XML4IP TF - Meeting Minutes

Geneva, October 2009

INTRODUCTION

1. The XML4IP Task Force held its informal meeting during the week of the eleventh session of the SDWG from October 28 to 29, 2009. Twenty-seven delegates from the SDWG Member States (hereinafter called "the Participants") participated in the meeting.

2. The meeting was opened by Mr. Lopez Solanas. The adopted meeting agenda appears as Annex to this document.

3. It was considered that the efforts for the development of XML4IP would not only benefit the XML4IP TF member offices, but also all other Industrial Property Offices (IPOs). Standardization efforts, including XML technology, would improve efficiency of internal working procedure, increase data quality, and improve cost effectively in small, medium and large size IPOs, as well as facilitate data exchange amongst IPOs and enhance information dissemination by IPOs. Standardization of XML resources in the IP domain would benefit all types of IPOs, IP information providers, and other users of IP system.

DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT

Progress Report on XML4IP

4. The Participants reviewed the items of the Action Plan in the minutes of the last XML4IP Task Force meeting held in November 2008 and agreed that all items had been completed.

5. Mr. Yun, as the Task Leader, reported on the results, regarding XML4IP, of the two meetings (see item 1 of the agenda).

Objectives of XML4IP

6. The Participants reached agreement regarding the objectives of XML4IP as follows:

    1. Facilitation of data exchange among IPOs using XML

    2. Harmonization of data structures among three IP types

    - Rules and guidelines for dealing with common data structures across multiple IP types

    - Rules and guidelines for dealing with data structures specific to one IP type

    - Rules and guidelines for dealing with data structures specific to one IPO (non-core)

    3. Maximization of compatibility with WIPO Standards ST.36, ST.66 and ST.86, including the creation of transformation rules from WIPO Standards XML4IP to ST.36, ST.66 and ST.86, and vice versa.

    4. Facilitation of XML4IP implementation within IPOs

Scope of XML4IP

7. The Participants discussed the scope of XML4IP and agreed on the texts below. The Participants also agreed that the following texts be incorporated in the Introduction section of the main body of XML4IP.

    XML4IP recommends the XML (eXtensible Markup Language) resources used for filing, publication, processing, and exchange of all types of industrial property (IP) information, (i.e., patents, trademarks and industrial designs). The XML4IP aims at superseding (or supplementing) WIPO Standards ST.36, ST.66 and ST.86 which recommend the XML resources for patents, trademarks and industrial designs, respectively. However it is acknowledged that WIPO Standards ST.36, ST.66 and ST.86 will co-exist for some time.

8. The JPO provided a presentation on the scope of XML4IP. The JPO proposed to achieve data level interoperability (e.g., applicant, citation information) for data exchange rather than document level interoperability (e.g, patent application). The JPO highlighted that the document level of interoperability could not be achieved without the harmonization of regulations amongst IPOs. Furthermore, the JPO also proposed to first start work on the preparation of Common Schema Components for data exchange.

USPTO's Proposals

9. The Participants discussed the USPTO's proposal presented at the meeting. Due to the absence of Mr. B. Cox who provided the proposal, the Participants could not discuss it in depth. However, some Participants, including a Delegate from the EPO, expressed their concerns about the abstract model proposed by the USPTO. The abstract model might be too flexible to achieve practical interoperability for data exchange. It may cause a high level of complexity in the transformation tools for data exchange. However, transformation complexity may depend on the level of abstraction. Thus, the Participants needed further explanation on the level of abstraction, and asked that the USPTO provide further information regarding the level of abstraction.

10. The EPO presented comments on the USPTO's proposal during the meeting. The slides given by the EPO would be posted with some comments on a Wiki page which will be created by the IB to comment on the USPTO's proposal. A representative of OHIM mentioned that he would provide the OHIM's comments on the USPTO's proposal, in particular, "sample schemas", when he was back to the OHIM. The Participants noted that the USPTO had asked to provide comments on the proposal no later than November 13, 2009.

Outline of XML4IP (XML4IP Structure)

11. The Participants agreed on the outline of XML4IP as proposed by the IB with minor changes, including the following:

    (a) replacement of "business case" section in the main body with a "Background and Introduction" section;

    (b) deletion of "classification symbols" from enumerated lists in Section "3. Core Schema Components"; and

    (c) addition of the phrase "non-core schema component means office-specific schema components".

Provisional Schedule

12. The Participants agreed on the tentative plan for the XML4IP Project as follows:

    - at the first session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), the XML4IP TF to submit the entire draft XML4IP standard for comments from the CWS

- at the second session of CWS, the XML4IP TF to propose a final draft of XML4IP for consideration by the CWS

13. In order to meet this tentative schedule of the XML4IP Project, it was agreed that work sharing would be necessary by the Task Force members. In order for the TF members to share the work, tasks should be defined for preparation of contents in the outline of XML4IP. The IB was asked to prepare and post the list of tasks for the XML4IP Project including dependency among tasks. It was agreed that the Participants would comment on the draft list of the tasks and share the work for the tasks.

XML4IP Task Force Meetings in 2010

14. The Participants agreed on the need for the XML4IP Task Force meeting in the first-half of 2010 to accelerate the XML4IP Project. The tentative month of the meeting proposed by the IB was May 2010.

Review of XML4IP Design Rules and Conventions (DRCs)

15. The Participants had no time to discuss the draft XML4IP Design Rules and Conventions at the meeting. Thus, it was agreed the Task Force would comment on it via the Wiki eForum with the deadline to be given by the IB. The IB would create a Wiki page for discussion on the draft document of DRCs.

ACTION PLAN

1. The IB to create a page of "Status Report on XML implementation by IPOs" in the Wiki eForum and TF members to post their information as comment by November 13, 2009.

2. The IB to create a Wiki page for discussion on the USPTO's proposal, and the XML4IP TF members to comment by November 13, 2009.

3. The IB to create a Wiki page for discussion on the draft XML4IP Design Rules and Conventions, and XML4IP TF members to comment by November 27, 2009.

4. The IB to prepare and post the list of tasks for the XML4IP Project, including dependency among tasks; and the XML4IP TF members to review the list and to volunteer to share work for the tasks.

5. The XML4IP TF members to hold the TF meeting tentatively in May 2010.

6. The Task Leader to prepare and post the draft meeting minutes for comments from the Participants, and the XML4IP TF members to consider and approve the agreements, including the Action Plan, in the minutes.

ANNEX

Meeting Agenda

First Session

1. Progress Report on XML4IP by the Task Force Leader

   o Review Action Plan in the minutes of last TF meetings held in November 2008

   o Report on the results of two meetings in 2009: JPO-WIPO meeting in Japan and Trilateral meeting (TDSA-WG) in Washington

2. Objectives of XML4IP:

   o Proposal made by the USPTO at the XML4IP TF meeting, October 2007

   o Proposal made by the JPO at the XML4IP TF meeting, November 2008

3. Scope of XML4IP

   o Scope proposed in Section "1.1 Overview" of the XML4IP DRCs, Version 0.3

   o Proposals for XML4IP Scope under Ongoing Discussion: XML4IP Use Cases

   o New proposal (Scope of XML4IP) to be presented by the JPO

4. USPTO's Proposals:

   o Abstract Models (ppt)

   o Enterprise and Patent Schemas, and Instances (zip)

5. Outline of XML4IP (XML4IP Structure)

6. Provisional Schedule

   o October 2009 (SDWG/11):

     ▪ the XML4IP TF to review XML4IP Structure

     ▪ the XML4IP TF to review a draft XML4IP Design Rules and Conventions

   o at the first session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS):

     ▪ the XML4IP TF to submit a whole set of draft XML4IP standard for comments from the CWS

   o at the second session of CWS:

     ▪ the XML4IP TF to propose a final draft of XML4IP for consideration by the CWS

7. XML4IP Task Force Meetings in 2010

   o when? April or May 2010

   o where?

Second Session

1. Review of XML4IP Design Rules and Conventions (DRCs): Version 0.3

Status report on XML implementation by IPOs