

PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 1998

I. Evolution of registration activities

There was a reduction in application filings and grants compared with the previous year as follows:

1997	ARIPO Patents	222
1998	ARIPO Patents	60
1997	Uganda Patents	3
1998	Uganda Patents	2

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

The office did not publish any patent information, primary or secondary. The main and only type of announcements of the office in the field of patent information relate to the grant of a patent in the official Uganda Gazette.

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

None of this was done. All the above activities were carried out at ARIPO.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

All the filing, updating etc.. is done on physical files.

To date, a data base has been created and data entry is on going.

V. Activities in the field of computerized and other mechanised search systems

In house: A data base has been created.

External data bases were developed earlier with co-operation from WIPO and ARIPO on one workstation. Unfortunately, there was a break down in the system and the information was lost. Otherwise the ARIPO software was the CD-ISIS Package and the WIPO one was the World and Access. No network exists and the office is not online yet.

VI. Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public

The department has an office where applications are lodged and clients are assisted. The office has its planning done centrally by the Ministry Finance Committee. The office is manned by one secretary and two clerks. There is no automation, all files are physical and there are no back up files.

In 1998 information was acquired mainly through mail, from WIPO, ARIPO and individual countries like Japan. WIPO and ARIPO sent information in form of books and CD -Rom. No other patent libraries exist in the country.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information

The medium of exchange and for filing applications is physical. Documentation and information received in the spirit of regional and international co-operation was both physical and on CD.Rom. The office had not and still hasn't implemented the Statement of Principles Concerning the Change over to Electronic Data Carriers for the Exchange of Patent Documents.

VIII. Education etc..

There was an ARIPO Roving Seminar in 1998 during which several institutions in Kampala were visited and addressed on patents, patents information and its uses etc.. Video shows were shown on the topics discussed. No assistance was received to facilitate the changing over of the receiving offices to electronic data carriers for the exchange of patent documents.

GENERAL REMARKS

It is hoped that when the department is autonomous, more activities will take place due to availability of funds, personnel, office space and equipment.