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Letter from the President

AIPPI membership renewals are underway and I hope many of you have already renewed for 2018. If not, I hope you are about to do so!

It's been another productive year for the UK Group of AIPPI, both in the UK and across the globe in 2017. I hope you'll enjoy the highlights in this letter of what has been and what is to come for the UK Group.

With AIPPI Congress coming to London in 2019, it's an ideal time to get more involved and make the most of your membership.

With best wishes for a wonderful 2018.

2017 EVENTS DIARY

Winter: We kicked off the annual study questions with studies on the patentability of computer programs, bad faith trade marks, graphical computer interfaces, and the quantification of monetary relief. Over 50 members were involved with over 30 contributing to the final reports. The results, which form part of comparative law study in over 40 countries, fed into [AIPPI's resolutions](#) at the Sydney Congress and have been presented to the UK IPO. Many thanks to Bird & Bird for hosting the event.

Spring: In **March**, Roger Wyand QC was the speaker at our annual review of soft IP developments in an entertaining presentation kindly hosted by Carpmaels & Ransford. **April** was rapid response month, with events in successive weeks on *Fujifilm v AbbVie* and *Unwired Planet v Huawei*, and speakers Michael Silverleaf QC, Mark Brealey QC and Ravi Srinivasan; and Professor Sir Robin Jacob and Richard Vary. Thanks to Allen & Overy and Bird & Bird for hosting these. Coming into **May**, our thoughts, once again, turned to the UP and UPC, with a debate including panellists Michael Fröhlich, Tim Frain and Alan Johnson, again kindly hosted by Bird & Bird.

Summer: The summer heat brought a comparative look at UK and US copyright developments in a joint AIPPI/AIPLA event, with speakers Eleonora Rosati and Maria Scungio, and another opportunity to visit Bird & Bird's splendid new offices. Our annual summer party at the end of June was particularly well attended; and many thanks to A&O for lending us their tremendous roof gardens for the evening.

Autumn: We visited an area of IP that calls for greater awareness and appreciation, when, in **November**, Professor Graham Dutfield, Darren Smyth and Tim Roberts debated the issues around traditional knowledge, moderated by Trevor Cook, and kindly hosted by Linklaters. We know the holidays are coming when we reach the now-traditional review of the patents year. In **December**, we welcomed back Andrew Lykiardopoulos for a veritable feast of intellectual goodies, made all the better by the mince pies and mulled wine that Lovells so generously provided. And as an extra Christmas treat: Michael Hicks spoke on the new Unjustified Threats Act at Bird and Bird.

London 2019 AIPPI UK has also been instrumental in bringing the AIPPI 2019 Congress to London. While other things may be happening in 2019, this is a major event in the international IP calendar and should be an important opportunity to showcase UK intellectual property capabilities. Look for more details soon.



CONSULTATIONS

AIPPI UK has been involved in consultations over the past year including making submissions in response to the IPO Consultation on Industrial Strategy and IP, the revision of the Hague Convention on recognition of judgments, the EUIPO study on trade secrets, and AIPPI's response to G1/16. We have input informally into many other studies and consultations.



SYDNEY CONGRESS 2017

The UK Group's 2017 events calendar, alone, made for a very active year, but it's not the full picture. Many UK members also attended the annual congress in Sydney, which proved a great opportunity to both network and learn. The UK group is among the most active at Congress and this year was no exception with members appearing on panels ranging from global trade secrets enforcement (above), to UPC, medical devices and design rights. The resolutions passed at congress were greatly shaped by input from the UK group.

CALENDAR FOR 2018

AIPPI UK will be running a lively calendar of events for 2018. We have already held the kick-off meeting for this year's study questions (but there is still time to get involved with them if you wish to do so). We are lining up talks with Professor Lionel Bentley of the University of Cambridge, and the former head of IP at ARM, Phil David – watch out for announcements soon! We have a book of ideas for further events including some advance planning on “rapid reactions”. It promises to be another packed and interesting year!

430 members and growing. AIPPI UK is strong, but we are not complacent about our position. None of these activities would be possible without the substantial amount of time and interest that members put into them. Our membership reflects the full range of IP interests, and that is reflected in our reputation for generating authoritative, cross-profession, and impartial views.

We are always looking for people to be more involved in AIPPI UK. Please do come to our events next year. Please do consider taking part in the study questions, or encouraging others to do so. We also look for people to help organize events, through the events committee chaired by [Dom Adair](#). We always need ideas for events and if you have any of those please let him know.

We rely on volunteers to run the website and to help with webcasting events (something we still struggle with). Anyone who'd be willing to do more on that, please say so.

We are always looking for venues and we rely heavily on the generosity of our host firms to make our events possible—and many thanks to the firms that hosted us last year. Please do tell me or Dom Adair if your firm can host events.

AIPPI STANDING COMMITTEES

AIPPI UK was also active in the committee work of AIPPI. We are entitled to put forward 2 members to all AIPPI committees (3, if one of them is in-house). We are well represented on many of the committees (list [here](#)) and committee members find the work informative, rewarding and valuable – quite aside from the inherent value, it can generate useful intelligence, raises profile, and helps develop personal and organizational international networks. We are currently looking for new members of committees and especially those on which we are not represented at all (Development and Intellectual Property, IP and genetic resources / traditional knowledge, IP Office Practice & Procedures, PCT). If you would like to be more involved, please [let me know](#). This committee work included work on three further areas of comparative study, on Gene Patenting, Geographical Indications and Inventor Remuneration (the first two of which have led to AIPPI resolutions).

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Thanks to Annsley Merelle Ward
for help formatting this newsletter

