

December 12, 2019

The Japan Patent Office (JPO) held the 8th Annual Meeting of the TM5 Offices consisting of trademark offices in Japan, the United States, Europe, China and Korea at Maihama, Urayasu City in Chiba Prefecture from December 9 to 11, 2019. Commissioner Mr. Matsunaga and Director-General of the Trademark and Customer Relations Department Ms. Nishigaki attended the Annual Meeting from the JPO.

On the morning of the first day, December 9, the Quality Management Experts Meeting was held, in which IP practitioners in charge of quality management of trademark examination in each Office conducted discussions. At the Annual Meeting held in the afternoon, the TM5 Offices conducted discussions about 14 ongoing cooperation projects including “Bad-Faith Trademark Filings Project¹,” “Quality Management Project²,” “User Association Involvement Project³,” and “Image Search Project⁴” led by the JPO, as well as 2 new projects.

The JPO presented the enhanced “Case Examples of Bad-Faith Trademark Filings⁵” with new appeal/trial cases and court cases added, for the “Bad-Faith Trademark Filings Project.” Furthermore, the TM5 Offices agreed on introducing systems in the Offices that are effective countermeasures for bad-faith trademark filings using manga, to raise awareness of users. As for the “Image Search Project,” the Offices

¹ The aim of this project is for the Offices to exchange information on their system/practices regarding bad-faith trademark filings and provide the information to users.

² The aim of this project is to gather information on the implementation system of trademark examination and initiatives for improving examination quality in each Office and share the information.

³ The aim of this project is to have user associations participate in TM5 cooperation projects and to hold workshops for providing information to general users.

⁴ The aim of this project is to define the problems and possible solutions in developing and implementing a figure search system and create and share work products which the Offices can refer to in independently introducing an image search system or introducing it in the future.

⁵ A collection of cases that has overviews of case examples of “bad-faith trademark filings” fought in courts or appeal trials, as well as summaries of the court/trial decisions. The first edition was published in 2017.

agreed to expand the scope of the project to cover IT tools that assist trademark examination.

On the 11th, the TM5 User Session was held. The Offices actively exchanged opinions on their quality management initiatives with approximately 50 users from Japan and abroad.



Commissioner Matsunaga (in the center), Director-General Nishigaki (the third from the left) and representatives of each TM5 Office



Commissioner Matsunaga making Opening Remarks



Chair of the Annual Meeting, Director-General Nishigaki