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ACTIVITIES OF THE WIPO PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL
PROPERTY INFORMATION (PCIPI) BETWEEN JULY 1, 1995, AND JULY 4, 1997

Report of the Director General

1. Article 7(2) of the Organizational Rules of the WIPO Permanent Committee on Industrial Property Information (hereinafter referred to as “the Permanent Committee” or as “the PCIPI”) provides that “the Director General of WIPO shall report at least to the biennial ordinary sessions of the interested governing bodies on the activities of the Permanent Committee and on related questions.” The present document constitutes that report.
2. Article 7(2) of the said Organizational Rules also provides that “to the extent possible, the draft of the Director General’s report shall be submitted by the Director General to the Permanent Committee for comments.” The present document was submitted to the Permanent Committee for comments when that Committee met on September 23, 1997.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE

3. It is recalled that, at its fifth session, held on September 26, 1995, the Permanent Committee unanimously approved the draft report of the Director General (see document PCIPI/V/6, paragraph 26) according to which the policy of the PCIPI in the 1996-97 biennium should be as follows:

(a) to facilitate the international transmission, exchange and dissemination of industrial property information—including text and image—in electronic form and the harmonized development of electronic search methods;

(b) to continue actively seeking harmonized practices by all industrial property offices regarding compliance with standards for electronic data processing in respect of procedures for filing, examination, publication and registration of industrial property titles, including not only patents but also trademarks and industrial designs;

(c) to encourage industrial property offices publishing on electronic media to invest in the development of new software in order to further improve certain functions, e.g., to support improved retrieval and printing of documents;

(d) to further develop the IPC, both as a system for the orderly arrangement of patent documents and as a computer-assisted search tool;

(e) to address adequately the problems arising from the general trend of information technology;

(f) to address adequately the particular problems of developing countries as formulated by the Permanent Committee for Development Cooperation Related to Industrial Property.

ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

4. The Executive Coordination Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “EXEC”) established and later revised, where it found revision necessary, the PCIPI working program for the 1996-97 biennium. New requests and proposals have been considered regularly and, where appropriate, referred immediately to a Working Group. The need for ad hoc working groups and the mandates of the standing Working Groups have been regularly reviewed.

5. The EXEC continued to work towards implementation of the policy referred to in paragraph 3, above. A new WIPO Standard was elaborated in the area of mixed-mode published patent document information. A number of revisions have also been made to improve and update current standards to prepare for the year 2000.

6. With regard to the International Patent Classification (IPC), the criteria for the selection of IPC revision projects have been successfully implemented in order to direct the revision work to those areas of the IPC which are felt to be most in need of revision.
7. In the field of trademark information, significant results were obtained by revising the existing standards and further work has been initiated to deal with electronic data processing.
8. A complete survey about application numbers and document numbers of industrial property documents (including patents, trademarks and industrial designs) was issued.
9. Many presentations and demonstrations were made to exchange views and experience of offices in the use of the Internet which had emerged as an important means of providing various types of general information and industrial property information.

ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUPS

10. Details of the work undertaken by the Working Groups are given in paragraphs 16 to 23 of the Annex to document PCIPI/VI/2.

11. The Assemblies of the Paris, PCT and IPC Unions are invited to note the report contained in the present document.

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