WIPO IP Information Round Table 2023

The annual appointment organized by the WIPO to meet the users of their information services was held online only on Novembre 30, 2023.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Natsume, Assistant Director General, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector, who gave an overview of the most relevant activities held by the WIPO in the last year.
He reported that two long-awaited international diplomatic conferences were decided by the General Assembly in 2022: one regarding the Design Law Treaty and one the Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge.
The works are in progress, the conclusions are expected in 2024.
The former should put order in a matter, the protection of designs, which still presents notable differences from country to country in the registration procedure, in the administrative rules and in the enforcement.
The latter regards a topic very sensitive for developing countries, which have been suffering for long time from the patenting of their own cultural heritage by foreign big companies.
One of the required aspects would be the obligation of disclosure this knowledge in the description of the state of the art in the patent applications, that, where approved, would make more information available to patent information users.
Mr. Natsume also mentioned a large number of activities held by the WIPO, including the progress in the ICT platform, in the standards (namely the new St.96 about the adoption of XML for IP documents and the implementation of St.26 about sequence listing, which still presents some issues), the work done on the API (to make easier the machine-to-machine communication), the conversations on new frontiers like the metaverse and the blockchain and welcoming Saudi Arabia as new ISA (International Search Authority).

Here a summary of the topics presented by the WIPO speakers:

[PATENTSCOPE](#)
Iustin Diaconescu (Head Patent database section) and David Diaz Diaz (Data administrator, same section) reported some impressive numbers in the volume of data coverage; 114 million publications, 9.7 million families with more than 1 member. New collections with full text added for Belgium, Norway, Malta and Monaco, with deep linking included to the national patent register, Full text added for the Philippines, Italy, Saudi Arabia and ARIPO patents, FI/F-Terms added for Japanese documents.
PCT data were improved with national phase entry reported from different sources, better display of formulas, alert function added for watched applications.
Non Patent Literature increased by adding 5 million IEEE documents (abstract only), indexed with the IPC.
Siyi Wang (Intern. Global Databases division) and Sandrine Ammann (Marketing & Communication officer, same division) informed about the publication of the '[PATENTSCOPE exercise booklet](#)' a useful tool including 16 search exercises, which Nigel Clarke collaborated on.
The [PATENTSCOPE User Guide](#) was also updated (December 2023 edition) and new Tips & Tricks tutorials added.

GLOBAL BRAND DATABASE

Christophe Mazenc (Director Global databases division) informed that the database has a new look, architecture and functionalities, which makes the tool more performing. The collections of Brazil and the UK were added.

Vienna classification codes were added (where available) and provided a new tool to search the correct Nice classification: the Global Goods & Services Terms Explorer, working on a statistical basis (in 8 languages), while the already existing Madrid Goods & Services Manager still works on the basis of accepted terms (in 25 languages), and gave a demonstration of these tools.

GLOBAL DESIGN DATABASE

This tool in 2024 will migrate to a new platform by using the AWS (Amazon) technology.

They are working on an image similarity search which should be implemented in 2024.

WIPO INSPIRE

Mussadiq Hussain (Head Technology Information Section) and Meklet Jaleta (Product Owner, same section) gave an overview of the several tools provided in this section, including Inspire itself (the Database Reports portal providing access to a collection of reports on patent databases and their features), the Patent Register Portal (a gateway to online patent registers and gazettes and to legal-status-related information from over 200 jurisdictions), an update of which is in progress, the Patent Analytics including the landscape section, a section dedicated to Technology Transfer and one to the eTiscs (Technology and Innovation Support Center) initiative aimed to support the access to IP information by developing countries.

Other interesting presentations were given about:

- International Patent Classification by Ning Xu (Head IPC section), who said that two meetings of the revision working group were held in 2023, their main challenging task being trying to classify particularly new emerging technologies. IPC is harmonized with CPC, which, however, is updated four times a year.

- WIPO Standards by Young-Woo Yun (Head Standards section), reporting a short summary of the he work done in this matter, particularly finalized with the adoption of new or amended St.88 and 91, the preparation of an API Catalogue Portal, the work on a Global Identifier to standardize the names (applicants, inventors) by using the blockchain.

Conclusions

This event is always very interesting for the IP Information users. The 2023 edition was shorter than 2022 which was spread over two days, but all the more relevant topics were anyway addressed.

More than 100 attendees from all over the world attended the event which was held online only, even if a hybrid event (like in 2022) would have been preferred by the users.

Unfortunately, the meeting platform did not consent the participants to interact each other with a chat but just to address questions to the speakers, and was not possible to get a participants list, which would have been quite useful to get in touch with many attendees, particularly from other continents, who are hard to meet in other occasions.

More than a 'roundtable' it was therefore a series of frontal presentations, even if the speakers answered some questions from the audience.

The video recording of the whole round table should have been available but for technical problems it couldn't, however, all the presentations are available on the page of the event, which is linked to the event 2021 but not to the event 2022 or previous ones.