

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Committee for Technical Cooperation

**Thirtieth Session
Geneva, May 8 to 12, 2017**

SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. Mr. John Sandage, Deputy Director General, opened the session and welcomed the participants on behalf the Director General of WIPO. Mr. Michael Richardson (WIPO) acted as Secretary to the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND TWO VICE-CHAIRS

2. The Committee unanimously elected Mr. Maximiliano Santa Cruz (Chile) as Chair and Mr. Victor Portelli (Australia) as Vice-Chair for the session. There were no nominations for a second Vice-Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The Committee adopted the agenda as proposed in document PCT/CTC/30/1 Prov. 2.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ADVICE TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PCT UNION ON THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINES AS AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY UNDER THE PCT

4. Discussions were based on document PCT/CTC/30/2 Rev.

5. The Delegation of the Philippines introduced the request for the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) to be appointed as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT.

6. The Delegations of Australia and Japan introduced the assessment reports by IP Australia and the Japan Patent Office, respectively, set out in Appendices 2 and 3 of the Annex to document PCT/CTC/30/2, established in accordance with the recommendation in the Understanding adopted by the PCT Assembly in 2014 “to obtain the assistance of one or more existing International Authorities to help in the assessment of the extent to which it meets the criteria, prior to making the application”.

7. The Delegation of the European Patent Office (EPO) confirmed that the EPO had engaged in discussions with IPOP HL for that Office to obtain access to EPOQUENet. Access to EPOQUENet had been given on May 3, 2017 and training would take place in the coming months. The Delegation also clarified that it had agreed to implement a bilateral Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) agreement in the coming months.

8. The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the Assembly of the PCT Union that the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines be appointed as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT.

AGENDA ITEM 5: ADVICE TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PCT UNION ON THE PROPOSED EXTENSIONS OF APPOINTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITIES UNDER THE PCT

9. Discussions were based on documents PCT/CTC/30/3 to 24.

10. The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the Assembly of the PCT Union the extension of the appointment of all national Offices and intergovernmental organizations currently acting as International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities under the PCT.

AGENDA ITEM 6: MODEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN AN OFFICE AND THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU IN RELATION TO ITS FUNCTIONING AS AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

11. Discussions were based on document PCT/CTC/30/25.

12. The Committee approved the revised draft model Agreement set out in the Annex to document PCT/CTC/30/25 to be used as the basis for preparing the individual agreements under Articles 16(3) and 32(3) in relation to the functioning of an Office or organization as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority with effect from January 1, 2018.

AGENDA ITEM 7: SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

13. The Committee noted this summary, established under the responsibility of the Chair, and agreed that it should be made available to the Assembly of the PCT Union, as a record of the advice given under agenda items 4 and 5.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CLOSING OF THE SESSION

14. The Chair closed the session on May 11, 2017.

[End of document]