

Patent Public Advisory Committee Meeting

International Activities and Projects



Mark Guetlich
International Patent Policy
Office of Policy and External Affairs
August 15, 2013



International Activities & Projects: Discussion Topics

- **Harmonization Overview**
- **Recent Activity**
- **Highlighted Projects**



Harmonization Overview

What is it and why?

Prompted by Stakeholder Interests Worldwide

Ability to obtain and enforce accessible, reliable, meaningful IP rights domestically and/or internationally.

For Patents - attention to cost, quality, & timeliness from a user and office perspective.

Operational/Technical

- No law changes required
- Work sharing platforms (PPH, Global Dossier)
- Processes & formats (CCD, PDX)
- Language/ search (GPSN, CPC)

Substantive Law

- Law/treaty/policy changes
- e.g., AIA First Inventor to File
- Prior art grace period
- Other possibilities



Harmonization Overview

Worldwide Interplay of Participants

- IP5 Offices – JPO, EPO, USPTO, KIPO, SIPO
 - Handling ~90% of world's patent workload
- Vancouver Group – CIPO, UKIPO, IPAU
 - Like minded interests of sophisticated offices
- Group B+ EPC members & industrialized states
 - Wide range of topics, and progress
- PROSUR - 9 South American countries
- Tegernsee – Harmonization specific topics among lead EPC members, USPTO, JPO



Recent Activity: Hague Design Agreement Implementation

- Proposed rules drafted and in the interagency review process
- Next Steps:
 - Public comment period – expected fall 2013
 - Desired project completion – within 2014



Recent Activity: Patent Prosecution Highway - PPH

- Today - 30 offices worldwide; 26 with USPTO
- Next generation proposal – “Plurilateral” PPH
 - June 21-22, 2013 at Japan Patent Office
 - 24 offices discussed a unified PPH proposal
 - 12 offices (88% of PPH) agreed immediately
 - Early adopters targeting Jan 2014 start date
 - IP5 commitment to adopt Plurilateral PPH



Recent Activity: Global Dossier

- Interoffice connectivity is complete within IP5
- USPTO examiner access to IP5 office data is part of Patents End-to-End (PE2E) in FY2014
- Next Steps:
 - IP5 working level meeting at JPO, Oct 2013
 - 2nd Combined Taskforce meeting early 2014
 - Improving taskforce status communications



Recent Activity:

Hosted IP5 Office Heads, Cupertino, CA

- June 3-5, 2013; Acting Director Rea presiding
- Notable steps:
 - Trilateral on standby, all projects transferred
 - Industry IP5 reps are fully staffed & engaged
 - New IP5 project management model in place
 - Projects managed across three workgroups
 - Each workgroup has full IP5 working-level staffing
 - Projects adopted only by agreement of IP5 heads
 - Offices participate as budgets & roadmaps dictate
 - www.uspto.gov/news/pr/2013/13-20.jsp



Highlighted Projects:

Global Patent Search Network (GPSN)

- Chinese patent documents for search/download
 - Full text Chinese, machine translated English
 - Chinese language original is the authority
 - Published & granted invention patents & utility models
- Launched July 2013 - <http://gpsn.uspto.gov>
- Next language – Japanese



Highlighted Projects: Common Citation Document (CCD)

- Common language and content format
- Single access point for art cited by all offices
- Harmonization project launched Nov 2011
 - Started in Trilateral, now transferred to IP5
 - USPTO, JPO, EPO, & next KIPO, SIPO
- For a CCD demonstration, try the examples at:
 - www.fiveipoffices.org/ccd
 - www.uspto.gov/patents/process/search



Questions and Comments?

Mark Guetlich

International Patent Policy

Office of Policy and External Affairs

571-272-8327

Mark.Guetlich@uspto.gov