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INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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BRAZILIAN PROJECT

Progress Report prepared by the International Bureau

- 1 The PCT Interim Committee for Technical Assistance (hereinafter referred to as "the Interim Committee"), at its fourth session, held in Geneva from November 13 to 19, 1974, discussed a progress report (see document PCT/TAS/IV/2) on the Project for the Modernization of the Brazilian Patent System (Brazilian Project) and noted with appreciation the progress achieved. The Interim Committee expressed itself in favor of a continuation of the Project with high priority. This document contains a further progress report on the Brazilian Project.
- 2 It is recalled that in June 1973, WIPO concluded a contract with UNDP, entrusting it with the responsibility for carrying out the Brazilian Project. The Project implementation started in October 1973 with the arrival of the Project Manager and the first experts.
- 3 The Project is carried out with the help of experts recruited from experienced Offices in order to carry out the different tasks in the field of training in International Patent Classification, Searching and Examination and in the fields of systems analysis, organization and the establishment of the search file. Up to now, the following Offices have assisted WIPO in the implementation of the Project by providing the necessary experts : Australian Patent Office, Austrian Patent Office, German Patent Office, International Patent Institute, Japanese Patent Office, Octrooiraad (Netherlands Patent Office), Swedish Patent Office, United Kingdom Patent Office and United States Patent and Trademark Office. Qualified experts from other patent offices have applied as well and it can be expected that in the future further patent offices will contribute to the implementation of the Project.
- 4 Until the end of August 1975, 33 experts have been recruited and 190 man/months spent on the Project. During the same period of time, ten courses in patent classification, nine courses in searching and five courses in examination have been held. Three on-the-job training courses for the examiners of the National Brazilian Institute for Industrial Property (INPI), having received a complete training in patent classification, searching and examination, were also underway. About 50 trainees participated in the various training courses.

5. With the assistance of two Search File Experts, a patent documentation system has been established and more than 1,000,000 patent documents have been filed in classified order according to the International Patent Classification in the search file.

6. Five experts in systems analysis and patent office organization elaborated a new organizational plan and patent application handling system. New numbering and folder systems, as well as an automatic word processing system, have been introduced. A feasibility study was carried out on the use of EDP for INPI.

7. A set of training manuals for training in patent classification, searching and examination, was elaborated and is at present under revision, taking into account the experience gained in the practical application of the manuals. The purpose of these manuals is two-fold: they serve, on the one hand, as guidelines for searching and examination, and on the other hand, to secure a uniform training by the experts coming from various patent offices with different practices.

8. At the end of 1974, all Project activities were substantially reduced for an interim period, while INPI was moving its offices, staff and the search file from Brasilia to Rio de Janeiro. The large-scale activities were resumed again in February 1975. The re-establishing of the search file was, however, only possible once a new location had been prepared for that purpose in June 1975. However, provisional measures were taken to provide part of the search file for training purposes.

9. The only major difficulty persisting during the reporting period was a lack of adequate staff regulations ensuring stable working conditions with possibilities of advancement, social security benefits and salaries competitive to that paid by private sectors. This situation has contributed to a continuous drop out of trainees at various stages of training advancement and complicates the recruitment of qualified staff. However, steps have been undertaken to remedy this situation in the near future.

10. In March 1975, a review of the whole Project took place in Rio de Janeiro by the three parties involved, namely, the Brazilian Government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WIPO. The representatives of WIPO outlined the progress made with the implementation of the Project. The representatives of UNDP and the Brazilian Government expressed their general satisfaction with the Project and thanked WIPO for its efficient performance in executing the Project. The Resident Representative, who emphasized that the Project is the most expensive one executed under the Brazilian Country Program, stated that the Project was being implemented in an excellent way and with a continuous and successful effort by WIPO to comply with its obligations.

11. During the same meeting, a revised program and budget of Project activities to be executed during Phase II (Final Phase) of the Project (starting October 13, 1975 and ending October 12, 1978) was presented by WIPO to the representatives of UNDP and the Brazilian Government. This program was approved as presented and signed on June 17/July 7, 1975 by the Brazilian Government and UNDP.

12. The total number of man/months estimated for the execution of Phases I and II of the Project will now amount to 475, which remains almost within the limits of 462 man/months originally planned for the Project. The total UNDP input estimated for the Project amounts now to 3.9 million U.S. dollars. The increase in cost in comparison to the initial budget of 2.45 million U.S. dollars is, apart from a slight increase in man/months of less than 3 per cent, the result of the change in parity of the Swiss Franc vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar and of cost of living increases.

Phase II

13. Phase II of the Project is characterized by an uninterrupted continuation of the activities which started during Phase I. At the beginning of Phase II, three of the examiner training courses will be underway each in the chemical field and in the mechanical field and two courses of this kind in the electrical field. One further series of training courses in classification, searching and examining in the three different fields is provided to start in January 1976.

14. With the additional training courses of Phase II, the Project will provide a total of 13 of the basic training courses for examiners. Each of the courses consisting of 4 courses, i.e., classification course, searching course, examining course and on-the-job training course, leading to a total of 52 different specific training courses, out of which 26 will be terminated during Phase I, 8 will be underway at the beginning of Phase II and 18 will be carried out in Phase II. Taking the average participation of six trainees per course, INPI will have in early 1977 approximately 78 staff members at its disposal, all fully trained by international experts in patent classification, searching and examination.

15. For September 1976, when the majority of the basic training course shall be terminated, for each of the three technical fields training in handling appeal cases is foreseen to be given to the most advanced and qualified examiners of INPI, by experts highly experienced in this matter. With this training, the full scope of handling patent applications is covered.

16. After termination of all basic training courses, up to the end of the Project advanced examination assistance will be given to INPI's examiners working in classification, searching and examining of patent applications, for solving questions arising from daily work. It is expected that this assistance is going to round up the preceding training, and will lead to the full implementation of the modern patent examination procedure developed during the Project.

17. Phase II will, furthermore, continue to provide INPI with the assistance of organizational experts to implement and further develop the new administrative and supporting procedures, e.g., automatic data processing. A search file expert and an expert on documentation and modern retrieval techniques should assist in improving the documentation of technical literature, and the easy access to the technical information therein.

18. Finally, in order to put INPI in a position to continue the training of further staff in all fields of its activities, different experts in training matters for professional as well as clerical staff will set up the framework of a training academy and assist in its implementation. The training manuals elaborated during Phase I will be finalized, with due regard to the further experience gained in their practical application, and it is planned to have a personnel management expert design a tailor-made career development system for all staff to create a sound and steady basis for INPI for carrying on most effectively all its tasks under the new system.

19. The stage of highest activity of the Project is expected for 1976 and early 1977, terminating the basic set-up of the framework for a modern patent office. The remaining activities of Phase II will then be characterized by advanced examination assistance (see 15 above) and final advice on organizational and printing matters.

20. In conclusion, it can be stated that the cooperation with the Brazilian Government and UNDP is excellent. The high importance both cooperating parties attach to the Project is reflected by the considerable increase of funds allocated for the execution of the Project in Phase II. Thanks to the continuous efforts of the cooperating patent offices and UNDP all Project activities are well underway. The temporary slow down as a result of the move of the Brasilia offices has been overcome and the Project profits now from the concentration of the activities in one place, Rio de Janeiro. It is also expected that new staff regulations and higher salaries will be implemented soon, guaranteeing a continuity of staff and facilitating the recruitment of qualified engineers.

21. *The Interim Committee is requested to take note of this report and to provide its advice, if any, on the continuation of the Project.*

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