

IP5 Joint Statement: Embracing sustainability and celebrating ten years of IP5 Industry involvement

9 June 2022

The annual high-level meetings of the world's five largest intellectual property offices (also known as the "IP5"), namely the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), were held virtually on 8/9 June 2022. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) attended in an observer capacity. The focus of this year's meetings, hosted by the EPO, was the 10th anniversary of co-operation between the IP5 offices and industry user groups from the five regions ("IP5 Industry"), and the role of intellectual property in building a sustainable future.

Together with representatives of IP5 Industry, the IP5 heads of office celebrated ten years of industry involvement since the first such meeting of the IP5 heads of office with industry associations took place in June 2012. They noted that, since then, IP5 Industry meetings have served to ensure that applicants' views are heard, and that joint IP5 projects and initiatives are user-driven. They also discussed users' expectations for the future focus of IP5 initiatives.

The IP5 offices and IP5 Industry marked the occasion with the release of a commemorative video highlighting the main achievements of the past decade of co-operation. This co-operation has resulted in a number of concrete user benefits in the fields of patent classification, IT, work-sharing and quality, patent practice alignment and statistics, including:

- The creation of the Global Dossier, which allows applicants to retrieve information about progress of their patent dossiers at the IP5 level free-of-charge and in a single location;
- The Common Citation Document, which consolidates the prior art cited by all participating offices for the family members of a patent application and unites all prior art retrieved by the offices on a single page;
- Easier access to the patent system via the IP5's comprehensive Patent Prosecution Highway programme, which enables inventors and

businesses to obtain patents more quickly and efficiently;

- Alignment in the practices of the IP5 offices in order to make the patent process more transparent and more predictable for users, for example the uniform application of the unity of invention standard embedded in the PCT to international applications.

Most recently, the IP5 heads of office and IP5 Industry have agreed to step up their outreach activities to promote the benefits of IP to a broader audience and illustrate the role of innovation in forging a sustainable future.

To this end, the IP5 initiated a dialogue with IP5 Industry on the contribution of IP and the patent system to addressing global challenges as outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular they discussed innovative solutions and industry's efforts in the field of clean and affordable energy (SDGs 7 and 9) and agreed that the IP system plays a key role in the development of mitigating technologies by providing incentives for inventors and supporting R&D. They also highlighted that by providing access to a wealth of technology-related information, the patent system can help inform policy-making and investment, by identifying trends in green innovation, and providing insights into the state of the energy transition.

The IP5 offices and industry recognised the IP5 framework as a strong partnership for supporting the SDGs, spurring innovation as a solution to global issues and a driver of socio-economic growth (SDG 17).

In this context, the IP5 heads of office agreed to focus future joint activities on:

- (1) Optimising co-operation with IP5 Industry to ensure high-quality services and a user-friendly international patent landscape;
- (2) Enhancing outreach and awareness-raising of the benefits of IP and the potential of innovation to support sustainability.

For more information about ten years of IP5 Industry involvement, please see:

- Commemorative video: "[10 years of IP5 Industry](#)"

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