

WIPO



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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Seventh Session

Geneva, March 13 to 17, 1978

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIST
OF NON-PATENT LITERATURE OBTAINABLE FREE OF CHARGE
OR ON VERY FAVORABLE CONDITIONS BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

prepared by the International Bureau

Background

1. The PCT Interim Committee for Technical Assistance (hereinafter referred to as “the Interim Committee”), at its sixth session, held in Geneva from November 2 to 8, 1976, recommended that the International Bureau actively continue its efforts towards a gradual expanding of the list of technical periodicals available free of charge or on very favorable conditions to national patent offices, documentation centers or research institutes in developing countries. This recommendation was based on the potential of advantages that could be gained through technical periodicals published by industrial organizations all over the world: developing countries would be brought into contact with existing technology in various fields and thereby, in time, besides acquiring other advantages, they would become able to exercise a choice among technological alternatives not always known to them hitherto. Industrial organizations in developed countries would create or improve a dialogue of technical communication in their areas of research, development and manufacturing as far as developing countries are concerned.

Contents of This Document

2. This document reports on developments during the period from November 1976 to January 15, 1978.

Requests Received and Handled

3. The Algerian Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property (INAPI) has indicated to the International Bureau its interest in receiving all the technical periodicals so far listed. The Brazilian National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) has indicated a similar interest.

4. Following these expressions of interest, the International Bureau has requested that free subscriptions to over 70 technical periodicals be mailed directly to these two national Institutes by the publishers of these periodicals.

Further Work

5. Furthermore, the International Bureau has received lists of technical periodicals published by industrial organizations in most of the highly industrialized countries, and has contacted these organizations. Response has been fairly positive. The list of periodicals is now being expanded and the main technological fields covered by each periodical are being added under the relevant title, as suggested at the previous session of the Interim Committee, in order to facilitate the choice by developing countries. The expanded list will be submitted to the Interim Committee shortly before its next session in a supplement to this document.

6. The importance of non-patent literature in facilitating the understanding of patent documents, and, especially in the case of developing countries, in providing access to knowledge about technology that is usually difficult for developing countries to find with their own resources, is being appreciated more and more by these countries. The provision of technical periodicals free of charge, or on very favorable conditions, not only serves the purpose of increasing the level of knowledge in particular technological fields, but by virtue of the natural processes of mental association has a multiplying effect which in the long range increases the speed of transfer of technology to developing countries. Several industrial organizations are willing to cooperate with WIPO by providing free subscriptions of their periodicals to selected circles, in the knowledge that there is an inherent element of advertisement in every technical periodical they publish. Patent offices and documentation centers in developing countries are examples of such selected circles. It is hoped that other industrial organizations will join those already cooperating with WIPO.

7. *The Interim Committee is requested:*
- (i) *to take note of this report,*
 - (ii) *to ask for offers and requests concerning technical periodicals to be made during the present session,*
 - (iii) *to ask the International Bureau to continue its efforts to solicit offers and satisfy requests for technical periodicals for the purposes of technical assistance to developing countries.*

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