

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Seventh Session
Geneva, July 1 to 5, 2019

REPORT ON TASK NO. 55

Document prepared by the International Bureau

BACKGROUND

1. The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its fifth session in 2017, created Task No. 55:

“Envisaging developing a WIPO standard assisting Industrial Property Offices (IPOs) in providing better “quality at source” in relation to applicant name:

- (i) conduct a survey on the use of the identifiers for applicants by IPOs and on the problems, which might be associated with it; and
- (ii) prepare a proposal for future actions aimed at the standardization of applicant names in IP documents and present it for consideration by the CWS.”

2. The CWS also established the Name Standardization Task Force (NSTF) to carry out Task No.55, and designated the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the International Bureau as co-leaders of the Task Force (see paragraphs 86 to 88 of document CWS/5/22).

3. At its sixth session, the CWS requested the Task Force to do the following:

(a) The Task Force will carry out the survey on the use of identifiers for applicants by IPOs and will report the outcome at the seventh session of the CWS;

(b) A Workshop on Name Standardization will be hosted by the International Bureau in 2019 to further explore issues with name standardization and use of identifiers; and

- (c) On the basis of the survey results, a proposal for further actions will be presented for consideration at the seventh session of the CWS.

(See paragraphs 167 to 168 of document CWS/6/34.)

DISCUSSIONS AND OUTCOMES

4. In accordance with the request by the CWS, the Secretariat circulated the survey on use of identifiers for applicants by IPOs in November 2018. Responses were collected through March 2019. Twenty-three IPOs responded to the survey. The results are summarized in document CWS/7/8.

5. As the survey on the use of the identifiers has been conducted, the International Bureau considers the first item of the Task No. 55 has been completed and proposes to revise the Task description as follows:

“Envisaging developing a WIPO standard assisting Industrial Property Offices (IPOs) in providing better “quality at source” in relation to applicant name, prepare a proposal for future actions aimed at the standardization of applicant names in IP documents and present it for consideration by the CWS.”

6. The International Bureau hosted the workshop on name standardization on May 2 and 3, 2019, at WIPO headquarters in Geneva. Thirty participants attended the workshop, including IP Office representatives, users of IP information, private sector IP data providers, and academic researchers. Objectives of the workshop were to:

- (a) Gain a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of current name standardization practices by IP Offices, industry, and others;
- (b) Explore uses for and challenges with the use of applicant identifiers by IP Offices; and
- (c) Identify areas of cooperation and potential projects for IP Offices and WIPO, particularly within CWS and the Name Standardization Task Force.

7. The first day of the workshop covered issues with name standardization, while the second day addressed identifiers. A Task Force meeting was held at the end of each day for Task Force members to discuss the outcomes and future work. An Oral Report on the workshop and Task Force meeting will be provided at this session of the CWS.

8. *The CWS is invited to:*

- (a) note the content of the present document, including the information regarding the survey and the workshop took place; and*
- (b) consider and approve the proposed new description of Task No. 55 and request the Name Standardization Task Force to present a proposal for future actions for consideration at its eighth session, referred to paragraph 5 above.*

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