World's five largest patent offices convened at the Annual Meeting of the Heads of Office to discuss the use of AI in the intellectual property field

The heads of the world's five largest intellectual property offices met on 12 June 2026. The annual meeting of the IP5 as the offices are collectively known, was hosted by the Japan Patent Office (JPO), and attended by the European Patent Office (EPO), the Ministry of Intellectual Property (MOIP) of the Republic of Korea, the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA, online), and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) attended the meeting as an observer.

The meeting was chaired by KASAI Yasuyuki, Commissioner of the JPO, with the participation of António Campinos, President of the EPO; Kim Yong Sun, Minister of the MOIP; and John Squires, Director of the USPTO. Zhang Zhicheng, Deputy Commissioner of the CNIPA, attended the meeting online. Lisa Jorgenson, Deputy Director General of WIPO, attended the meeting on behalf of Daren Tang, Director General of the WIPO.

The IP5 Offices account for approximately 85% of all patent applications worldwide and play a leading role in shaping the global intellectual property system. Within the IP5 framework, working groups (WGs) focus on areas including classification, global dossier and patent information, work-sharing and quality, statistics, and patent harmonization, providing a platform for discussions on a wide range of intellectual property-related topics.

The main theme of this year's annual meeting was the use of AI within the IP5 Offices. The IP5 Offices shared their respective approaches to adopting AI technologies to further enhance patent office administration and discussed ensuring responsible use of AI, and opportunities to deepen cooperation between IP5 Offices and IP5 Industry.

Furthermore, the Heads of the IP5 Offices expressed their support for progress on projects under the IP5 framework. In particular, they agreed to undertake the first comprehensive review of the IP5 New Emerging Technologies / Artificial Intelligence (NET/AI) Roadmap and to identify new opportunities for cooperation.

On 11 June, a separate meeting took place between the Heads of the IP5 Offices and IP5 Industry. At this meeting, participants reviewed progress across the working groups and exchanged views on key intellectual property issues facing users. In alignment with the meeting theme of efforts toward advanced reliable IP systems utilizing AI technologies, each Office and Industry presented their initiatives and held discussions.

IP5 Industry representatives expressed strong support for the initiatives of the IP5 Offices and reaffirmed their intention to continue close and constructive cooperation going forward.

Furthermore, on 12 June, the IP5 Offices and IP5 Industry representatives, together with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), the United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) and WIPO, commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH). Participants reflected on the history of the PPH and reaffirmed the importance of continued cooperation to further strengthen the system in the years ahead.

The next IP5 Heads of Office meeting will be hosted by the EPO in 2027.

More information on IP5 co-operation can be found at www.fiveipoffices.org.