

President Report for 24 March 2009 AGM
Singapore Group

1. The last AGM was held on 10 July 2008 leading to the appointment of the current crop of office bearers. Members were notified of the new appointees the same week.
2. The Group now has 43 members and is in reasonably good financial health. The Treasurer will present a fuller picture in her report.

Activities

3. There has been regular Exco meetings held roughly once every quarter. There has been no major matters raised and the meetings have seen to the smooth running of the organization.
4. Two Roundtables were held in the past year – one in August last year and the other about a fortnight ago. Both events were in conjunction with the Question for discussion at the Boston Congress last September and the Buenos Aires Exco later this year.
5. At the Boston Congress I met with Michael Brunner, Secretary-General and Stephan Freischem, Deputy Secretary-General to discuss the finances pertaining to the hosting of the 2007 Singapore Forum & Exco Meeting. The Bureau's representatives acknowledged the hard work put in by the Singapore Group and expressed their commitment to support the educational activities of the Group.

Dialogue Session with IPOS

6. The two sessions in October last year dealt with issues pertaining to patent for the first session, trade mark, design for the second. The discussions were fruitful in that IPOS took account of the views of members represented by Terry in the first meeting and myself/Patsy and Sok Ling at the second meeting. Written reports were presented to IPOS for both meetings.

IPOS is also happy to receive feedback from members on how the workflow/processes can be further improved.

International

7. AIPPI is currently working on a project to persuade the authorities to extend the professional privilege for communication between patent agents and their client the same way legal professional protection is accorded to the solicitor-client relationship. I am working with the AIPPI working committee for the project.
8. Moving on, I see the need and urgency to work harder to attract new entrants to the Group by being more active in our dealings with IPOS and IP Academy and organizing more events with members and encouraging them to bring along prospective candidates to such events.

Morris John
President
AIPPI Singapore Group
24 March 2009