

Updates from the Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA)

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Topics for discussion

- WIPO SCT update
- WIPO Madrid Working Group update
- TM5
- Trademark training
- NFT study
- Trademarks for Humanity
- APEC

WIPO SCT updates

Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) met November 21-23, 2022

- **Trademarks and Geographical Indications**
 - Country names and geographical names of national significance and nation brands
 - Geographical indications (GIs)
- **Industrial Designs**
 - Matters concerning the convening of a diplomatic conference of a Design Law Treaty (DLT)
 - Updated proposal for a joint recommendation concerning industrial design protection for designs for graphical user interfaces (GUIs)

WIPO Madrid working group update

- Annual meeting is November 13 – 17, 2023
- Significant topics:
 - Proposal to add new languages (Arabic, Chinese and Russian)
 - WIPO is expected to resume technical consultations; awaiting communication from WIPO about scheduling
 - Dependency
 - Working group continues to discuss ways to improve the Madrid System to attract more users

TM5

- **TM5 Activities in Singapore this May**
 - Midterm Meeting in Singapore on May 15
 - User session on May 17 at INTA Annual Meeting
 - TM5 panel on proving use on May 18 at INTA Annual Meeting
- **Annual Meeting in Incheon, South Korea, September 11-13**
- **Over 22,750 entries in ID List, which is led by USPTO; accepted in 45 countries worldwide**

OPIA training – some highlights

- GIPA IP Office Administration Program – 35 government officials from 24 countries met in person at USPTO headquarters
- Andean Community Court of Justice – Aspects of Trademark Law, Trademark Examination Experience with the Metaverse
- Mexican Institute of Industrial Property – Advanced Non-Traditional Marks Workshop
- Algerian National Institute of Industrial Property Ministry of Industry (INAPI) – Exchange of Best Practices on Trademark Opposition



NFT study

- Joint USPTO / U.S. Copyright Office study on NFTs and IP rights
- Federal Register Notice
 - Published November 23, 2022
- Trademark, patent, and copyright public roundtables held in January 2023
- USPTO / U.S. Copyright Office collaboratively working on report



Trademarks for Humanity

- Launched April 11, 2023
- 2023 awards cycle focus on the environment
- Program recognizes brand owners improving the environment through
 - Products/services offered
 - Business practices used
 - In connection with a registered trademark
- Applications accepted until July 14, 2023 or until 200 applications are received



Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) — IPEG

- The United States is the APEC 2023 host
- Theme: “Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All”
- IP Experts from APEC member economies gathered at the February 2023 Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group (IPEG) Meeting to discuss issues of mutual interest and exchange information
 - OPIA TMs organized a *Workshop on Geographical Indications and Preservation of Commons Names* to highlight the importance of preserving common names when granting GI protection, especially for SMEs.
- Next IPEG Meeting is scheduled for August 2023 and the OPIA Trademarks Team plans to highlight importance of certification marks, especially in green technology industries

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