

Press Release

World's five largest patent offices step up co-operation on sustainability

9 June 2022

The heads of the world's five largest intellectual property offices met virtually today to discuss co-operation on enhancing the patent system to better support innovators globally. It was the 15th annual meeting of the five offices, 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). Together, the IP5 account for around 85% of all patent applications filed worldwide. The meeting was hosted by the EPO, with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) attending in observer capacity.

The meeting was chaired by EPO President António Campinos, and attended by JPO Commissioner Mori Kiyoshi, KIPO Commissioner Lee Insil, CNIPA Commissioner Shen Changyu, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and USPTO Director Kathi Vidal, and WIPO Deputy Director General Lisa Jorgenson, on behalf of Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO.

At this year's annual meeting, the IP5 put a focus on 10 years of successful co-operation with industry associations from the five regions ("IP5 Industry"), and raising awareness of the benefits of IP among a wider public.

The IP5 heads of office welcomed the concrete results of co-operation achieved during the past year in the following areas:

1. Global Dossier/Alerting: implementation of a global alerting system covering patent prosecution changes in all five offices
2. Implementation of the IP5 NET/AI Roadmap: progress report on the implementation process and project proposals aimed at optimising internal processes at the IP5 through the use of new emerging technologies and AI, and enhancing legal certainty and transparency in applicable patent practices

3. Patent practice alignment: first results in the new priority areas of global assignment and allowable features in drawings, including the publication of the “IP5 safe format” for allowable features in drawings
4. Project management: measures to further optimise the operational efficiency of the IP5 co-operation and streamline approval and decision making processes
5. IP5 PCT Collaborative Search & Examination: preliminary evaluation of the pilot project and extension of the evaluation phase

These achievements have been facilitated by a better understanding of user needs in the five regions through a regular consultation process which started at the 5th IP5 Heads of Office meeting hosted by the EPO in 2012. Since then, annual meetings with IP5 Industry have become an integral feature of IP5 co-operation and provided a valuable platform for the offices to understand user needs and shape the patent system in response to global developments and trends.

On 8 June a dedicated meeting took place between the heads of office and industry associations from the IP5 regions, namely: the American Intellectual Property Law Association, BusinessEurope, the Intellectual Property Owners Association, the Japan Intellectual Property Association, the Korea Intellectual Property Association, and the Patent Protection Association of China.

In this meeting, participants celebrated 10 years of industry engagement in the IP5 co-operation and exchanged views on the impact of IP and its role in promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Focusing on innovative solutions and industry efforts in the field of affordable and clean energy (SDG 7 and 9), the offices and industry highlighted the potential of IP in addressing global socio-economic challenges. The IP5 offices and industry agreed to strengthen their partnership towards a sustainable future (SDG 17).

The next IP5 heads of office meeting will be hosted by the USPTO in 2023.

Further information

- [Read the IP5 Joint Statement](#)
- [Watch the video on 10 years of IP5 Industry](#)
- [IP5 co-operation](#)