ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE
POUR LA PROTECTION
DE LA PROPRIETE INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE PROTECTION
OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG
FÜR DEN SCHUTZ
DES GEISTIGEN EIGENTUMS

Statutes of AIPPI

2010
Article 1 - Name and Domicile of the Association

1.1 The name of the International Association, founded in 1897, is:

   in English:  
   **International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property**

   in French:  
   **Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Intellectuelle**

   in German:  
   **Internationale Vereinigung für den Schutz des geistigen Eigentums**

   The abbreviated name of the Association is:

   **AIPPI**

1.2 The Association shall be governed by its Statutes and Regulations, which are subject to Swiss Law.

   The domicile of the Association shall be that of its Swiss National Group or any city in Switzerland as the Executive Committee may decide.

1.3 The Association shall be a non-profit organization. It may make expenditure only in relation to the objects of the Association and may not compensate anyone disproportionately highly. Members leaving the Association shall have no claim to any part of the Association’s assets.

1.4 The Association shall be politically neutral. It shall not discriminate, especially with regard to religion, race, national origin or gender.

1.5 The duration of the Association shall be unlimited.

Article 2 - Objects of the Association

2.1 The Association shall have the following objects:

   a) to promote the understanding of the necessity at both the national and international level for intellectual property protection in the broadest sense as well as the repression of unfair competition, and to encourage further development of the protection of intellectual property;

   b) to study and compare existing laws and proposed new laws, to propose improvements to them and to promote their harmonisation;

   c) to work for the development, expansion and improvement of international conventions and agreements concerning the protection of intellectual property.

2.2 The Association shall pursue its objects by, in particular:

   a) disseminating information, including preparing and distributing publications;

   b) organizing congresses and other meetings;

   c) making representations to governments and intergovernmental bodies, as well as to national, regional, and international organizations.

Article 3 - Members of the Association

3.1 The Association shall be composed of:

   a) Members of the National and Regional Groups;

   b) Independent Members;

   c) Members of Honour;

   d) Presidents of Honour.
3.2 Membership shall be open to any person having an interest in any field of activity of the Association without restriction based on citizenship, religion, race, national origin or gender and with no requirement of specific professional activity.

3.3 All the members of a National or Regional Group shall thereby be members of the Association. The specific conditions for membership of each National or Regional Group shall be determined by the Group itself within the limitations of the Statutes and Regulations of the Association.

3.4 The admission and exclusion of members of a National or Regional Group shall, subject to Articles 1.4 and 3.2, be within the competence of the respective Group.

3.5 Any member who is appointed or elected to any position according to these Statutes, shall fulfil that position independent of the interests of any National or Regional Group. This shall not apply to Delegates or Presidents of National or Regional Groups.

Article 4 - National and Regional Groups

4.1 Persons residing in or having their professional or business activity principally in the same country may form a National Group of the Association, provided that membership of such Group shall be open to all members previously admitted from that country, such members having been informed accordingly and the majority of such members explicitly supporting the formation of such Group.

4.2 Persons residing in or having their professional or business activity principally in the same region consisting of two or more countries, where there is no National Group, may form a Regional Group of the Association.

4.3 The Executive Committee shall decide on the recognition or withdrawal of recognition of a National or Regional Group.

4.4 The Statutes, Bylaws or other Regulations of the National and Regional Groups shall be established and maintained by the Groups themselves and shall be in harmony with the Statutes and Regulations of the Association as determined by the Bureau.

Article 5 - General Assembly

Composition

5.1 The General Assembly shall be composed of all members of the Association.

5.2 The General Assembly shall be chaired by the President of the Association, or in place of the President by the Vice-President.

Powers

5.3 Only the General Assembly shall have the power to adopt and amend the Statutes of the Association and to decide on the dissolution of the Association.

Quorum and Decisions

5.4 A quorum of the General Assembly shall exist when at least 200 members from at least one third of the National and Regional Groups are present.

5.5 The decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of members present and taking part in the vote.

5.6 For a decision on the dissolution of the Association, at least 200 members from at least two thirds of the National and Regional Groups must take part. Such a decision shall require a majority of two thirds of the members taking part in the vote.

Convocations

5.7 The General Assembly shall meet during a Congress, when called by the Bureau or when requested by at least one fifth of the members of the Association from at least five National and Regional Groups.
Article 6 - Executive Committee

Composition

6.1 The Executive Committee of the Association shall be composed of:
- the Delegates representing the members of the respective National and Regional Groups;
- the Delegates representing the Independent Members;
- the members of the Bureau;
- the Assistants to the Reporter General and to the Secretary General;
- the Presidents of Honour;
- the Members of Honour;
- the Presidents of the National and Regional Groups or their respective representatives;
- the Chairperson of the Programme Committee;
- the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee;
- the Chairperson of the Finance Advisory Committee;
- the Chairperson of the Membership Committee; and
- the Chairperson of the Communications Committee.

6.2 The Delegates from each National and Regional Group shall be appointed by their respective Group and their number shall be determined by the Executive Committee and shall depend on the size of the Group.

6.3 The Bureau shall appoint Delegates to represent the Independent Members.

6.4 The Executive Committee shall be chaired by the President or in place of the President by the Vice-President.

For any session dealing with specific questions of intellectual property, the Bureau may appoint an Acting Chairperson having relevant experience and expertise.

Powers

6.5 The Executive Committee shall be the principal decision making body of the Association.

6.6 The Executive Committee shall direct the Association in the pursuit of its objects, and shall in particular:
   a) determine and study questions falling within the objects of the Association;
   b) adopt Resolutions and recommendations in the name of the Association;
   c) decide upon the actions to be taken by the Association.

6.7 The Executive Committee shall:
   a) elect from candidates proposed by the Council of Presidents: the members of the Bureau, the Chairperson and the other members of the Programme Committee, the Chairperson and the other members of the Finance Advisory Committee, the Chairperson and the other members of the Membership Committee, and on proposal of the Bureau: Assistants to the Reporter General and Assistants to the Secretary General;
   b) appoint the Auditor or Auditors;
   c) decide on recognition or withdrawal of recognition of National and Regional Groups;
   d) approve the budget and fix annual subscriptions payable to the Association;
   e) give directions to the Bureau and to the Council of Presidents, and review and approve their work;
   f) determine the agenda of meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee; and
   g) decide on the release of persons and bodies in respect of financial responsibilities.
Regulations

6.8 The Executive Committee may issue, change and revoke regulations, rules of procedure and, if necessary, other directives containing instructions and advice on the administration and operation of the Association and its bodies.

Quorum and Decisions

6.9 A quorum shall exist when at least one third of the members of the Executive Committee are present.

6.10 Except as provided in Article 6.11 the decisions of the Executive Committee shall be taken by a simple majority of members taking part in the vote.

6.11 The withdrawal of recognition of a National or Regional Group shall be determined by a majority of two thirds of the members taking part in the vote.

Meetings and Vote by Correspondence

6.12 The Executive Committee shall normally meet on the occasion of each Congress and once between two successive Congresses; exceptions to this rule shall be determined by the Executive Committee, or in urgent cases, by the Bureau or by the Council of Presidents.

6.13 In cases of urgency as determined by the Bureau the Executive Committee may vote by correspondence.

6.14 A vote by correspondence shall be binding upon the Association only if the relevant majority specified in article 6.10 is reached.

Article 7 - Council of Presidents

Composition

7.1 The Council of Presidents shall be composed of:
   – the Presidents of the National and Regional Groups or their respective deputies;
   – one of their Delegates as representative of the Independent Members;
   – the members of the Bureau;
   – the Assistants to the Reporter General and to the Secretary General;
   – the Presidents of Honour;
   – the Members of Honour;
   – the Chairperson of the Programme Committee;
   – the Chairperson of the Finance Advisory Committee;
   – the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee;
   – the Chairperson of the Membership Committee, and
   – the Chairperson of the Communications Committee.

7.2 The Council of Presidents shall be chaired by the President or in place of the President by the Vice-President.

Powers

7.3 The Council of Presidents shall advise the Bureau in the exercise of its functions and execute any mission entrusted to it by the General Assembly or by the Executive Committee.

In the case of urgency the Council of Presidents shall be entitled to act on behalf of the Executive Committee and shall, in particular, adopt Resolutions and recommendations in the name of the Association and decide upon the actions to be taken by the Association. When so acting, each President shall be entitled in addition to his or her personal vote to the number of votes corresponding to the number of Delegates to which the Group represented by such President is entitled in accordance with the Regulations.

7.4 The Council of Presidents shall:
   a) admit and exclude Independent Members;
b) elect Presidents of Honour and Members of Honour;
c) propose to the Executive Committee a Congress Representative based on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee in cooperation with the Group hosting the next Congress;
d) elect the Chairperson and the other members of the Communications Committee based on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee in cooperation with the Bureau; and
e) elect the Chairperson and the other members of the Nominating Committee.

7.5 The Council of Presidents shall, based on candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee, propose a list of candidates for the election of:

a) the Members of the Bureau;
b) the Chairperson and the other members of the Programme Committee;
c) the Chairperson and the other members of the Finance Advisory Committee;
d) the Chairperson and the other members of the Membership Committee;

and submit the list of candidates with its recommendations to the Executive Committee in accordance with the Regulations.

Quorum and Decisions

7.6 A quorum shall exist at meetings when at least one third of the members of the Council of Presidents are present.

The decisions of the Council of Presidents:

a) when electing the Chairperson or any member of the Nominating Committee and the Chairperson or any member of the Communications Committee shall be taken by a simple majority of such members present and taking part in the vote; and

b) in all other cases, shall be taken by a majority of two thirds of such members present and taking part in the vote.

Meetings and Vote by Correspondence

7.7 Normally the Council of Presidents shall meet annually, either on the occasion of Congresses or Executive Committee meetings or separately at meetings determined by the Bureau.

7.8 In cases of urgency as determined by the Bureau the Council of Presidents may debate and vote by correspondence.

7.9 A vote by correspondence shall be binding upon the Association only if the relevant majority specified in article 7.6 is reached.

7.10 The agenda of the Council of Presidents meetings shall be proposed by the Bureau. The Council of Presidents may supplement this agenda.

Article 8 - Bureau

Composition

8.1 The Bureau shall be composed of the following members:

- the President;
- the Vice-President;
- the Secretary General;
- the Reporter General;
- the Treasurer General;
- the Deputy Secretary General;
- two Deputy Reporters General; and
- the Congress Representative.
Assistants to the Reporter General and Assistants to the Secretary General may be elected and shall be members of an Enlarged Bureau.

8.2 The Bureau shall convene an Enlarged Bureau from time to time. The Enlarged Bureau shall be composed of the Bureau members, the Assistants to the Reporter General and to the Secretary General, and may include the Chairpersons of the Programme Committee, the Finance Advisory Committee, the Membership Committee and/or the Communications Committee and any one else invited by the Bureau.

Vacancy in the Bureau

8.3 A vacancy shall occur in the event of the death or resignation of a member.

Powers

8.4 The Bureau shall be the Managing Board of the Association and shall be responsible for the direction and management of the Association. It shall keep itself informed of the activities of the different bodies of the Association, and shall take appropriate decisions.

In the exercise of its powers the Bureau shall be guided by the decisions, including those on administrative and financial matters, adopted by the Executive Committee or the Council of Presidents.

The Bureau shall have the power to employ an Executive Director, a Professional Communications Expert and such staff as it deems necessary to assist in managing the affairs of the Association and, subject to approval by the Council of Presidents, to establish a permanent office for the Association.

8.5 The Bureau shall conduct the external relations of the Association.

The Bureau shall take the necessary steps to give effect to decisions, Resolutions, and recommendations of the Association.

8.6 In case of urgent necessity, the Bureau may take any action in the name of the Association.

8.7 The Bureau may appoint Working Committees to study questions approved by the Executive Committee and may also appoint Special Committees.

8.8 The working methods of the Bureau and the allocation of duties and powers of the individual members of the Bureau shall be laid down by the Bureau in regulations.

The Secretary General shall be responsible for the administration and the organization of activities and meetings of the Association in cooperation with the Deputy Secretary General.

The Reporter General shall be responsible for directing the studies and discussions of the Association and for reporting thereon in cooperation with the Deputy Reporters General.

The Treasurer General shall be responsible for the finances and the accounts of the Association, including budget preparation and control and monitoring of bookkeeping, auditing and financial administration.

Article 9 - Presidency

President and Vice-President

9.1 The President shall be the head of the Association and the Bureau. As head of the Bureau he/she shall chair Bureau meetings, and lead the Association based on decisions taken by the Bureau consistent with the decisions of the Executive Committee and the objects of the Association. The President shall be the formal representative of the Association.

9.2 The Vice-President shall be the deputy to the President and in the absence of the President shall act in his place.

Article 10 - Programme Committee

10.1 The Programme Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and other members elected by the Executive Committee,

10.2 The Programme Committee shall, after consultation with the Bureau, prepare the Working Programme of the Association.
Article 11 - Nominating Committee

11.1 The Nominating Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and other members elected by the Council of Presidents.

11.2 The Nominating Committee shall prepare for the Council of Presidents a list of candidates for any openings for elective positions.

Article 12 - Congresses

12.1 The Association shall regularly organize Congresses open to all members to make public its activities and to serve as a forum for contacts between members and participants.

12.2 Congresses shall normally be held upon invitation of a National or Regional Group, after acceptance of the invitation by the Executive Committee.

12.3 The date, programme and other arrangements of a Congress shall be fixed by the Bureau in consultation with the inviting National or Regional Group.

12.4 The Congress may make recommendations and adopt them by a simple majority of those taking part in the vote.

Article 13 - Financial Responsibility

The Association shall assume financial responsibility for commitments entered into by members of the Bureau within the scope of their duties.

Article 14 - Audit and Finance

14.1 The accounting period shall be the calendar year.

14.2 The financial operations of the Association shall be audited by one or more auditors. The auditor or auditors shall present to the Executive Committee an auditing Report for each accounting period.

The Report shall include a recommendation of release or non-release of persons and bodies in respect of financial responsibilities.

14.3 The Finance Advisory Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and up to five members. The Chairperson and the other members of the Finance Advisory Committee shall be elected by the Executive Committee.

The Finance Advisory Committee shall exercise the function of internal comptrollers. It shall review the budget and financial performance of the Association and shall report its findings and comments on future budgets and financial planning annually to the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer General shall make available to the Finance Advisory Committee on a timely basis the necessary budget and financial information of the Association.

Article 15 - Subscriptions

15.1 The National and Regional Groups shall pay subscriptions annually to the Association on behalf of each of their members.

15.2 Independent Members shall pay their subscription annually directly to the Association.

Article 16 - Documentation and Speeches - Languages

16.1 The documents, Reports and proceedings of the Association shall in principle be published in full or in abridged form in French, English and German.

16.2 In sessions of all bodies of the Association, participants may speak in English, French or German.

In the General Assemblies, in plenary sessions of Congresses and sessions of the Executive Committee and of the Council of Presidents, there shall be consecutive or simultaneous interpretation into those three languages.
In the General Assemblies, in plenary sessions of Congresses and in sessions of the Executive Committee, participants may also speak in Spanish. In these sessions, there shall be the same kind of interpretation from that language as for French, English and German.

**Article 17 - Amendments of Statutes and Dissolution of the Association**

17.1 Amendments to these Statutes and dissolution of the Association shall require a vote of the General Assembly under Article 5.5 or 5.6 respectively, upon a resolution passed by the Executive Committee and placed upon the agenda, the latter being sent to members in accordance with the Regulations.

17.2 If the Association is dissolved, no part of the funds of the Association shall be distributed to the members of the Association. The funds of the Association shall be transferred to one or more legal entities which pursue objects similar to those of the Association and whose Statutes forbid the distribution of their income and of their funds to their members.

**Article 18 - Interpretation of Statutes, Regulations and other Rules**

18.1 These Statutes shall be in English, French and German.

18.2 Any Regulations, rules of procedure, and other directives under Article 6.8 shall be in English, French and German.

18.3 The English, French and German texts listed in Articles 18.1 and 18.2 shall be equally authoritative.

**Article 19 – Transition provision**

19.1 The first election of the President according to Article 6.7a) shall be held at the Congress in 2012. Before that date, the appointment of the President shall continue to be made in accordance with the Statutes and Regulations as they read before the Congress in Boston in 2008. The first election of the Vice-President according to Article 6.7a) shall be held at the Congress in 2010. Before that date, the appointment of the Vice-President shall continue to be made in accordance with the Statutes and Regulations as they read before the Congress in Boston in 2008. A Congress Representative shall be elected by the Executive Committee, in accordance with Article 6.7a) for the first time when the first election of the President according to Article 6.7a) is being held.

The present Statutes replace the Statutes which were adopted by the Constitutive Assembly in 1897 and which had been partially or totally revised by the General Assemblies in Geneva, on June 10, 1927, in Stockholm, on May 31, 1958, in Tokyo, on April 11, 1966, in Venice, on June 13, 1969, in Mexico-City, on November 17, 1972, and in Munich on May 19, 1978.


The President: Thierry MOLLET-VIEVILLE

The Secretary General: Michael J. BRUNNER

The Reporter General: Jochen BÜHLING

The Treasurer General: Eiji KATAYAMA