

Report of WIPO/JF Training Course for Patent Examiners in the Field of Lighting from APIC

The WIPO/JF training course “for Patent Examiners in the Field of Lighting” was held February 21-28, 2012, including a total of 18 trainees from China, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and the OAPI.

This course series was established for patent examiners working at intellectual property agencies and engaging in specific technological fields designated by the Japan Patent Office. The training courses, whose participants are experienced examiners in developing countries, provide lectures on technical trends and patent requirements within specific technical fields in Japan, as well as enhance the examiners’ technical knowledge of state-of-the-art technology that is necessary to conduct substantial examinations.

The trainees in this particular course were examiners from intellectual property agencies of foreign countries working within the “lighting equipment field”. The training focused upon examination guidelines and practices of the Japan Patent Office relating to Japanese patents, with a focus on the lighting equipment field.

On the first day, the trainees had an orientation session at APIC. They then went to the Japan Patent Office, where they visited the examination department responsible for the lighting equipment field, and toured the application counter, publication reading room, and trial court. Examiner Hidetaka Tsukamoto also explained the examination practices and method of using terminals, making the content of the training course quite extensive from the very first day.

On the third day of the course, the trainees visited the Panasonic Living Showroom Tokyo (located at Panasonic Tokyo Shiodome Bldg. 1-5-1 Higashi Shimbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo). First, they attended a lecture regarding the intellectual property management of the company, and were then given a tour of the business showroom and the Comfortable Living Floor. During the lecture, the trainees actively asked questions and exchanged opinions, and reported being



Trainees attending a lecture (1)



Trainees attending a lecture (2)

greatly impressed by the state-of-the-art lighting equipment.

On the fourth day, Mr. Toshiaki Aoki with the Madoka International Patent Office led a training session on patent information searches in the PC room at APIC, where participants were able to try using the FI/F term searching method. The trainees said the experience was very useful, and some said they wanted to share this information with their colleagues after going back to their home countries.

In the afternoon of the final day, a training assessment meeting and closing ceremony were held, where a certificate was handed to each of the trainees from the Overseas Corporation Chief, International Affairs Division of JPO.

The trainees participated enthusiastically in this training course. Although it was during the cold season, a number of trainees visited various places in Japan after the lectures and on the weekends. The trainees appeared to enjoy their experience in Japan, and we are hoping for their future success.



Closing ceremony