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ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1999

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by the

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

An annual series of reports on the industrial design information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

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– The expression “industrial design” covers designs and models.
– Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in this series of documents.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN
INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 1999**

PLEASE NOTE: The USPTO issues design patents and does **not** register industrial designs. However, US design patent information is included in this report since WIPO has requested that “Offices which issue design patents should report their design patent information activities in this series of Annual Technical Reports.”

I. Evolution of registration activities:

Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants (registrations) with respect to the previous year

In calendar year 1999, the USPTO granted 14,732 design patents, roughly the same number as in 1998. The share of grants having foreign origin, as determined by the residence of the first-named inventor, was 34.5 percent for 1999, up from 32.9 percent for 1998. The top patenting organizations receiving design patents in 1999 were Sony Corporation (222 design patents), Nike, Inc. (110 design patents), Motorola, Inc. (81 design patents), and Procter and Gamble Company (81 design patents).

There were 17,761 design patent applications filed at the USPTO in 1999, a four percent increase as compared to 1998. The share of applications having foreign origin, as determined by the residence of the first-named inventor, is estimated to be 36 percent, up from 33 percent for 1998.

Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year

Among the highly active design patent areas for 1999, the number of design patent grants in ‘Equipment for Production, Distribution, or Transformation of Energy’ increased by 34 percent, the number of design patent grants in ‘Travel Goods and Personal Belongings’ increased by 11 percent, and the number of grants in ‘Medical and Laboratory Equipment’ increased by 10 percent over the number of grants for 1998.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of industrial design documents and secondary sources of industrial design information, i.e., official gazettes:

Publishing, including printing, copying techniques and electronic printing

There are no new developments to report for calendar year 1999.

Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of industrial design information

There are no new developments to report for calendar year 1999.

Mass storage media and microforms used

Storage Devices

In 1996, the USPTO began incorporating magnetic rewritable storage devices into its standard operations to replace older optical storage technology. The magnetic devices hold all patent data, and are used as a pre-load area for volume reproduction of patent data via high speed printers. The use of the faster responding devices has dramatically improved search system performance. The “redundant array of disk” technology used by the magnetic devices has substantially improved data availability. During 1996-1999 USPTO acquired the necessary amounts of magnetic storage to process terabytes of patent, trademark, and other business data electronically. At the end of 1999 all the optical storage devices had been replaced. Last year, USPTO established an Internet site with access to text and images of patents from 1976 forward. Over 2 terabytes of image data stored on these devices at USPTO is accessible from the Internet. 800 gigabytes of patent full text data and 70 gigabytes of patent bibliographic data resides on remote storage in New York and North Carolina. Most recently, USPTO has initiated the acquisition of an additional 2 terabytes of storage to add images of all US patents from 1790 forward on the Internet site.

Databases and office automation

Text information (APS-Text) is available back to 1970. Images of all USPTO Design Patents are available on the Classified Search and Image Retrieval (APS-CSIR) system. Additionally, the EAST and WEST 2.0 search tools can access images from the Derwent, EPO, JPO and IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins databases. These same search tools can also access many of the images corresponding to the aforementioned non-US Patent databases.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of industrial design information according to the classification systems applied:

Classification and reclassification activities; Classification system used, e.g., International Classification for Industrial Designs (Locarno Classification), other classification (please indicate whether industrial designs are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification is used)

All design patents that issued in 1999 include both a US Patent Classification designation and a Locarno International Classification designation. The Automated Patent Search (APS) systems available within the PTO and at selected Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries provides the capacity for searching for US Patent documents with either a US or a Locarno classification designation.

The USPTO maintains a concordance between the United States Patent Classification System and the Locarno International Classification System. This concordance was updated in 1999 to reflect classification changes effected by the Seventh Edition of the Locarno Handbook.

During 1999, a reclassification project was completed for the most active portions of Design Class D14 - *Recording, Communication, or Information Retrieval Equipment* and Design Class D18 - *Printing and Office Machinery*. The subject matter of this project involved approximately 7,600 patent documents relating to ornamental designs for data processor equipment, desk-top computers, facsimile equipment, scanning equipment, computer generated icons, recording media, cash-handling machines and point-of-sale terminals. Approximately 209 new subclasses were established.

The *Index to Classification* was expanded to include new terms pertinent to searching industrial designs for the re-classified subject matter in classes D14 and D18.

Formal definitions have been published for all the mainline subclasses and for each of the new subclasses in D14 and D18. The purpose of formal definitions is to further clarify the type and scope of subject matter contained in a class or subclass. Formal definitions may include search notes which aid in locating additional areas in the USPC system pertinent to specific subject matter. Classification definitions are available at the URL below:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/def/index.htm>

Further information about the use of the US Patent Classification System is available at:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/menu/pats.html>

Bibliographic data and processing for search purposes

Currently, USPTO provides full text search of US patents back to 1970. This summer they plan to provide text access to US patents issued prior to 1970. This will be done using unperfected OCR data.

All these documents have corresponding images available for review by examiners. It is expected that examiners will identify relevant documents by text searching the "dirty" OCR file, but will use the document images to determine applicability to applications under review. Examiners also have full text access to IBM technical disclosure bulletins, and bibliographic data and abstract data from Derwent, EPO and JPO patents.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

File building

By the end of 1999, the total number of US Design Patents increased by 9,983 for a total of 417,895 documents. (The specific numbers are not yet available, but are expected to be Officially published in June, 2000.)

The USPTO has used OCR software to convert images of approximately 166,000 U.S. Patents issued between 1970 and 1976 missing from the current text file. It is also converting the US Patent backfile from 1970 to 1790, which is approximately 3.9 million additional documents. The conversion is complete, and USPTO is working to load the text into its search engine, BRS/Search, for access. This is planned for October 2000.

NPL

The USPTO has provided electronic access to over 232 technical journals to all examiners, through the Elsevier database. In addition, Examiners have access to *UMI ProQuest Direct* via the Internet. Finally, Examiners have access to IBM's Technical Disclosure Bulletins.

Updating

Concurrent with the publication of each new Design Patent in the Official Gazette, copies are added to the paper and electronic search files.

Also, see File Building, above.

Storage, including mass storage media and microforms

In 1996, the USPTO began incorporating magnetic rewritable storage devices into its standard operations to replace older optical storage technology. The magnetic devices hold all patent data, and are used as a pre-load area for volume reproduction of patent data via high speed printers. The use of the faster responding devices has dramatically improved search system performance. The "redundant array of disk" technology used by the magnetic devices has substantially improved data availability. During 1996-1999 USPTO acquired the necessary amounts of magnetic storage to process terabytes of patent, trademark, and other business data electronically. At the end of 1999 all the optical storage devices had been replaced. Last year, USPTO established an Internet site with access to text and images of patents from 1976 forward. Over 2 terabytes of image data stored on these devices at USPTO is accessible from the Internet. 800 gigabytes of patent full text data and 70 gigabytes of patent bibliographic data resides on remote storage in New York and North Carolina. Most recently, USPTO has initiated the acquisition of an additional 2 terabytes of storage to add images of all US patents from 1790 forward on the Internet site.

Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file

Gazette type publications of design registrations from over 37 nations or international organizations are available to examiners. These publications are generally maintained in the Design Library or the USPTO Scientific and Technical Information Center (STIC).

A collection of non-patent literature is available to examiners in the Design Library and the main STIC facility. Non-patent literature includes commercial publications, catalogs, magazines, advertising fliers, technical publications and other information pertinent to the 33 classes of the Design Classification system. Additionally, the Scientific and Technical Information Center provides complete library services that include links to libraries nation-wide, literature acquisition as requested, and cataloging of literature received. The literature in the collection can be searched via an on-line catalog maintained by the STIC.

USPTO is also making available document images and products of other intellectual property offices obtained from magnetic tape and CD-ROM products. Currently examiners have access to IPC classifications on line. PTO is currently evaluating DOC.db for use as a search utility for examiners. PTO plans to use this information to assist in applying US classifications to non-US patents.

V. Activities in the field of computerized search systems for industrial designs:

In-house systems (on-line/off-line)

Examiners at the USPTO have the same search tools as utility examiners. The International Patent Classification field that is part of the text search system can also be used to search Locorno classifications for industrial design patents, but this is not frequently used by USPTO examiners.

External data bases

The STIC performs searches for the design examiners on commercial online databases when requested. They also search for resources on the Internet that are appropriate for design examiners.

Administrative management systems (e.g., register, legal status, statistics, administrative support, etc.)

PALM Migration

USPTO continued the phased subsystem delivery with successful delivery of the first subsystem (Infrastructure) in October 1998. The second subsystem (File Ordering) was delivered in October 1999. The third subsystem (Pre-examination system) was delivered in February 2000. The PALM project schedule has been impacted by implementation of the American Inventors Protection Act. The next subsystem (PG Pub) is scheduled for November 2000 release. The project is expected to run

through the March 2001 time period when the final subsystem EXPO which encompassed the functionality of Examination, Post Examination and Patent Term Adjustment will be delivered.

PALM on PTONet

All USPTO employees have been provided further access to the current Management Information System on their desktop PC via barcode readers and a web browser interface. This system has been found to provide increased case tracking accuracy. No future enhancements are planned until PALM Migration is completed.

Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), data carriers used

PTONet has an architecture consisting of a campus wide ATM switched backbone with edge device switches providing switched ethernet connection from individual workstations. Currently, PTONet users have dedicated 10 Mbps switched ethernet connections. When the network replacement project scheduled for FY2001 is completed, users will have access to the network via 100 Mbps connections.

PTONet provides examiners and other staff with access to the Internet through dual-redundant firewalls. Access zones implemented via firewalls and proxy servers have been implemented to provide a limited amount of controlled access to PTONet resources for external users. Additional external access capabilities are being developed through a firewall redesign project and implementation of a variety access control mechanisms including digital certificate based authentication supported by a full Public Key Infrastructure (PKI).

VI. Administration of industrial design services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, registering designs, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts):

Planning, administration, automation, security

These functions are provided by the Design Library in cooperation with STIC whenever necessary.

Collection management, preservation

The STIC catalogs all non-patent materials purchased, but does not manage the collection directly. The STIC receives design patent materials from sixteen countries via exchange agreement. These documents are kept in the Design Library except for materials received from two of the countries that include other patent documents together with the design documents. The materials are maintained in the Main STIC.

Information services available to the public (including computerized services and search files contained in libraries remote from your Office and industrial design information posted by your Office on the World Wide Web)

The Design Patent professional staff is available to answer questions about the Design Patent process both by telephone interview or personal appointment. In 1996, an informational booklet titled A Guide to Filing a Design Patent Application was published by the USPTO to provide general information concerning the requirements for a Design Patent application and the examination process. This booklet is available free of charge and can be received by written request or by calling the PTO Help Line at 800-PTO-9199 (800-786-9199) or 703-308-HELP (703-308-4357). It is also available on the USPTO Web Site (www.uspto.gov).

Copies of Design patents continued to be provided to the 85 libraries in the USPTO's Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) Program in both optical disc and microfilm formats in 1999. Online access to Design patents was made available to the 27 PTDLs participating in the WEST pilot project, and available to three PTDL Partnerships via access to EAST. A list of current PTDLs can be found at the PTDL Web site located at: <http://www.uspto.gov/go/ptdl> The Web site includes information about the Program's mission, history, background, services, and core collections. Links to the Program's publications, materials, and reference tools are also available. Each of the 85 PTDLs is linked from the PTDL List available from the Web site.

Automated Information in Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries

Web-based online searching for the patent text and image database is available at the 27 PTDLs participating in the WEST pilot project.

The USPTO continues to provide a number of optical disc products to PTDLs for direct public use. This includes all Cassis optical disc products: Patents BIB, Patents CLASS, Patents ASSIST, Patents ASSIGN, Trademarks ASSIST, Trademarks ASSIGN, Trademarks PENDING, Trademarks REGISTERED, USAPat, and USAMark.

PTDL Partnerships in Sunnyvale, California, Detroit, Michigan, and Houston, Texas offer fee-based access to selected USPTO's in-house automated systems. These systems include WEST, EAST, and X-Search. Other PTDL Partnership services include electronic ordering of US and foreign patent documents, on-site and videoconference practitioner and public seminars, local filing of Disclosure Documents, and secure videoconferencing capability between patent examiners and inventors and/or attorneys.

Automated Information in Patent Public Search Facilities

Public access to patent text and image search and retrieval was provided through the Automated Patent System (APS) until the system was retired in October 1999. The new APS replacement system called the Web-based Examiner Search Tool, or WEST, was introduced to public users in September 1999. WEST permits access to all US patent images and word searching of text contained in US patents granted since 1971. It also provides text searching through English language patent abstracts from the European Patent Office and Japanese Patent Office. Public access to these search systems continued to grow throughout 1999. Use doubled from 1522 hours in January 1999 to 3092 hours in December 1999. The number of customers also grew, with 638 unique customers signing onto the system in December 1999, accounting for 10,463 sessions. This averages 476 patent sessions per day in the patent search facilities in December 1999, a significant increase over 1998 use.

The number of workstations in the Patent Search Room increased from six to 33 in 1999, while the Patent Search and Image Retrieval Facility continued to make 23 workstations available for public use. From January through September search fees were collected for APS on an hourly basis and for pages printed (from the text-only sessions). While users are getting used to the new WEST system, session fees have been suspended. However, fees are collected for pages printed from both text and image searches. With the increased number of workstations, there is no problem with machine availability, and except for peak hours, no customers are being turned away.

An 8-hour training course on the WEST system is available to the public for a nominal fee. In the last three months of 1999, 187 public users were trained on WEST. While APS was still available, 149 public users were trained on APS-text (a 12-hour course), and another 16 on APS-image workstations (a 4-hour course). In 1999, a total of 352 public users were trained on automated patent systems.

The CD-ROM jukebox in the Patent Search Room allows for access to all of the PTO's CD-ROM products. Access to the system is free of charge. A print fee was charged until December 1999, then was suspended.

Automated Products Provided to the Public

The USPTO's Information Dissemination Organizations continues to provide patent information products and services to the public in a variety of formats. The *Products and Services Catalog*, produced annually, describes USPTO products and services, and contains details on how to obtain them.

The following CD-ROM products are available for purchase by the public:

Patents BIB: Selected Bibliographic Information from US Patents Issued 1969 to Present

This Cassis CD-ROM contains bibliographic information for utility patents issued from 1969 to the present, and for other types of patent documents issued from 1977 to the present. It includes date of

issue, state/country of first listed inventor's residence, assignee at time of issue, status (i.e., withdrawn, corrected, expired for failure to pay maintenance fees, reexamined or term extended), current classifications, patent title, and patent abstracts (for the most recent 2½-year period, as disc space allows). Patents BIB also refers to patent image locations on USAPat, described below. This CD-ROM product is updated every two months.

Patents CLASS: Current Classifications of US Patents Issued 1790 to Present

This Cassis CD-ROM contains current classification information for all utility, design, plant, reissue and X-numbered patents, as well as defensive publications and statutory invention registrations issued from 1790 to the present (over 6 million documents). Indexing of classification information has been optimized for rapid retrieval. This CD-ROM product is updated every two months.

Patents ASSIGN: US Patents Assignments Recorded at the USPTO 1980 August to Present

This Cassis CD-ROM includes data derived from assignment deeds for issued patents, which were recorded at the Patent and Trademark Office after August 1980. The disc includes assignments recorded before and after the patent issued. This CD-ROM product is updated every three months.

Patents ASSIST: Full Text of Patent Search Tools

This Cassis CD-ROM is a compilation of many patent search tools including the following: Manual of Classification, Index to the US Patent Classification, Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, IPC - USPC Concordance, and Attorneys and Agents Registered to Practice Before the US Patent and Trademark Office. In addition, Classification Definitions, a Patentee-Assignee Index, and a Classification Orders Index are included. The Patentee-Assignee Index shows ownership at time of issue for utility patents 1969 to present; for other patent types 1977 to present; and inventor names 1975 to present. The Classification Orders Index is a list of classifications abolished and established since 1976 with corresponding Classification Order number and effective date. This CD-ROM product is updated every three months.

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP)

This Manual is published to provide US Patent and Trademark Office patent examiners, applicants, attorneys, agents, and representatives of applicants with a reference work on the practices and procedures relative to the prosecution of patent applications before the Patent and Trademark Office. The MPEP is available in electronic form as an ASCII text file downloadable (no charge) from the USPTO Web site on the Internet at <http://www.uspto.gov/>, and as a searchable text file on the Patents ASSIST CD-ROM product which includes many other useful files (CD Answer® software). Each revision is fully incorporated into the base edition and republished as a whole.

USAPat: Facsimile Images of United States Patents

This Cassis CD-ROM product contains facsimile images of US patents. An "image" is an actual page of the patent, including all drawings, and looks just like the original printed document. The purpose of

USAPat is to serve as a document delivery system, not as a search system. Retrieval is by document number only from a cumulative index. Excellent printed copies of actual documents can be obtained directly from a laser printer. Over 150 discs are published each year (three to four discs per week). Delivery of weekly discs is usually within 15 days from issue date. As of 2000 January, USAPat is available on DVD-ROM only, which, because of increased disc capacity, reduces the number of weekly discs to one.

GLOBALPat: Text and Drawings from Patent First Pages

This Cassis CD-ROM includes text from the first page of a representative member of each patent family published by the United States, the European Patent Office, France, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland, or the World Intellectual Property Organization. Records contain bibliographic and patent family information, an abstract, and a drawing (where available). This information was derived from the First Page Data Base (FPDB), an English-language collection representing nearly all of the world's patent literature published since 1971. The FPDB and GLOBALPat retrieval software, MIMOSA, were jointly financed by the Trilateral Offices—the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the European Patent Office, and the Japanese Patent Office. The GLOBALPat back file of 116 discs, covering 1971-1996, is organized into sixty-nine technology groups based on the International Patent Classification. The front file, 1997-1998, is arranged by issuing country and document number. An index disc covering all published issues is available. Publication will cease with the completion of 1998. . With the distribution of a revised index covering the back file and the front file through 1998, the USPTO will cease publishing this title.

Trademarks REGISTERED: Bibliographic Information from Active, Registered US Trademarks

This Cassis CD-ROM contains the text of all active registered trademarks from 1884 to present with 30 searchable fields. This CD-ROM product is updated every two months.

Trademarks PENDING: Bibliographic Information from Pending US Trademarks

This Cassis CD-ROM contains the text of trademark applications, which have been filed but not yet approved for registration, with 25 searchable fields. This CD-ROM product is updated every two months.

Trademarks ASSIGN: US Trademarks Assignments Recorded at the USPTO 1955 to Present

This Cassis CD-ROM includes data derived from trademark assignment deeds recorded since 1955 with 10 searchable fields. This CD-ROM product is updated every two months.

Trademarks ASSIST: Full Text of Trademark Search Tools

This Cassis CD-ROM includes the searchable text of the Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure, the Goods and Services Manual, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Manual of Procedure, the Trademark Statute and Rules (Trademark Act of 1946 and the Rules of Practice), the Trademark Telephone Index, and the PTO Products and Services Catalog. It is updated on an irregular basis.

USAMark: Facsimile Images of United States Trademark Registrations

This Cassis CD-ROM contains facsimile images of U.S. registered trademarks from 1870 to the present. An “image” is an actual page of the trademark, including renewals and modifications, and looks just like the original printed document. *USAMark* is a document delivery system, not a search system. Retrieval is by document number only from a cumulative index that covers all issued discs. Excellent printed copies of actual documents can be obtained directly from a laser printer. *USAMark* consists of 128 discs including registrations through 2000 April. *USAMark* is published monthly.

The USPTO maintains World Wide Web (WWW) and File Transfer Protocol (ftp) sites on the Internet, which permit the public free access to selected information related to patents and trademarks.

The USPTO Web site at <http://www.uspto.gov/> contains information about the office and information about patents and trademarks. It also provides access to searchable databases of patent and trademark information, and to tools that assist users in obtaining information.

In August 1998, the USPTO began providing free access to a searchable trademark database. It consists of bibliographic data and full-text of over one million registered trademarks and pending applications which date back to 1870. Currently, the text portion of the database is updated on a two-month cycle, and images are updated weekly.

A new version of the trademark searchable database was recently added. It includes enhanced searching capabilities and is updated on the same schedule as the searchable database used internally by the Trademark Examiners.

In October 1998, the USPTO began accepting Trademark applications electronically from a web based application. The USPTO currently receives approximately 15% of all Trademark applications from this site. A similar pilot project for Patents is currently underway.

Patent and Trademark application status information are both available from the USPTO website. Both of these databases are searchable and are updated on a daily basis.

In November 1995, the USPTO began providing access to patent bibliographic information and abstract text on its Web Site. The PatBib database contains the data back to January 1976, and is updated on a weekly basis, usually on issue day (each Tuesday). The raw data is available for FTP downloading on the same day. In November 1998, the USPTO began providing access to the searchable, full text of US patent from January 1976 to the present. The database is updated weekly, usually on issue day.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of industrial design documentation and information:

International or regional cooperation in the exchange of industrial design information, e.g., in the form of official gazettes

The USPTO maintains exchange agreements with many intellectual property offices for the exchange of industrial design registrations and gazettes and continually seeks to expand the number of such exchanges.

Intellectual property offices receiving paper and microfilm copies of US patent documents have been reminded that those products will no longer be provided as part of the exchange agreement beginning with the first issue of the year 2000. Each office will continue to have access to the documents on USAPat DVD-ROM.

Exchange of machine-readable information, e.g., data contained on CD-ROM or magnetic tape

CD-ROM products including, but not limited to, design patent images and information are sent to 111 intellectual property offices (see descriptions of the products above). All intellectual property offices receiving USPTO CD-ROM products as part of an exchange agreement have been notified of the upcoming changeover to DVD-ROM format in the year 2000.

The USPTO currently exchanges patent images and information on magnetic computer tapes with the EPO and JPO as part of a Trilateral Agreement.

VIII. Matters concerning education and training including technical assistance to developing countries:

Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.)

The USPTO continues to provide patent and trademark information to the public through the PTDL network of 85 libraries located throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

The USPTO expanded its 1999 *Catalog of Patent and Trademark Information Products and Services*. It is available on the USPTO's Web Site.

Training courses for national and foreign participants

The USPTO provides technical training relevant to patent law and patent practice for all patent examiners. Additionally, a variety of technical classes are available dealing with search techniques on the Automated Patent System (APS) on and methods of using a variety of custom computer software to assist in the examination process.

The Academy participates in the two week Visiting Scholars Program. Here the PTO hosts patent professionals from offices world-wide and presents them with training on patents, trademarks, copyrights, and related procedural and operational issues.

The Academy also operates a televideo-conference facility. This has been used to broadcast live meetings and lectures with officials in foreign countries.

Assistance to developing countries (sending consultants and experts, receiving trainees from developing countries, etc.)

The USPTO offers various programs to provide technical assistance to developing countries and to countries moving to a market economy. Programs focus establishing adequate systems in these countries for the protection of intellectual property rights. They also provide intellectual property enforcement training. The goal of the programs is to provide advice and expertise to these countries with the desired outcome being the reduction of losses resulting from piracy of U.S. intellectual property.

The 1999 Visiting Scholars Program provided participants from China, Estonia, Laos, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Namibia, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Suriname, Tanzania, Thailand, Ukraine, and Vietnam with two weeks of classroom and hands-on study of various aspects of the administration of intellectual property law, patent and trademark examination and copyright protection, and an opportunity to gain an understanding of the important role of intellectual property protection as a tool for economic development.

Other highlights included an Intellectual Property Enforcement Training Program and Co-sponsored programs with WIPO in Mombassa, Kenya. The programs in Kenya included an "African Sub-Regional Symposium on International Standards for Protecting Intellectual Property and Intellectual Property in the Digital Age" and a "regional Consultation on Electronic Commerce and Intellectual Property".

IX. Other relevant matters

The USPTO continued its participation in the technical activities established under the various international agreements administered by WIPO.