

五庁特許庁長官会合に関する USPTO のメール配信について

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USPTO は、先月開催された日米欧中韓の五庁特許庁長官会合 (Heads of Five Largest IP Offices、於ハワイ、5 月 11、12 日) の結果について、同庁メール通信 (5 月 22 日付) を通じ配信した (別紙参照)。

同配信によれば、日米欧三極会合、日中韓三庁会合が個別にある中、本会合は、近年のグローバル出願の増加に対応するために、効率及び品質の改善等、5 庁共通 (in common) の特許行政に係る問題を、各庁長官により議論する場とした上で、デュダス USPTO 長官によって開催された初めての会合と紹介。

デュダス長官は、「五大特許庁 (five largest patent offices) 間の協力を強化することは、品質や生産性を高め、冗長性を低減し、イノベーターと経済に対して有益。5 庁は、グローバルな特許制度、グローバル経済に向け重要な役割を担っており、直面する出願増に対して制度がより良く対応できるよう対策を講じなければならない」と発言し、中韓の出願急増に触れつつ、5 庁の出願件数が世界全体の 75% を占める中、5 庁における取組みの強化や効率性の追求を目指す機会と捉えた。

同配信の結びとして、5 庁は、特許審査官のインセンティブや出願の品質を高める方策について、各種統計及び情報を収集し共有することにつき、合意したと報じている。

なお、こうした報道は、現時点において、USPTO のホームページ等においては公表されていない。

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(別紙)USPTOメール配信ニュース

Heads of Five Largest IP Offices Meet to Discuss Cooperation

The heads of the five largest IP offices in the world recently met in Hawaii to discuss ways the offices can cooperate in improving efficiency and quality to keep pace with the rising tide of global patent filings. The meeting, which was the first time that all five offices heads met together, was initiated by USPTO Under Secretary Jon Dudas.

Leaders from the USPTO, the European Patent Organization (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of the People's Republic of China met to discuss patent administration issues that all have in common. EPO, JPO and USPTO and JPO, KIPO and SIPO have been meeting in separate Trilateral groups.

Under Secretary Dudas identified this meeting as an opportunity to consolidate efforts and promote efficiency. "Increasing cooperation among the worlds five largest patent offices will lead to higher quality, greater productivity and less redundancy which serves all of our innovators and our economies," Under Secretary Dudas told the gathering. "Our Offices are critical to the future of the global patent system and to the global economy, and we must take steps to ensure that our systems are able to better handle the increased volumes we're seeing."

Participating in the discussions were Dudas, Alan Pompidou, President of the EPO, Makoto Nakajima, Commissioner of the JPO, Sang-Woo Jun, Commissioner of the KIPO and Tian Lipu, Commissioner of SIPO.

The dramatic growth in the number of patent applications in Korea and China is a true intellectual property success story. That growth has also made cooperation with those countries a priority. Together, the five offices receive about 75 percent of all patent applications filed worldwide.

The discussions focused on future opportunities for cooperation to deal with the demands increasing globalization of patent protection. A 2006 report by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) estimated that between 1985 and 2004 the number of patent applications filed worldwide grew from 884,400 to nearly 1.6 million. The WIPO report further noted that between 1994 and 2004, resident and non-resident filings for KIPO increased 488 percent, while SIPO's increased a staggering 643 percent.

The offices agreed to compile and share patent statistics and information on patent examiner incentive plans and application quality enhancement proposals. They also will share quality management practices, including how quality, production, and productivity are defined and measured. Best practices for streamlining and simplifying patent examination practices will also be shared.