COLLABORATIVE SEARCH PROGRAM (CSP)

Meeting of IP5 Heads of Office and IP5 Industry
Suzhou, 21 May 2015

Korean Intellectual Property Office
Work sharing

- **BASIC CONCEPT**
  - Sharing relevant information on patent applications filed in multiple countries

- **INCREASING DEMAND**
  - The increase in the number of applications filed in multiple countries requires closer cooperation among patent offices

- **PURPOSE**
  - Reduce duplicate work
  - Improve quality and consistency in examination results

- **WORK SHARING PROGRAM**
  - PPH, PCT, etc.
Key issues in Work-sharing Programs

- **Need to devise measures to improve limitations in existing PPH & other work-sharing programs**
  - **One-way-street collaboration system**: only the office of later examination benefits from the work products already in place;
  - **Quality and consistency of examination results not necessarily guaranteed**

- **New program development being underway**
  - (e.g.) Collaborative Search Pilot Program by KIPO & USPTO, Timeliness strategy by EPO, PCT Collaborative Search & Examination among KR, US, EP
- Exchange prior art lists before the first office action of cross-filed offices
- Aimed at enhancing consistency and examination quality
- Should be done upon the applicant’s request

☞ OFF and OSF may expedite examination under their agreement
It is expected to overcome the limitations of the current work sharing programs, while the period for granting a patent may be in a similar range in the OFF and the OSF

- **Improving the quality & consistency**
  By sharing prior art search results before the first office Action

- **Reducing duplication**
  By reducing the burden of additional prior art searches in the OLE *(in case of expedited process adopted)*

- **Reducing examination pendency**
  By shortening the pendency under the process of acceleration examination

- **Synchronizing a period for granting a patent in the OFF and OSF**
  By being granted a patent in a similar range in the OFF and OSF
- **KIPO-USPTO**
  - *Nov. 2014*, agreement made to proceed with pilot program
  - *Feb. 2015*, discussion made to associate CSP with the USPTO’s First Action Interview Pilot Program
  - *May. 2015*, MOU signed
  - *Sep. 2015*, the program to be in full swing
Thank You!