

23 October 2018

Dear AIPPI UK member

I thought members may appreciate a report on the recent Cancun Congress, including some reflection on the implications for the London Congress next year.

The Resolutions

There were a total of 7 resolutions debated at this Congress, an unusually high number. They covered secret prior art in patent rights, partial designs, 3D trade marks, joint liability for infringement, inventor remuneration, the Hague Convention revision, and the use of post-filing data in pharma patents. The UK group was instrumental in steering all 7 resolutions to a good end result, often talking round many other national groups in the formal debates and privately to our point of view to achieve that outcome. Thanks to all who helped in the debates – which was nearly everyone in the UK contingent at Cancun. Particular thanks to Sara Ashby, Claire Baldock, Sarah Blair (this year's AIPPI UK prize winner), Trevor Cook, Jonny Moss, Hugo Cuddigan, Jane Mutimear, and Jan Vleck who all played leading roles in this part of the Congress.

AIPPI UK Prize

The study questions for next year in London have already been announced, and they are four important and engaging topics: plausibility; copyright in artificially generated works; consumer survey evidence; and IP damages for acts other than sales. We'll be announcing the launch event soon. Last year saw a record number of members, especially younger members, contributing to the UK's response. The best contribution to the Study Questions by a younger member is eligible for the AIPPI UK prize, covering (at least most of) the cost of attending Congress and £300 in book tokens. Sarah Blair of Bristows won in 2018 and attended Cancun as the AIPPI UK prize winner. Given that an AIPPI UK prizewinner next year will be attending a home Congress, we have decided to encourage even more participation by looking to award several prizes. Each prize will be up to £1000 towards the cost of attending Congress, plus £300 in book tokens.

The panel sessions

On the conference programme, the UK group played a very prominent part with many UK speakers (members and non-members) on a series of very high quality panels. These included Sir Henry Carr, Richard Miller QC, Hugo Cuddigan QC, Tony Rollins, Calum Smyth, Peter Finnie, Neil Trueman, Peter Damerell, Adrian Howes, James Tumbridge and Dom Adair. Artificial intelligence, Brexit, equivalence and the pharma day panels have been widely talked about, and were all very high quality. We're asking the Bureau to consider for the future how to make these materials more widely available.

London 2019

The London Congress next year is already garnering interest (and I hope you have reserved the days in your diary!). There was a stand for London congress in the Cancun congress exhibition, on which many UK delegates helped. I'd particularly mention Calum Smyth and Annsley Ward who both spent significant time on the stand talking to next year's potential attendees. Annsley also organised a substantial write-up in MIP's Congress coverage promoting the UK and the London 2019 Congress, and blogging the Congress profusely on IPKat. The rumour that the Queen will be at next year's opening ceremony, while inexplicable and unlikely, was attracting attention. It is true that we are open to suggestions for possible speakers at the London opening ceremony.

Committee work

Delegates also attended meetings of many of the AIPPI standing and statutory committees, and Ari Laakkonen was hard at work as part of the reporter general's team.

Networking

The networking side of Congress, too, deserves a mention. The conference was well set up for networking and there were many productive and enjoyable meetings with old and new contacts, although as usual the conference is all too short to make it possible to do everything you would like to do.

I hope to see many of you at the London Congress next year.

Justin

Justin Watts
President, AIPPI United Kingdom