Paradigm change in searching Asian documentation at the EPO

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Speaker

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What is a paradigm change?

- a fundamental change in the basic concepts of doing something (Wikipedia)

- a fundamental change in daily practice (Wikipedia)

- an important change that happens when the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way (Merriam-Webster)
Stimulating paradigm change in searching Asian documentation among EPO examiners

Four key elements

β raising awareness on relevance of Asian documentation

β complete Asian documentation coverage

β fit for purpose machine translation

β effective search strategies in advanced search tools
Why do EPO examiners search in Asian documentation?

Article 54(1)(2) EPC

β (1) An invention shall be considered to be new if it does not form part of the state of the art.

β (2) The state of the art shall be held to comprise everything made available to the public by means of a written or oral description, by use, or in any other way, before the date of filing of the European patent application.
Raising awareness on relevance of Asian documentation

Awareness------------------- Support --------------- Result

Number of Asian documents consulted

Number of citations with KR, CN

CPC and IPC

Practical guidelines on Asian documentation
Complete Asian documentation coverage

More and more patent documents from Asia are searchable and visible in EPO’s database

- CN 100% Patents coverage
- CN 100% Utility model coverage
- KR Utility model from 2008
- JP Patent pre 1992 is being processed based on OCR data
- JP Utility model from 1992
- 100% Bibliographic coverage
Fit for purpose machine translation

for EPO examiners

for the public

Advanced machine translation tools + machine translated text for search in English
Effective search strategies in advanced search tools

for EPO examiners

- automated pre-search
- Integrated Full text search
- Classes
- Free query
- Keywords
- Selection of databases
- Asian file wrappers
- Citations

for the public

- Espacenet
- Asian file wrappers
- Citations

Focus on efficient and high quality search in Asian documentation
Some paradigm changes in searching Asian documentation, still more to come

- from paper abstracts or almost nothing to vast electronic data from Asia
- from language barrier to machine translation
- from classification search in CPC / IPC / Fi-Fterm to ??
- from sophisticated search strategies tailored to Asian documentation search to fully automated global search ??
Thank you!