CONFERENCE
ON
JAPANESE PATENT LAW AND PRACTICE
FOR
US CORPORATE PATENT COUNSEL
AT THE
JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE
FEBRUARY 13-16, 1984

Closing Remarks

In light of the thought-provoking keynote speeches and the text of the Communique, there is not too much really that is left to be said.

There is an expression one hears often in English: All good things have to come to an end. This International Conference is now ending and, without a shadow of a doubt, it has been a "good thing". But while it is ending today, it will be but a beginning or a springboard for further cooperative and mutual efforts towards moving together in industrial property matters.

As I stated in my Opening Remarks we had primarily come to Tokyo to learn and study. And I meant it sincerely. And learn and study we did! What we have learned and experienced was beyond expectations. Your program was outstanding indeed thanks to the excellent "professors" and text materials that you provided and the great efforts you made in planning, preparing and conducting this program. I hope we were good enough students to deserve all those splendid efforts of yours.

After all the classroom lectures and tours and demonstrations we have now a much greater appreciation of the workings of the JPO and its problems and challenges and a much better understanding of the Japanese Patent System and JPO Practice. In particular, we also have a better appreciation of your positions in areas where we had questions and comments because these are areas where we have difficulties. We were so pleased to gather from Mr. Saida's Keynote Speech and from the Communique that to the extent possible favorable consideration will be given to and action taken in the five areas of concerns.

Now as we leave this great City of Tokyo we shall take the knowledge and appreciation gained back to the U.S., back to our Corporations and Patent Departments and back to our collegues and friends in the patent profession who could not be with us. They'll be very sorry they missed this extraordinary learning experience that we were privileged to enjoy.

There will also be opportunities for us to report back to the APLA, ABA-PTC Section, ACPC and AIPPI. Incidentally, all these associations are well represented by our delegates as many of us are not only members of these associations but also have held, or hold now, leadership positions in these associations. And you can be sure that we shall see to it that our experience is widely shared by others in the U.S. albeit vicariously.

Speaking of reporting on this Conference, you will be interested to know that Commissioner Mossinghoff has already set a date for a so-called "debriefing" meeting in Washington which will be attended by high officials not only of the PTO but also of the State Department and International Trade Agencies. I am very happy that we can bring back such good news indeed about the openness and receptiveness we encountered and the very positive and fruitful outcome of this Conference.

Furthermore, Commissioner Mossinghoff has authorized me to inform you that the USPTO would also be receptive to any proposal for a return visit by a "Patent Leaders' Team" of Japanese firms. Now Japanese patent practitioners are quite familiar with U.S. Patent Law and Practice but they do have their share of problems with the U.S. Patent System and U.S. PTO practice so that a return visit might be quite helpful to them also and it certainly couldn't help but foster better understanding and mutual relations. The U.S. Group of PIPA would endorse any effort in this direction and assist to the greatest extent possible.

And speaking of PIPA and given its important special role in Japanese and American relations, as I pointed out in my "Opening Remarks", PIPA should follow up on Mr. Kalikow's suggestion and take measures to continue and perpetuate the accomplishments of this Conference in its committee studies and otherwise.

Incidentally, it seems to me that it would also be a good idea for the "JPO University" with is "Faculty" and with its "Dean", Mr. Wakasugi, of course, to take this "show" that they have so ably presented to us during the last few days, also to the U.S. and perhaps also to Europe and possibly also extend a similar invitation to European Patent Leaders to come to Tokyo.

Lastly, let me say that you have also been excellent hosts and, in addition to hard work and study, we were able to enjoy samples of splendid Japanese hospitality. Japan is No. 1 not only in economical and technological fields and also in inventor recognition and incentive programs even for children as we saw this morning but clearly also in hospitality which is something Ezra Vogel failed to cover appropriately.

I hope we have not been too much of an intrusion and imposition for you.

In conclusion and speaking for myself and I am sure I can speak likewise for each and every member of the Delegation, I'd like to say that I am very happy I came to Tokyo to participate in this auspicious and historic Program and that it was a most rewarding personal and professional experience. Thanks a million for everything: your efforts, your hospitality, your understanding, your friendship.

Domo arigato gozaimashita!
Mata o-me ni kakarimasho!

Karl F. Jorda

Karl F. Jorda