What the user community needs

Towards effective collaboration between East and West

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BASF SE

East meets West, Vienna
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Agenda

- The Patent Documentation Group - Who we are
- How the user community works
- What are the main challenges in accessing patent information?
- Questionnaire 2009 and
  - Questionnaire 2015
    - Users
    - Offices
    - Commercial providers
- Discussion
- Conclusion
What the PDG is..

Non-profit organization of research-driven, blue-chip companies with major European R&D sites

PDG Annual Members Conference 2014
Frankfurt, hosted by Clariant
What the PDG is..

39 companies as members of the Patent Documentation Group

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How does PDG work as organization?

**Cooperation** in patent information and documentation

**Debate, discuss and stimulate** improvements and new developments in patent information products

**Exchange knowledge and experience** in all areas relating to patent information

**Determine and communicate proposals** to third parties involved in IP information
PDG IMPACT works as a Round Table - Who are our Partners?

PDG

INPI Brazil

EPO

IP5 offices

USPTO

National offices (Europe)

Observer Status

Asian offices

CAS, TR, Questel, STN, Providers

WIPO

PIUG, CEPIUG, JIPA etc.
The patent information work flow

Request → Search in Databases → Abstract → Legal status data: patent alive or invalid?

Full text
Why do these needs exist?
What professional searchers in industry are doing

- Risk mitigation searches
  - Novelty searches
  - State-of-the-art searches
  - Opposition searches
  - Monitoring and current awareness searches
  - Freedom-to-operate searches (FTO)
  - Legal status and patent family searches

- Opportunity finding
  - Patent landscapes and patent portfolio analyses
  - White space analyses….

➡ Our needs go beyond those of the patent offices.
Patents go global: Asia, Latin America, Gulf countries…

The number of patent applications globally is still growing dramatically

Language barriers become a determining factor in accessing patent information

Consequences:
- The huge backlog for offices and companies is even growing - IP5 activities!
- The access to more documents in non-Latin languages becomes more and more difficult

The need for more standardization worldwide is obvious

We need an intensified cooperation because we have similar needs!
What are the main challenges in accessing patent information?

- The patent world goes global: Asia - particularly China - needs to be covered by patent information systems.

- > 50% of all patent applications published in non-Latin languages.

- Among the TOP 10 PCT applicants (2013) five are from Asia, led by a Japanese company (Panasonic) followed by two Chinese companies (ZTE, Huawei).

- In 2011 the SIPO (China) became the largest patent office in the world: in 2014: **928,000 patent** and **867,000 utility model** applications have been registered!
In 2008, we consulted PDG members on their opinions on the needs for improvement of patent information from Asia, mainly with respect to the recent emergence of Asian offices as major players.

- All PDG-companies were asked
- 28 PDG-companies responded to a detailed questionnaire
- Results were distributed internally in February 2009
What European industry thinks - Some results from 2009 consultations

- Do you see need for improvement with respect to Asian patent information? 96% (Status 2009)
- Availability of detailed legal status in English 96% (Status 2009)
- Searchable English full text (CN, KR) 100% (Status 2009)
- Images of documents 68% (Status 2009)
- Added value abstracts (by commercial providers) 92% (Status 2009)
- (High quality) machine translation 96% (Status 2009)
- Standardized applicants' names 86% (Status 2009)
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What European industry thinks - results from 2013 consultations
Our requirements still fit with these requests...

- Machine translations
- Harmonization of assignee names
- Legal status information
- Country coverage
- Asian non patent literature
- Others
What we think – Questionnaire 2015
The most impressive improvements for users (1)

- Availability of KR legal status in Inpadoc
- Start of „Global Dossier“

- „Patenttranslate“ machine translation by EPO/Google, quality of machine translation (KR, TW)

- Developments of the patent databases of the patent offices
- Some of the patent office interfaces
- Development of database functionalities (PATENTSCOPE, PatBase)

- Development of the CPC
What we think – Questionnaire 2015
The most impressive improvements for users (2)

- Availability of original patent specifications of CN JP KR in machine readable format (Espacenet/PATENTSCOPE) and national patent offices as well as commercial providers
- Availability of the original documents (loading of original patent specifications in Espacenet/ PATENTSCOPE)
- Initiative of IP 5 to discuss users need with different user groups like PDG
- Increased awareness and willingness of the patent offices to cooperate and share information.
- Activities of Arabic countries via ARABPAT
What we think – Questionnaire 2015
The challenges for users (1)

- INPADOC as „one stop shop“ for legal status information (reliable, timely and comprehensive information)
- Publication of all stages of patent litigation data (not only decisions)
- E-Register in English language

- Easier access to office actions from prosecutions in CN, JP, KR, TW including machine translations
- Option of link to national E-register in commercial databases
What we think – Questionnaire 2015
The challenges for users (2)

- Standardizing of assignee (inventor) names
- Regular re-translation of machine translated bulk in commercial databases using latest technologies: continuing improvement of MTs and MT in time, best practices
- Database coverage for some countries
- User friendly search interfaces of national web databases in English
- Better access to B-documents from CN, JP, TW
- Better understanding about novelty, state of the art and inventive step for own applications, prosecution and trials.
Questionnaire for Patent Offices (SIPO)

What are recent developments in your office with respect to providing Asian patent information?

- Patent Data Service Pilot System (2014.12.10)
- Patent Search and Service System (For the public)
- China Patent Inquiry System (7 languages)
- Patent Information Inquiry System (7 Sub-systems)
Questionnaire for Patent Offices (SIPO)

What are your plans for your office with respect to providing Asian patent information in the near future?

- Cloud Patent Examination System
- OPD for the public
Questionnaire for Patent Offices (SIPO)

What are the **most challenging issues** you are facing in your office with respect to provision of Asian patent information?

- Multi-languages
- Data scope
What are recent developments in your office with respect to providing Asian patent information? (1)

- JPO completely reformed the “Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL)” in response to the users’ needs which are getting more sophisticated and diversified, and newly provided a patent information providing service named “Japan Platform for Patent Information (J-PlatPat)” from March 23, 2015.

- JPO launched functions for providing Japanese dossier information to the public through the homepage of each IP5 Office at the end of March 2015. Every stakeholder is allowed to refer to the Japanese dossier information on the homepage.
Questionnaire for Patent Offices (JPO)
What are recent developments in your office with respect to providing Asian patent information? (2)

- The “Chinese and Korean Gazette Translation and Search System” was released on January 5, 2015. This system enables full text searches in Japanese of Chinese and Korean patent and utility model documents.

- JPO classified about 100,000 SIPO patent documents with the FI and F-terms on specified technical fields, and the J-PlatPat users can search the SIPO patent documents by the FI and F-terms.
Questionnaire for Patent Offices (JPO)

What are your plans for your office with respect to providing Asian patent information in the near future?

- JPO will launch the OPD Public Service on the J-PlatPat in July 2016. At the service, JPO will seemingly allow users to refer to dossier information of some WIPO-CASE participants and PCT information as well as IP5 dossier.

- JPO plans to enhance the J-PlatPat prior art search functions to make equivalent to those JPO examiners access.
What are the most challenging issues you are facing in your office with respect to provision of Asian patent information?

- Reduction of time lag for patent information provision through the J-PlatPat

- Expansion of dossier information provision including appeal/trial, design, and trademark through the J-PlatPat

- Initiative on Global Dossier among the IP5 Offices
  - Alerting (of changes to an application status)
  - XML-based provision of all patent application documents
  - Standardization of applicant names
  - Legal status
  - Proof of Concept for inter office data exchange
What are recent developments in your office with respect to providing Asian patent information?

- We open KIPRIS\textsuperscript{Plus} service, a dedicated website for distribution of patent data

- KIPRIS\textsuperscript{Plus} gives users access to the KIPO's raw data either via Bulk data or Open API (Rest, Soap)
Questionnaire for Patent Offices (KIPO)

What are your plans for your office with respect to providing Asian patent information in the near future?

- Building **Infrastructure for enhancing the Utilization of Patent Information** will help more patent information to be used in more convenient and creative ways.
Harmonization with private sector is one of the most challenging issues. Government should focus on provision of raw information produced during administrative procedure. Private sector manipulates the raw information and outputs high-value added information. In this context, KIPO makes our efforts to provide more patent information in more convenient ways to the general public.
Questionnaire for Patent Offices (TIPO)

What are recent developments in your office with respect to providing Asian patent information?

TWPAT (Taiwan Patent Search System) provided following features in 2014:

- TW to EN machine translation of the patent specification
- Search results analysis – 2D/3D chart
- Search results sort by count of citing patent
What are your plans for your office with respect to providing Asian patent information in the near future?

- Planning to build a global patent search system.
  (Plan is being reviewed.)

Questionnaire for Patent Offices (TIPO)

What are the **most challenging issues** you are facing in your office with respect to provision of Asian patent information?

- Search system for non-Chinese documents in Chinese
- Timely and complete information
- Good performance
Questionnaire for Information Providers (IPPH)

What are recent developments in your organization with respect to providing Asian patent information?

- Chinese legal status including transfer, licence and pledge information
- Annual fee information
- IP case search system with re-examination, invalidity and litigation data
- Customized image searching system
- Trademark data and services
Questionnaire for Information Providers (IPPH)

What are your plans for your organization with respect to providing Asian patent information in the near future?

- Federate search of patent and non-patent literature
- Data mining of office action documents
Questionnaire for Information Providers (IPPH)

What are the most challenging issues you are facing in your organization with respect to provision of Asian patent information?

- Not easy to understand customer demands
- No local branch to support in Europe
Questionnaire for Information Providers (Thomson Reuters)

What are recent developments in your organization with respect to providing Asian patent information?

- The inclusion of full text Machine translations with technology selective human enhancement, frontfile and backfile (back to 1994)
- Enhancement of top 111 Chinese company codes in DWPI
What are your plans for your organization with respect to providing Asian patent information in the near future?

- Turkey – new country coverage enhancement in DWPI – value add based on full text machine translations; PDF full text in FLD products
Questionnaire for Information Providers (Thomson Reuters)

What are the most challenging issues you are facing in your organization with respect to provision of Asian patent information?

- Data formats, patent kinds (if available) not aligned with WIPO standards
- Lack of detailed information regarding the meaning of various patent kinds, patent law changes in the backfile data
- Support in dealing with company and inventor names
- Inconsistency/unavailability of patent data supply; lack of transparency in the data dissemination policy
- Poor quality of the backfile data (PDF which is difficult to OCR)
Summary

- The user community greatly appreciates the offer of the Asian offices and user organizations to cooperate.

- We see room for improvement and are willing to contribute because we see a close relationship between high quality patent information and high quality patents.

- We are convinced that meetings like this workshop is improving the cooperation between the user community and the Asian Patent Offices.

- Let us go on and improve quality, reliability, timeliness and consistency of patent information for mutual benefit!
Thank you for your contributions!