

WIPO Participants:

Francis Gurry, Deputy Director General
William Meredith, Head, PCT Statistics Section
Ángel López Solana, Head, Standards and Documentation Service
Catharine Calais Regnier, Marketing and Communications
Christophe Mazane, IT Manager
Andrew Czajkowski, Patent Info Analyst
Juneho Jang, Patent Info Analyst

PatCom Participants:

Willem-Geert Lagemaat, Univentio, PatCom President, NL
Pierre Buffet, Questel.Orbit, PatCom Executive Committee, F
Armin Förderer, FIZ Karlsruhe, PatCom Executive Committee, DE
Rob Willows, Thomson Scientific, PatCom Executive Committee, UK
Prof.Dr.-Ing. Georg F. Schultheiss, PatCom Honorary Secretary, DE

0. Introductions

Francis Gurry, Deputy Director General of WIPO opened the meeting, welcomes the PatCom delegation and referred to the IPC workshop. WIPO has understood the PatCom point of view. He thanks PatCom for this initiative and introduced the WIPO attendees.

Willem Lagemaat thanked and stated that the workshop was very good. Rob Willows will give some comments later. He introduced the members of PatCom delegation.

1. WIPO Development Plan and

2. PATENTSCOPE – Experiences and Development

William Meredith gave a presentation which will be added to the PatCom website along this summary of the meeting following the proposed agenda (see Appendix 1).

PATENTSCOPE developments 2007

2007 was a consolidation year. The services are targeting mainly towards South America and Asia.

New national phase entry data show 30 countries online, Czech Republic and Poland coming in Feb 2008. New document types (notifications, applicants, comments etc.) will be included in facsimile but it is not file history as it is not complete, what would need special links. Revised presentation of sequence listings came in Oct 2007. Incremental improvements based on user feed-back have been done but usage data have not been given.

PATENTSCOPE developments 2008

A cross-language search project with machine translation is in design phase and will take some time. It seems necessary, as only 60% of PCT documents are in English. A terminology database has been installed at WIPO and will cover 8 languages plus KR & PT later. There will be partnerships with national offices, eventually it could become an open access database.

Rob Willows made a reference to the EPO that will make their dictionaries available and asked for WIPO's intent. *Francis Gurry* answered that the project was in a too early stage to answer, but the aim is to make this information public.

All web pages and search interface are prepared in Spanish – other languages are under consideration according to the demand. Patent landscapes on selected technologies are planned. The topics will be selected according to policy aspects, e.g. natural products, life sciences etc.

PATENTSCOPE Data Products

WIPO sees there probably too many projects underway.

The revised publication of sequence listings makes all sequence listings are now easily identifiable and downloadable, regardless of filing method. Unfortunately, this highlights the large proportion of sequence listings that are not available in electronic format.

Japanese language XML publication system is currently in testing. WIPO will send test data. Maybe CN & KR will follow later. The aim is to take benefit of the XML files sent by JPO that are converted in facsimile today.

With respect to full-text (OCR) the back-file is reprocessed and the product will be made available for purchase. WIPO cannot provide a date and a price at this stage. A quality improvement system is in place and Chinese and Japanese languages are to be added in the future but this needs cooperation with the offices.

XML Web Services were initially designed for patent offices and then for commercial providers. They will provide access to all published documents and are currently in testing to be offered to commercial providers in Q2 2008, depending on test results. This could be very useful for modifications (e.g. applicant name, etc.). Unlike the EPO, WIPO chooses to offer a high quality service open to selected organizations like offices and commercial distributors.

For FTP data delivery (about 6 GByte/week) a new Internet service provider is being investigated. FTP data delivery is to become standard if a suitable provider can be found.

All this cannot be done for free. Enhanced services will be subject to revised pricing, based on cost-recovery. All is in test mode. There will be changes coming this year.

Cooperation projects with member states

are in progress. The aim is to extend to countries not available yet. Cooperation activities include assistance with digitisation and dissemination of patent data, training and seminars as well as data exchange. The countries envisaged are e.g. Peru, Mexico and South Africa.

Georg Schultheiss asked for the current and future actions of WIPO within a matrix: Developing Countries / Industrialized Countries over PCT Material/ Non PCT Material as proposed in the agenda. He mentions, that it seems if WIPO is approaching competitive areas towards commercials

Francis Gurry explained that there are several dimensions to the problem:

Firstly WIPO does not have a new budget, but this will be solved at some stage between March and September. It does have a direct impact on resources available for our projects. This means that planning also has to take into account this issue of resources.

Secondly, he is not sure WIPO is approaching the commercial sector. There should be no fear before the next meeting! WIPO is doing classic public functions being present when there is a market failure, e.g. producing non available data.

Willem Lagemaat agrees that for instance with Latin America, WIPO will be more efficient. But what PatCom wants to illuminate, is the fact that the PATENTSCOPE platform becomes very professional, which potentially can be used on other data.

Francis Gurry states that he would not exclude the possibility that it might become an aim, but not in the very short term. Next year PatCom won't see that, it may see one or several limited numbers of National collections that are not available at the moment. Also, the National offices may say: leave that to us.

We have very different objectives in this area. WIPO aim: IP is a challenge. We think a very good strategy is to reinforce the disclosure process, which works better with digital data. Our main problem is to give access to developing countries at low cost. Anything we can do in this respect: to give access to their collection. Today the choice they have is either to licence EPOQUE and/or to access commercial services. Lastly, I think this WIPO choice will lead to the opening of your market.

Rob Willows asked if WIPO considers offering a local PATENTSCOPE package available for small offices, like the EPO does.

Francis Gurry sees this depending on the country. WIPO thinks of a range of services or search technology or publication means. WIPO wants to answer the countries requests.

Willem Lagemaat reminded that a combination of IPR and business information was discussed in the past and asked for the status?

Francis Gurry made a short remark that this is an important reason to digitize the collections and *William Meredith* explained that WIPO mostly does landscaping to assist policy issues. The aim is not to provide info and to use similar tools as in the private sector, but for policy issues. Anyway this is going relatively slowly. Focus is on statistics on publications that can reveal interesting aspects.

Willem Lagemaat asked for PATENTSCOPE usage statistics and *William Meredith* stated that these have not been done for a while. WIPO doesn't have a consistent way of making stats. Nevertheless he can say that the usage is growing and it comes from various places all over the world. It is used for many purposes, e.g. getting info on a PCT application or prior art searching.

Francis Gurry announced as an example that in April will be held a small forum for WHO (World Health Organization). This attracted a lot of interest as shown by the number of attendees. Another example is on flu viruses in Asia. This is filling gaps for what is not available on the market.

William Meredith explains that the real issue is dissemination policy and *Francis Gurry* added that an evolution could be set by a forum on dissemination policy, but scheduling this cannot be done before Sep 2008.

3. Workshop Review

IPC

William Meredith thanked again for quality of agenda and discussions. Antonios Farassopoulos will prepare a summary.

Rob Willows added that Antonios did a great job. It was interesting to PatCom as it was a big challenge for the offices to meet the reclassification issue and a huge amount of work was done. Advanced versus core version of IPC was also considered very careful as well as classification versus indexing. He placed one important wish: Until the next meeting in about 2 years as has been agreed the discussions should include more involvement of PDG and of the commercial sector!

Standards (SCIT/SDWG/9)

Rob Willows states that PatCom welcomes the invitation to participate to this working Group and *Angel Solanas* welcomes PatCom physical presence where substantive discussion takes place during the 2 first days.

New standard for AP number format is under way and WIPO is very close to revision of ST13, even if there is still the pending issue of how to manage PCT in the standard. Not sure this will be sorted out before Feb18th, the date of next workshop. Other important matter is the revision of ST22 (OCR). At present this is a difficult situation because trilateral agreement on CAF (common application format) blocked the revision of ST22 by incompatibility. Because of EPO changes a new INID code is requested for ST9. The ST36 task force is with the mandate to handle a permanent update. This task force is focussing on fixing problems that appeared.

Annual report on patents announced that the task force will suggest minor changes. The WIPO Handbook should be available in 2 months time. The English version already exists.

4. WIPO Publications

Georg Schultheiss raised this issue that it is sometimes very difficult to find a document mentioned, e.g. in a newsletter. Would it be possible to use the document number in an efficient way to retrieve such documents?

William Meredith explained that there are several levels of WIPO publications, but it could be better indexed to know where to look.

Francis Gurry and *Catherine Regnier* said that there exists a catalogue which is the best way to find where information is, and *William Meredith* added that it is not possible to search a document by its number.

Francis Gurry announced that WIPO for sending communication is moving towards completely distributing docs in electronic form.

5. PatCom Observer Status

Has been covered above.

6. AOB

The next meeting with WIPO is envisaged in about a year from now, possibly near another related meeting. *William Meredith* and *Georg Schultheiss* will prepare the details.

Georg F. Schultheiss
Secretary of PatCom

02.03.2008

Appendix 1

Agenda WIPO Meeting in Geneva on 06.02.2008, 10:00 am
Status: 05.01.2008

PatCom proposes the following agenda:

1. WIPO Development Plan and
Current/future actions of WIPO within a matrix:
Developing Countries/ Industrialized Countries over
PCT Material/ Non PCT Material
2. Patent Scope – Experiences and Development
3. Workshop Review
 - a) IPC
 - b) Standards
4. WIPO Publications
5. PatCom Observer Status
6. AOB:
 - a) Next Meeting