

Visual Creators' Collective Management Societies

WIPO participated in the June meeting of the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) committee for the visual creators' collective management societies worldwide, which was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The collective management of copyright faces numerous challenges due to the diversity of visual creations and the rapid expansion of the means of dissemination of such works.

Visual creations include all works such as plastic art (paintings, drawing, sculptures), graphic creations (illustrations, caricatures, animated drawings, comics, graphic designs), photography, video creations and other types of graphic creations. In Latin America, these creations constitute an enormous repertory with

various applications in the cultural market as well as in the world of trademarks, graphic design and advertising. WIPO launched a pilot project in Latin America in 1999 to deal with such problems. The Latin American Council of Visual Arts was established at a meeting organized by WIPO and the Government of Cuba. It groups seven societies and works under the coordination of the Mexican collective management society.

The CISAC meeting provided useful information on current collective management issues in the 24 participating countries as well as an opportunity to build a network with partners in cooperation activities. The meeting covered a number of topics, including:



- the harmonization of the *droit de suite* in the European Union;
- the European directive on copyright and the information society; and
- the development of visual creators collective management societies in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



The First PCT Seminar in Iran

WIPO organized the first-ever seminar on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and innovative and inventive activity in Tehran on June 22 and 23 in cooperation with the Registration Office for Companies and Industrial Property, the Registration Organization for Deeds and Properties and the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology. The conference attracted some 100 participants from research and development (R&D) centers, universities and the intellectual property profession as well as government officials.

In addition to topics covering features of the PCT system and its advantages, the seminar also discussed subjects such as patenting strategies, the importance of patent information in support of inventive and innovative activities, and the infrastructure and professional training needed for commercializing inventions. The participants particularly appreciated the positive experience of India with the PCT system and Indian efforts

to modernize patent legislation and administration. The Iranian R&D organizations expressed interest in learning from the experience of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of India, which has in recent years developed a substantial portfolio of patents and emerged as the top user of the PCT from developing countries in 2002.

Iran has a wide network of dynamic R&D centers spread across the country. The seminar contributed to a large extent in raising the awareness of the inventors, R&D institutions and policy makers in Iran about the PCT system and its benefits. It is expected that Iran will accede to the PCT in the near future.

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