheres to gypsum and concrete matrices and provides heat and sound insulation to structures. The glass containing waste streams used to produce Geofil Bubbles is otherwise considered useless and is dumped. Geofil Bubbles is expected to reduce waste dumping, and its



heat-insulating feature provides fire resistance to construction building blocks.

These two inventions are excellent example of how innovation serves mankind and improves our living conditions. WIPO Gold Medals Awards are granted to give recognition to inventors and to encourage their continuous efforts and innovative spirit.

## IPLEX CD-ROM

A new version of the IPLEX CD-ROM has been published by WIPO. This new version is operated by Folio Views software which will provide the following advantages to users:

- The contents of the IPLEX CD-ROM are *structured in a hierarchy, or tree*, including at the highest level the four above-mentioned categories, and at the lowest level the legislative texts (themselves divided into their tables of contents). Any level of the tree may be accessed by clicking on it.
- The IPLEX CD-ROM offers an extensive and flexible *search system*: the search may concern (or exclude) a word or a combination of words. It may bear on the whole of the IPLEX tree, or on part of it, at any



level (one or several categories, one or several countries or organizations, or one or several texts).

The contents of the IPLEX CD-ROM may be printed, or copied onto another system.

*The new CD-ROM is available from the Marketing and Distribution Section at WIPO (please see back page for further information).*

### What is IPLEX?

The IPLEX CD-ROM is a database containing legislative texts, in English and in French, in the field of intellectual property. These texts fall under four categories:

- Multilateral treaties
- Regional laws
- Bilateral treaties
- National laws.

Each of these categories in turn comprises legislative texts concerning

- copyright and related rights,
- industrial property.

# Calendar of Meetings

## **May 11 to June 2 (CICG, Geneva)** **Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of the Patent Law Treaty**

The Diplomatic Conference will consider the adoption of the Patent Law Treaty as well as Regulations thereunder.

*Invitations:* As ordinary members, the States members of WIPO and the States party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property; as special members, the African Intellectual Property Organization, the African Regional Industrial Property Organization, the Eurasian Patent Organization and the European Patent Organisation; as observers, the States members of the United Nations but not of WIPO or the Paris Union, as well as certain intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

## **July 4 to 6 (Geneva)** **Working Group on Constitutional Reform (Second session)**

The Working Group will continue its work based on the results of its first session (March 22 to 24, 2000).

*Invitations:* States members of WIPO and of the Paris and Berne Unions.

## **July 10 to 13 (Geneva)** **Working Group on the Modification of the Regulations Under the Lisbon Agreement (First session)**

The Working Group will be presented with a study identifying provisions in the Regulations Under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and Their International Registration that could be improved in the light of experience acquired with the implementation of the said Agreement.

*Invitations:* As members, the members of the Lisbon Union; as observers, the States members of the Paris Union that are not members of the Lisbon Union, and certain organizations.

## **July 10 to 14 (Geneva)** **Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) (Fifth Plenary session)**

The Committee will discuss, among other issues, project management methodologies to be implemented by WIPO and planning mechanisms relating to the Information Technology Strategic Implementation Plan. (During the same week, a PCT informal consultation meeting will be held to discuss electronic filing of PCT international applications.)

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

## **September 11 to 15 (Geneva)** **Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) (Fifth session)**

The Committee will continue its work based on the results of its fourth session (March 27 to 31, 1999).

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

## **September 25 to October 3 (Geneva)** **Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (Thirty-fifth series of meetings)**

Some of the assemblies will meet in extraordinary session, other bodies concerned in ordinary session.

*Invitations:* As members or observers (depending on the assembly), the States members of WIPO; as observers, other States and certain organizations.

## **October 2 to 13 (Geneva)** **Committee of Experts of the Nice Union (Special Union for the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks) (Eighteenth session)**

The Committee of Experts will consider proposals for amendments and other changes to the seventh edition of the International Classification of Goods and Services (Nice Classification) in view of the entry into force of the Eighth edition on January 1, 2002.

*Invitations:* The States members of the Nice Union and, as observers, the States members of the Paris Union but not members of the Nice Union, the African Intellectual Property Organization, the Benelux Trademark Office and the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs).

## **October 9 to 13 (Geneva)** **Working Group on the Modification of the Regulations Under the Madrid Agreement and Protocol (First session)**

The Working Group will be presented with proposals for the modification of the Common Regulations Under the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Protocol Relating to that Agreement, based on experience acquired with the implementation of those treaties, and will be called upon to prepare recommendations for consideration by a future session of the Assembly of the Madrid Union.

*Invitations:* As members, the members of the Madrid Union; as observers, the States members of the Paris Union that are not members of the Madrid Union, and certain organizations.

# Products

The following new products were issued by WIPO:

- *Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs and Regulations Under the Geneva Act* (Arabic) N° 229(A), (Chinese) N° 229(C), (Russian) N° 229(R), (Spanish) N° 229(S), 12 Swiss francs.
- *Les Appellations d'Origines No. 29 Janvier 2000.* (only in French) N° 105(F). 18 Swiss francs.
- *Académie de l'OMPI - Catalogue des cours 2000-2001*(French) N° 467(F), (Spanish) N° 467(S), free of charge.
- *Académie de l'OMPI - Programme d'enseignement à distance* (French) N° L468/101F, (Spanish) L468/101S, free of charge.
- *CD-ROM WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation 1999-2000* (trilingual English, French and Spanish, as well as standards in Russian) N° CD208, 100 Swiss francs.
- *CD-ROM Intellectual Property Laws and Treaties 2000* (bilingual English and French) No. IPLEX, 300 Swiss francs.



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