

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
WIPO

AEPPI

AIPPI

Opening ceremony

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Executive Director of WIPO

President,
and Members of the Executive Committee of the Egyptian group

AIPPI is honored and pleased to be present
at this international symposium
on the “challenges for developing countries in a global economy.”

The Egyptian group is very active in organizing symposiums every two years.

By doing this, the Egyptian group has been increasing not only its membership but also its reputation and authority
– see the audience today ...

For the fifth anniversary of the Egyptian group, in 1997, AIPPI already participated in an international symposium in this beautiful and historical city.
WIPO and AIPPI are very happy today to be involved in the organization of this new symposium.

The influence of AIPPI

From the 19th century up to World War II, and even up to the 1970s, AIPPI has had a direct influence on international treaties:

- the Paris convention, with priority right and the assimilation of the foreign to the national
- the Strasbourg convention, which gave birth to the European and Community patent systems, with an international definition of patentability and of the infringement of a patent right.

Since that time, treaties and national laws have been studied and improved at length by highly specialized civil servants of governmental or international bodies, see for example the Patent Cooperation Treaty and its hundreds of articles.

Because of its nature, AIPPI cannot compete with this thorough and detailed work with the same speed.

The influence of AIPPI (suite)

Precisely because of its nature,
AIPPI was and will be able :

- to continue to provide its contribution and
- to leave its mark on the work done in the IP field.

Indeed, AIPPI is unique in the world,

- Unique because of its international scope,
with upwards of 8,300 members
in over 30 groups,
representing almost 100 countries from every continent.

Such diversity in the origins of its members provides broad horizons
for the expression of reasonable opinions
with respect to the problems and solutions
that can be encountered in the world of IP.

- Unique, because its members come from three families interested in IP:
 - businesses: manufacturers and tradespeople as well
 - lawyers: academics and mainly practitioners
 - attorneys before the Offices.
- Unique because AIPPI covers the three major branches of IP rights:
 - patents, including computer software, integrated circuits and plant varieties
 - trademarks, including appellations of origin and geographical names
 - copyrights and models
 - not excepting free and fair competition.

The influence of AIPPI (suite)

- Unique, because of its working methods:
 - substantial questions are selected by our Executive Committee (ExCo) based on a proposal made by our Program Committee
 - the working guideline on each of these questions is prepared by the Reporter General Team
 - each group gives a report on its national situation (which makes a remarkable comparative law database) and their wishes for a solution that could be internationally accepted
 - a summary of these reports is made by our Reporter General Team
 - and the Working Committee proposed a resolution to the ExCo.

Thus, each year, AIPPI passes at least three resolutions to inform all interested circles as to its opinion on a given problem and its potential international solution.

The influence of AIPPI (suite)

Needless to say,
AIPPI is a non-profit and non-governmental organization.

It is actually the largest forum in the world, where:

- ideas are debated, in a quite objective way
- common solutions may be devised
that are acceptable to professionals
on an international level
- concepts or principles arise for the future.

The influence of AIPPI (suite)

Because it is a unique professional and international association, AIPPI has to maintain its leadership in the world.

AIPPI must be present more often in every continent.

For this, it requires the help of all the groups.

It needs input from its membership, especially from young professionals with their prospects.

It is true that the complexity and sophistication of the studies undertaken by AIPPI on the current substantial questions require efforts – both intellectual and financial – that might discourage some volunteers, especially the younger ones.

However, it is precisely these intellectual efforts that enhance the quality of our association and make it so prominent.

This is why, if we want to be of some influence in the IP world, we must pursue our efforts to promote the quality and the circulation of our work.

The role of AIPPI

Beyond the rules of IP specifically,
should our AIPPI consider new-corollary-questions?

1/ One can note today that,
although many micro-economic studies have identified the usefulness of IP rights,
there are no micro-economic studies
allowing a concrete and realistic assessment of the local needs
of a given region or of a market limited to one or more specific countries.

Yet, having a definition of the pros and cons of IP rights would allow
a better knowledge of their limits,
which would justify not only their existence
but also their development and their reinforcement
within such limits.

In this respect,
WIPO and AIPPI are interested in collecting concrete economic studies
to show in what way IP rights can contribute
to the economic development of a local sector.
Indeed, it is important to determine whether in such a sector,
IP rights can constitute tangible and significant assets.

In this context,
we have been told that WIPO promotes cooperative efforts
between external experts and various economic institutions
interested in carrying out such specific studies.

AIPPI has a keen interest
in such studies and actively supports them.

The role of AIPPI (suite)

2/ We must not forget
that the IP field is a part of the larger domain of general interest.

In this context, IP rights must be enforced by every judicial system.
IP rights should be consistent with other fundamental principles
such as fair competition, free trade and anti-trust rules.

Here again,
getting a better knowledge of the limits of the IP field :

- would justify their existence and their scope,
- would reduce the dilution of IP rights
- and reinforce the credibility and the authority of our Association.

a) In this respect,
AIPPI took a resolution in Singapore last October,
to attempt to avoid any abuse
in the granting of divisions and continuations of patents (Q 193).

Next April 2008, AIPPI will cooperate in the seminar
that the ASIPI and IPO associations have decided to hold in Mexico City,
on this question of the influence of Free Trade Agreements
on IP rights in the Americas.

At its Boston Congress, September 2008,
AIPPI will also address the impact of public health
on exclusive patent rights (Q202).

b) We should also consider supporting all measures
in the fight against global warming.

Conclusion

The future of IP rights is also in developing and emerging countries.

This is precisely the theme of your two-day program:
“challenges for developing countries in a global economy.”

I would like to express my best wishes
for a great success of this international symposium.

Thierry MOLLET-VIEVILLE
Vice President of AIPPI
November 30, 2007