Achievements of the Trilateral Offices in 2011

The Trilateral Offices have engaged in a number of cooperative projects to address workload through maximizing reuse of work results from the other Offices. The Offices would like to highlight the following achievements based on these activities for 2011.

1. Full production release of the Common Citation Document (CCD) platform

Having completed an evaluation phase of the use and format of a Common Citation Document, the Trilateral Offices announced the release of the Common Citation Document platform for full production use. In association, the USPTO initiated the exchange of citation data from Office actions to support the CCD, and the JPO confirmed the intention to continue such data exchange. The Trilateral Offices also confirmed their intentions to provide enriched citation data to support the CCD when possible. It was agreed to promote the extension of the CCD to the IP5 Offices.

2. Initiation of first steps towards automating the supply of information to support FLASH and JP-First

Building on the First Look Application Sharing (FLASH) pilot implemented by the USPTO to promote work sharing between the Trilateral Offices and the prioritisation of first filings via the JP-First initiative implemented by the JPO, the Trilateral Offices have initiated the first steps towards the future automation of the supply of information required to support these initiatives.

3. Completion of all outstanding Classification Harmony Projects

Paving the way for a smooth transition of classification activities into the IP5 cooperation framework, the Trilateral Offices have completed their work on existing Harmony Projects. The Trilateral Working Group on Classification held its last session in October 2011 at the EPO in The Hague. Further classification cooperation work will be now undertaken by the IP5 WG1 - Working Group on Classification.

4. Completion of study on the quality of International Search Reports

The Trilateral Offices have completed Phases 1 and 2 of a study on the quality of International Search Reports, which forms part of a pilot collaborative study on quality metrics.

5. Revised standard for the presentation of sequence listings

In collaboration with WIPO, the Trilateral Offices have made significant progress toward a revised standard for the presentation of sequence listings in XML (ST. 26) to be submitted into the adoption process at WIPO in the course of 2012.

6. XML Roadmap for the Trilateral Offices

In support of the business requirements of the Trilateral Offices, the Offices have presented their position on XML standardisation to prepare building an XML Roadmap, including supporting the work of relevant WIPO working groups for the further enhancement of existing standards, and the development of new standards, for data exchange.

7. Catalogue of Differing Practices (CDP)

The Trilateral Offices, in cooperation with the SIPO, KIPO and Trilateral User representatives, have completed an expert assessment of the Catalogue. The results will be used to improve the usefulness of the Catalogue in work sharing activities by examiners and as a reference for users, as well as a basis for harmonisation and operational practice convergence among the Offices.

8. Statistics

The Trilateral Offices and the KIPO released the Four Office Statistics Report in November 2011.

9. Harmonisation of Patent Laws and Procedures

Noting IP5 meeting held at the JPO, Tegernsee meeting hosted by the EPO and the America Invents Act established in US and positive steps taken in various fora towards patent harmonisation, the offices have decided to make further contributions for international discussions on harmonisation of patent laws and procedure including consultations with users of patent systems.