

General Statement

Iceland would first and foremost like to thank WIPO for continued cooperation and strong support in various aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. It is of high importance for a small country with minimum resources for e.g. education and retraining in this field to have access, not only to wide variety of information and guidelines on the new and improved website but also to experts in this field for „hands-on“ assistance and deeper dialogue on various topics.

The highlight of the year was the implementation of an IPR strategy for Iceland last June and in the process of forming the strategy, the steering committee was able to make use of WIPOs valuable resources and expertise in this respect. This is the first time a specific strategy is formed for the country and it contains a number of goals and projects to be reached during its life-span, i.e. until the year 2022.

The importance of and interest in the international filing systems, namely the PCT, Madrid and the Hague systems is continuous in Iceland. Filing numbers have been similar the last few years, with though a small rise in PCT-filings but a minor decline in Madrid filings.

On 19 October 2015, Ms. Ásta Valdimarsdóttir Director, Operations Service, Madrid Registry, Brands and Designs Sector (BDS) WIPO visited the Icelandic Patent Office. Various topics were discussed during her visit, e.g. electronic communications between our offices, e-filing, Madrid Goods and Services database (MGS), training and the approach of WIPO with regard to class headings following the IP Translator case.

The Icelandic Patent Office celebrated the World IP Day on 26 April 2016 by launching a Facebook site for the office and regularly posts useful information on the site relating to IP Rights worldwide. On 17 May 2016 a conference, focusing on IP and Business, was held for the celebration of the IPOs 25th anniversary. A total of 130 persons participated in the event, both from the specialized IPR sector, the Icelandic Universities and from SMEs and Start-ups in Iceland. The office was very pleased to welcome Ms. Binying Wang, Deputy Director General, WIPO who gave a very informative presentation on the WIPO responsibilities and operations in the Opening Session and Ms. Ásta Valdimarsdóttir, who participated in the concluding discussion: *Lessons learned*. The main topics of the event were: *A successful business in the global market, IP – cosmetics and biotech and the value of IP to start-up businesses* and under each topic representatives from the Icelandic University and Business environment shared their experience.

On October 20, 2016 a Seminar on Institutional Intellectual Property Policies will be held at the premises of the University of Reykjavik. This is a cooperative project of WIPO, the Icelandic Patent Office and the University of Reykjavik.

No changes were made to national law in Iceland relating to IPRs last year but a few provisions of the Patent Act are being reviewed and in light of a new EU Directive on Trademarks the Trademark Act and Regulation will have to be revised in the coming months. In December 2014 a new Act on Geographical Indications passed through Parliament, no GIs have, however, been registered in Iceland to this date.

To conclude, Iceland would like to thank the WIPO team for organizing this General Assemblies meeting in Geneva and congratulates Mr. Gurry on his achievements within the Organization. Next

on the agenda for Iceland is the organizing of the seminar on ePCT and hopefully in due course also a Madrid seminar. Iceland is looking forward to welcoming WIPO delegations for these and other events in the future.