



Trilateral User Day

The Changing Landscape of Office-Office Cooperation

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Improving the Workshare Environment

- Patent Prosecution Highway
- SHARE
- Foundation Projects
- Improving PCT Performance at USPTO

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PPH

Patent Prosecution Highways (PPH)

- **Pilot to Full implementation**
Japan (January 4, 2008)
- **Current Pilots**
EPO, Korea, United Kingdom,
Canada, Australia Denmark
- **Proposed Pilots**
- Singapore, Germany



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PPH Statistics

- As of 10/1/08, received a total of 810 requests
 - TC 1600 received 37 requests
 - TC 1700 received 104 requests
 - TC 2100 received 158 requests
 - TC 2600 received 263 requests
 - TC 2800 received 149 requests
 - TC 3600 received 48 requests
 - TC 3700 received 51 requests
- Overall allowance rate is 93 to 94% (more than double the patent examining corps overall allowance rate)
- 50% reduction in average actions per disposal versus corps average
- First Action Allowance rate is 3 times corps average.
- Average period from grant of request to first action is about 3 months

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Improving the Workshare Environment- SHARE

- In SHARE, applications from the office of first filing are prioritized in the examination queue.
- SHARE is expected to improve the workshare environment by increasing the number of exploitable applications.
- A limited Trilateral SHARE pilot was just started last month and focuses on a few specific technologies.
- SHARE and PPH are complementary.

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Worksharing - Foundation Projects

- Common Documentation Database (EPO)
- Common Approach for a Hybrid Classification (EPO)
- Common Application Format (JPO)
- Common Access to Search and Examination Results (JPO)
- Common Training Policy (KIPO)
- Mutual Machine Translation (KIPO)
- Common Rules for Examination Practice and Quality Control (SIPO)
- Common Statistical Parameter System for Examination (SIPO)
- Common approach to Sharing and Documenting Search Strategies (USPTO)
- Common Search and Examination tools (USPTO)

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Improving PCT Performance at USPTO

- **PCT Improvement Plan**
 - Quality Improvements
 - PCT Backlog
 - Receiving Office Processing

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Improving PCT Performance at USPTO

- PCT Quality Improvements
 - Reviewed quality of PCT Searches – error rate significantly higher than national applications
 - Instituted new quality program – results:
 - Applying same standards to PCT applications as applied to national applications
 - Approximately 4% error rate currently on patentability determinations
 - Comparable to U.S. national applications

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Improving PCT Performance at USPTO

– PCT Backlog - Preparation of Search Reports

- 4th Qtr of FY 07 – 2.2% completed at 16 months, 3.8% completed at 18 months
- 3rd Qtr of FY 08 – 19.9 completed at 16 months, 43.6% completed at 18 months
- 2nd Qtr of FY 09 – 60% completed at 16 months, 94% completed at 18 months
- To be maintained or improved for rest of FY 09

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Improving PCT Compliance at USPTO

- Receiving Office Processing
 - Transmittal of record copy to WIPO
 - Requirement – generally one month
 - 1st Qtr 08 – 5% < 4 weeks, 60% > 8 weeks
 - 2nd Qtr 08 – 80% < 4 weeks, 5% > 8 weeks

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- Thank You!