

Minutes of Meeting

Patent Agent Association of India (PAAI) is a non-profit and non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to protecting interest of registered patent agents in India. The PAAI is committed to promote and enhance intellectual property rights in the Indian region. They held their first round of meeting for the year 2015 on Saturday, 4th April 2015. Meeting was attended by several patent agents from Delhi/ NCR and Chandigarh region. The main agenda of the meeting was to introduce the association, its working, its activities, objectives, and achievements to the agents. The association is planning to expand and expecting participation from patent agents all across India to achieve their goals and objectives. The WIPS Global was stationery partner to the program.

Mr. Akhilesh Gupta, President, PAAI briefed the gathering about the activities that have been carried out by PAAI since inception of the association way back in 2009 and future course of action proposed by the same. Following is the brief summary of major activities which have been undertaken by PAAI:

1. PAAI organized an IPR awareness seminar for artists, and students in Mumbai on World IP Day 2012 in collaboration with IPO.
2. We submitted the opinions/comments received from the member patent agents on the Patents Rules (amendment) 2013 (uploaded on website) to DIPP.
3. We started direct helpline (mobile) number to provide real time assistance to innovators, PA aspirants, and entrepreneurs.
4. We also submitted our views on India Patenting System to Times of India (April 08, 2013 Delhi City).
5. We discussed India Patent Strategy at HKTDC conference in Hong Kong in December 2013.
6. We supported various big IP events in India and worldwide such MIP India Innovation Forum Delhi, IP Summit Paris, GIPC Hyderabad.
7. We filed petition to appeal the recent Judgement of MHC on sec-126 of the Patents Act, 1970, opinions/comments received from the patent agents uploaded on the website.
8. We are working in collaboration with WIPO on Green innovation and technology.
9. We recently submitted comments/feedback on National IPR Policy to IPR Think Tank in Feb 2015. (Available on PAAI website and also shared by Spicy IP)
10. We shared views with DIPP on adding 3rd party payment gateway, advanced patent search system, making online patent filing system platform independent, kids section etc.

11. We presented Paper on commercialization of patents titled “An electronic platform for facilitating financial exchange of non-exclusive licenses of technologies or patents” at IIM Ahmedabad.

Proposed future course of action discussed in the meeting include:

1. Accreditation to PAAI from Indian patent office
2. IP observer status representing India in WIPO
3. Talk with EBTC, EPO, JPO, US Chamber of Commerce, AIPLA for collaboration and support
4. Logo for Patent Agent on the lines of Chartered Accountant
5. Planning an international event in Nov- Dec 2015
6. Starting PAAI regional chapters in all major cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Ahmedabad.
7. Setting annual agenda for promotion, activities, recognition, and awareness related to IP and PAAI.

Few suggestions contributed by attendees during the meeting were:

1. Development of Talent Pool among Patent Agents for sharing of skills and knowledge. This will include training of newer patent agents by experienced patent agents or exchange of cross domain knowledge.
2. Development of Database of Patent agents listing their expertise and domain. One should be able to access this on PAAI website and the database should be having filters/search parameters to refine and display relevant results.
3. Instead of Indian Classification an idea of Asian Classification was suggested due to similar nature of IP created in all Asian countries.
4. A feedback for Design search should be submitted to Indian Patent office for improving search facilities.
5. Proper training on design filing should also be given to patent agents.
6. Defensive Publication mechanism should be developed for use by IPO and other patent offices, which was an add-on to “Peer to Patent” concept already suggested by PAAI.

7. PAAI should pitch for projects like WIPO Landscapes and utilize skill sets of various patent agents who are active members of PAAI.
8. For World IP Day 2015 poster making as celebration.
9. One of the members suggested an animated video for IP awareness to be shared on various platforms through PAAI which can be developed by members of PAAI.
10. Regional chapters should be arranging activities on local basis for respective cities.
11. Any patent agent can handle (sign/file) upto 50 patent applications in a year that may increase employability of patent agents.
12. PAAI should also look into the matter of Indian Bayh Dole Act whose bill is pending with government since 2011.

Overall the meeting was concluded on positive note where every participant was delighted to learn and meet other agents. Every agent further shared that they will take initiatives to include more agents in PAAI so that the team grows faster and becomes stronger. First round proved to be promising and has increased the hopes for many patent agents that they can make a difference in the current situation where Patent agent as a profession is not widely recognized in India due to lack of awareness. With little efforts from all agents, our nation can emerge to be better on innovation index and have high level of IP awareness.