

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT
ON
PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES
1998

I Evolution of patent activities:

- Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants with respect to the previous year

106 applications were received in 1998, as opposed to 171 and 119 received and granted in 1996 and 1997 respectively.

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

Since the majority of applications for patent originate with non-nationals the fall in the number of applications may reflect lower investment interest associated with a slowing of the National economy.

Under the new Patents Act, 1996, applicants must request a search and examination after satisfying the formality requirements. No requests for search and examination were received and so no new patents were granted in 1998.

The number of PCT applications continued to increase as expected.

II Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, distribution and use of primary and secondary sources of patent information:

- Publishing, printing and copying techniques.

With the proclamation of the Patents Act, 1996, on the 1 December 1997 the publication of patent information is no longer restricted to the official Trinidad and Tobago Gazette but may be carried in “a periodical”.

III Matters concerning abstracting, classifying, reclassifying, and indexing of technical information contained in patent documents:

- Abstracting, reviewing, translating

Abstracts are now required as part of the application under the new Patents Act, 1996. The Intellectual Property Office will, on request and for a significant fee, provide an abstract on behalf of the applicant.

Translations of documents are not carried out by the Office and will, if required, be requested of the applicant.

IV Search file establishment and upkeep:

The United States collection of patents on CD-ROM has been added to the search file

V Activities in the field of computerised and other mechanised search systems:

- In-house system

Three of the machines on the network of ten were upgraded during 1998. The remainder will be upgraded early in 1999.

VI Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging application, for assisting clients on searching procedures, for obtaining official publications and registry extracts):

- Information services available to the public (including computerised services and search files contained in libraries remote from the Registry and patent information posted by the Registry on the World Wide Web)

A static website for the Intellectual Property Office is almost complete and is expected to be established by mid-1999.

VII Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information:

Nothing new to report.

VIII Other relevant matters concerning education and training in, and promotion of, the use of patent information, including technical assistance to Developing countries:

- Training courses for nationals and foreign participants, use of audiovisual means

Training in patent examination and the use of patent documentation took place with the assistance of WIPO and the Swedish Patent Office