

IP5 Industry Consultation Group Meeting

Summary of outcomes

The IP5 Industry Consultation Group (ICG) comprised of representatives from the IP5 Offices, IP5 Industry and WIPO IB met in Tokyo, Japan on 1 February 2018.

In the meeting, the ICG discussed the work being conducted by the IP5 Patent Harmonization Expert Panel (PHEP), the PCT Collaborative Search and Examination (CS&E) pilot programme and a potential new stage of work-sharing.

The meeting presented a good opportunity for all delegates to engage in a frank and informal manner. The IP5 Offices obtained direct feedback from Industry on these ongoing IP5 projects, which will help IP5 determine the next steps.

The IP5 Offices will continue dialogue with IP5 Industry to ensure that the IP5 projects effectively support the needs of the user community.

Main outcomes:

- PHEP/unity of invention: IP5 Industry appreciated the effort of IP5 Offices for alignment of practices of international applications. IP5 Industry requested that practices of national/regional phase should be in line with practices of international phase.
- PHEP/citation of prior art: IP5 Industry and the IP5 Offices reaffirmed that eliminating the burden on applicants, which results from citation requirements in each of the IP5 Offices, remains a high priority for IP5 Industry.
- PHEP/written description/sufficiency of disclosure: IP5 Industry supported the idea proposed by IP5 Offices to develop common case examples for each Office's guideline.
- PHEP/future work: IP5 Offices and IP5 Industry will discuss new topics for PHEP in advance of the IP5 Heads of Office Meeting with Industry in June 2018. IP5 Industry requested that PHEP focus on harmonizing procedural issues.
- PCT CS&E pilot programme: IP5 Industry was invited to participate in the third, user-driven pilot programme which will become operational in the second half of 2018.
- A new stage of work-sharing: IP5 Industry supported the Collaborative Search Pilot Program (CSP) and the scheme for an expanded pilot program. IP5 Offices and IP5 Industry also discussed potential work-sharing in the unpublished phase.
- IP5 website: IP5 Industry appreciated the improvement made to IP5 website, which reflects the discussions held at the last ICG meeting.
- CEPRQM-PRG: IP5 Industry appreciated the flowcharts with procedural information and requested that they should be published on each Office's website with links on the IP5 website.