

15th FICPI OPEN FORUM
5 November 2014

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

It is an honor to participate in this Open Forum for IP professionals whose main mission is to update us about the new trends on IP in Europe, America and Asia. I have no doubt we will benefit extensively from this new acquired knowledge throughout our professional practice.

As SPTO Director General, I would like to take this opportunity to show my gratitude to all IP professionals for their great work. They do represent an essential part of our network.

The importance of our professional representatives is reflected in many aspects: feasibility evaluation of new applications and prior registered rights, commercial scope determination, watching services in favor of registered trademarks, designs or patents, facing new applications potentially conflictive...in short, they play an invaluable role supporting SPTO mission.

Besides the SPTO Information Services, the Industrial Property Agents are very important, as they advise on IP matters and provide accurate knowledge and IP rights surveillance. And, of course, their obvious role as professional or legal representatives for natural or legal persons, advising, assisting, representing and defending IP rights before SPTO.

That's the reason why they shouldn't simply target a C, but instead aim for excellence, in a continuous improving approach in their qualifications as Industrial Property Agents. Qualifications that support this expertise are the Spanish Industrial Property Agent in SPTO, or the EQE, European Qualifying Examination.

Today, more than ever, we want and we have to join our efforts and actions in support of entrepreneurs, SMEs and society in general to incorporate a culture based on protected innovation. Development and use of IP policy is of capital importance, and we, as active part of these IP word, should make things easy for them.

I also want to extend a word of thank to the organizers of this event and to all those attending this meeting. Thank you for sharing with us this mutual feeling and believing in it.