

## Chapter XIV

## World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) continued to help ensure that the rights of creators and owners of intellectual property were protected worldwide, thus ensuring that inventors and authors were recognized and rewarded for their ingenuity.

The governing bodies of WIPO and the Unions administered by the organization held their thirty-seventh series of meetings (Geneva, 23 September–1 October).

During 2002, WIPO membership increased to 179 States, with an additional two accessions to the 1967 Convention establishing WIPO, amended in 1979. The number of States adhering to treaties administered by WIPO also increased: as at 31 December 2002, 164 States were parties to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, 149 to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, and 118 to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

World Intellectual Property Day was observed on 26 April, under the theme “Encouraging Creativity”.

### Activities in 2002

#### *Development cooperation*

In 2002, WIPO continued to support developing countries in optimizing their intellectual property systems for economic, social and cultural benefit. Some 17,000 men and women from developing countries participated in over 207 courses, seminars and other meetings held under WIPO Cooperation for Development auspices. In other activities, WIPO’s Forum on Strategic Issues for the Future stimulated debate among members on activities for the next biennium; the Sino-African Intellectual Property Forum (Beijing, China) brought together ministers and other senior officials from 15 African countries with their counterparts from China to review intellectual property policy issues facing developing countries in the African region; the International Ministerial Forum (Oman, January), held under the theme “Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge: Our Identity, Our Future”, adopted the Muscat Declaration, which recognized the contribution of traditional knowledge in building bridges between civilizations and cultures,

and in promoting human dignity and the cultural identity of traditional communities; and the Ministerial-level Meeting on Intellectual Property for Caribbean Countries (Paramaribo, Suriname), which discussed the need to create a positive intellectual property environment in the region, support the creation and strengthening of intellectual property offices, promote electronic commerce and automate all intellectual property offices in the region.

As part of WIPO’s focus on the least developed countries (LDCs), it organized two regional workshops (Africa and Asia), at which member States exchanged views on the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the Doha Declaration [YUN 2001, p. 874]. The WIPO Global Information Network (WIPONet) was installed in 21 intellectual property offices in 19 LDCs; 85 professionals from 17 LDCs were trained on industrial property, copyright and related rights; and copyright collective management societies were established in Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania.

WIPO launched a trilingual (English, French, Spanish) CD-ROM entitled “Intellectual Property for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises” and distributed some 12,000 free copies worldwide.

In 2002, the WIPO Worldwide Academy attracted some 5,000 participants from 171 countries to its Distance Learning Programme in Chinese, English, French and Spanish. Versions in Arabic, Portuguese and Russian were in the pilot phase. In addition, 300 staff members of intellectual property offices and 450 university lecturers, professors and researchers attended various courses and seminars.

#### *Intellectual property law*

In 2002, the entry into force of the WIPO Copyright Treaty on 6 March and the WIPO Phonograms and Performances Treaty on 20 May marked a milestone in the history of copyright law and signalled greater security by providing the legal basis to safeguard the interests of creators and producers on digital networks such as the Internet.

The Director-General convened a conference on the International Patent System (Geneva,

25-27 March), which discussed issues and challenges confronting the system, and user response.

In 2002, the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents continued discussions on the harmonization of substantive aspects of patent law, with a view to adopting principles that would ensure more uniform treatment of patent applications and reduce duplication of examination work in patent offices.

The Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications continued to work on further harmonization of trademark laws and introduced provisions on electronic filing in the Trademark Law Treaty.

The Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights continued to focus on the protection of the rights of broadcasting organizations. It considered the protection of non-original databases and reviewed six studies on the economic impact of such protection, particularly in developing countries and those with economies in transition.

The WIPO General Assembly, in September, established a single Advisory Committee on Enforcement, in charge of global enforcement issues in both industrial property and copyright and related rights. The Committee's mandate was limited to technical assistance and coordination.

#### *Arbitration and Mediation Centre*

In 2002, the Arbitration and Mediation Centre, the leading provider of services for domain name and other intellectual property disputes, received 1,493 cases. It also introduced an online index to its panel decisions.

#### *International registration activities*

*PCT.* During the year, 114,048 international patent applications were filed, compared to 103,947 in 2001.

*Madrid Agreement.* In the trademark system under the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Trademarks and its 1989 Protocol, the number of new international registrations totalled 22,236 in 2002, a slight decrease from 24,000 in 2001.

*Hague Agreement.* The Hague Agreement concerning industrial designs registered 20,705 new designs in 2002.

*Lisbon system.* New regulations adopted by the Lisbon Union Assembly for the application of the 1958 Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and Their International Registration entered into force in April.

#### **Secretariat**

As at 31 December 2002, WIPO employed some 980 staff members representing 89 countries; 450 were in the Professional or higher categories and 530 were in the General Service category.

#### **Budget**

The approved programme and budget for 2002-2003 was 678.4 million Swiss francs. Contributions by member States represented less than 10 per cent of the overall budget. WIPO remained largely a self-funding agency, financing its activities from revenues acquired through the provision of services to the private sector.

NOTE: For further information, see *WIPO Annual Report 2002*, published by WIPO.

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