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PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW
JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2003

Report by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This Program Implementation Overview (hereinafter referred to as the "Overview") summarizes activities implemented by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) during the first six months of 2003, within the framework of the 2002-2003 biennium.
2. The Overview provides Member States with an outline of the Organization and its overall direction, and offers insights on the implementation of major activities during the period under review. It describes the main activities carried out for each program of the Program and Budget 2002-2003 (document WO/PBC/4/2).
3. This Overview does not provide a detailed report on program performance and, therefore, should not be seen as an update of the "Program Performance Report for 2002" (document A/39/7 of July 21, 2003). Instead, the Overview concentrates on the implementation of programs, focusing on their progress or status, while the performance reports, prepared in the context of WIPO's results-based programming and budgeting, assess the achievement of program objectives on the basis of expected results and performance indicators, and focus on results achieved.

MAINPROGRAM01

ConstituentOrgans oftheMember States

4. WIPO's membership included 179 Member States at the end of June 2003.
5. Meetings of the Organs of the Member States during the period under review included: the WIPO Coordination Committee's Forty-Ninth (16th Extraordinary) Session, held in Geneva on March 24 and 25, 2003, at which the Director General was nominated for a second term in Office; the sixth session of the Program and Budget Committee, held in Geneva from April 29 to May 1, 2003; and, the Extraordinary sessions of the WIPO General Assembly, the Paris Union Assembly and the Bern Union Assembly held in Geneva on May 26 and 27, 2003, which formally re-appointed the Director General to a second term as Director General of WIPO.

MAINPROGRAM02

Direction and Executive Management

6. Main Program 02 undertakes responsibility for coordinating the day-to-day operations of the Secretariat, and for providing information to the Member States.
7. Under Main Program 02, the Director General exercises executive decision-making with respect to overall direction, management and policy execution in the implementation of all WIPO's programs and activities.
8. The Program centralizes, in a strategy-oriented manner, all executive management functions and resources to provide integrated solutions; a process that is facilitated by advice from the Senior Management Team and all program managers, as well as the Policy Advisory Commission (PAC) and the Industry Advisory Committee.

Sub-program 02.1 – Office of the Director General

9. Throughout the period under review, the Director General regularly met with his senior management team, with a view to providing a transparent and integrated executive decision-making environment, a managed information flow, and a regularized review of programs scheduling and follow-up.
10. The Director General continued to maintain high-level relations between the representatives of Member States and the Secretariat on a regular basis. During the first six months of 2003, the Director General undertook one mission abroad and received some 110 visits from representatives of Member States, including Heads of State or Government, Ministers, Ambassadors, and Heads of international and national organizations. The service of the Division of Protocol ensured the smooth logistical execution of these and other visits.
11. Cooperation with governments facilitated the implementation of WIPO-administered treaties, and enhanced transparency and accountability. The Director General also oversaw collaboration with the United Nations system, the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and other international and regional organizations.

12. Support to the Director General was provided in the form of preparation of correspondence with Member States, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals, as well as speeches, briefing material and statements. The Office of the Director General also provided administrative support and follow-up to senior management meetings as well as the coordination of protocol, liaison, travel and representation issues.

Sub-program 2.2 – Special Counsel and Advisory Commissions

13. The Special Counsel continued to assist the Director General by providing close support, maintaining existing relationships, cultivating new contacts and managing the day-to-day administration of inter-agency affairs, including cooperation with the United Nations Departments and Specialized Agencies and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

14. Some 2,250 official documents were received, analyzed, sorted and redistributed as appropriate to departments within WIPO. Approximately 235 items of signed correspondence received from the United Nations, its agencies and other organizations were either directly replied to, or forwarded to the appropriate department for follow-up action. Over 60 replies, contributions to reports and responses to external requests for information were prepared, and more than one hundred internal requests for advice and information on inter-agency activities were dealt with, helping to ensure a broader understanding among WIPO program managers of the role and functioning of WIPO within the perspective of the United Nations system.

15. WIPO continued to improve its communications and relations with the United Nations and other international fora, participating in, *inter alia*, the Interagency Committee on Women and Gender Equality (IACWGE), the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the United Nations Information and Communications Technologies Task Force (UNICT -TF), preparatory meetings for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the Commission on Human Rights, the 91st Session of the International Labour Conference, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council, and the Executive Council and General Assembly of the World Health Organization. Close contact was also maintained with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with attendance at the UNESCO inter-agency bioethics committee, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). WIPO was present and actively participated in the spring meeting of the Chief Executives' Board (CEB) of the United Nations.

16. Cooperation between WIPO and WTO intensified during the first half of 2003. National seminars in Benin and Mali were held jointly by the two Organizations in March, and preparations for national seminars in Uganda and Ethiopia in July 2003 were being finalized. Furthermore, an international joint symposium on "Intellectual Property Rights and Transfer of Technology" is scheduled to take place in Geneva in November 2003. In addition, WIPO held two staff briefing sessions on WTO-related topics such as "TRIPS and Public Health," "WTO disputes settlement of IP cases to date," and "Negotiations on Geographical Indications" in March, May and June, respectively. An additional session will take place in July on the topic of "Review of Article 27.3(b)." The purpose of these briefing sessions is to: keep the relevant WIPO staff fully informed of the WTO discussions; provide

an opportunity for WIPO staff to interact with WTO staff responsible for particular issues and vice versa; exchange information where relevant; and, enhance cooperation between the two Secretariats. WIPO closely followed all developments, particularly the issues related to intellectual property in WTO and continued to provide resource persons for WTO training courses and seminars.

17. Cooperation between WIPO and UPOV increased during the first part of 2003. In January, WIPO organized an intensive briefing session on UPOV for WIPO staff, which greatly improved understanding of basic elements of the UPOV Convention and which is expected to enhance and facilitate further cooperation. Coordination continued on administrative matters, where WIPO provided services in the areas of finance, personnel, translation, documents and technical services to UPOV in response to its needs and requirements. In addition, WIPO closely followed the meetings of UPOV, and the two Secretariats are jointly organizing a WIPO - UPOV symposium "Intellectual Property Rights in Plant Biotechnology," which is scheduled to take place on October 24, 2003.

18. Within the context of the Industry Advisory Commission, numerous individual meetings and consultations were held with a range of private sector contacts to help expand links with industry worldwide. These discussions concerned the possible establishment of task forces and round tables to deal with specific issues related to intellectual property and industry.

19. WIPO gave its full cooperation to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) throughout the reporting period.

Sub-program 2.3 – Internal Oversight

20. During the period under review, the Program Performance Report for the year 2002 (document A/39/7) was compiled on the basis of contributions provided by WIPO program managers. Furthermore, most of the preparatory work was done for this Overview (document A/39/8).

21. The Internal Audit and Oversight Division actively participated in the Program and Budget Task Force for the preparation of the Program and Budget 2004 - 2005 (document WO/PBC/6/2), and worked intensively with program managers for the establishment of the program results frameworks for the next biennium, including setting objectives, expected results and defining performance indicators.

22. Furthermore, advice was provided to WIPO staff on a continuous basis regarding project design and evaluation issues. A number of independent internal evaluations were under preparation. A report on internal audits carried out in 2002 was also prepared for submission to the Director General, along with the planning of internal audits to be undertaken for 2003. Work continued on the finalization of an Internal Audit Charter.

23. With regard to inter-agency coordination in the area of internal oversight, WIPO was represented at the "4th Conference of International Investigators," held in Brussels in April; the "34th Meeting of Representatives of Internal Audit Services (RIAS)," held in Panama in June; the workshop "Partners in Development Evaluation - Learning and Accountability," hosted by the French Ministry of Finance and Economy; and, the informal Annual Meeting of the UN Inter-agency Working Group on Evaluation, both held in Paris in March.

MAINPROGRAM03

Legal Counsel

24. In the first half of 2003, the Office of the Legal Counsel continued to respond to the growth of the Organization by providing legal advice or information on legal or constitutional affairs, contracts and other general legal matters to the Member States and to the Secretariat.

25. A significant part of the reporting period was spent preparing documents containing the final texts of various WIPO-administered treaties that reflect amendments previously adopted by the Assemblies of Member States. These documents will be presented to the Member States for deliberations in September 2003. It is recalled that, at their meetings in September 2002, the Assemblies of Member States adopted the recommendations of the General Assembly Working Group on Constitutional Reform that the WIPO-administered treaties be amended in order to: (i) abolish the WIPO Conference; (ii) formalize the unitary contributions system and changes in contribution classes; and (iii) change the periodicity of ordinary sessions of the WIPO General Assembly and the other Assemblies of Member States from once every two years to once annually.

26. The continuing increase in adherence to the conventions and agreements administered by WIPO led to a significant rise in depositary activities in the first half of the year. From January to June, 42 instruments of ratification or accession were received and processed, and 44 notifications of treaty actions were issued in respect of WIPO-administered treaties. These treaty actions were promptly notified to Member States and other relevant entities, and were systematically published on the Internet and, where appropriate, via press releases. Interest in the treaties mailing list (*treaties.mail*) continued to grow, with the number of subscribers increasing from around 3,000 in January to some 13,300 in June 2003. There was an equally sharp increase in activities on the treaties website (*wipo.int/treaties*). Numbers rose from 30,977 hits in December 2002 to 183,377 hits in June 2003, with even higher peaks registered in April and May.

27. The Office of the Legal Counsel received requests from two inter-governmental organizations and ten non-governmental organizations for observer status with WIPO, and prepared the necessary correspondence with those organizations, as well as relevant documentation to be presented to the Assemblies of Member States in September 2003.

28. Continuing legal advice and assistance was provided to several units within WIPO in respect of: external requests for permission to reproduce WIPO documents in various publications; requests for certified copies of WIPO-administered treaties; requests for model instruments of accession and ratification of several WIPO treaties; preparation of notes on the advantages of accession to certain WIPO treaties; continuous information on the status of ratifications or accession to the treaties; and, resolution of disputes relating to the interpretation and application of the WIPO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules.

29. Legal advice and support was provided with respect to contracts and other matters of a general legal nature related to major information technology projects including IMPACT, WIPONET and AIMS, as well as license agreements with software suppliers. Furthermore, other activities included the provision of advice concerning specific matters relating to the interpretation of WIPO's construction contracts and commercial leases in Geneva. Advice was also given with respect to framework agreements of co-operation with intellectual

property offices. The Office of the Legal Counsel also supported the work of the Contracts Review Committee and the Construction Committee.

30. The Office of the Legal Counsel intervened with the Swiss authorities in order to secure reductions in taxes from the Canton of Geneva, based on the immunities of the Organization. The Office also provided legal support in reaching an amicable settlement of claims in respect of architectural and other fees for services rendered in respect of the ex -WMO building.

MAIN PROGRAM 04

Planning, Budgeting and Control

31. In the first half of 2003, assistance continued to be provided to the Director General with respect to strategic planning and overall policy, as well as new initiatives.

32. With reference to budget and financial control, the main focus was on: preparation of the draft Program and Budget 2004 -2005; certification of commitments to incur obligations in conformity with budget authorization, available funding and economical use of resources; strengthening budgetary control and WIPO's compliance with the Financial Regulations and Rules and other relevant policies and establishing directives to ensure efficient use of the resources; maintenance of the allotment and work plans system; and, support of the implementation of the Administrative Information Management System (AIMS).

Sub-program 04.1 – Strategic Planning and Policy Development

33. The monitoring and analysis of intellectual property trends continued to be the main focus of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development, in order to respond to new challenges faced by WIPO. Considerations in this respect were reflected in WIPO's vision and strategy for the Program and Budget 2004-2005 and the Mid -term Plan. In addition, the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development serviced the Coordination Committee and the extraordinary session of the Assemblies of the Member States, which were held in March and May, respectively.

34. Support was provided to the Office of the Director General in the coordination and execution of program -related activities, enhancing internal coordination and communication. The 17 sessions of the Professional Information Meetings (PRIMs) were used as a forum to discuss key questions on the future direction of all Main Programs, on the basis of annual reports for the year 2002, presented by every program manager. The Senior Management Team met three times during the first six months of 2003, at which management issues were discussed and policies decided.

35. Furthermore, coordination of internal meetings, including the Contract Review and Construction Committees, the Program and Budget Task Force and the Security Coordination Task Force was also ensured. These supporting activities enhanced cross -sectoral cooperation in implementing certain complex activities. In addition, to enable governments of Member States to integrate intellectual property components into their economic development policies, an internal database was established, enabling the Secretariat to provide assistance to policy-makers by giving advice on IP policies and practices implemented in different countries.

Sub-program 04.2 – Program Budget and Financial Control

36. The draft Program and Budget 2004 – 2005 was prepared and submitted to the Program and Budget Committee held in April, for consideration. Prior to the Program and Budget Committee meeting, a number of briefing meetings were organized with regional groups of Member States and WIPO staff. Based on the interventions and suggestions made by the Member States during the April session of the Program and Budget Committee, work on the revision of the draft Program and Budget 2004 – 2005 commenced, and an informal session of the Program and Budget Committee on the budget revision process was held in June.

37. In connection with the preparation of the draft Program and Budget 2004 – 2005, work was undertaken on income projections, including the participation in a meeting between USPTO, JPO, EPO and WIPO, held in Washington, in February, to review the projections on PCT applications for the coming years.

MAIN PROGRAM 05

Development of Industrial Property Law

38. Under Main Program 05, work continued on the further development of laws and convergence of practices in the areas of patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications. The main activities during the first six months of 2003 included the continuation of discussions on substantive patent law harmonization within the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), while the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) focused on further simplification and streamlining of procedures for obtaining and maintaining a mark, the revision of the Trademark Law Treaty (TLT), and geographical indications.

Sub-program 05.1 – Law of Patents

39. The main activity consisted of the preparation and holding of the ninth session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) from May 12 to 16, 2003. The SCP pursued its discussions on further harmonization of substantive patent law within the framework of the draft Substantive Patent Law Treaty (SPLT) and draft Regulations and Practice Guidelines under the SPLT, and made further progress in establishing a common understanding on several issues arising from differences that exist among patent systems. Provisional agreement was reached on a number of provisions on the understanding that any delegation could reopen discussions on these matters at any time in the future. Progress was also made in respect of the introduction of a grace period in the draft SPLT. On a number of issues, however, differences among patent systems remain and require further reflection. One such issue relates to the extent to which the SPLT should allow contracting parties to retain divergent laws and practices, bearing in mind that the objective of the draft treaty is to harmonize patent law and practice. Proposals relating to the protection of public health, genetic resources, traditional knowledge and certain other public policy issues, which the SCP had agreed to include in the draft Treaty at its eighth session in November 2002, were not discussed. Twenty-three developing countries and countries in transition were invited to attend the ninth session of the SCP.

40. Further activities include, in particular: the promotion of industrial property treaties through staff missions; advice on national laws and meetings with national delegates; and, close cooperation with related sectors and activities within WIPO, for instance regarding the WIPO Patent Agenda, PCT system developments, and biotechnology. Other activities comprised the following - upto general developments of the patents systems at the international level and to the work of other inter -governmental organizations, as well as the administration of the Budapest Treaty, including its updating.

Sub-Program 05.2 – Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications

41. The further simplification and streamlining of procedures for obtaining and maintaining a mark was discussed by Member States attending the WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) which held its tenth session from April 28 to May 2. The meeting, which was attended by delegations from 79 Member States, three inter -governmental organizations and 12 non -governmental organizations, addressed the future revision of the Trademark Law Treaty (TLT), the protection of geographical indications, and domain names.

42. Discussions on trademarks focused on the revision of the TLT, which aims at streamlining and simplifying, on a worldwide basis, formal trademark procedures relating to national and regional trademark applications and the maintenance of trademarks. In view of technological developments, new areas for consideration in revising the TLT include the possibility to introduce electronic filing of trademark applications and associated communications, incorporation of the Joint Recommendation on Trademark Licenses adopted in 2000, and relief and reinstatement of rights when certain time limits have been missed. Trademark formalities in this respect vary from country to country and such enhancements promise to generate additional cost savings and efficiency gains for trademark owners and industrial property offices.

43. The SCT also agreed to distribute a questionnaire to Member States in order to collect information on national practices and identify issues for the further development of international trademark law and the convergence of national trademark practices. Such a survey of existing national practices aims at promoting the convergence of international trademark law practices and fostering a common approach to the examination of trademark applications. WIPO intend to prepare a synthesis in 2004, on the basis of Member States' replies.

44. With respect to geographical indications, the SCT took note of a study, prepared by the Secretariat following a request at the ninth session of the Committee, which aimed at providing members with a general overview of issues related to different systems of protection, such as the elements supporting a claim for quality, reputation or other characteristics, and considerations when evaluating a claim that these elements are "essentially attributable to" the geographical origin of a given product. The study was designed to promote a better understanding of the definition of geographical indications in a more concrete way.

45. In the field of Internet domain names, the SCT discussed the recommendation of Member States to extend the scope of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) to geographical indications and country names. Regarding the protection of geographical indications against their abusive registration as domain names, the SCT decided

totakenoimmediateactioninthisregard.Intheareaoftheprotectionofcountrynames,the SCTdecidednottorecommendtoICANNthatprotectionofcountrynamesshouldbe extendedretroactively,butrequeste dforfurtherinformationonhowtoestablishanarbitral appealmechanismanddecidedtodiscussfurtherwhetherprotectionsouldbeextendedto namesbywhichcountriesarecommonlyknowninadditiontothelongandshortnamesof countries,asoutlinedin theUnitedNationsTerminologyBulletin.

46. InadditiontotheworkdirectlyrelatedtotheSCTmeeting,otheractivitiesconsistedof: thepromotionofindustrialpropertytreaties(inparticulartheTrademarkLawTreaty)and JointRecommendations(onthe protectionofwell -knownmarks,ontrademarklicenses,and onthe protectionofmarksontheInternet);adviceondraftnationallaws;meetingswith governmentdelegates,NGOrepresentativesandtheprivatesector;makingnotifications underArticle6 *ter*oftheParisConvention(tenotifications).Supportwasalsoprovidedto theprogramsofCooperationforDevelopment,CooperationwithCertainCountriesinEurope andAsia,andtheWIPOWorldwideAcademywithregardtoseminarsandprograms relating totrademarklaw,industrialdesignsorgeographicalindications.Duringtheperiodunder review,WIPOparticipatedinfourmeetingsattheinvitationofthefollowing non-governmentalorganizations:the AssociationofFinnishPatentAttorneys, theEuropean CommunitiesTradeMarkAssociation(ECTA),theInternationalFederationofIndustrial PropertyAttorneys(FICPI)andtheInternationalVineandWineOffice(OIV).

MAINPROGRAM06

PatentCooperationTreaty(PCT)System

47. Thetotalnumberofapplicationsreceivedduringthefirsthalfof2003amountedto 55,386,whichagainconfirmedtheextensiveuseofthePCT.

48. Duringtheperiodunderreview,threeStates(PapuaNewGuinea,theSyrianArab RepublicandEgypt)joinedt hePCT,bringingthetotalnumberofPCTContractingStates to 121,ofwhich67aredevelopingcountries.

49. FollowingadecisionbythePCTUnionAssemblyinSeptember2002,amendmentsto theRegulationsunderthePCTtookeffectonJanuary1, 2003.TwosessionsoftheMeeting ofInternationalAuthoritiesunderthePCT(PCT/MIA)wereconvened, *inter alia*,tofacilitate timely,effectiveandconsistentimplementationoffurtheramendmentstotheRegulations underthePCT,whicharetotakeeffect onJanuary1,2004.

50. TheconsiderationofproposalsforreformofthePCTprogressedwiththeconveningof thefourthsessionoftheWorkingGrouponReformofthePCTheldinMay.

Sub-program06.1 –OperationofthePCTSystem

51. Duringtheperiodunderreview,55,386internationalapplicationsfiledworldwidewere received.These55,386internationalapplicationshadtheeffectof4,111,535national applicationsandof188,258regionalapplications;thelatterwouldbeequivalentto 3,042,056 applicationsforpatentprotectionintheMember Statesoftheregionalpatent systems.Thatcreatesatotalnotionaleffectof7,153,591nationalapplications.Thenumber ofapplicationscomingfromdevelopingcountriesamountedto2,657.

52. Of the 55,386 international applications filed, 23,763 or 42.90 percent contained a request for prepared using the PCT -EASY software.
53. By the end of June 2003, the International Bureau had received, in its capacity as a Receiving Office, 2,954 international applications.
54. The processing of international applications resulted, *inter alia*, in the publication of 53,122 international applications during the period, as well as 18,697 republications and 26 regular, and one special, issues of the PCT Gazette. Some 33,761 international preliminary examination reports (IPERs) and 31,174 demands under Chapter II were received.
55. During the period under review, the process of reorganization of the PCT Operations Division was completed. The new organizational structure will allow the International Bureau to enhance the quality of services to users of the PCT System and Member States.

Sub-program 06.2 – Legal Framework, Information and Training Activities; PCT Reform

56. Work continued to be carried out in relation to the promotion of and accession to the PCT, the provision of information and advice to PCT users, the development of the legal and procedural framework of the PCT, and the publication of PCT -related information on paper and on the Internet.
57. The PCT Union Assembly, at its Thirty -First (18th Extraordinary) Session in September 2002, decided, with effect from January 1, 2004, to amend the Regulations, so as to introduce a new designations system and a new enhanced international search and examinations system. The review of the need to modify the Administrative Instructions under the PCT and the Forms, and in particular consultation with Offices on several issues, has started.
58. Two sessions of PCT/MIA considered draft revised PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines. These are required as a result of the enhanced international search and preliminary examinations system, which is due to enter into force on January 1, 2004. Consideration was also given to proposed modified and new Forms for reports and opinions under Chapters I and II of the PCT, and to possible revision of the PCT minimum documentation to include, *inter alia*, traditional -knowledge related periodicals and databases.
59. At its Fourth Session held in May, the Working Group on Reform of the PCT considered further proposals for changing the PCT system. The Working Group approved a number of proposed amendments to the Regulations, with a view to their submission to the PCT Union Assembly, concerning annexes to the international preliminary examination report, computation of time limits, and a number of minor corrigenda and consequential amendments relating to amendments already adopted and due to enter into force on January 1, 2004. The Working Group also considered that the International Bureau should present revised proposals to the PCT Union Assembly concerning the level of the international filing fee, and the handling fee, and that provisions relating to a common quality framework for international search and preliminary examinations should be incorporated into

thedraftPCTInternationalSearchandPreliminaryExaminationGuidelineswhichwereunder reviewby PCT/MIA.

60. TheWorkingGroupfeltthatfurtherconsiderationwasrequired concerningoptionsfor restorationoftherightofpriority,“missingpart”requirements(changesrelatedtothePatent LawTreaty(PLT)),declarationofthesourceofgeneticresourcesandtraditionalknowledge inpatentapplications,andalatefurnishingfeeforlatesubmissionofsequencelists.The WorkingGroupalsoconsideredoutlineoptionsforthefuturedevelopmentofinternational searchandexamination,andtheeffectsoftheautomaticindicationofalldesignations possibleunderthePCT,resultingfromtheamendmentstotheRegulationswhicharetocome intoforceonJanuary1,2004.

61. Duringthefirstsixmonthsof2003,42seminars/presentations/trainingsessionswere carriedoutontheuseandadvantagesofthePCTtopromoteaccessiontoit.Seminarswere heldin15differentcountries(Austria,Belgium,Denmark,Finland,France,Germany,Italy, Japan,Norway,Spain,Sweden,Switzerland,theFormerYugoslav RepublicofMacedonia, UnitedKingdom,UnitedStatesofAmerica)andwereattendedby2,503individuals. ParticipantsincludedIPOffices,inventors,representativesfromindustries,patentattorneys andgovernmentofficials.

62. Eight specializedtrainingsessionsandpresentationsonthePCTweregiventostaffof otherunitsoftheSecretariat.LegaladviceandinformationwereprovidedtoContracting Statesonnumerousoccasions.

63. Thefollowingpublicationsandtextswereissued and/ormadeavailableontheInternet: updatingsheets(English,French)fortheJanuary2003updateofthe“PCTApplicant’s Guide;”theregularupdatingoftheInternetversionoftheGuide;twospecialissuesofthe “PCT Gazette;”Section IVoftheweekly“PCTGazette;”themonthly“PCTNewsletter;” the“YearlyReviewofthePCT:2002”(English,Japanese);revisedversionsofthePatent CooperationTreaty(PCT)andRegulations(English,French,GermanandSpanish);updating sheetsforthePatent CooperationTreaty(PCT)andRegulationsasapplicablefrom October 17,2002andJanuary1,2003(English,FrenchandGerman);PCTLegaltextindex; acollectionofintellectualpropertyofficeclosingdates;revisedversionsofPCTforms; revisedversionsofthePCTseminarmaterialsontheInternet(English,French,Germanand Japanese);andgeneralinformationdocumentsinvariouslanguages.

Sub-program06.3 –InternationalPatentClassification(IPC)

64. ThefollowingIPC -relatedmeetings wereheldduringtheperiodunderreview:the Thirty-SecondSessionoftheCommitteeofExpertsoftheIPCUnion(Geneva,February); theSecondMeetingoftheTaskForceontheRevisionoftheGuidetotheIPC(Paris,INPI, April);andtheNinthSession oftheIPCRevisionWorkingGroup(Geneva,June).

65. TheCommitteeofExpertsconsideredthereportsofitsworkinggroupsandindicated objectivestobeachievedintheworkprogramfor2003.WithregardtoIPCreform,the Committeeapproved thefollowingdocuments,whichwillprovideabasisfortheapplication andrevisionofthereformedIPC:“TheIPCRevisionPolicyandProcedure;”“TheRevision CyclesoftheIPC;”and,the“GuidelinesforDeterminingtheSubjectMatterto be Classified”WithregardtoIPCrevision,theCommitteeapprovedamendmentstothe seventheditionoftheIPC,relatingto29sub -classes.TheCommitteealsoconsideredissues

relating to the publication of the next edition of the IPC, which should enter into force on January 1, 2005.

66. The Task Force on the Revision of the Guide to the IPC, set up by the *ad hoc* IPC Reform Working Group, nearly completed revision of this Guide, which provides a detailed explanation of the structure, principles and rules of the IPC. With the exception of one chapter, a new text of the Guide, reflecting substantial changes in the Classification introduced by IPC reform, was prepared.

67. The IPC Revision Working Group continued its preparatory work for the eighth edition of the IPC, which should be completed in 2003. It considered several IPC revision projects and agreed on the creation in the IPC of two new broad areas relating to traditional plant medicine and to methods of electronic business, respectively. The Revision Working Group also continued implementation in the IPC of IPC reform results. It approved a collection of more than 3,000 illustrating chemical formulae for introduction in the electronic layer of the IPC and continued elaboration of classification definitions and other explanatory tools required by IPC reform.

MAIN PROGRAM 07

Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems

68. Registration activities under the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems continued to be performed during the first half of 2003. Activities for the promotion of a wider application of the Nice, Vienna and Locarno Classifications, as well as for a wider acceptance and use of the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon registration Systems were undertaken through the organization of seminars and workshops. In addition, training activities, information and advice were provided to national and regional industrial property offices.

Sub-Program 07.1 – Operation of the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon Systems

69. International applications of marks under the Madrid System increased by 2.65 per cent while registrations during this period increased by 0.04 per cent compared to the same period in 2002.

70. Under the Hague System, the registration of deposits declined by about 27.47 per cent while the number of renewals increased by 4.93 per cent. This led to an overall decrease of operations by 13.28 per cent.

71. Concerning the Lisbon System, the first trilingual Bulletin “Appellations of Origin” was published, in accordance with the new Regulations in force since April 1, 2002.

Sub-Program 07.2 – Legal Framework, Information and Training Activities

72. In January, the Republic of Korea deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol and the Netherlands extended its membership of the Madrid Protocol to the Netherlands Antilles. In April, these expansions of the Madrid membership became effective. As a result, at the end of June, the Madrid Protocol was effective in 57 States and the Madrid

Agreement in 52 States, bringing the total membership of the Madrid Union to 71 States. In April, Albania deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol.¹

73. In February, Kyrgyzstan deposited its instrument of accession to the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement. This accession became effective in March. As a result, at the end of June, the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement was effective in 26 States and the total number of States participating in the Hague System was 31. In June, Belize deposited its instrument of accession to the 1960 Act.²

74. During the reporting period, the number of deposits of instruments of ratification or accession to the 1999 Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement (not yet in force) increased to nine, following the deposit made by Kyrgyzstan in February and Georgia in May.

75. Promotional activities for the Madrid, Hague and Lisbon international registration Systems included: a "National Seminar on the Protection of Trademarks and Geographical Indications," organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Trade of the Republic of Lebanon, Beirut; a "National Seminar on Geographical Indications," organized by WIPO in cooperation with the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks of Romania, in Sibiu (Romania); an "International Symposium on Intellectual Property Protection," organized by WIPO in cooperation with the International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (AIPPI) and the Egyptian Association for the Protection of Industrial Property, in Cairo; a "Regional Forum on Industrial Property for Africa and the Middle East," organized by the European Patent Office (EPO), the UK Patent Office, the Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office (CIPRO) and the African Regional Industrial Property Office (ARIPO), in Gauteng (South Africa); a "Regional Training Course on Trademarks," organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO), in Kingston.

76. Promotion of the Madrid and the Hague Systems was also carried out through participation in seminars and information meetings organized by the National Industrial Property Offices of Albania, Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, and Trinidad and Tobago. Consultations were held with government officials in Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago and Tunisia. Informal consultations were also held at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and at the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM). Participation was also ensured in 18 other meetings, seminars or workshops at the invitation of the following organizations: *Agence intergouvernementale de la francophonie* (AIF), American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), *Asociación de Antiguos Alumnos del Magister Lucentinus* (AAAML), European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), *Forum Institut für Management*, Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (ITMA), International Trademark Association (INTA), Max-Planck Institute for Intellectual Property, Competition and Tax Law, the Practising Law Institute (PLI, New York), and the University of Alicante.

77. Two seminars, in English, on the International Registration of Marks were organized by WIPO at its headquarters to explain the Madrid System to both the private sector and National Industrial Property Offices. Training on the procedures under the Madrid System was also provided to the staff of the Norwegian Patent Office and the Industrial Property Office of the

¹ The accession of Albania to the Madrid Protocol will become effective in July 2003.

² The accession of Belize to the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement will become effective in July 2003.

Slovak Republic. Officials from the National Industrial Property Offices of Israel, the Netherlands Antilles, the Republic of Korea and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia attended study programmes on the Madrid System at WIPO headquarters.

78. The International Bureau undertook considerable work for the preparation of the implementation of the 1999 Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement. In the light of the current status of accession to this Act, a Working Group on the Establishment of New Regulations Under the Hague Agreement was convened in June to review draft Common Regulations under the 1999 Act, the 1960 Act and the 1934 Act of the Hague Agreement. Following the discussions, the Working Group agreed that the Draft Common Regulations, as amended and approved by this Working Group, should be submitted to the Assembly of the Hague Union for adoption at its next session.

Sub-Program 07.3 – International Classifications in the Field of Trademarks and Industrial Designs

79. Georgia became party to the Nice Agreement in February bringing the total membership of the Nice Union to 70.

80. Promotion of classifications was undertaken through participation in a “Sub-Regional Training Workshop on Classification of Patents, Trademarks and Industrial Designs and Business Procedures in an Automated Office,” organized by WIPO and the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) in cooperation with the European Patent Office (EPO), in Harare, and a “Regional Training Course on Trademarks,” organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO), in Kingston.

81. Expertise and training missions were undertaken for the staff of the Intellectual Property Office of Trinidad and Tobago, the Jamaican Intellectual Property Office, the National Directorate of Industry of Mozambique, as well as at the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM).

82. At its twenty-third session, held from March 31 to April 4, the Preparatory Working Group of the Committee of Experts of the Nice Union continued the revision work of the Nice Classification. The revision work of the Vienna and Locarno classifications also continued.

MAIN PROGRAM 08

Development of Copyright and Related Rights

83. During the period under review, the Copyright Sector continued to implement its programme in support of the needs and expectations of Member States, creators and the cultural and information industries, as well as to underline the economic and cultural importance of copyright.

84. The Copyright Sector continued its activities on the promotion of, and provision of legal advice on, the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), including 12 staff missions to Member States, in cooperation with the Sector of Cooperation for Development and the Division for Cooperation with Certain Countries in Europe and Asia. Four countries became party to the two treaties during the period under

review, bringing the total number of countries adhering to the treaties to 41 each. A significant group of countries was actively preparing accession to the treaties. A survey on national laws implementing the WCT and WPPT in Member States was completed and presented at the Ninth Session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) in June. One country (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) joined the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works bringing its total number of members to 150.

85. At the meeting of the SCCR in June, substantial discussion took place and progress was achieved in clarifying the scope of protection of broadcasting organizations. Four new treaty language proposals were submitted for examination by the SCCR. The Committee decided that, at its 10th Session in November 2003, it would consider the next steps for the preparation of a possible diplomatic conference on the protection of broadcasting organizations. A study on the limitations and exceptions of copyright and related rights in the digital environment, as well as a survey of national laws on the implementation of the WIPO Internet treaties were presented to the SCCR. Given the relative lack of development on the issue of the protection of non-original databases, the SCCR decided to postpone consideration of that issue by the Committee to 2004. Following a practice established in 2002, an information seminar was organized in conjunction with the June meeting of the SCCR on the technical, legal and business aspects of webcasting. The seminar was highly appreciated by Member States.

86. WIPO continued to provide legal advice, comments and technical assistance to Member States. During the period under review, over 1,300 oral and written requests were dealt with. Forty-six staff missions were undertaken, covering participation in 20 international, nine regional and national conferences, seminars and consultations, in a total of 18 countries, including eight developing countries and one country in transition. The attended events were organized by governmental and semi-governmental authorities, universities, non-governmental bodies and the private sector. The staff missions aimed at: offering advice, speaking in meetings, holding consultations on developments in national and regional copyright law and practice, monitoring the latest trends impacting on copyright and related rights, discussing economic and cultural aspects, and obtaining the most recent information on the implications of digital technology. A total audience of over 5,200 people received information on copyright issues, which was more than double compared to the same period in 2002.

87. In accordance with the decision taken by the WIPO General Assembly in September 2002, the Secretariat had intensive consultations with Member States and other stakeholders on re-starting international discussions on the protection of audiovisual performances. A two-day informal *ad hoc* meeting will take place in early November 2003, to which all Member States and interested inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations have been invited. Significant preparatory work was carried out by the Secretariat to facilitate discussions in this meeting, including the completion of a survey on provisions in national laws in all Member States providing protection to audiovisual performances, and the commissioning and coordination of the preparation of two studies: one on rules and practices on transfer of rights in audiovisual performances and related aspects of private international law, and the other on rules on audiovisual performers' contracts and remuneration. All three documents were made available to Member States.

88. Furthermore, a number of projects were embarked upon and were near completion by the end of June, namely: a new Guide to WIPO's Copyright and Related Rights Treaties and the accompanying Glossary; a Guide on Surveying the Economic Contribution of the Copyright-Based Industries; a Guide on the Licensing of Copyright and Related Rights; and, a Study on Digital Rights Management Systems.

89. The Secretariat continued its regular contacts with government officials of Member States, as well as with some inter-governmental organizations and many non-governmental organizations, including universities and private sector bodies. In addition, many visits and discussions were held with the business, creative and user communities, focusing, in particular, on policy, access, technology, enforcement and business issues. These events aimed, *inter alia*, at raising public awareness, as well as highlighting the contribution of copyright protection to wealth creation and its use as a tool for cultural management. A memorandum of cooperation was signed between WIPO and the Ministry of Culture, Education and Sports in Spain, focusing on exchanges and joint action in the field of copyright and related rights.

MAIN PROGRAM 09

Global Communications

90. In pursuing the goal of demystifying intellectual property, activities during the first half of 2003 focused on: creating new interactive audiovisual and printed information products to explain the nature and contribution of intellectual property to general and targeted audiences; expanding the content and reach of the WIPO website, refining and strengthening WIPO's image as a forward-looking organization; and, expanding links with industry and other groups. Income from the sale of WIPO information products and advertising contributed to the Organization's revenue.

91. WIPO actively organized and promoted World Intellectual Property Day on April 26, 2003. More than 800 notices were sent to Intellectual Property Offices around the world, missions accredited to the UN in Geneva, UN information centers, non-governmental organizations, and the media, informing them of preparations and events for World IP Day. Kits containing posters, a new CD-ROM version of *Intellectual Property - A Power Tool for Economic Growth*, and a print-ready CD of various WIPO publications for local production were distributed. A list of activities planned by Member States and international or regional organizations to commemorate the event was posted on a dedicated page on the WIPO website.

Sub-program 09.1 – Corporate Image and Product Development

92. During the period under review, work continued on further developing, refining, and applying the corporate image of WIPO to a wider range of information products generated within the Organization. The number and types of general and specialized information products increased. Some 55 new products were issued and another 20 were updated. The "What is" series of six brochures explaining the basic elements of intellectual property was updated and combined into one new publication for more efficient distribution and lower costs. The 2002 Annual Report was prepared and published in six languages. Some 70 specialized products (conference materials, banners, reports, covers, etc.) were produced

for various sections of the Organization. These products included the preparation of publicity materials for the WIPO Summit on Intellectual Property and the Knowledge Economy, the WIPO Arbitration Center, and PCT promotional activities.

93. The sale of public information products generated more than two million Swiss francs by the end of June. A total of 8,625 products were sold and some 118,422 were distributed free of charge, both internally and externally. Increasingly, products are provided or sold with major discounts, particularly for buyers from developing countries and countries in transition. The electronic bookshop continued to serve as a valuable outlet for WIPO publications, generating some 87,000 Swiss francs in revenue from 606 orders. Contracts were signed with three news sales agents, which brought the total number to 13 and expanded the Organization's geographic reach. Further to these efforts, WIPO publications were displayed at book fairs in Africa, Asia and North America.

Sub-program 9.2 – Media and Public Affairs

94. WIPO continued to expand and consolidate its links with the international and Swiss-based press. During the period under review, some 30 press communiqués were released and some 1,400 press articles (tracked by one system only) covered issues relating to WIPO and intellectual property. Copyright issues, and WIPO's Patent Agenda and WIPO's work in alternative dispute resolution related to domain names continued to attract media coverage. There was also interest in WIPO's work relating to traditional knowledge, folklore and access to genetic resources, especially from the press in developing countries. Press conferences, briefings and interviews (written press, television and radio) with WIPO officials on a variety of subjects were arranged.

95. Twenty-six editions of "Intellectual Property in the News," a weekly compilation of IP-related newsclippings, were reproduced and sent to Geneva-based permanent missions.

96. Concerning activities relating to the area of public affairs, 26 groups, including government officials, business people and students, totaling 900 people, were briefed on the history, structure, and activities of the Organization. Twelve art exhibitions, serving to demonstrate the link between creativity and copyright, were organized. The exhibitions, supported by the missions of the exhibitors' nationality, drew some 6,000 visitors. Some 25 new or updated entries on WIPO in various international yearbooks and others such as publications were provided, along with responses to almost 3,000 general inquiries on WIPO and intellectual property.

97. The WIPO Coordination Office in New York continued to represent WIPO at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and to expand its outreach program to the private sector and civil society in North America. In its representational function to the United Nations, the Office attended numerous meetings including: the resumed session of the General Assembly; the preparatory meetings of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); the High-level ECOSOC-Bretton Woods and World Trade Organization meetings held in New York; the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Integrated and Coordinated Follow-up to the Outcomes of Major UN Conferences and Summits which discussed, *inter alia*, the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals; the meeting of the Inter-Agency Sub-Group for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, where issues relating to biodiversity and traditional knowledge were discussed; and, the forty-first session of the United Nations

Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), where IP issues such as electronic commerce and electronic signature were discussed.

98. The WIPO Coordination Office in New York also routinely met with a number of Ambassadors to discuss WIPO's activities and exchange views on a wider range of intellectual property issues of interest to their countries. In this context, another successful meeting of the WIPO-UNITAR workshop on intellectual property for diplomats was held in March, and a briefing on the WIPO Inter-governmental Committee on Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Folklore was held in May. In addition, the Coordination Office responded to over 300 substantive inquiries in order to provide greater understanding of WIPO's mission and activities. On the occasion of Intellectual Property Day, an exhibition and a reception were organized, attended by representatives of Permanent Missions, the UN Secretariat, and civil society. In line with WIPO's outreach program to the private sector and public at large, contacts were expanded to twelve additional universities in North America, lectures were given at universities, while contacts with professional IP associations and societies were strengthened, leading to agreements to hold cooperation activities in the near future. The internship program of the Coordination Office continued, with students from China, Grenada, Singapore, the United States of America and Switzerland studying in the United States of America.

99. The Washington Office continued to strengthen the profile of WIPO in the United States of America by extending contacts with the U.S. Government, as well as American industry groups, associations, and consumer groups with a stake in the future of global intellectual property policy. As in 2002, the Office monitored relevant U.S. Congressional hearings, accompanied WIPO officials from Geneva on Washington visits, and made numerous presentations to visiting groups interested in WIPO and intellectual property issues.

100. The WIPO Coordination Office in Brussels became operational at the end of 2002. During the period under review, the Office enhanced WIPO's profile through a series of discussions with all relevant European institutions and other major Brussels-based stakeholders in the intellectual property system, including: the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Secretariat; Permanent Representatives of EU Member States, and representatives of the accession States, and candidate and other countries; and, various business circles and other associations. The Coordination Office equally focused on extending knowledge of WIPO beyond the Organization's traditional interlocutors to include policymakers dealing with SMEs, innovation promotion, research and development, competition policy and cooperation for development. Intellectual property developments in all these areas were closely followed. Activities were carried out with a view to enhancing understanding of intellectual property issues and WIPO's mission, increasing policy synergy at the European and international level, and ensuring that European policymakers are fully aware of the work underway in WIPO. Finally, through regular reporting, the Coordination Office ensured that WIPO senior management and WIPO staff were kept informed of all relevant developments in Europe.

Sub-program 09.3 – Multimedia Productions

101. WIPO's websites continued to be enhanced with new features to make information more accessible. Some 47,000 subscribers to more than 100 e-mail lists received timely information from WIPO via the Internet, with lists in Arabic, Chinese, and Russian added by

mid-year. More content was added to the Arabic and Russian language versions of the site, as well as the Chinese language version, which was introduced in September 2002. After several years of steady growth, visits appear to be leveling off, with nearly 14 million hits during the first half of the year. Efforts were made to explore new ways of improving the site and keeping it up to date with current Internet technology.

102. Production of television and multimedia materials continued to expand during the first half of 2003. The first four pilot films of the series "Creative Planet" were filmed and produced, featuring artists, inventors, designers and musicians discussing the creative process and the value of the intellectual property system. The films were produced in six-minute and one-minute versions for distribution to international and national television networks. Various CD-ROM products, including an interactive version of *Intellectual Property – A Power Tool for Economic Growth*, were also produced, and video coverage made of various WIPO events that comprised the May extraordinary session of the General Assembly.

Sub-program 09.4 – Non-governmental Affairs

103. During the period under review, increased efforts were made to maintain, further develop and improve WIPO's contacts and relations with industry and Non-Governmental Organizations interested in intellectual property issues. Frequent meetings and visits were organized both in Geneva and elsewhere to provide information on the work carried out by WIPO, and to identify new fields of cooperation with these groups and organizations.

104. Activities included, *inter alia*, meetings with the International Generic Pharmaceutical Association (IGPA) in February, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in April, both held in Geneva, as well as participation in the 125th Annual Meeting of the International Trademark Association (INTA) in Amsterdam in May, and the International Federation of Industrial Property Attorneys (FICPI) World Congress in Berlin in June.

MAIN PROGRAM 10

Global Intellectual Property Issues

105. In the first half of 2003, a wider range of activities and initiatives were undertaken with regard to global intellectual property issues. Concerning intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and expressions of traditional cultures and folklore, substantive work was carried out to start implementing a series of decisions taken by the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) in December 2002. Within the framework of the SME sub-program, the highlight of the period under review was the organization of the first "Forum on Intellectual Property and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for Intellectual Property Offices of the OECD," in May. The Secretariat was also particularly active in many events concerning intellectual property and SMEs, and in publishing, both on-line and in CD format, material directly related to SMEs.

106. During the period under review, the Electronic Commerce Section was dissolved and its responsibilities divided: activities relating to Internet domain names and dispute resolution were transferred to the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, while activities relating to

copyright and related rights in the digital context were transferred to the newly established Copyright, E-Commerce, Technology and Management Division, in the Copyright Sector.

107. The Advisory Committee on Enforcement held its first meeting in June. Furthermore, WIPO participated in several meetings and seminars to promote the understanding of the principles relating to the enforcement of intellectual property rights. Contacts were also made with major copyright industries and relevant NGOs, with a view to strengthening cooperation and coordination activities.

Sub-Program 10.1 – Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

108. This sub-program continued to support both international policy dialogue and legal-technical cooperation concerning intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and expressions of traditional cultures and folklore. This entailed contributing to national, regional and inter-regional processes, as well as developments centered on the WIPO Inter-governmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). A key activity was the practical implementation of a series of decisions on substantive work taken at the fourth session of the IGC in December 2002.

109. Specific steps included progressing empirical surveys and questionnaires on the protection of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions, updating reports on national experience, and enhancing the exchange of local and indigenous communities' experiences. Consolidated analyses were prepared on the legal protection of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions, as well as a detailed technical study on patent disclosure requirements relating to genetic resources, a study of practical defensive protection mechanisms, materials for a toolkit for managing intellectual property implications of documenting traditional knowledge, and practical case studies on the protection of traditional cultural expressions. This provided a concrete basis for Member States' and other stakeholders' analysis of policy options and legal systems, as well as the development and implementation of practical tools. Increasing emphasis was placed on discussions and coordination of capacity-building needs and initiatives in relation to IP and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions/folklore.

110. Substantive and information documents were prepared for review at the fifth session of the IGC, in July 2003. These documents drew together a wider range of material developed and discussed over the preceding four sessions of the IGC, and consolidated this material as the foundation for future work, depending on directions to be set by Member States. The need for intensified policy dialogue and consultation with a wider range of concerned stakeholders was also met through a series of national, regional, inter-regional and international meetings, focusing on the issues under consideration in the IGC and consideration of future directions for WIPO's work in this area. These activities included consultations with the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), and meetings in Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco, Peru and the Russian Federation, as well as several major international conferences. Legal technical cooperation was provided at the national level in the development of national laws for the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. Strong cooperation with other elements of the United Nations system continued, with WIPO contributing to various processes undertaken by the

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and UNESCO.

111. This sub-program also continued to contribute to processes in other program areas, with a view to supporting the recognition of TK concerns, such as the revision of the International Patent Classification (IPC) to enhance its coverage of traditional knowledge, and the incorporation of disclosed traditional knowledge within the minimum documentation established under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) system.

112. Policy monitoring and informational activities concerning life sciences issues were also undertaken, through expert advisory missions, conference presentations, and legal advice tasks relating to biotechnology and IP issues. These included practical strategies for securing public benefits from investment in health and biotechnology research and for managing government-funded intellectual property in the life sciences domain, intellectual property issues relating to bioethics, and specific biotechnology patenting issues.

Sub-Program 10.2 – Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Intellectual Property

113. During the period under review, WIPO organized the first “Forum on Intellectual Property and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) for Intellectual Property Offices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD),” in May at WIPO’s headquarters in Geneva. The Forum provided an interactive platform for participants to share policies, practices and experiences on their respective outreach and support activities concerning intellectual property for universities, entrepreneurs, industry and business. Participants from fifteen OECD countries agreed to intensify future collaborative efforts in this area and to hold a similar event on a biannual basis.

114. Furthermore, the Secretariat co-organized four events, with the national governments of the host countries, aimed at broadening the scope of understanding and level of use of the IP systems by SMEs. Such activities included the “WIPO Sub-Regional Seminar on SMEs and IP” (Tallinn, Estonia), the “National Seminar on Intellectual Property as a Tool for Economic Development” (Baku, Azerbaijan), and the “WIPO National Workshop on IP for SMEs,” with special reference to the craft sector (Guatemala City, Guatemala, and Managua, Nicaragua).

115. Presentations on IP for SMEs were also made in an additional 10 events organized by international organizations or national SME support institutions, which aimed at introducing a business perspective to IP events or to raise awareness on IP in business events. These included: the “Workshop on Technology Based Business Incubators in SADC Countries” (Port Louis, Mauritius), organized by the World Association of Industrial and Technology Research Organizations (WAITRO); the “National Workshop on Enhanced Competitiveness of Small and Medium Industries through Application of New Technologies,” organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); the “Partnership Summit 2003,” of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) (Hyderabad, India); the “Seminar on Valuation and Commercialization of IP Rights in Serbia and Montenegro” (Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro), organized by the UNECE; the “Seminar on Knowledge, Wealth Creation and the Entrepreneurial University – The Role of the University of West Indies” (Bridgetown, Barbados); the “Seminar on IP Strategies for SMEs of the Patlib 2003 Conference” (Liege, Belgium); the “Science and Education Conference” (Edinburgh, UK);

“LESIOslo2003WorldConference”(Oslo,Norway);the“InternationalSeminaron IncubatorsandCapacityBuildingofSmallandMedium -sizedEnterprises”(Algiers,Algeria), organizedby *l’AgenceNationaldeValorisationdesRésultatsdeRechercheetdu DéveloppementTechnologique* (ANVREDET);the“NationalSeminarontheUseand BenefitsofIntellectualPropertyasaToolforEconomicGrowth”(Bridgetown,Barbados); and,the“SeminaronIPAwareness”(Castries,St.Lucia).

116. ExpertmissionswereundertakentoBotswana,Bhutan,FijiandNepaltopromotethe useoftheIPsystembySMEs,inpartnershipwithnationalauthorities.

117. InJune,theSecretariatpublishedonline“WIPOSurveyofIntellectualProperty ServicesofEuropeanTechnologyIncubators,”whichprovidedrevealingresultsontheextent towhichIPiscurrentlybeingintegratedintothebusinessservicesprovidedbyincubatorsto theirtenants.Theresultsofthatsurveywerealsopresentedatthe“WorldConferenceof ScienceandTechnologyParks,”whichtookplaceinLisbon,PortugalinJune.

118. Thenationalresearchprojecton“NorwegianSMEsandtheIPRSsystem:Exploration andAnalysis”wascompletedandpreparedfor publication.Aseriesofadditionalnational studieswasalsocommissioned.

119. ThepublicationoftheCD-ROMon“IntellectualPropertyforBusiness”inthe six officialUNlanguages(Arabic,Chinese,English,French,RussianandSpanish)and the distributionof11,000copiesworldwideamongSMEsupportinstitutionswasanother importanthighlightofthefirsthalfoftheyear.TheCD-ROMisbasedonWIPO’s SME website,whichhasbeenupdatedregularlywithsubstantivematerial,case studies, articlesanddocumentsofinteresttoSMEsandSMEsupportinstitutions.Duringtheperiod underreview,theArabic,ChineseandRussianversionsofthewebsitewerelaunched.The numberofhitstotheSMEwebsitessteadilyincreasedovertheperiod,with over100,000 hits monthly.Inaddition,WIPOcontinueditsmonthlye-mailSMEnewsletter,whichcurrently hasover4,200subscribers.

Sub-Program10.3 –ElectronicCommerceandIntellectualProperty

120. WIPOcontinueditsseriesofregionalconsultationsonelectroniccommerceand intellectualpropertyontheInternet,witharegionalconsultationheldinPrague, Czech Republic,inJune,thatfocusedonissuesetoutintheWIPOdocument“Intellectual PropertyontheInternet:ASurveyofIssues,”publishedinDecember2002.The consultationsarealsoaimedatbroadeningtheparticipationofdevelopingcountriesinthe formationofintellectualpropertypolicies suitedtothedigitalenvironment.

121. RegardingWIPO’sroleinassisting itsMemberStateswiththeonlineexploitationand managementoftheir culturalheritagematerialsfromanintellectualpropertyperspective, furtherresearchhasbeenundertaken,andcontacts made,toexploreanddevelopan appropriaterolefortheOrganizationinthisfield.

Sub-Program10.4 –IntellectualPropertyEnforcementIssuesand Strategies

122. ThefirstmeetingoftheAdvisoryCommitteeonEnforcement(ACE),whichwas establishedbytheWIPOGeneralAssemblyinSeptember2002,washeld inJune2003.The

Committee considered intellectual property enforcement issues, including the proposals by the Secretariat pertaining to the future work of the Committee and the recently launched Electronic Forum on Intellectual Property Enforcement Issues and Strategies (IPEIS). It was concluded, *inter alia*, that the next meeting of the ACE would deal with the role of the judiciary and quasi-judicial authorities, as well as of the prosecution, in enforcement activities, and that the IPEIS Electronic Forum would no longer be restricted in use.

123. During the period under review, and in line with the objective to cooperate and coordinate with multilateral, regional and non-governmental organizations in order to share expertise and experiences in the field of the enforcement of intellectual property rights, discussions were initiated with seven major copyright industries, at the Secretariat of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) in London, United Kingdom. Furthermore, WIPO participated in a meeting of the IPR Strategic Group of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Stuttgart, Germany, as well as the 3rd Meeting of the Interpol Intellectual Property Crime Action Group (IIPCAG) at the Interpol headquarters in Lyon, France. Contacts were also made with various NGOs, including the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition (IACC) and the Global Anti-Counterfeiting Group (GACG).

124. The understanding of the principles relating to the enforcement of intellectual property rights was actively promoted through participation in meetings and seminars organized by other sectors in WIPO and advisory national governments and regional organizations on draft legislation. Such activities included participation in: the “WIPO Worldwide Academy Seminar on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights for Judges from Countries in Transition” (Geneva); the “WIPO-ASEAN Regional Workshop on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights” (Bangkok, Thailand); the “COMESA Meeting of Trade and Customs Committee” (Lusaka, Zambia); the “WIPO/EPO/OHIM Training Seminar on Administrative Issues in Patent and Trademark Procedures” (Geneva); the “WIPO Intensive Seminar on Intellectual Property for Law Students” (Geneva); the “WIPO National Seminar on Intellectual Property” (Tripoli, Libya); and, the “WIPO Inter-Regional Intermediate Seminar on Enforcement” (Geneva).

125. In addition, input on enforcement issues were provided for three WIPO information and training guides on the protection of intellectual property rights, and some Member States were assisted in developing and implementing effective enforcement strategies. The WIPO website on enforcement matters was re-shaped and an electronic newsletter was being developed.

MAIN PROGRAM 11

Arbitration and Mediation Center

126. During the period under review, the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center received 540 domain name cases, covering a total of 858 domain names. WIPO's administration of these cases represents an effective contribution to the enforcement of trademark rights. The Center also received new cases under the WIPO Mediation, Arbitration and Expedited Arbitration Rules, due to its enhanced profile as a provider of arbitration and mediation services for all types of commercial disputes involving intellectual property. In addition to case administration, the Center served as a resource institution in the area of the out-of-court settlement of intellectual property disputes.

Sub-Program 11.1 – Case Administration

127. The Center consolidated its position as the leading provider of services for domain name and other intellectual property disputes. Administered in different languages, the 20,673 domain name cases received since this WIPO service began in December 1999 have involved parties from 118 countries and covered 24,351 separated domain names. The Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy remained the core domain name policy administered by the Center, which was applicable principally to the .com, .net and .org domains, as well as to these seven domains introduced more recently. In connection with the latter, the Center issued summary reports on its experience with the processing of complaints under special introductory dispute resolution mechanisms established by the operators of the .info and .biz domains (WIPO End Report on Case Administration under the Afilias Sunrise Registration Challenge Policy for .info; WIPO End Report on Case Administration under the Start-Up Trademark Opposition Policy for .biz). Four further country code top-level domain (ccTLD) registries designated the Center as dispute resolution provider, bringing the total number of such registries to 33.

128. Because they require international, neutral and efficient dispute resolutions, transactions such as cross-border licenses increasingly provide for the submission of disputes to mediation and arbitration under the WIPO Rules. In addition to its domain name caseload, the Center received five more conventional cases under the WIPO Rules, involving patent, copyright and trademark disputes, bringing the total number of conventional cases being administered during the reporting period to 10. As part of such case administration, the Center organized hearings and appointed arbitrators and mediators. The Center also assisted parties to non-WIPO cases in the appointment of neutrals from the Center's expanding database of intellectual property and dispute resolution specialists.

Sub-Program 11.2 - Legal Framework, Information and Promotion Activities

129. Events organized in connection with WIPO dispute resolution included two sessions of the popular "WIPO Workshop for Mediators in Intellectual Property Disputes," held in Geneva in June. New publications issued by the Center included an updated edition of its booklet, available in several languages, containing the WIPO Mediation, Arbitration and Expedited Arbitration Rules, including a simplified schedule of fees. To increase awareness of WIPO dispute procedures as an additional option for intellectual property owners and users, the Center answered hundreds of information requests and made presentations to WIPO-hosted seminars and meetings and to specific audiences of intellectual property stakeholders.

130. Continuously adding to its website, the Center completed its classification of the thousand issued WIPO Domain Name Panel Decisions, for the purpose of their inclusion in the Center's online legal index. This new product, which is available free of charge, contributed greatly to the success of the Center's site, which received over one million hits per month. Using expertise developed in the design of tailor-made procedures, the Center contributed to the implementation of a variety of dispute policies in the area of domain names. The Center maintained relations with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), in particular in connection with decisions of the WIPO General Assembly following the Second WIPO Internet Domain Name Process concerning, *inter alia*,

the protection in the domain names system of country names and of names and acronyms of inter-governmental organizations.

MAIN PROGRAM 12

Cooperation with Developing Countries

131. Within the framework of WIPO's Program of Cooperation for Development, activities aimed at assisting developing countries to utilize effectively the intellectual property system for social and economic development continued. In total, almost 8,000 participants were involved in 70 inter-regional, regional and national meetings, and some 139 WIPO staff for expert missions, as well as 24 study visits were organized.

132. During this period, an evaluation of the Cooperation for Development Program from 2000 to 2003 was undertaken by an external consultant. The conclusions of the evaluation indicated, *inter alia*, that: the activities under this Program were redesigned and implemented in a constructive and appropriate way, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and had yielded considerable practical results. They had contributed considerably to the promotion and strengthening of the intellectual property system in developing countries, in conformity with the vision of using intellectual property for social, cultural and economic development and wealth creation.

Sub Program 12.1 – Effective Utilization of the Intellectual Property System for Economic, Social and Cultural Development

133. Empowering developing countries to use the intellectual property system for economic, social and cultural development remains the cornerstone of the work of the Cooperation for Development Sector.

134. In Africa, important activities were undertaken in the area of the Collective Management of Performers' Rights. The Copyright Office of Burkina Faso (BBDA) was empowered to undertake the distribution of royalties in the field of performers' rights as a pilot project in Africa in the field of collective management of those rights. This activity was carried out in cooperation with the French Collection and Distribution Society for the Rights of Music Performers and Dancers (SPEDIDAM) and the authorities of Burkina Faso. Collection of royalties started at the beginning of the 2003 fiscal year. In addition, a new schedule of tariffs was implemented. Taking into account the extension of the collection to cover equitable remuneration, BBDA planned to conduct the first distribution of royalties at the end of July 2003. A small entity was created within BBDA to deal specifically with the day-to-day tasks of documentation and distribution in the field of performers' rights, including monitoring, market survey, statistics and liaison with the tax and levy collecting and enforcement agencies, in particular, the customs and police departments. WIPO contributed to the implementation of the project by participating in a roving seminar in two main cities, Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso, in May. Building on the experience of Burkina Faso, a similar project will soon be implemented in Guinea.

135. In the process of the computerization of industrial property offices in English-speaking African countries, a "Sub-regional Workshop on the International Classification of Patents, Trademarks and Industrial Designs" was organized in collaboration with the African Regional

Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO), in Harare, Zimbabwe, in May. The aim of the workshop was to equip the staff with the relevant skills in search, examination and processing procedures and international classification methods. Thirty-eight examiners participated in the workshop.

136. In the Arab region, WIPO jointly organized with the Egyptian Association for the Protection of Industrial Property, an "International Symposium on Intellectual Property Protection in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing Countries," held in Cairo, in April. The objective of the International Symposium was to create a forum where local and international experts could meet to discuss and exchange views on the recent developments in the field of intellectual property protection, focusing on the international and national legal framework and highlighting related issues of concern to developing countries.

137. In addition, WIPO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized, in cooperation with the Government of the Lebanese Republic, an "Arab Regional Conference on Recent Developments in the Field of Intellectual Property," followed by a second "Arab Regional Conference on Intellectual Property and Electronic Commerce." Both conferences took place at the ESCWA headquarters in Beirut, in May. Their objectives were to generate greater awareness on new issues and challenges posed by the intellectual property system, as well as to expose the magnitude and importance of electronic commerce and its effects on international trade, and intellectual property protection mechanisms. The conferences were intended for senior government officials responsible for policy questions relating to intellectual property and electronic commerce, as well as interested private sector circles, in particular, lawyers, economists, business managers and information technology specialists.

138. In Asia and the Pacific region, the promotion of a deeper understanding of the role of copyright and related rights in industries in the economic, social and cultural development of countries in the region provided the impetus for a series of national and regional seminars including: the "WIPO Asia Pacific Regional Symposium on the Protection and Enforcement of Copyright and Related Rights," in Jakarta, Indonesia, in January; the "WIPO National Seminar on Copyright and Related Rights, in Teheran," the Islamic Republic of Iran, in February; the "WIPO National Seminar on Enforcement of Copyright and Related Rights, in Kathmandu," Nepal, in February; the "WIPO National Seminar on the Internet Treaties," in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in March; and, the "WIPO National Seminar on the Rights and Obligations of End-Users of Copyright and Related Rights in the Digital Environment," in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in April. A broad range of national and regional stakeholders attending these seminars discussed various copyright and related rights issues including policy, strategy, enforcement and public awareness, the balancing of rightholders and consumers' rights and obligations, and the impact of the digital environment. In addition, two staff missions on copyright were undertaken to Mongolia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, while a study on the role of copyright in industries in the economy was ongoing in Indonesia.

139. Building capacities for public outreach in the field of intellectual property, with focus on specific target groups such as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the general public in the Asia and Pacific region, was also emphasized during this period. Activities in the field of capacity building in public outreach included: the customization of WIPO promotional material to suit specific target groups, such as the creation of a CD-ROM on Intellectual Property and SMEs for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries; the production of various WIPO leaflets on IP for Cambodia; the translation of WIPO publications on IP into the national languages of Indonesia, Lao PDR,

Mongolia, Thailand and Viet Nam; the preparation, under the Philippine Nationally Focused Action Plan, of national studies to analyze the current use of the IP system by various user groups, such as SMEs, inventors and creators, and universities, as a basis for policy, practical and public outreach recommendations. Furthermore, a "Regional Symposium on the Promotion of IP Awareness through Public Outreach" was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in January, and a "Regional Workshop on Enforcement of IP Rights" was organized in Bangkok, Thailand, in February, which had, as a key objective, the enhancement of public awareness of the importance of effective enforcement of IP rights for economic growth in developing countries.

140. In June, WIPO also organized an "Inter-regional Seminar on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore" in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran. The seminar, attended by some 29 developing countries and countries in transition, provided information and facilitated the analysis of the intellectual property issues under discussion in the WIPO Inter-governmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) by WIPO Member States, custodians of genetic resources, holders of traditional knowledge and folklore, and other stakeholders. This resulted in the consolidation of the consensus among participants on the future work program of the IGC, particularly as regards the protection of traditional cultural expressions/folklore, and the development of a practical guide on such protection as a specific WIPO deliverable.

141. In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, WIPO organized, in cooperation with the Government of Barbados, the WIPO Expert Group on Automation for Caribbean Countries, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in April. Representatives from Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as two WIPO experts in the field of automation, reviewed the software developed by WIPO for the Intellectual Property Offices of the region, and looked at the functionalities of two new components of the Automation System, the Patent Module and the Internet Access Module, which would be added to the Trademark Module previously installed in various countries of the region.

142. WIPO also jointly organized, with the Intellectual Property Office of Peru and the Andean Community Secretariat, the "Regional Workshop on Access to Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge," in Lima, in May, which was attended by 40 persons. This activity was followed by a "Sub-regional Workshop on Folklore and Traditional Knowledge for Andean Countries," in May, attended by 13 representatives from Latin American countries. The purpose of these workshops was to provide the participants with a forum for exchange of national experiences, to promote the understanding of concepts such as access to genetic resources, folklore and traditional knowledge, and to provide information on WIPO's work in this field.

143. In joint cooperation between WIPO, the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Cuban Industrial Property Office, the "IV Latin American Encounter on Patents ELDIPAT2003" was held in Havana, Cuba, in March. This event focused on examining the present situation of industrial property offices at the international level, taking into consideration present and future perspectives, especially the international patent agenda. Eight Industrial Property Office Directors from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela attended the meeting.

Sub-Program 12.2 – Special Focus Areas

144. In the field of intellectual property legislation, developing countries continued to receive assistance to make their legislation consistent with international standards and new developments. Twelve draft pieces of legislation were prepared and submitted to nine countries, and 24 requested written comments on draft or existing national laws or regulations were delivered to 16 countries. In the case of six countries, seven such comments were supplemented with consultations held in Geneva. Other legislative advice was provided to five countries. The areas covered included copyright and industrial property as well as the *sui generis* protection of traditional knowledge.

145. Information and documentation on intellectual property legislation has been considerably widened. Through updates to the Collection of Laws for Electronic Access (CLEA) database, as of June 30, a total of 2,804 bibliographic entries and 2,261 full text documents, relating to the laws of 67 countries and the European Community, as well as Treaties and Conventions, were published on the Internet. In addition, the editing of an updated version of the IPLEXCD-ROM, containing about 900 full legislative texts in English and French, progressed and is scheduled to be finished during the second half of this year.

146. With respect to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the implementation of the WIPO deliverables for LDCs, namely, human resources development, establishment of collective management societies, and the provision of information for SMEs in LDCs, continued in the first six months of 2003. Furthermore, as of June 2003, WIPO NET was implemented in 30 offices in 24 LDCs.

147. WIPO, in recognition of its contribution to the development of IP institutions and systems in LDCs, was invited by the Government of Bangladesh to participate in the Second Meeting of Least Developed Countries' Trade Ministers, which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from May 31 to June 2. The objectives of the meeting were: to review developments following the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Doha; to take stock of the current state of the on-going negotiations within WTO; and, to exchange ideas and coordinate views to reach a common position for all LDCs at the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference, due to be held in Cancún, Mexico, from 10 to 14 September, 2003. Participants at the meeting were briefed on WIPO activities for LDCs, with emphasis on the WIPO deliverables and the WIPO/WTO Joint Initiative for LDCs.

148. Regarding copyright collective management, WIPO jointly organized, with the *Centro Nacional de Derechos de Autor* (CENDA), Ministry of Culture, Cuba, a "National Seminar on Collective Management of Performers Intellectual Property Rights," in Havana, in May. This followed a Symposium entitled "The Music Industry in the XXI Century," organized by the same national institution within the framework of the "VII International Music, Image and Sound Fair (CUBADISCO)." In June, WIPO participated in the 50th anniversary celebrations in Paris of the creation of the *Société des Auteurs dans les Arts Graphiques et Plastiques* (ADAGP), an important partner in WIPO's activities in the Latin American Region, as well as in a two-day forum in Copenhagen organized by the special International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) Committee for visual creators' collective management societies worldwide and the International Council for Graphic and Visual Art Authors (CIAGP). The meeting provided very useful information on the state of affairs in WIPO Member States and an opportunity to build a network with concerned partners in view of cooperation activities.

149. Within the framework of the implementation of the Regionally Focused Action Plan on collective management for the Caribbean region, the members of the Caribbean Copyright Link used the tailor-made *Sistema de Gestión de Sociedades* (Association Management System) database program developed by the Spanish society *Sociedad General de Autores y Editores* (SGAE) to make their first distribution which provided successful and encouraging results. WIPO also facilitated related training courses for these societies. WIPO financed and participated in the "5th Meeting of the Board of Caribbean Copyright Link," held in Port of Spain, in June.

150. Finally, WIPO coordinated the publication of a new book entitled *Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights*. The publication provides information on the recent developments in the field of management of rights, particularly in the digital environment, and the implications for owners and users of rights. A copy of the publication was sent to each WIPO Member State in April.

151. With respect to infrastructure services and innovation promotion, during the period under review, a total of 20 WIPO Awards for Outstanding Inventors were bestowed in national and international competitions or fairs, to 37 inventors, including four teams, from 11 different countries of which six were developing countries. Two WIPO Trophies for Innovative Enterprises were awarded in two countries. Four WIPO Creativity Awards were offered to authors and creators from three countries.

152. WIPO organized a long-term study visit and on-the-job training in the area of technology management and innovation promotion in Germany for three technology managers from two countries, namely Indonesia (two) and Yemen (one).

153. Advice/expert assistance was provided while participating in seminars/workshops on innovation promotion and related aspects in Sofia (Bulgaria), Kiev (Ukraine) and Singapore, as well as during an advisory mission on IP and innovation policy in Tunis (Tunisia).

154. The WIPO Directory of Innovation Centers was regularly updated and now contains factsheets and links to over 100 innovation support services to facilitate information sharing and networking between innovation centers, inventors, technology managers and related services.

155. Within the framework of WIPO Patent Information Services, WIPO staff undertook four missions and participated in national seminars in Chile, Cuba, Guinea, San Salvador, Senegal, Spain, and Venezuela. These seminars were attended by representatives of universities, industrial associations, chambers of commerce and staff of industrial property offices, and presentations were made on WIPO services, technological information and economic development, access to patent information, online databases, transfer of technology, etc.

156. During the first six months of 2003, WIPO received a total of 486 state-of-the-art search requests including requests for search and examination reports of applications for patents under the International Cooperation in the Search and Examination of Inventions (ICSEI) Program, 313 online search requests and 1,701 copies of patent documents were delivered upon request from developing countries.

157. The WIPO University Initiative project started with the designation of university IP Coordinators and intellectual property office liaison staff in six countries: Bulgaria, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago.

Sub-Program 12.3 – PCT, Madrid and the Hague Systems Cooperation

158. During the first six months of 2003, one regional seminar, two roving seminars, and seven national seminars, reaching over 700 participants, were organized to enhance the awareness, knowledge, and better use of the PCT among developing countries. Likewise, four workshops on training in PCT procedures were undertaken, involving 246 participants.

159. To enhance cooperation with developing countries on PCT matters, five presentations, attended by 700 participants, were given on the PCT to industry associations. In addition, to promote a more efficient use of the PCT-related patent information as a source of technical information, two seminars with 400 participants were organized.

160. Three developing countries (Egypt, Papua New Guinea, Syrian Arab Republic) joined the PCT during the period, bringing the total number of PCT Contracting States to 121, of which 67 are developing countries.

161. Missions to thirteen countries and to one organization (OAPI) were undertaken to conduct information meetings and consultations, and to speak at seminars promoting the Madrid and the Hague Systems. Training was provided at WIPO headquarters on procedures under the Madrid Protocol to one new Member State. In addition, the attendance of representatives from developing countries and countries in transition at various WIPO committees was used to organize study visits to appropriate WIPO sectors, with the aim of increasing awareness and knowledge about the Madrid and the Hague Systems and their advantages.

162. In the period under review, one developing country (Republic of Korea) and one country in transition (Albania) acceded to the Madrid Protocol; two countries in transition (Georgia and Kyrgyzstan) either acceded to, or ratified, the 1999 Act of the Hague Agreement; and one country in transition (Kyrgyzstan) joined the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement.

Sub-Program 12.4 – Intellectual Property Office Automation

163. During the period under review, a number of activities were carried out to assist intellectual property offices (IPOs) benefit from information and communication technologies, including technical advice, training and deployment of automation projects.

164. In response to the growing demands from Member States, the following strategic guidelines for automation assistance were established: a global, long-term approach leveraging on WIPO's collective experience; re-use of tried and tested automation solutions to minimize deployment time and cost; comprehensive automation solutions that include IT infrastructure, IPO business and administrative software, database of IP records and training; commitment and ownership by IPOs; sharing of best practices; alignment with WIPO's IT projects and standards; and, post-deployment evaluation to assess the impact of automation on IPOs.

165. Several missions were undertaken in all regions to provide technical advice and guidance, on-site automation assessments, analysis of the IPO requirements, deployment of automation systems, training of IPO staff, knowledge transfer and technical support.

166. To improve effectiveness and sustainability of automation assistance, a three-level technical support structure was established, including: a 1st level on-site support by trained IPO staff; a 2nd level support by the WIPO regional IT consultant; and, a 3rd level support by the Secretariat. This support structure is now operational and responding quickly to problems and queries from IPOs.

167. In the Arab region, eight automation assistance activities were carried out. Two automation projects were completed, bringing the total number of IPOs that were automated in the regions since 2002 to seven. A "Regional Technical Workshop for Arab States," attended by 14 Member States in the region, was held in Cairo, in June. This was the first such workshop focusing on IPO automation. The main objective of the workshop was to share and review common experiences, problems and requirements, discuss how an IPO's automation system can leverage the WIPONET infrastructure, and to define future enhancements to the automation system. The participants found the workshop very useful, and the workshop will continue its work online, using the WIPO NET electronic discussion forum.

168. In the African region, nine automation assistance activities were carried out. Five automation projects are recurrently in progress with one more IPO successfully automated in April 2003. The projects in this region focus on automation of trademarks processing, which constitutes the biggest workload for the IPOs. Other IPOs are at various stages of preparation of automation plans.

169. In the Asia and Pacific region, five automation assistance activities were carried out. There were three automation projects in progress, while some more IPOs were in different stages of automation planning.

170. In the Latin American and the Caribbean region, nine automation assistance activities were carried out. Two automation projects were completed during this period and several other IPOs are in various stages of automation deployment.

171. In certain countries in Europe and Asia, technical consultation and guidance was provided to four IPOs to assist with automation projects.

172. Work continued on the WIPO IPO automation website, which will become a repository of IPO automation knowledge containing national, regional, and WIPO experiences in this area and international standards and best practices. The website's on-line service for the submission of Annual Technical Reports by Member States progressed beyond the pilot testing stage and was planned to be made operational later this year.

173. To leverage the benefits of WIPONET for IPOs, work was also carried out closely with the WIPONET project in the following areas: participation of regional IT consultants in WIPONET training workshops and ongoing assistance to IPOs in applying WIPONET Services to their day-to-day work; follow-up on the post-deployment problems of WIPONET Kits at IPOs; use of WIPONET Kits in IPO's internal automation; interfacing IPO automation systems to WIPONET and other WIPO IT projects; and, developing new online services on WIPONET.

174. In the area of collective management of copyright and related rights, five automation assistance activities were carried out in the African, Arab and Latin American and the Caribbean regions. Major enhancements were made to WIPO's AFRICOS software which is being used by a few collective management organizations in Africa. AFRICOS was being evaluated for scalability, language adaptability and compatibility with international standards and systems.

MAIN PROGRAM 13

Cooperation with Certain Countries in Europe and Asia

175. The activities undertaken with certain countries in Europe and Asia during the first half of 2003 focused on the provision of legal advice, human resource development and awareness-raising.

176. Consultations were undertaken with two governments on the modernization of their national intellectual property legislation, with six governments on the ratification of, or accession to, WIPO-administered treaties, and with a number of other governments on implementation of WIPO-administered treaties and general intellectual property issues. Four countries received legislative advice on drafts of intellectual property laws and two countries received comments and suggestions on national strategies for the integration of intellectual property into economic policies.

177. WIPO also cooperated actively with governments in the development and implementation of a Nationally Focused Action Plan (NFAP), seven bilateral cooperation programs and a memorandum of understanding, aimed at assisting national authorities in achieving more efficient management and use of the intellectual property system. In addition, one national intellectual property officer received advice on the computerization of its operations and two countries were provided with computer and other equipment.

178. Furthermore, the implementation of one country project continued, aimed at capacity building in the area of collective management of copyright and related rights. In addition, another country received equipment.

179. A total of 15 meetings, attended by some 1,500 participants, took place during the reporting period, including one inter-regional forum, two regional seminars, one regional workshop, one regional consultation meeting, five sub-regional and five national seminars. Several events coincided with the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the IP system in the respective countries. The main objective of the above meetings was to raise the awareness of the role of intellectual property in economic, social and cultural development. Topical issues and subjects included: IP issues for CIS parliamentarians; intellectual property as a tool for economic growth in CIS countries; commercialization, valuation and management of intellectual property assets; policies and strategies to enhance the use of intellectual property assets for innovation by SMEs; employees' inventions; licensing of intellectual property rights; IP implications of information technology, genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore; the Internet and intellectual property; digital copyright, the domain name system and the uniform domain name dispute resolution policy; copyright infringement, collective management of rights; geographical indications; present and future challenges of the patents system; substantive patent law harmonization and PCT reform; teaching of IP at universities; and, operationalizing the distance learning program in the Russian language.

180. Three WIPO officials presented papers at IP seminar held by other organizations in the cooperating countries.

181. To promote creativity and innovation, several gold medals, creativity awards, and trophies for innovative enterprises were granted.

MAIN PROGRAM 14

The WIPO Worldwide Academy (WWA)

182. The WIPO Worldwide Academy (WWA) continued to implement activities for the development of human resources through distance learning, professional training and policy development.

183. Some 307 participants attended seminars, meetings, academy sessions and post-graduate courses, organized under the professional training and policy development programs.

184. The distance learning program reached 5,542 students through its regular sessions. 31 WIPO staff members received IP training in a special session. The Distance Learning Course was a pre-requisite for all of the 75 participants in the Interregional Intermediate Seminar on Industrial Property, and 32 students of the Masters of Law in Intellectual Property offered jointly by the University of Turin and the WIPO Worldwide Academy.

185. The WIPO Knowledge Management Center and e-Library continued to offer library services, including the circulation of 320 periodicals within the Secretariat, and the provision of reference services both within the Secretariat and for external users. Numerous research requests from participants in WWA training programs were dealt with. Knowledge management initiatives continued, including: the publishing of two issues of the in-house electronic newsletter "Synergia;" the development of thematic knowledge bases consisting of tailored web-sites on particular topics such as e-books (one on patent information services is under preparation); and, the development of a bibliographic database on electronic journals available in the e-Library with a search mechanism for selecting e-journals on specific subjects. To provide specific information requested by various staff, a major initiative was undertaken involving the development of individualized "virtual desks," using collaborative web editing systems. These "virtual desks" provide information targeted to the specific needs and interests of the staff concerned, instantly collecting the most up-to-date information from newspapers, journals, research papers and other Internet-based information services, using various pre-directed search engines. The Center also made a significant contribution to the development of the inter-agency Memorandum of Agreement for the "United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisition Consortium," ensuring in particular that intellectual property concerns are fully reflected therein.

Sub-Program 14.1 – Distance Learning and Outreach

186. The highlight of the Distance Learning Program during the period under review was the organization of the first "Training and Design Workshop for Distance Learning Tutors," in Geneva, in May. The workshop provided guidelines to improve on-line tutorial practices, as well as suggestions on the future expansion of the Program, through the development of

appropriate curricula and joint degrees with academic partners. Some 15 people, including tutors and authors of the specialized courses of the distance learning program took part in the event.

187. Two regular sessions of the General Distance Learning course, DL -101, were held with a total of 5,542 registered students. Breakdowns of the two sessions, held from March 1 to April 15, and June 1 to July 15 respectively, were as follows:

- English: 1,063(707) participants from 107(88) countries, assisted by 14(nine) tutors;
- French: 141(129) participants from 33(29) countries, assisted by two(two) tutors;
- Spanish: 340 (377) participants from 24(25) countries, assisted by four(five) tutors;
- Chinese: 440(157) participants from five(four) countries, assisted by five(two) tutors;
- Russian: 275(581) participants from six(14) countries, assisted by three(five) tutors;
- Portuguese: 820(482) participants from five(five) countries, assisted by five(four) tutors;
- Arabic(Pilot): 30 participants from one country assisted by one tutor.

188. The participant in the Interregional Intermediate Seminar on Industrial Property, in June, also completed DL -101 as a prerequisite for attending the seminar.

189. The specialized course on Copyright and Related Rights (DL -201) was launched on a pilot basis with a total of 50 participants (April 15 - June 15). Following the positive feedback on pedagogical and substantial aspects, the Academy confirmed plans to launch the first official session of the course in the second half of 2003.

190. In coordination with the Staff Development Section, a special session of DL -101 was held in March and April, for a total of 31 WIPO staff members (12 in English and 19 in French).

Sub-Program 14.2 – Professional Training

191. During the period under review, the following professional training courses were organized:

- WIPO/European Patent Office (EPO)/Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) Training Seminar on “Administrative Issues in Patent and Trademark Procedures” (Geneva, the Hague, Alicante), in February, in English, for officials from patent and trademark departments of industrial property offices in developing countries and countries in transition. A total of 12 participants from 12 countries attended the seminar.
- WIPO/EPO/Spanish Patent and Trademark Office Training Seminar on “Coordinated Patent Examination Procedures” (Geneva, Madrid, Munich) in May, in Spanish, for officials of Latin American and Caribbean countries. A total of 14 participants from 13 countries participated in the seminar.
- “WIPO Interregional Intermediate Seminar on Industrial Property” (Geneva, June) in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. Follow-up practical training courses were organized in June, in cooperation with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (Cairo), the Austrian Patent Office (Vienna), the *Centred’Etudes Internationales de la Propriété Industrielle* (Strasbourg), the Danish Patent and Trademark Office (Taastrup), the European Patent Office (the Hague and Vienna), the German Patent and Trademark Office (Munich), the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic (Prague), the Israel Patent Office (Jerusalem), the Moroccan Intellectual Property Office (Casablanca), the National Institute of Industrial

Property (Lisbon), the National Institute of Industrial Property (Paris), the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (Madrid), and the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (Bern). A total of 75 participants attended from 70 developing countries, countries in transition and two regional organizations.

Sub-Program 14.3 – Policy Development

192. During the first half of 2003, the Policy Development Section organized six general and special Academy sessions and training programs for government officials, parliamentarians, diplomats and professors, and an intensive seminar for law students as follows:

- “WIPO Academy on IP for Diplomats,” attended by 22 diplomats from different missions based in Geneva (Geneva, February).
- “Intensive Seminar on IP,” attended by seven participants from Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (Geneva, March).
- “WIPO Academy on Intellectual Property,” Spanish Session, attended by 19 participants from Latin America (Geneva, March).
- “WIPO Workshop on IP,” attended by 13 CIS Parliamentarians (Geneva, April).
- “WIPO Academy on IP for Diplomats,” French/English Session, attended by 23 diplomats from missions based in Geneva (Geneva, April).
- Master of Laws in Intellectual Property/Post-Graduate Specialization Course in Intellectual Property attended by 32 participants (May - July, Turin). Of the 32 students, 16 were financed by WIPO. The participants came to Geneva for a week in June.
- Training Course on the Administration of Trademarks, attended by 15 participants (Oslo, June).

193. The Academy also organized a “National Seminar on Intellectual Property Education and Training,” which was attended by 40 representatives from universities, research institutions and government agencies dealing with human resources development and intellectual property. In addition, two seminars on intellectual property were organized for a total of 52 trade negotiators from developing countries and countries in transition attending the Trade Policy Course organized by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

MAIN PROGRAM 15

Information Technology

194. The Information Technology Program continued to manage the delivery of several major project initiatives, the majority of which are scheduled for completion in 2003. Emphasis was placed on the need for cost containment and the need to manage resources in an efficient and effective manner, while respecting project budgets, quality and time deadlines. Communications between the projects and services areas were also formalized through the use of a Commissioning Group to ensure that, as the new systems are moved into a production environment, the necessary operational support structure is in place and sustainable in the long-term.

Sub-program 15.1 – Information Technology Support

195. The Standing Committee on Information Technology (SCIT) received a full report on the progress of each project at the SCIT IT Projects Working Group session held in February. In May, Member States received a further round of status reports on the major IT projects. Also in May, the SCIT Standards and Documentation Working Group held its third session, at which States were able to agree on a revision to WIPO Technical Standard ST.8 (Recording of IPC Symbols on Machine-Readable Records) as well as changes to ST.10/B and ST.10/C (Layout (10/B) and Presentation (10/C) of Bibliographic Data Components) necessary to facilitate the coming into force of the 1999 Act of the Hague Agreement.

Sub-program 15.2 – Information Technology Services

196. All IT support activities continued. The following statistics indicate the scale of the internal IT Services operation: some 1,800 workstations were supported; the internal Help Desk received and processed over 9,000 calls using help desk software deployed in 2002; over 65 Internal Servers were resupported with sustained availability of 99.5 percent; and, the use of e-mail facilities continued to grow, processing up to 10,000 messages (sent and received) per day.

197. In addition to maintaining the existing WIPO IT infrastructure, work began on the establishment of a computer room and network facilities in the existing WMO building, as part of the “Fail-safe Organization-wide Customer-oriented Upgradeable Secure” (FOCUS) IT project. The performance, security and functionality of WIPO’s internal computer networks and High-Speed Inter-building Data Links continued to be supported. To further improve the security of WIPO’s Internet and Intranet resources, the Organization’s firewall facilities were extended and intrusion detection systems were implemented.

198. Over two and a half million Internet/Intranet pages were requested per month and statistics showed around 65 million hits on the WIPO website in the first half of 2003.

199. In response to evolving business needs, the major business applications supporting the PCT, the Madrid and the Hague registration systems were enhanced as required.

Sub-program 15.3 – WIPO NET

200. Despite some delays, the total number of intellectual property offices (IPOs) at which the WIPO NET KITH has now been installed reached 67 by the end of June (from 52 in December 2002), with another 45 IPOs in the process of preparing for deployment. Of the 177 circular letters, sent to IPOs already connected to the Internet to ascertain their interest in participating in the WIPO NET Project, 143 affirmative replies were received. These IPOs are to be provided with the necessary software and other relevant information, to enable them to access the WIPO NET Services. Approximately 202 WIPO NET Focal Points from 183 different IPOs in 144 countries received training, thus enabling these IPOs to begin using WIPO NET.

201. A new version of the Gold Disk (the CD-ROM containing all the pre-configured operating system and desktop software) was produced, to incorporate software updates and to remove certain deficiencies identified in the earlier version. Work also began on connecting the local area networks at IPOs to WIPO NET (gateway-to-gateway connectivity), which would allow for easier access by a large number of users in those IPOs. Work to join WIPO NET to

the virtual private network (“Trinet”) of the Trilateral Offices (USPTO, JPO and EPO) and the EPO’s network (Patnet) also commenced.

Sub-program 15.4 – IMPACT

202. The IMPACT Project progressed towards its goal of enabling the electronic communication of PCT-related documents between the International Bureau and national offices. The systematic Communications on Request (COR) system was successfully installed and in production. It allows national offices to receive PCT documents directly from WIPO using CD-ROMs and DVDs. Progress continued to be made in the development of the Specific COR, allowing national offices to directly request documents from the IMPACT database, via the Internet. At the end of June, the database included more than 940,000 documents (some 28 million pages).

203. Another achievement was the delivery of the scanning module of COR for the receipt of documents. Work in the area of data receipt focused on three activities: the improvement of the modules following the first two testing sessions, concerning mainly the import of paper documents (with the electronic PCT-EASY data); the refinement of the requirements for the electronic transmission module; and, the successful deployment of the Wrapped and Signed Package (WASP) checker application to validate and print the first electronic record copies coming from the EPO. This work also entailed close cooperation with the PCT-SAFE Project and the PCT Reform Section to improve and amend the Administrative Instruction Part 7 and Annex F.

204. With regard to the automation of the PCT operations at the International Bureau, it should be noted that development work schedules had suffered delays. Such delays were due primarily to the technical complexity of the system. The module to automate the International Bureau’s Receiving Office remained on hold during the period under review.

Sub-program 15.5 – PCT Electronic -filing

205. Following the first successful filing of a PCT-SAFE PCT International Application in November 2002, the formal pilot phase of the Project started in February 2003. A beta version of the PCT-SAFE software product, based on the *epoline*® product and PCT-EASY, was produced in April, and continued to be refined through user trials and feedback during the pilot phase. Work also continued on a number of other activities, such as: the production of Document Type Definitions (DTDs) for other PCT documents; the development of an enterprise version of PCT-EASY; the extension of PCT-EASY functionality to enable the electronic filing of the demand form; and, the preparation of the International Bureau’s Receiving Office (RO/IB) server, to receive electronically filed PCT International Applications and to integrate such received data into the IMPACT system.

Sub-program 15.6 – CLAIMS

206. Work on all four tracks within the project continued during the first half of 2003. With regard to the tracks supporting IPC reform, the necessary database design was completed and agreed and the resolution of difficult cases was studied. The eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schema for the IPC and IPC amendment was produced and the conversion to the new XML format of the IPC and IPCIS annexes were completed. A first prototype of RIPCIS, the system under development to replace IPCIS, was delivered in June. The purpose

of this prototype was to gain additional feedback on the user interface and static IPC as loaded from the current IPCIS system.

207. Concerning the track for computer-assisted categorization, tests on the WIPO alpha Dataset (English language) were completed in March. The creation of a 'beta set,' including French, German and Russian data and delivery of test results on that beta set, were completed. Meanwhile, the English part and a subset of the German part of the beta set were republished on the CLAIMS Datasets website. The final beta set with English, French, German and Russian data was produced at the end of April for later publication. Finally, a prototype for computer-assisted categorization was presented and made available for feedback to the IPC Revision Working Group on June 11, 2003.

208. The IPC tutorial web application, which uses open source software for web publishing, administration and local operation, was made available on WIPO's public website. Tutorials were recreated and, based upon experience gained, some requested modifications were implemented. The analysis on translations support, the deployment of four Multitrans licenses and the creation of IPC7 translation memories were all completed during the reporting period. Lastly, the analysis of the Natural Language processing search tools for the IPC was completed. It identified the solution, proposed by the E-patent Consortium, of which WIPO is a member, as the most appropriate for CLAIMS.

Sub-program 15.7 – AIMS

209. The recruitment of the internal AIMs team was nearly completed and, in addition, two staff members from IT Services, supporting the current finances system, received training in the new technologies, with a view to building long-term support and maintenance capabilities. In addition to WIPO's own project team, a Systems Integrator was selected and a contract signed. The external contractor began work alongside the internal team on the production of a detailed fit/gap study for the Expenditure/General Ledger module. For the income-related processes, documentation containing the requirements was also reviewed by the external team and a refined Project Plan was agreed.

210. The detailed documentation of business process requirements for the recording of expenditure, income and General Ledger was also completed and signed off by users. Finally, a Request for Proposals for hardware (servers) was issued and the selection process completed.

Sub-Program 15.8 - PCT Optical Character Recognition (OCR)

211. The backlog of PCT OCR processing was addressed so that data were made available for PCT Electronic Gazette purposes on schedule. Contract negotiations were initiated in order to further accelerate delivery of these data, in particular in respect of the usage of WIPONET.

MAIN PROGRAM 16

Human Resources Management

212. Human resources management processes and procedures continued to be strengthened including, *inter alia*, further development of the direct on-line access for supervisors and program managers, which will provide information on staff and short-term employees who report to them. Work also continued on different aspects related to the recruitment and retention of staff, as well as on staff health care matters and the work/family agenda.

Sub-program 16.1 – Engagements

213. During the period under review, 15 competitions were announced, 43 staff members were appointed and 36 temporary employees were recruited. Approximately 1,500 job applications were received and processed and over 650 contracts renewed. The contracts of 335 short-term employees, 76 consultants, 32 Special Service Agreements (SSA) and 27 Special Labor Contract (SLC) holders were administered during the first half of 2003.

Sub-program 16.2 – Staff Benefits and Welfare

214. The entitlements and contractual arrangements of 936 staff members were managed, as well as those of consultants, short-term employees and holders of SSA and SLC contracts. This included: 44 briefings for newly appointed regular staff; approximately 344 reports related to contracts; 68 promotion calculations and implementation; and, the review of 18 requests for the granting of language allowances on the basis of the relevant job description requirements. Other administrative procedures involved: the calculation and processing of approximately 121 dependency declarations; payment of 63 advances related to education grants; calculation and verification of 261 rental subsidies; the handling of maternity leave and home leave, education grant travels, separations and transfers. In addition, 428 attestations, 45 United Nations “laissez-passer” and 95 new requests for, and renewal of, Swiss identity cards were handled for regular staff and their eligible family members. In connection with attendance record keeping, 3,360 requests for annual, credit and compensatory leave were processed, approximately 5,800 certificates for all categories of staff and employees were recorded, including sick leave, and approximately 21,200 hours of overtime were controlled and registered prior to their payment being authorized.

215. During the same period, 77 new staff members and employees joined the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), increasing the total number of participants to 1,287. Approximately 186 WIPO staff members and their families joined the group medical insurance scheme, which increased the total number of persons insured to 3,076, and 19 persons joined the optional group life insurance. In addition, the following were processed: 40 accident declarations, 82 requests for medical insurance repayments for short-term employees, 20 UNJSPF separation settlements or withdrawal settlements and 186 miscellaneous certificates. Due to the inflation of medical costs in Switzerland and in most reference countries, as well as a general rise in the number of serious illnesses, the WIPO Group Medical and Accident Insurance Management Committee recommended an increase of the group medical insurance premiums of three percent and a ceiling on the reimbursement towards the cost of hospitalization in private rooms. Furthermore, a new agreement was signed with a pharmacy network. A call for tender was issued for the sickness, accident and loss of earnings insurance for short-term employees. The

WIPO (closed) Pension Fund reconciled the accounts for the year 2002 and processed the documentation related to the pensions supplements of retired staff. Work on a new actuarial valuation of the Fund as of December 31, 2002, was finalized.

216. The Staff Welfare Unit had approximately 300 individual meetings with staff members and employees seeking assistance, mainly for personal matters. Most newcomers sought active support in the arrangements for housing, schooling and/or day care facilities. A welcome brochure was finalized in cooperation with the Staff Development Section. The unit organized activities for children in collaboration with the staff welfare unit of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations High Commissioner's Office for Refugees (UNHCR). A pre-retirement seminar was organized in conjunction with the UN.

Sub-program 16.3 – Staff Management Policy and Development

217. Activities continued in relation to the formulation of general human resources management policies in line with trends and developments within the United Nations Common System. The WIPO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules were amended in January and June 2003. The Promotion Advisory Board considered some 54 requests for promotion.

218. Training activities continued to concentrate on three main areas, namely management and team building, communication, and technical training. Five team-building sessions took place for the PCT sector to facilitate the change of working processes. Altogether 100 staff members attended a team-building workshop. Specific management training was provided as required. Language courses were offered to approximately 400 staff members and employees in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish, including oral expression courses in English and French. Four induction sessions took place for newly recruited staff. Technical training for IT specialists took place on request. Some 31 staff members completed the WIPO Worldwide Academy on-line course on intellectual property in English and French. In addition, 11 staff members attended courses related to their specific professional needs (risk management, management of technical cooperation projects, etc.).

Sub-Program 16.4 – Healthcare Services

219. During the first six months of 2003, the WIPO Medical Service (WMS) administered healthcare to approximately 2,500 staff members and visiting delegates, including vaccines, treatment of daily ailments, emergency care and work-related briefings on required standards of safety. A lunchtime learning program addressed the issue of ergonomics at the workplace and specialized office ergonomics equipment was made available, as needed. The need for trained first aid responders in the respective WIPO buildings was also addressed. Accordingly, 45 staff members have to date been certified in first aid treatment and equipment for satellite medical offices was procured. In late March, the WMS instituted preventive measures to address the outbreak of SARS.

MAIN PROGRAM 17

Administrative Services

220. Administrative support services continued to be efficiently provided to the Member States and to the Secretariat, as well as to other private and public users. Work progressed satisfactorily on the Administration Information Management System (AIMS) project.

Sub-Program 17.1 – Financial Operations

221. Financial operations continued to be managed and accounts were maintained in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Organization. Distribution of the Madrid Union supplementary and complementary fees, and the Hague Union State fees for 2002 (totaling 24 million Swiss francs) were processed on time, as were the monthly distributions of the individual fees related to the Madrid Protocol (totaling 19 million Swiss francs) for the first six months of 2003.

222. The AIMS project, which will implement a new finance and budget information system, progressed well, and remained on schedule. The project design phase was nearly completed, especially as far as expenditure was concerned. The implementation partner was selected and already working closely with the Secretariat's internal team. The detailed analysis of reporting requirements and interface was established, and hardware procurement was underway.

223. As far as the investment services and management of funds were concerned, all available funds continued to be fully invested. The Investment Advisory Committee met in March to review WIPO's investments and, considering the present situation of interest return rates with capital being safeguarded, confirmed that there was no better alternative than to placing investment funds with the Swiss Central Bank, which yielded 2.5625 percent per annum during the first semester of 2003.

Sub-program 17.2 – Language Service

224. Laws, regulations, models of laws or draft laws were translated into one or several languages for 12 countries. Documents for 31 meetings, as well as lectures for seminars or training courses organized in the first half of 2003, were translated, revised or edited. The operation of a new computer-assisted translation software, which provides a modern documentary search tool, began to enhance the efficiency of the translation process, as files continued to be incorporated regularly into the newly created database.

Sub-program 17.3 – Conference, Communications, Records, and Publications Production Services

225. Conference support services were provided for 26 meetings (for a total of 1,870 participants) in Geneva and 49 meetings elsewhere. Two hundred and fifty-seven interpreters were recruited for a total of 887 workdays. Pending development of an electronic document tracking system, an improved manual tracking system was introduced, with the aim of assisting in the timely production of documents in all appropriate languages. Three WIPO staff members continued to serve as interpreters, and one acted as a team leader, at several of

the Organization's meetings, thus enabling cost savings. Savings in mailing and telecommunications costs were obtained in the competitive communications services sectors. The estimated overall volume of outgoing mail in the first half of 2003 was some 183,000 kg (marginally less than for the same period in 2002, resulting mainly from greater use of IT communications). Total telecommunications charges decreased in the first half of 2003, compared to the same period in 2002, reflecting a reduction in call charges and savings in line rental and maintenance costs despite an increase in the volume of communications. The use of portable telephones also increased, with the benefit of more efficient communications. Nearly 150,000 letters and parcels were processed. The enhanced security check of incoming mail continued. Work also continued on the classification and preservation of the Organization's physical archives, including scanning of historically valuable documents from the late 19th Century.

226. There was further progress in introducing information technology, and in streamlining the processes of printing and mailing of WIPO documents for meetings, with the goal of enabling most documents to be made available on the main WIPO website, and distributed electronically. Similarly, most internal information circulars were made available to staff electronically and the distribution of paper copies was discontinued. Due to budgetary constraints, implementation of the Electronic Document Management System pilot project was put on hold. However, elements of the system were successfully introduced for the record management component of the AI/MS project, which is currently under development.

227. In the Publications Production Service, approximately 50 million faceprints were produced in the two printing plants. Color printing also increased and much previously outsourced work was brought in-house, saving some 300,000 Swiss francs for the Organization. Investigation into new technologies was also undertaken to further enhance the production facilities, particularly in the finishing area. Further studies will be undertaken with a view to in-sourcing the Marks Gazette (Madrid System), with a potential annual saving of 450,000 Swiss francs.

Sub-program 17.4 – Procurement, Contracts and Travel Services

228. The principal objective remained the continuation and enhancement of efficient procurement activities in order to provide the Organization with the most appropriate goods and services.

229. Major consideration was given to WIPO projects involving IT and the new premises (finalization of the ex-WMO and initiation of the reconstruction of the new WIPO building). This included renegotiating, restructuring, extending and downscaling the WIPO NET and IMPACT Projects, and the successful negotiation of the AIMSP Project and OCR services. With reference to the new WIPO building, an international tender was launched for a general contractor.

230. Other activities included international tenders for the procurement of paper, office supplies and toner cartridges, and the maintenance and improvement of the inventory management system for organizational space and assets.

231. During the first half of 2003, WIPO issued and registered 914 purchase orders for an overall amount of 41.7 million Swiss francs. Some 30 Requests for Proposals (RFP) were established.

232. WIPO participated in the UN Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group meeting held in Poland. The Procurement and Contract Service also actively participated in the Contracts Review Committee meetings, presenting 27 cases during the period under review.

233. Regarding travel services, during the first half of 2003, the total number of travel authorizations issued and processed decreased, from 1,305 in 2002 to 1,090 in 2003, covering an estimated 2,597 mission days (compared to 3,131 during the same period in 2002). Estimated savings amounted to 1,021,052 Swiss francs (compared to 966,428 Swiss francs during the same period in 2002). The savings were mainly due to an application of reduced airfares offered by airlines.

234. Furthermore, 596 visas and 1,743 documents for diplomatic privileges were processed. Some 2,002 VAT forms were also checked and processed.

MAIN PROGRAM 18

Premises

235. In the first part of 2003, progress continued on on-going activities, namely: buildings management, to meet WIPO's workspace needs and provide secure storage and parking places; modernization and maintenance of buildings and their technical facilities; movements of personnel and related adaptation of offices; building security; renovation and extension of the ex-WMO project; and, the new building construction project.

Sub-program 18.1 – Premises Management

236. The rental of new, additional office space and parking places stabilized during the first half of 2003. Meanwhile, additional storage depots were deemed necessary for the PCT and the Finance Division. As the future relocation of PCT staff into the ex-WMO building will allow other services to occupy WIPO's leased space in the P&G building, notices of lease termination were sent to the owners of the Union Carbide (lease to be partially terminated), IBM and *Sogival* buildings. Those locations are to be vacated in the first half of 2004.

Sub-program 18.2 – Office Space, Maintenance and Security

237. Constant supervision and uniform maintenance was provided for all workspaces, including technical and exterior installations. Following a Request for Proposals (RFP) launched in 2002, the maintenance of WIPO's lawn and gardens was awarded to a local landscaping company to provide better services at lower costs.

238. As a result of internal restructuring, work was undertaken to relocate some 231 staff members, notably the newest PCT teams in the P&G building. This work included arranging and equipping newly-rented storage areas, as well as replacing outdated electric circuit panels (in buildings AB and GB).

239. New security provisions entered into force during January 2003, to adapt and improve security measures addressing the current requirements of the Organization. These provisions concerned all the existing buildings, data processing centers, WIPO NET computer sites

I and II, as well as the Data Center. These security measures for the existing -WMO building were improved to reflect the building's increased value, and planning of further security needs was on-going for the future occupation of this renovated building by PCT staff. In March, the access management system was implemented. Precautionary security measures were also established during the G8 conference in June.

240. Efforts continued to complete security training, envisaged for all personnel. Courses on the proper use of fire extinguishers were organized during the final week of March and early April, and the last fire evacuation exercise took place in June.

Sub-program 18.3 – Existing -WMO Building

241. Renovation of the existing -WMO building was nearing completion. The duration of this transition remained contingent on the satisfactory reconciliation of any final work items. Much of the construction was completed, such as the internal partitioning, the wall coverings and other finishing touches, as well as the exterior façade. The technical installations were completed and the contractors carried out tests to ensure the systems' functionality. The gallery and upper -floor links to the GBI and II buildings were also finalized. Planning for the movement of PCT personnel into the existing -WMO building continued.

Sub-program 18.4 – New Construction

242. The Request for Bid to select a general contractor was launched at the end of February, marking an important step towards the realization of the new building project. This step followed a long series of studies undertaken by expert consulting firms. Analysis of the proposed bids began in mid-June, after companies' offers had been received. On the basis of technical reports written by the consulting firms, the negotiations with the selected contractors are to follow.

243. The WIPO General Assembly is invited to note the contents of this document.

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