

## **2021 Joint Statement of the IP5 Offices**

The heads of the IP5 offices, 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), held a meeting via videoconference on 23 June, 2021. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Kasutani Toshihide, Commissioner of the JPO. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) attended in an observer capacity.

The IP5 heads of office reaffirmed their shared view that intellectual property is critical to fostering and protecting the innovation needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing the changing needs of users concerning the new normal, the five offices confirmed that the IP5 will further cooperate and explore more user-friendly measures to mitigate the burden on users in a virtual environment where patent prosecution is concerned and to promote innovation in the post-pandemic era.

The IP5 heads of office recognized the importance of utilizing new emerging technologies (NET) and artificial intelligence (AI) to further enhance operational efficiency and the quality of service at each office, and also acknowledged challenges in patent prosecution with respect to inventions that incorporate new emerging technologies and AI. The IP5 heads of office confirmed the need to cooperate with users in order to enable them to acquire rights with greater predictability, especially in NET/AI areas.

Furthermore, they reaffirmed that the harmonization of patent practices and procedures will also make right acquisition more predictable for users. The IP5 offices will continue to take into account user's needs.

The following specific results were achieved during the meeting:

- ✓ IP5 NET/AI roadmap: the IP5 heads of office endorsed a roadmap that describes areas of potential cooperation opportunities among the five offices with respect to new emerging technologies and AI (classification,

IT aspects, legal and statistics).

- ✓ New work plan for alignment of practice: the IP5 heads of office agreed to initiate new projects under the Patent Harmonization Expert Panel (PHEP) with respect to the following items: "Adoption of a global assignment" and "Harmonization of allowable features in drawings".
- ✓ Continued interaction with users: the IP5 heads of office reaffirmed the importance of working together with users on practical IP5 initiatives through channels including the Global Dossier Task Force (GDTF) and Industry Consultation Group (ICG).

The IP5 heads of office shared their respective initiatives to help address social challenges by utilizing intellectual property rights (IPRs), and reached a consensus in recognizing the necessity of a long-term perspective for IPRs and their integral role in addressing such challenges.

Videoconference hosted by the Japan Patent Office  
23 June 2021

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Kim Yongrae  
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Performing the functions and duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for  
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