

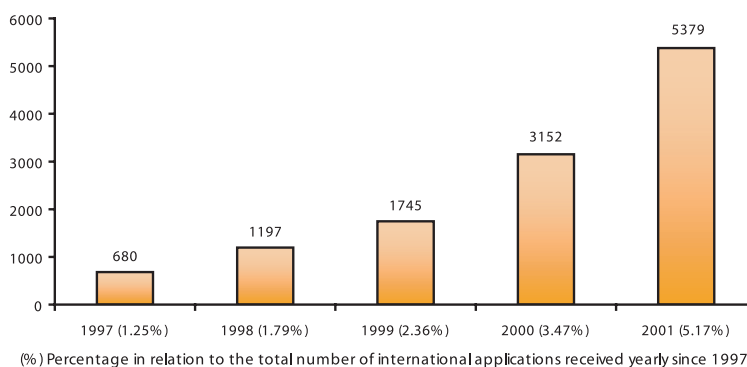
PCT FILINGS GROW BY 71 PERCENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Republic of Korea and China led the strong growth in the filing of international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) by inventors and industry in developing countries during 2001. Compared with an increase of 14.3 percent in PCT filings worldwide, the filing of PCT applications in developing countries registered a growth of 71 percent over 2000. WIPO received 5,379 international applications from 25 developing countries, which are members of the PCT, during 2001.

Use of the PCT system for seeking patent protection worldwide was particularly high in the Asian region. Some 85 percent of the PCT applications from developing countries originated in Asia, 8 percent in Africa and 6 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

China registered the highest growth rate at 188 percent, followed by India at 103 percent, the Republic of Korea at 53 percent and Mexico at 51 percent. Algeria, Singapore, Brazil and South Africa recorded moderate growth rates. In terms of numbers of international applications filed, applicants from the Republic of Korea filed the largest number of international applications, i.e. 2,318. They were followed by China with 1,670, South Africa with 418, India with 316, Singapore with 258, Brazil with 193 and

Record Copies of International Applications received from Developing Countries since 1997 by the International Bureau



Mexico with 107. PCT filings continued to grow in other developing countries, especially those in Latin America.

One of the major advantages of the PCT system is proximity in filing and initial processing, that is to say, the possibility of filing an international application with the 'home' receiving Office, in a local language and to pay the fees, usually, in the local currency. In 2001, 92.2 percent of the applicants in developing countries preferred to file their PCT applications with 'home' receiving offices, 7.6 percent with WIPO and 0.2 percent with regional patent offices.

PCT Fee Reductions

Use of the PCT-EASY software continued to grow in developing countries. Some 47 percent of the international applications from developing countries last year were prepared using this software. The PCT-EASY

software, available free of charge from the International Bureau, not only makes it simpler to prepare international applications but also entitles applicants to a 200 Swiss franc reduction in PCT fees.

Certain PCT fees are reduced by 75 percent in respect of international applications filed by a person – an individual, not a business – who is a national of and resides in a state whose *per capita* national income is below 3,000 US dollars. Last year, some 700 international applications from developing countries – equivalent to 13 percent of the total applications from developing countries and 0.7 percent of the total applications received from all Contracting States – benefited from a 75 percent reduction in certain fees under the PCT.

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WIPO's Sector of Cooperation for Development continued to enhance and support PCT-related activities and programs in developing countries during the year 2001. In cooperation with the host governments, WIPO organized three regional seminars, two sub-regional seminars, seven roving seminars and ten national seminars on the PCT and PCT-related patent information in different regions. The seminars, training programs, workshops and advisory missions benefitted some 3,200 participants in the developing world.

For more information on the PCT, please visit us at the following websites: www.wipo.int/pct and www.wipo.int/cfdpct

SUCCESSFUL DELIVERY OF IBIS PROJECT

Successful delivery at the end of 2001 of IBIS, an information technology project aimed at the replacement of the International Patent Classification (IPC) revision system, has brought many benefits for the major stakeholders of the IPC. These stakeholders – the European Patent Office, the Japan Patent Office, the United States Patent and Trademark Office and other patent offices involved in the revision process – launched the IPC reform in 1999 to streamline the revision process, decrease the cost of the revision work and, at the same time, to transform the IPC into a more powerful search tool.

The IPC, currently in its Seventh Edition, contains some 70,000 classification entries in ten volumes. Each edition of the IPC remains valid for a five-year period, at the end of which, WIPO would issue a new revised edition. Small industrial property offices often find the publication too big and complicated, while the bigger offices find it too static and lacking the detail required for search purposes.

The reformed IPC will contain a small, static core level with some 20,000 classification entries, and a dynamic advanced level with some 70,000 entries. The core level will



IBIS can integrate external content into the IPC database. The Korean Industrial Property Office (KIPO) added 5,000 chemical structures to illustrate parts of the IPC. On this screen, a chemical structure is displayed. This is the model of the future reformed IPC e-layer, which will contain information not previously published in the paper version.