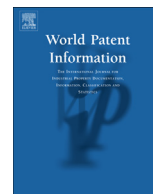




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# World Patent Information

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## East meets West 2016

The event was held in Vienna on April 21–22, preceded by a training session on the 20th.

I have been following the developments of this event since the beginning in 2002, when a first meeting with experts of the Japanese Patent Office was held at EPO Vienna as an “EPIDOS Japanese patent information user meeting”, following the EPIDOS main conference, through the reports published on the WPI [1] and on the Epidos News [2], and those of my collaborators who attended different events, but it was my first real attendance that year.

“This is not a conference” Günter Vacek, the EPO Director of Product Distribution & Specialised Services, told me when I arrived at Palais Niederösterreich, the splendid new location of the event. “It is more a forum where European patent information professionals can meet and talk directly with experts of patent data services of the major Asian countries in a professional but also relaxed context, which makes communication easy”.

I was speaking with the main character of the drama, Mr. Vacek, who started the EPO relationships with Japio many years ago in the field of patent information in view of his knowledge of the Japanese language, and established that Asia-info service at EPO Vienna which is so helpful to European users to understand the patent systems of that part of the world, breaking the wall of language problems, procedural complexity, fast development, and even different dating systems!

Really, this event is far from the chaotic, even exciting, environment of international conferences, in fact only half a day is dedicated to the plenary session, while the remainder of the time is left to training, round table discussions, “streams” (defined as “a series of short presentations, highlighting different points of view on a certain topic”) and to a final session where discussions are wrapped-up and space is given to participants to express his/her personal view on the event.

During the whole event a poster session is organized, that permits participants to know the services presented, either commercial or those provided by patent offices and other public institutions through direct dialogue with the respective representatives.

The phrase “*Nec metas rerum nec tempora pono*” (no bounds in space or time) written on the ceiling of the main room seemed to remind participants about the vastity of our world, whose limits are extended day after day, like information about new technologies, products and processes, developed in countries located on

other continents.

When starting the event, the EPO Principal Director Richard Flammer said that the Palais itself was central to the revolution of 1848, where citizens were fighting for a liberal system giving them more rights whether personal or economic, in which also IP rights would have played an important role.

### 1. Training session

I attended Session I: “Professional search tools from Asia”, where experts from Japan, Korea and China gave update information about their national databases and how to use them, including a practise session.

JAPIO (Yukio Takahashi) presented the Global Patent Gateway FullText, a platform suitable to search in the original language (but also in English or Japanese) a collection of major countries' patents, including JP, CN, KR, US, EP, WO, DE and FR, as well as bibliographic data of about 100 authorities (based on the DOCDB data).

Interesting features are: the possibility to do a cross-search in the original language full text by using English or Japanese terms; the information available in the search page; the refinement options and the display of the original text next to its machine translation.

KIPRIS speakers provided an update on the tools they offer, including some available in Korean language only, that are more difficult to understand for European users.

The KIPRIS search service includes a cross-lingual retrieval function which allows one to input English terms to search Korean full text, a huge number of searchable fields, access to intermediate documents of the patenting procedure and a “similarity search”. The function “My Interest-Patent” is an alerting system to be automatically updated on selected cases. A mobile platform has been also developed, available on <http://m.kipris.or.kr>.

KIPRIS PLUS is the OPS service provided to access directly the KIPO database including more than 390 million data (since 1948).

An overview of the Chinese patent information platform CNIPR was given by Jing Quian of IPPH (Intellectual Property Publishing House), as well as a focus on some special features.

CNIPR was launched in 2003, making available on the same day of publication 100% of the Chinese Patent Gazette records. China patent applications increased to 980.000 in 2014 and enhancements were made in 2015 to permit effective access to such a large number of documents. Amongst the new functions there are more bilingual CN/EN searching and display options, including a company code system allowing the identification of applicants with

more certainty, with particular regard to subsidiaries, alternative names, universities and institutions.

Patents can be easily selected by legal status condition (All, Valid, Invalid) and documentation of each event (Operation) is available, including assignments and licenses, plus a legal status alert function can also be set.

In line with the trend of the event, which is opening windows on countries of other continents, the training session II was given by EPO experts about patent information from Brazil and Mexico.

## 2. Pre-conference workshop: “What the user community needs - towards effective collaboration between East and West”

This workshop has been held by the PDG (Patent Documentation Group) at the East meets West forum every year since 2011, following an informal meeting between industry users and the Asian patent offices in 2009.

It was preceded by a questionnaire distributed to participants to collect information about the most important steps taken recently and the next steps needed from the users' and the providers' side.

The chairman of the IMPACT Working Group of PDG, Peter Kallas, recalled the indications expressed by PDG members in 2008 and in 2016 regarding the quality of patent information from Asian countries.

Major developments occurred during these years such as: improved machine translation; more legal status availability; adoption of CPC by some countries, and many other small but nonetheless important matters regarding single countries. However there are still concerns which require improvements: more data available in English language (particularly legal status); standardized names; quick availability of abstracts; full coverage of CPC etc.

Then plans and challenges of some of the countries present at the event were briefly discussed with the participating experts from the involved patent offices and the users.

Additionally, the results of an analysis made by the PDG Online Working Group Emerging Markets Projects was presented by Nick Cole. This WG had compared the coverage of several registers and commercial patent databases with regard to BRICS and other emerging countries and gave a score suitable for an evaluation of the resource.

A general appreciation was expressed about the work done in the previous years by the patent offices involved, and for the international cooperation, a great step forwards having been made by meetings like East meets West.

## 3. Plenary session

Lots of information was given on the Thursday morning about the developments of patent systems in Asian countries.

In Japan, after it had been abolished in 2004, an opposition system was last year reinstated. It can be activated by any person within 6 months of the publication of grant on a claim-by-claim basis, and the entire procedure can be carried out by documentary proceedings.

With regard to documentation, in January 2016 JPO launched a service to provide English translations of trials and appeals on the JPO website (selected important cases) or the J-PlatPat platform (all cases published since 2000).

An impressive presentation was given by Qian Zhou of the SIPO Legal Affairs Department about the upcoming changes in Chinese patent law. Some key problems like patent quality, infringement frequency and lack of effectiveness of patent utilization had been

analyzed and it was proposed to amend more than 50 articles, adding fourteen new ones and deleting one.

Matters like new rules of evidence in order to determine the amount of compensation and mediation of the Patent Administrative Department should be established as well as increased punitive measures, also involving Internet service providers, if aware of a patent infringement performed by using their service.

Other targets are: a better exploitation and utilization of patents (including licensing); the role of inventor as employer; improvement of the services provided by the Patent Administration Department at several levels including the promotion of patent information, and of the patents and designs examination process.

Jung Hoon Ha of KIPO spoke about the recent initiatives in IP Information Dissemination, which is part of a major Government undertaking focused on 16 strategic areas including patents, called “Gov 3.0” intended to switch from the customer-oriented service of recent years (2005–2010 project Gov. 2.0) to an individual-oriented system, where keywords are “mobile”, “interactive & personalized”, “intelligent”.

Particularly, the use of Open Data has been subject to a rapid acceleration, considering that the dissemination rate increased from 27% in 2013 up to 60% in 2016. The four principles on which the KIPO action is based are completeness, accuracy, timeliness and usability. An advisory committee including experts on the Gov. 3.0, the information service industry and IP information users, helps drive the policy.

The role of Korea in international cooperation (IP5) towards an expansion of global patent coverage was recalled.

T.V. Madhusudhan, Deputy Controller Of Patents & Designs Indian Patent Office, Chennai, explained in detail the new numbering system for patent applications adopted in his country, in which the code-letters indicating cities have been substituted by numbers: 1 for Delhi; 2 for Mumbai; 3 for Kolkata; and 4 for Chennai, plus the features of the Indian patent advanced search system (InPASS).

The improved cooperation regarding data exchange with India was also dealt with by Nicholas Körnig of the EPO.

Andrey Sekretov discussed the information provided by the Eurasian Patent Office, which now includes the whole collection of EA patents (1996–2016), the legal status data, the administrative opposition information, via a number of interfaces: the Eurasian publication server; the EAPO Gazette; the Eurasian patent register (in Russian) and, in the English language, the [ea.espacenet.com](http://ea.espacenet.com) platform and the EAPATIS database, which covers 20 countries/authorities including obscure or hard-to-find data of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Other presentations were given about the activity of the IPR SME Helpdesks for China, South-East Asia and Latin America and from EPO experts about the coverage of Asian data in the EPO databases and on progress in machine translation.

## 4. Round tables

A broad range of topics had been proposed to be discussed in two sessions of round tables self-organized by the participants, a chair was nominated for each table with the purpose of facilitating the discussion and reporting to the audience.

Amongst the topics were: new rules in India and China; the national system of Hong Kong and Macao; Russian and Eurasian patent information; strategies for challenging patents in Asia; harmonization issues; developments of the ARABPAT database; the practice of dual filing of patent/utility model applications and an intriguing “Patents and money: trends in Asia”.

The results were then presented by the chair in wrap-up

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