A personal view of East meets West 2019

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"When I look at all the new languages, application figures and new content sources, I almost despair"  
(a colleague at the PDG IMPACT meeting in October 2007 in Madrid)

"Ten years ago I needed a Chinese colleague – today I can do most of it by myself!"  
(a colleague in the PDG Workshop at East meets West 2019 in Vienna)
Beginning 2003 … Where did we come from?

- **2003**: start of East meets West with 50 participants and one country (JP) at the premises of the EPO, with 3 workshops......but we all were aware that this topic is something important.

- **2003**: PDG, EPO and providers in a think tank: *costs 15 Mio € for CN UM?*

- **2005**: the PDG Working Group IMPACT started a **new activity**: "Monitoring patent information from South East Asia"

- **2009**: EPO offered the opportunity to run a Pre-Conference **Workshop** with Asian Patent Offices at "East meets West"

- **2012, 2014 and 2018** participation of Asian Patent Offices and their publishing organization in **PDG IMPACT meetings in Vienna**

- Since **2014** PDG presentations at Asian Patent Conferences (CPAC, PatEx)

- **2014**: first cooperation project between PDG and JIPA (CPC, F/FI terms)
How I saw it in 2008

- There are more sources than expected
- MT results with much room for improvement
- Availability of full-text, images, legal status has to be improved
- Access to "hidden" information (like UM in CN) is difficult

How I see it in 2019

✓
✓
✓
✓

I remember two statements: "Future competition will be IP competition" and "Geometry will change"
But the truth is also … In those days I could not imagine that …

- … the application figures would explode to more than 2 Mio UM applications within a year in China
- … machine translation would be far more advanced than my greatest imaginations could go
- … availability of full-text, images, A2E searching, legal status and access to "hidden" information (like UM in CN) would improve drastically
- … new drivers like IP5, new classification schemes and digitalization in the patent world would change the scenery sustainably

I remember well that we realized: something new is coming. But in reality, we had no idea what it would be.
What European industry thought – Results from 2009 consultations

- Do you see need for improvement with respect to Asian patent information?
  - Status 2009: 96%
- Availability of detailed legal status in English
  - Status 2009: 96%
- Searchable English full text (CN, KR)
  - Status 2009: 100%
- Images of documents
  - Status 2009: 68%
- Added value abstracts (by commercial providers)
  - Status 2009: 92%
- (High quality) machine translation
  - Status 2009: 96%
- Standardized applicants' names
  - Status 2009: 86%
Improvements I - Legal Status Data in central repository INPADOC

Legal status data via INPADOC

Most wanted!
Improvements II - Patent Information from Asia – Legal Status Data on PCT Entry

New data via INPADOC
Gaps have been filled
Improvements III – Major Developments in MT

- Neural MT

- Commercial Provider: Full text

- 2000
- 2004
- 2008
- 2009
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2017

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Improvements IV - Retrieval in Asian Patent Information Databases

Abstract

Original Patent

Machine Translation

Structure search

Better quality Machine Translation

2000

2009

2019

… Acrylic acid

… Acrylic acid

2000

2009

2019
What European industry thinks today – Results from 2019

- Do you see need for improvement with respect to Asian patent information? 96%
- Availability of detailed legal status in English 96%
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- Images of documents 68%
- Added value abstracts (by commercial providers) 92%
- (High quality) machine translation 96%
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Where are we today?

- The growth of application filings from Asia is continuing: 2 Mio utility model applications in China in 2018!
- Around 65% of all patent applications from Asia (2017)
- Among the TOP 10 PCT applicants (2018) six are from Asia, led by Huawei
- In 2011: the CNIPA became the largest patent office in the world.
- 3 Mio+ documents more state-of-the-art every year: does patent searching makes sense any more?
East meets West in 2019 – What’s new?

- **CN**
  - A very structured approach towards IP, all relevant figures are rising e.g. technical contracts

- **JP**
  - More timely provision of legal status, AI cases published and IoT classification will become part of IPC

- **KR**
  - Better utilization of patent information: a philosophical approach
East meets West in 2019 – What’s new?

**MY**
- Considering changing the law: patent information at “marginal” costs – money for innovation? Website and banks!

**ROSPATENT**
- Upgrading the website, electronic communication with the applicant, Yandex similar to Google Patents, leading a Task Force at WIPO in Blockchain technologies within IP

**IN**
- Office is open for constructive proposals to improve services, modern framework in an electronic environment with 90% online filing

**GCC**
- Data delivery to EPO should be resumed, website – in English and Arabic language updated
East meets West in 2019 – What’s new around the Conference?

- **PDG Workshop**
  - It is impressive how many offices and other organizations are actively taking part – please maintain it!

- **ARABPAT – PDG Meeting**
  - PDG is prepared to work closely with ARABPAT offices, EPO and WIPO – we greatly appreciate to be invited!

- **Workshops**
  - CN: A lot of sources for CN patent information: limit the number of access points
  - RU: useful redesign of access to legal status: fill the gaps within INPADOC data

- **Streams**
When I am going home from East meets West 2019……

……….. what has convinced me the most?

- The open, frank and responsive discussions with the colleagues from Asian (and other) offices and organizations
- The problems we are confronted with are similar: translations, timeliness, quantity of data, digitalization …
- Networks have been extended e.g. to Arabian countries
- The model "Asia" also works well for other regions
- The bridging function of the EPO is crucial – it brings in people and topics
- The Asia team in Vienna is the basis for this successful event
When you ask me for existing challenges…

... What would I say?

- Will added-value databases cope with the amount of human input and will AI help (a little bit)?

- The patent assignee name harmonization as the pandora’s box: no solution, but more impetus and much engagement

- The number of patent and utility model filings is still frightening: how should we cope with this?

- We need more industrial users at this conference!
Summary

- For **global business** the access to global patent information sources is crucial: timely, user-friendly, reliable, readable, harmonized.

- I greatly appreciate the offer of the Asian, Arabian and other offices and related organizations to cooperate.

- Looking at all the **progress made in patent information** I believe that a lot is coming from a better understanding of users needs and of offices’ capabilities.

- For East meets West my statement sounds like a **mantra**: go on with cooperation for **mutual** benefit! It works!

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10.04.2019 | East meets West 2019 - Dr. Peter Kallas
Some final thoughts – I have to thank..  

- ....the EPO team whose excellent commitment and organizational and content competence made this event always a remarkable and unique networking opportunity.

- ....the colleagues from Asia and other offices who frankly and open discussed with us our inexhaustible source of requirements.

- ....all the colleagues from the user community and the provider's side who contributed to the dialogue between East and West.

- ....and….East meets West will remain in my memory as a place where the power of a constructive, open and trustful dialogue has really advanced patent information.
Thank you and Good-bye!