# Comments on the IB Proposal Concerning SCIT Restructuring

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Japanese Patent Office

1.  Our understanding is that with the accelerated globalization of economic activities and development of highly advanced IT society, the SCIT was made up from the PCIPI, which had discussed about IT issues including technical standards, to promote comprehensive discussion at WIPO concerning the implementation of the WIPO global information network and the provision of intellectual property information services on the network.

In this IB proposal, the SCIT will be divided into the advisory group on information technology and the standing committee on technical standards and documentation.

However, as an effect of recent rapid advances in the IT field, we think that future discussions on standards related to patent information are inseparable from IT policy discussions. If consideration of IT policy and technical standards were divided according to this proposal, we would not be sure that both sides could truly carry out an effective and constructive discussion.

2.  Our understanding is that the SCIT restructuring discussions began to be made with clarifying the relation between the SCIT Plenary and WG, TF. However, as regards this point, the IB proposal is not clear, except for the emphasis on the use of electronic working methods instead of the use of physical meetings.

In this regard, even if we set up the two Member State bodies (the advisory group on information technology and the standing committee on technical standards and documentation) as the IB proposal, the same problems that have been encountered up to now, would continue in each of the newly bodies.

Accordingly, we would like to request an even clearer proposal regarding the relation between the SCIT Plenary and WG, TF.

3.  Although the advisory group on information technology would give advice to the Director General (DG) concerning the overall IT strategy, its concrete mandate, component members, member status and the relation with the budget committee are not clear in the IB proposal. These points should be clarified.

In any event, the JPO hopes for a sufficiently suitable system, which can correspond to the extremely rapid advances in the IT field.