

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT
ON
TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES
1998

I Evolution of registration activities:

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

In 1998 the Intellectual Property Office received 1210 filings compared to 1599 in 1997 and 1395 in 1996. The number of marks registered in 1998 was 797 compared with 1022 in 1997 and 966 in 1996.

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

The fall in the number of filings and registrations may reflect the change allowing a single filing and a single registration to apply to several classes.

II Matters concerning the generation, reproduction and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information, i.e., trademark gazettes:

Trademarks continue to be published at intervals in a local daily newspaper. No new activity took place in this area.

III Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying, and indexing of trademark information:

- Classification and reclassification activities

Classification is done in accordance with both Nice and Vienna Conventions.

Applicants are advised to use the terms provided in the Nice Classification for their specification of goods and services.

IV Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep:

- Storage

Both figurative elements and words are still kept on card files for manual search purposes.

V Activities in the field of computerised trademark search systems:

- In-house system

Figurative elements continue to be scanned in for electronic search purposes and word elements continue to be entered through the keyboard.

Difficulties with the Trademark Information System installed continued throughout 1998. New software and hardware are expected to be developed in-house beginning in 1999.

VI Administration of trademark services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, registering trademarks, assisting clients with search procedures, 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 trademark information posted by the Registry on the World Wide Web)

The Intellectual Property Office website has been delayed and is now expected to be posted in June, 1999.

VII Matters concerning education and training, including technical assistance to Developing countries:

- Training courses for national and foreign participants

Trinidad and Tobago hosted the first WIPO Annual Regional Trademark Training Course for Caribbean countries in November, 1998. Eleven countries from the region were represented.