



Australian Government
IP Australia

Regional Patent Examination Training (RPET) program

Greg Powell
Supervising Examiner, Physics



Robust intellectual property rights delivered efficiently

Polymer
Bank Notes



Australian Government

IP Australia

Overview

- Introduction to the RPET program
 - What is RPET?
 - Why develop RPET?
 - What is course structure?
 - What does a typical week look like?
- What resources and tools are used in the program?
- How is the program going?



Australian Government

IP Australia

What is the RPET program?

Distance learning capability for patent examination training

- In depth training program
- Focusing on PCT search and examination
- Uses e-learning content and technologies
- Aims to build patent examination capabilities by:
 - Improving competency of examiners
 - Embedding learning into the workplace
 - Encouraging alignment of domestic practices and international standards



Australian Government

IP Australia

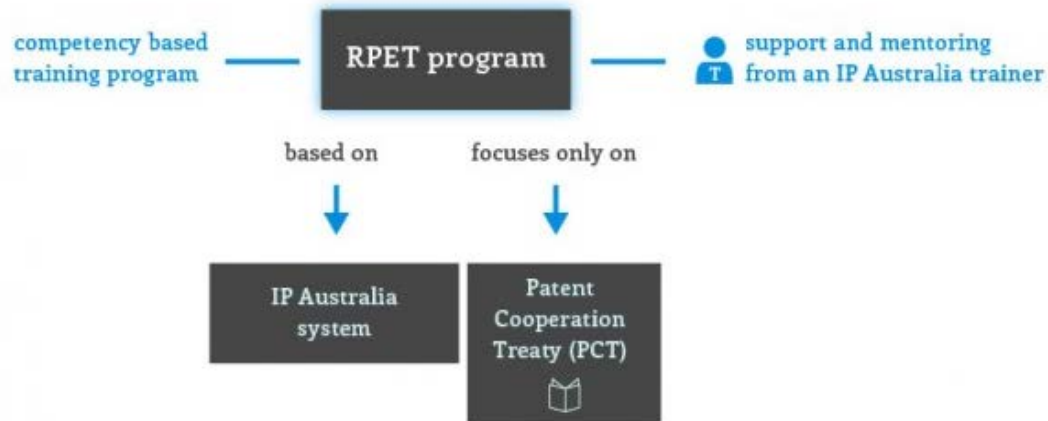
Why develop RPET?

- Enable more in depth and comprehensive training
- Enhance patent examination capability in member offices
- Contribute to greater confidence in the rights
- Increased business confidence
- Facilitate trade and technology transfer in the region



Australian Government
IP Australia

About the RPET program



- Pilot launched 8 April 2013 :
 - six from ASEAN offices (Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines)
 - two from Africa (ARIPO and Kenya)
- Partnership by ASEAN and IP Australia with support from WIPO
- Second intake in 2014 with 15 trainees – expanded to include participants from Thailand and Vietnam



Australian Government

IP Australia

About the RPET program

- Intensive training and one-on-one support to trainees
 - mostly conducted online, using e-learning technologies
 - until trainee achieves competency (up to two years)
- “Flipped Classroom” model – focus is on applying the concepts in practice
- Local supervisor for each trainee works closely with IP Australia’s trainers to monitor and assess trainee progress



Australian Government
IP Australia

Program structure and content



ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Competencies

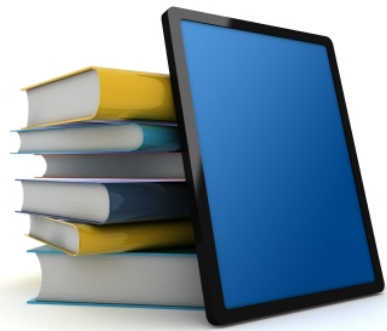
Assessment tools



Australian Government
IP Australia



Face to face meeting



Online resources

RPET



Virtual classrooms &
one on one mentoring

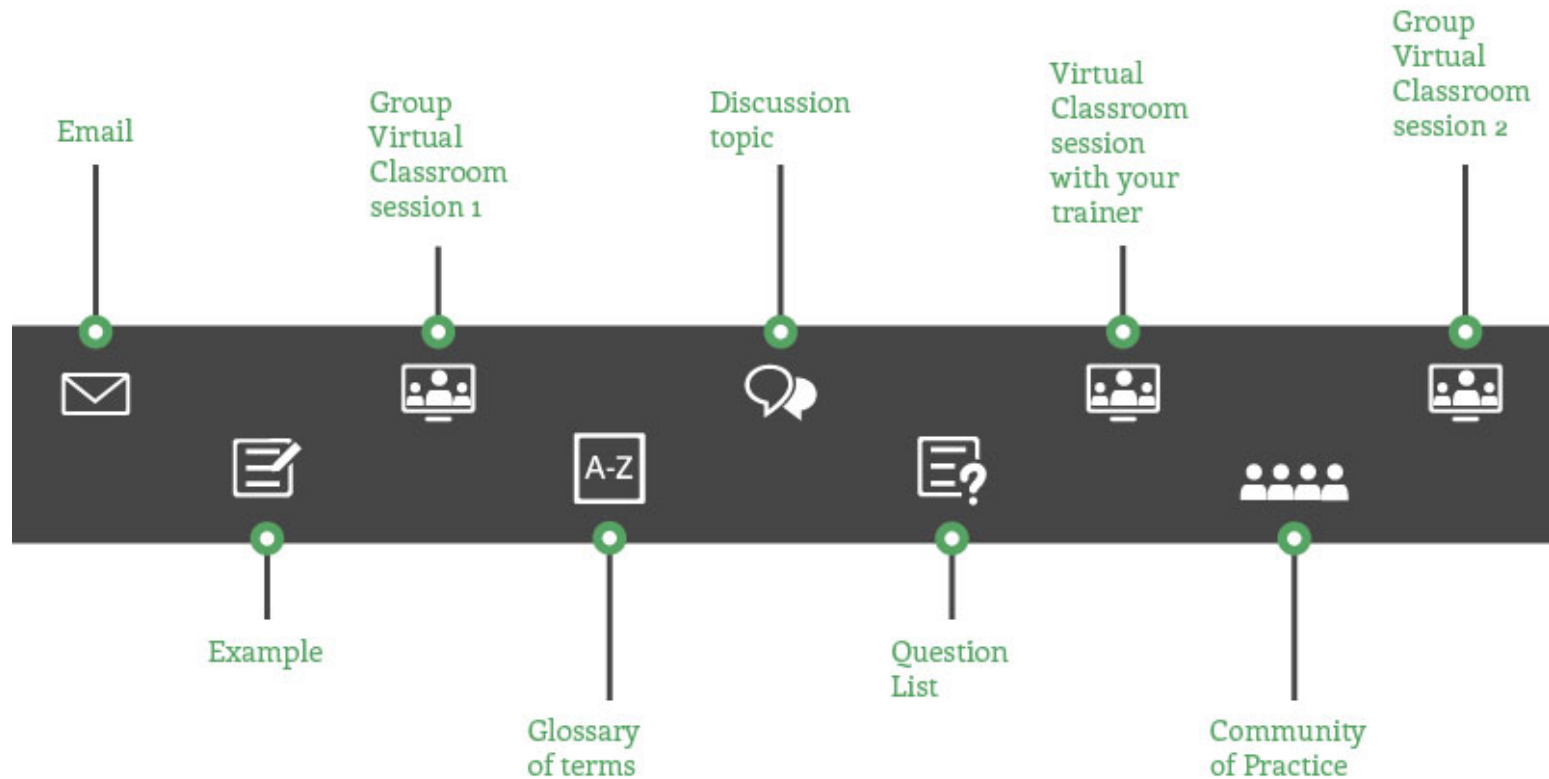


Online collaboration & discussion

Robust intellectual property rights delivered efficiently



Typical trainee week





Australian Government
IP Australia



<http://www.youtube.com/user/IPAustralia> (“Regional Patent Examination Training (RPET) Project”)

Robust intellectual property rights delivered efficiently



Australian Government

IP Australia

Experience so far.....

- Trainees report they are gaining new knowledge and skills
- Positive feedback on quality of trainers and online resources
- Competency-based training not widely used or understood
 - more time required than anticipated
 - reduced examination targets maximise involvement and benefits from RPET
- Highlighted differences between national practices and international standards, eg. treatment of dependent claims



Australian Government

IP Australia

Experience so far.....

- IT security restrictions
 - unintended impact on flexible/mobile access for participants
 - more flexible access since Oct 2013 esp for online collaboration and virtual classrooms.
- Lesson learned: Vital role of local supervisors
 - role not sufficiently defined before commencement
 - greater involvement required than anticipated
 - visit by local supervisors to IP Australia (October 2013)
 - clarified requirements and time commitments for supervisors
 - kicked off Community of Practice



Australian Government
IP Australia



Robust intellectual property rights delivered efficiently



Australian Government
IP Australia

Thank you

Greg Powell

Supervising Examiner, Physics

Patents and Plant Breeders Rights Group

+61 2 6283 2308

Greg.Powell@ipaustralia.gov.au



Robust intellectual property rights delivered efficiently

Polymer
Bank Notes