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
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 use 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
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.