The Benefits of Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) to Stakeholders

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Objectives

Background

*Why Classification*

Benefits of CPC to External Stakeholders
Why classification

Protecting intellectual property

Whether you are a multinational business or an individual ...

you need to protect your intellectual property (inventions, trademarks or designs) across borders.

... faster, cheaper and more efficiently
Why classification

Classification

• Organization of knowledge by subject matter

• Language neutral/independent

• Uses of classification
  Patent Offices
  Industry Stakeholders
Why classification

Prepare and prosecute patent applications – direct to certain fields

State of the art, infringement, patentability, novelty, validity reports
Annual statistical reports
Freedom-to-operate, clearance reports
Product to patent maps
Why classification

• Patent analytics is big business

• Commercial IP information providers offer patent analytics/landscaping services since there is a wide range of business use of patent information

• Many companies exploit patent information and utilize patent analytics
Benefits of CPC

Quantity  (Coverage)

Quality  (Harmonization)
Benefits of CPC - coverage

Before CPC

Each system had its own bias
Benefits of CPC - coverage

**CPC is international**

Wide Coverage

- 4 of 5 major IP Offices classifying in CPC
  (USPTO engaging JPO on classification cooperation)
- Over 26 countries classifying in CPC
Benefits of CPC - coverage

**CPC is international**

- Over 50 million worldwide documents in CPC
- One stop shop for most of the world’s documents (including some Japanese documents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<th>Number of publications classified in CPC (family or document level) as of February 2017</th>
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Benefits of CPC – *Asian collection*

– CPC also has China and Korea prior art.

  Classification systems divide the world's knowledge into categories. USPC and ECLA based on western world view. This can create western bias leading to problems in the classification of knowledge from non-western cultures.

  China and Korea provide Asian influence in CPC.
Benefits of CPC - *quality*

CPC is jointly owned by USPTO and EPO

Greater focus on classification harmonization among Offices
Summary of USPTO efforts in CPC for external users

Working to improve CPC collections
- US collection contribution
- Engaging more countries in CPC
- Dynamic

Working to improve quality/harmonization among Offices

Ensure confidence to users
Questions and Comments

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