

IP5 Industry Consultation Group Meeting

Summary of outcomes

The IP5 Industry Consultation Group (ICG) comprised of representatives from the IP5 Offices, IP5 Industry and WIPO IB met for the first time in Munich, Germany on 19 January 2017.

Building on the success of the Global Dossier Task Force (GDTF), this newly established group expands the consultation process between the IP5 Offices and IP5 Industry to other areas of IP5 co-operation beyond the Global Dossier projects.

In their first meeting, the ICG discussed the work of the IP5 Patent Harmonization Expert Panel (PHEP), the PCT Collaborative Search and Examination (CS&E) pilot project and the Procedure Rules Guidance project. Participants also considered how to improve outreach to users via the IP5 website. Additionally, an exchange on a new concept for the annual IP5 Heads and IP5 Industry meeting took place. For further details please refer to the ICG meeting agenda.

The meeting presented a good opportunity for all delegates to engage in a frank, informal manner. The IP5 Offices obtained direct feedback from Industry on these ongoing IP5 projects which will help them determine next steps.

Regular meetings of the ICG and the GDTF will ensure that the orientation of the IP5 co-operation continues to develop in line with the users' expectations and needs.

Main outcomes:

- PHEP/unity of invention: the proposed methodology for the alignment of relevant practices on the basis of the PCT standard was confirmed;
- PHEP/citation of prior art: mitigation of applicants' burden resulting from the citation requirements in each of the IP5 Offices remains a high priority for IP5 Industry;
- PHEP written description/sufficiency of disclosure: the ongoing work on case studies, including new hypothetical cases, was supported;
- PCT CS&E pilot project: IP5 Industry was invited to participate in the third, applicant-driven pilot which will become operational soon;
- Procedure Rules Guidance: the visualisation of the IP5 Offices' patent procedures in the form of flowcharts and the publication of such information was considered beneficial for certain users;
- IP5 website: increased visibility, transparency of the IP5 website and availability of its content in multiple Asian languages remain an objective for the IP5 Offices;
- New concept for the IP5 Heads and IP5 Industry meeting: future meetings will focus more on strategic topics.