

PIIPA 2015 Newsletter

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If you love PIIPA and would be glad to contribute to its work and continued mission, PIIPA welcomes individual and institutional contributions, before the year ends, for your tax-exemption plans. You can do donate from the [PIIPA website](#), or by contacting PIIPA's Program Director, Pacyinz Lyfoung, at plyfoung@piipa.org.

Happy Holiday Season, and Yes, to Gifts that Give Back to Global Public Interest IP!



Announcements

PIIPA 2015 Newsletter

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[PIIPA 2015 Transition Process and Board of Directors](#)

2015 has been a transition year for PIIPA. We completed our long strategic and leadership transition process. We were pleased to reconnect with past supporters and meet new partners. We spent half of the year focusing on internal operations and governance, so were not overly active with external work for that time period. The main conclusion would be that transition is a process. We were fortunate to

Just highlighting that PIIPA is looking for volunteers to staff the **IP Handbook Committee**, as per the updates in the main body of the newsletter, if interested, please contact PIIPA's Program Director, Pacyinz Lyfoung, at plyfoung@piipa.org.

Furthermore, PIIPA welcomes submissions for its newsletter content, if interested please contact PIIPA's Program Director, Pacyinz Lyfoung, at plyfoung@piipa.org.

Partner Organizations

[World Intellectual Property Organization](#)

[United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](#)

[World Health Organization Department of Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property \(PHI\)](#)

[The World Bank Global Forum on Law, Justice, and Development](#)

[United States Patent & Trademark Office](#)

[Organization of American States](#)

[Canadian International Development Agency](#)

[Conference Board of Canada](#)

gather a substantial amount of good information as to the state of IP, especially global public interest IP. We heard loud and clear that PIIPA services are unique and should remain an available resource for the global public good. We will be continuing to evolve PIIPA to meet current global public interest IP needs and to benefit developing countries' human and economic development.

To continue PIIPA's mission, we were pleased to retain and add excellent directors for the Board, who bring a wealth of expertise and an admirable commitment to global public interest IP to the organization:

- Michael Gollin- Emeritus Chair, remains as a Director, still the most dedicated supporter of PIIPA, even in his great battle against ALS.
- R. Mark Davis- Chair, served as PIIPA's CEO for 3 years and now protects the sea as President of Sailors for the Sea.
- Jim Gollin- Vice-Chair, has extensive experience in philanthropy, nonprofits and social entrepreneurship.
- Andy Rappaport-Treasurer, has extensive experience in venture capitalism and nonprofits.
- Rita Khanna-Director, works as General Counsel for Aeras Global TB Foundation and is the most senior member of the Board, after Michael.
- Rosemary Wolson-Director, works as the IP Manager at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa.
- Lita Nelsen-Director, works as the Director of Technology Licensing at MIT.
- Ruben Echeverria-Director, serves as the Director General of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, headquartered in Colombia.

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[PIIPA, the IP Handbook of Best Practices, and the IP Handbook Committee](#)

This year, PIIPA became the Administrator for the IP Handbook of Best Practices. That online resource was initiated almost a decade ago by several prominent global IP experts with content contributions from a vast number of colleagues from a multitude of substantive areas around the world. It is a comprehensive and well-respected global public interest IP resource. PIIPA will be further exploring the technological logistics of maintaining this online resource. Meanwhile, we have planned to provide updates from the PIIPA website, via a dedicated webpage.

PIIPA is seeking to form an IP Handbook Committee, which will be tasked with updating the information from the original IP Handbook, which is now almost a decade old. If you would be interested in this project, please contact PIIPA's Program Director, Pacyinz Lyfoung, at plyfoung@piipa.org.

[Community of Practice on IP, Brief 2015 Annual Meeting Highlights](#)

Last year, PIIPA initiated a Community of Practice on IP, as part of the World Bank's Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development (GFLJD). PIIPA currently serves the Co-Lead for that CoP on IP. This year, we were fortunate to host the Second Annual Meeting of the CoP on IP, during the 2015 Law Week, the annual conference of the GFLJD, held at the WB's DC headquarters. The key highlights from that gathering of global public interest IP practitioners would be as

follows:

- IP remains a highly political and divided issue at the global level.
- The UN system's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include science-based solutions, which will involve IP.
- With IP being mired in political ideologies, the focus is on technology transfer, in which the practical utility of IP has a role to play.
- The CoP on IP is committed to further refining IP as a tool for global anti-poverty work and concrete outcomes.

The CoP on IP will be planning to convene virtually every two months to continue its exchanges and discussions, and hopes to issue some report by the next annual meeting in late fall of 2016.

The CoP on IP is open to institutions and individuals, at this time. For more information, please contact PIIPA's Program Director, Pacyinz Lyfoung, at plyfoung@piipa.org.

2015 PIIPA and Global Public Interest IP Year End Notes

Being able to complete PIIPA's strategic planning process for now and adding a few awesome Directors have been some of the great accomplishments of this year. Everytime a call for volunteers is made and amazing members of the PIIPA IP Corps respond, everytime a good match is made, everytime some innovator or public sector entity lets PIIPA know that they learned a lot about IP from interacting with us, we know that PIIPA has done its work and made a difference for global public interest IP.

However, this year has also been a reality check in

terms of the changing relevance of IP and the challenges for an NGO like PIIPA: focusing on IP of the right size, at the right time, and at the right place; providing access to highly valuable IP expertise via an excellent global network of experts willing to give time and skills; and serving as a staffed-global knowledge sharing and action platform for IP practitioners. On this latter, there are now quite many global virtual platforms, but being a member of several of them, PIIPA has seen it is not enough to just put information or even links on the web, it makes a great difference to be able to also get live support, with an entity like PIIPA at the other side of the internet.

As Michael Gollin bittersweetly chuckles, PIIPA is one of the few surviving NGOs of a handful that were started when TRIPs came into existence and the need for IP access globally was essential. Times have changed. The UN system is finding innovative ways to attempt to sidestep the global distrust and misunderstanding of IP, while still using IP as an integral instrument of global economic development and poverty eradication. There are now big data companies able to whip up patent landscape reports, with no one from an IP background on staff. However, like all technologies, ultimately, they still only work as well as the real people behind them, of which IP experts are irreplaceable. These are challenging times for global public interest IP in general, and for PIIPA.

But there is great work to do and so much knowledge, skills and goodwill to share: PIIPA will strive to proceed forward, with the support of all of you in this global public interest IP community. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! May you all meet with great success and great accomplishments in the coming year, maybe some of them, in collaboration with PIIPA!

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PIIPA Newsletter

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