

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

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REPORT ON THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANDATE OF THE CWS

prepared by the Secretariat

1. This report aims to provide information to the CWS on highlights of activities of the International Bureau (IB) related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19) undertaken during the year 2011. A complete list of such activities is available under the Technical Assistance Database (www.wipo.int/tad).
2. The IP standards being implemented in various systems and tools, the following activities also implicitly cover dissemination of relevant IP standards information.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IP INSTITUTIONS

3. The objective of this program was to develop and strengthen national and regional IP institutions in accordance with the Development Agenda, through provision of modernization services, to enable them to participate in the global IP infrastructure and to maximize their benefits from the access and use of its collective resources.
4. The Program's assistance covered a comprehensive set of modernization services. These included: technical advice and guidance; needs assessment; simplification of business processes; provision of standard automation components customized to specific national requirements; establishment of national IP databases; extensive training of IP institutions staff and knowledge transfer to their technical focal points; progress monitoring and post-deployment impact evaluations; and e-communication with WIPO Treaties. Training related activities accounted for 50% of the Program's work and were critical in achieving the desired results.

5. In the framework of this program 115 missions in IP Offices were undertaken in 2011, in 17 countries of the Asia and Pacific region, in 15 countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean, in 22 countries in Africa, in nine Arab countries and in 12 countries of the group of Certain Countries in Europe and Asia. In some Offices more than one mission were undertaken. For more information please consult the web site of WIPO's technical assistance program for Industrial Property Offices (http://www.wipo.int/global_ip/en/activities/technicalassistance/index.html).

NARROWING THE TECHNOLOGY KNOWLEDGE GAP AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

6. In the framework of the recommendation 8 of the Development Agenda, narrowing the technology knowledge gap and improving access to technical knowledge, the following programs were active in 2011: Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs), Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI), Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) and Patent Landscape Reports (PLRs).

7. The TISCs, or institutions offering similar services, are designed to provide innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information services and other related services. The IB promotes the establishment and development of TISCs under a related project being carried out in cooperation with national and regional industrial property offices within the framework of its Development Agenda.

8. To support the development of TISCs and raise awareness of intellectual property and technology information among local stakeholders, on-site training was provided in 2011 in 20 countries participating in the project (14 basic and 6 advanced training events). This brings the total number of established TISCs following basic training to 20 (6 were already established in 2010). A further 13 Service Level Agreements, providing the framework for activities to be carried out in establishing and developing TISCs, were concluded in 2011 (bringing the overall total to 29 countries). In 2011, 20 assessment missions combined with awareness-raising activities (half-day public seminars) were carried out prior to training and launching of newly-established TISCs. A regional conference was also held in Buenos Aires in March 2011, so as to promote the TISC project in Latin America countries interested in establishing and developing TISCs. For more information please consult the TISCs web site (www.wipo.int/tisc).

9. The ARDI program is coordinated by the IB together with its partners in the publishing industry with the aim to increase the availability of scientific and technical information in developing countries. By improving access to scholarly literature from diverse fields of science and technology, the ARDI program seeks to reinforce the capacity of developing countries to participate in the global knowledge economy and to support researchers in developing countries in creating and developing new solutions to technical challenges faced on a local and global level.

10. In July 2011, ARDI became a full partner and fourth program of the Research4Life (R4L) partnership, which includes WHO's HINARI program (biomedical and health journals), FAO's AGORA program (agriculture based journals), and UNEP's OARE program (environmental issues). It was also agreed in cooperation with its partners in the publishing community to extend within the ARDI program the number of countries eligible to receive free access to scientific and technical journals from 49 to 77 countries. During 2011, a further 150 scientific and technical journals were added to ARDI, bringing the total content to over 200 journals with a combined regular subscription value exceeding 500 000 US dollars per year. For more information please consult the ARDI web site (www.wipo.int/ardi).

11. The PLR project was based on the Development Agenda project DA_19_30_31 “Developing Tools for Access to Patent Information” described in document CDIP/4/6, adopted by the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP).

12. The PLRs provide a comprehensive overview and analysis of the innovation and patenting activity in a specific technological field, globally or in a specific geographical area, based on a state of the art search of at least the PCT minimum documentation. They aim at research and analysis in areas of interest and needs of developing countries, such as public health, climate change, food and agriculture, energy etc. The results are presented and analyzed in a comprehensive manner and are visualized through graphs and statistics with the help of various analytical tools. The results and conclusions drawn can provide information on trends in a specific technological field or subsectors over time, the major players in the said area, the collaborations that take place, the geographical distribution of the patent protection sought, while the technologies identified can be grouped in various categories. They are useful tools for policy makers that can facilitate and optimize policy and investment decisions related to innovation, R&D, technology transfer, etc. Furthermore, these reports function as examples of access to and exploitation of patent information and how patent search strategies and methodologies should be tailored according to the particular subject matter and the challenges and limitations linked to each case.

13. A number of patent landscape reports have been prepared by the IB in cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, such as FAO, WHO, Medicines Patent Pool, AATF etc. These reports cover a range of subjects, such as desalination and use of alternative energies, solar cooking and cooling, antiretrovirals, plant salinity tolerance, vaccines etc. For more information on the project and access to the reports, please consult the dedicated website:

http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent_landscapes/pl_ongoingwork.html

CAPACITY BUILDING OF IP OFFICERS AND EXAMINERS FOR UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOOLS

14. Upon request, several training courses on the use of International Classifications for officials or examiners of IP Offices were conducted during 2011, namely for Iran and Pakistan (all Classifications), South Africa and Syria (Nice, Vienna and Locarno Classifications), Cambodia and Madagascar (Nice and Vienna Classifications), Qatar (Locarno and Vienna Classifications) and Jordan (Vienna Classification).

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF IP STANDARDS

15. In order to increase awareness on IP Standards by developing countries, the IB has provided all the documents of the CWS on WIPO website and, in 2011, enhanced the navigation and search of WIPO Standards, created a special database called WIPOSTAD (see agenda item 14, and its site <http://wipo.int/wipostad/en/>). Moreover, to facilitate the participation by more countries in the preparation of a new or revised WIPO Standard, e-Forum was maintained by the IB. Finally, following the decision of the General Assembly in October 2011, the participation to the second session of the CWS of eight developing countries was funded by the International Bureau.

PATENT DATABASES

16. In order to increase dissemination of patent documentation of developing countries, the collections of the following developing countries were added in the patentscope database: Kenya (September 2011), Dominican Republic (April 2011), Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador (March 2011), Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Uruguay (January 2011).

17. The IB has been working together with the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM), the European Patent Office (EPO), and industrial property offices in Latin America to promote the exchange of patent information and to set up and maintain an updated regional database containing the information on patents published in Latin American countries, under the LATIPAT project. The database is intended to provide access to the region's technological information contained in patents, and to serve as a common reference platform for the publication and consultation of Latin American patents. The level of participation of the countries is very high, from the 19 IP Offices in Latin America 16 of them are actively participating in the project and send their information regularly.

18. In this regard, under this project in 2011 the Seventh Expert Meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro from October 17 to 20, 2011, in order to continue the process of strengthening the capacities of IP Offices to provide their data, and the focus was placed on enhancing data quality and exchange of full text searchable patent documents to be included in LATIPAT, PATENTSCOPE and in INVENES platforms.

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM OF IP AUTHORITIES

19. The purpose of the Global Symposium was to:

- provide heads of IP authorities, industry leaders and other stakeholders with an international forum in which to discuss how the present intellectual property infrastructure could be developed in a coherent way to support increasingly borderless activities for innovation within science and technology communities and industries;
- present WIPO's new vision and strategy for reinforcing and integrating different technical components for developing the global IP infrastructure;
- involve users of the IP system in the process and create stronger networks between IP authorities and industry/IP practitioners.

20. In the Symposium of 2011 seven speakers from developing countries were invited (Brazil, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Uruguay). In addition 18 other delegations from developing countries were invited to participate on IB's expenses (Argentina, Barbados, China, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Iran, Jordan, Lao PDR, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Oman, Peru, Syria, Republic of Congo, Republic of Korea and Uganda).

21. The CWS is invited to take note of the 2011 activities of the International Bureau, related to providing technical advice and assistance for capacity building to IP Offices. This document will serve as a basis of the relevant report to be presented to the WIPO General Assembly to be held in October 2012, as requested at its 40th session held in October 2011 (see paragraph 190 of document WO/GA/40/19).

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