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Title: Trilateral Offices advance on the UN Sustainable Development Goal 9 towards enhanced awareness of strategic IP management at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Trilateral Conference

## Trilateral Offices Explore Collaborations to Advance SDG9 IP for Business in Annual Meeting

The Trilateral Offices - the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) - convened for their 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Trilateral Conference on 14 October 2024, Japan. The meeting, co-hosted by JPO Commissioner, Yota Ono, and JIPA President, Yamanaka Akitoshi, focused on collaborative strategies to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9, "Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation." This year's discussions centered on IP Intelligence; how to enhance the strategic use of IP for business growth, and the importance of Offices' role in granting high quality patents.

The Commissioner was joined by EPO President, António Campinos, and Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and USPTO Director, Kathi Vidal. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) also participated in the meeting as an observer, with Deputy Director General Lisa Jorgenson in attendance. Representatives from the user associations of the Trilateral regions (IT3), namely BusinessEurope, Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA) and American Intellectual Property Law Association and Intellectual Property Owners Association (AIP/LA/IPO) also attended part of the Conference. They will continue to engage with the Trilateral Offices on how best to advance SDG 9 and other matters of mutual interest.

The key discussions focused on sharing successful initiatives from each office and identifying opportunities for collaboration that support SDG 9. A particular emphasis was placed on how the offices provide the necessary tools to enhance users' awareness and understanding of how to leverage intellectual property (IP) strategically and ensure the granting of high-quality patents, which form the foundation for effective IP management. The Trilateral Offices will continue to provide the required resources to enable enterprises to formulate IP strategies that align seamlessly with their business objectives, while enhancing the quality of services and patent examination through a shared understanding of what defines a high-quality patent. These collective efforts stand as a testament to the power of coordinated action in shaping a sustainable future for all.

The Offices discussed the potential objective of the Trilateral Co-operation with a view to developing a work plan in the future.

*"To tackle today's challenges, we need to leverage the full potential of every technology at our disposal" stated President Campinos. "Harnessing the power of invention means empowering every idea to reach the market—because a sustainable future is within reach when all inventors, from every corner, can shape it. Our focus this year on SDG 9 reflects our commitment as a*

*Trilateral community to ensuring SMEs and start-ups have wide access to the IP tools and resources they need to grow.” - the EPO President António Campinos.*

*“Every business manager has a vision for the future, as well as the strategy to realize that vision. For technology-oriented companies in particular, technological strategies are crucial in order to leverage the company's strengths, complement its weaknesses, and decide which direction the company should focus on in the future. Intellectual property information should be integrated into the process to develop this technology strategy. As the national intellectual property office, we will provide the necessary data and initiatives to support user activities, and to continue cooperating with other Trilateral Offices, WIPO and IT3.” - the JPO Commissioner Yota Ono.*

*“High-quality patents are critical to innovation and economic growth. Our discussions with our Trilateral partners continue our long-standing focus on promoting patent quality and also encourage greater harmonization and collaborative efforts among our offices in pursuit of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals calling for the development of sustainable technology and making it available to all in an equitable and inclusive manner” - The Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, Kathi Vidal*

*“As innovation takes center stage in development policies, it is timely for the Trilateral to focus discussions on intellectual property as a vital business and financial asset. At WIPO, we are seeing a growing interest in innovation and the recognition of its critical link to economic growth, development and addressing local and global challenges. WIPO also welcomes the recognition of the importance of patent quality for IP management by the Trilateral offices. We are working closely with our Member States to build robust IP ecosystems as well as providing technical assistance for capacity building in institutions and communities to contribute to a more sustainable future” - WIPO Deputy Director General Lisa Jorgenson*

An International Symposium “IP and Technology Transfer: Challenges and Successes with the Collaboration Framework among Academia-Industry-IP Offices”, in partnership with the Institute of Science Tokyo, was held in conjunction with the Trilateral Conference on 15 October 2024. The Heads of the Trilateral Offices, along with representatives from IT3 and WIPO, discussed diverse intellectual property management such as technology transfer from universities and industry, as well as the deployment of academic technology within society through startups.