

4

# Global IP Cooperation

International cooperation has been at the forefront of our endeavors to create a more efficient IP system. We have been actively participating in IP5 meetings since 2007. Also, we have made bilateral arrangements with other offices on the PPH to expedite patent examinations. Moreover, we are deeply committed to sharing our successful experience in economic development with developing countries by supporting them through IP-based programs.

56 Examination Cooperation

57 International IT Cooperation

59 Sharing IP, International Seminars and Training Courses

# Globally





# Examination Cooperation

## The IP5 framework of cooperation

As a member of the IP5, an international patent cooperation framework including the patent offices of Europe (EPO), Japan (JPO), China (SIPO), and the United States (USPTO), we are jointly pursuing 10 foundation projects for work-sharing to solve global patent issues. The IP5 patent offices are actively cooperating through three working groups on common hybrid classification, IT-supported business processes, and examination practice-related projects. At the IP5 Heads Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, in June 2011, the offices discussed the establishment of new working groups on patent harmonization at the IP5 level as well as IP5 statistics. IP5 cooperation is expected to actively continue through the Deputy Heads Meeting in May 2012, the Deputy Heads and Heads Meeting in June 2012, and working group meetings.



## TM4

In May 2011, we joined the TM3, a group of three advanced trademark offices (OHIM and the IP offices of the United States (USPTO) and, Japan (JPO)) creating the TM4. Together, we are working to provide harmonious and trustworthy trademark examination services to applicants by exchanging information and coordinating trademark systems. At the TM4 meeting held in Washington D.C., in December, 2011, we discussed the development of worldwide trademark and design systems and joint projects. We will continue to strengthen cooperation within the TM4 to enhance the convenience of applicants and the capacity of examiners.



## Bilateral cooperation

Throughout 2011, we actively engaged in bilateral cooperation by holding over 21 bilateral meetings. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the bilateral execution of a PCT-PPH (Patent Cooperation Treaty - Patent Prosecution Highway) program with the United States and discussed IP education and IT-based standards among other issues. We pursued various projects with EPO such as the exchange of prior art data, the exchange of examiners, and a seminar on the European patent system. With the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM), we signed an MOU and are preparing a work plan for 2012 to actively pursue bilateral cooperation projects such as the mutual dispatch of experts (SNE program) and the exchange of databases in the area of informatization. We also agreed to deliberate on the details of the PCT-PPH program with Japan so that it may be executed during the first half of 2012. With Spain, we signed an MOU on cooperation in the area of IPRs and the PPH program. As for France, Germany, and Denmark, we are expanding cooperation in the area of IPRs through high-level meetings.

# International IT Cooperation

## IT-related cooperation between the IP5 offices

Six of the ten foundation projects of the IP5 are IT-based. Of those six projects, we are spearheading the machine translation project. In 2011, we completed an error review project in collaboration with the IP5 offices and built a translation memory bank of 10,000 types of sentences in order to improve the quality of the Korean-English machine translation system. Based on the results of the error review project, we plan to improve the machine translation system and conduct a translation quality assessment in 2012.

## Bilateral cooperation

At the IT Experts' Meeting between KIPO and JPO, held in May 2011 in Tokyo, the two offices discussed how to exchange priority documents in a more secure and efficient way. In addition, we strengthened our cooperation on building the common retrieval service of examination information between the IP5 offices, the 'One Portal Dossier (OPD)', and smoothly executing the other IP5 IT-based projects.

In April 2011, we signed an MOU with SIPO

on data exchange for the purpose of improving the quality of examinations and increasing the availability of patent examination information of both offices. At the IT Experts' Meeting between KIPO and SIPO, held in July 2011 in Beijing, both offices agreed to exchange prior data of patents and utility models and began exchanging data via File Transfer Protocol (FTP) from November 2011.

In addition, we agreed with the EPO on the list and timing of mutual data exchange as well as data exchange through FTP at The Hague in May 2011. We are also endeavoring to provide our examiners with the EPO's examination information, which is frequently used by our examiners, based on Trinet.

## Cooperation with WIPO

With the incorporation of the Korean language as an official PCT language in January 2009, the number of international applications filed in Korean has continuously increased. In response to this growth, we have provided a Korean to English machine translation service for PCT communications, jointly with WIPO, since November 2011.

Since the joint development of the PCT-ROAD (Receiving Office Administration) with WIPO in 2005, we have continuously upgraded features and released a new version in April 2011. This system is now being utilized by 30 countries worldwide with the addition of Ireland and the Ukraine in 2011. We expect this number to increase as many countries are still requesting its provision.

### Official Development Assistance projects

In an effort to expand relations with developing countries, we use Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds to support the development of IP office automation systems.

In June 2011, we expanded our assistance to Mongolia where we signed an MOU to pursue an IP office automation system project. Under this ODA project of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), estimated at USD 3.35 million, we provided training and consultations to enhance the capacity of managers and working-level officers of the Mongolian patent office. As a result, the Intellectual Property Office of Mongolia + Network (IPOMnet) was

launched in December 2011. We plan to continue our support for the stable settlement of the system through working-level meetings on computerization between Korea and Mongolia.

The IP office automation system project of the State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents of Azerbaijan underwent a preliminary feasibility study in 2010 and was confirmed as a KOICA ODA project for USD 4.2 million in February 2011. The company Siriussoft, selected as the project developer, plans to launch the system in 2013. We are supporting the project by providing monitoring, evaluation, and capacity building programs as well as by offering technological advice.

Furthermore, we are supporting the development of an IP office automation system for the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), a regional IP office for 18 English-speaking African countries. Following the signing of an MOU on comprehensive IP cooperation with ARIPO in December 2010, we signed a trilateral MOU on technological cooperation with ARIPO and WIPO in September 2011. We expect that this project will be carried out using KOICA ODA funds in 2012

and contribute to the improvement of IP administrative services within the African region.

### Development of global IP contents

Due to the success of the online English IP material, IP Panorama, we have collaborated with WIPO to create versions in Arabic, French, and Spanish since 2009. We held events to release the Spanish and French versions of IP Panorama through the WIPO International Symposium of Latin America and Africa in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Libreville, Gabon, in October 2011. The annual "KIPO-WIPO-KAIST-KIPA Advanced International Certificate Course on IP Asset Management for Business Success," a blended training course based on IP Panorama jointly prepared with WIPO, KAIST and the Korea Invention Promotion Association (KIPA), was held for the second time in 2011. In October 2011, we provided APEC member economies with a blended online and offline training course using our e-learning program, IP Expedite. We expect this training course and e-learning program to contribute to the increase of IP awareness within the APEC region.

## Sharing IP

### Appropriate technology projects

Appropriate technology refers to technology tailored to the environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic factors of certain regions. Often developed to help eradicate poverty or improve the quality of life of low-income groups in developing countries, it is more economical and easier to implement and maintain than cutting-edge technologies. We attempt to provide appropriate technology to least developed and developing countries by using technological information accumulated in patent documents. To meet the need for improving the accessibility of clean drinking water in Cambodia this past year, we developed a simple water purifier for use at home that costs little to maintain and does not require electricity. We expect to supply the purifier to Cambodia in 2012 after undergoing an optimization process for the local environment.

### Competitive brands for developing countries

Despite the high quality of many local products of developing countries, they often do not receive the proper marketing advantages

due to a lack of trademarks or brands. To solve this problem, we have been supporting the acquisition of brands for such products through the "One Village One Brand Project" in cooperation with APEC. This past year, we supported the development of branding for bamboo products of China and fruit cocktail products of Chile.

### Korea Funds-in-Trust projects

Since 2004, we have been executing projects jointly with WIPO to support developing countries under the Korea Funds-in-Trust program at WIPO. Our appropriate technology competitions held in Ethiopia and Malaysia in 2011 demonstrated how to use patent information to help solve the everyday problems of life in those countries. In addition, we provided training on patent laws and examination at the Korea Intellectual Property Training Institute for 16 patent examiners from developing countries in April 2011 to enhance their capacity. Furthermore, to raise awareness among children on the importance of IPRs and encourage creativity, we are currently producing an educational animation on inventions, patents, and trademarks. The animation will use children-friendly characters with creative stories and is expected to be officially released in 2012.

## International Seminars and Training Courses

Throughout 2011, we collaborated with WIPO and KOICA to hold international seminars and IP training courses. We also successfully managed customized training courses for the examiners of Vietnam's National Office of Intellectual Property, civil servants of Ethiopia, and civil servants of Thailand. Over the past year, we provided 183 foreigners with 13 courses. In addition, we successfully held the "2011 WIPO Asia-Pacific Seminar" and participated in the "Sixth Heads of World IP Training Organizations Symposium," and the "Second Korea-China-Japan Heads of Training Centers Meeting," strengthening our cooperation with the world's training centers to raise our international status as a training center.

