Dear patent information community,

In October 2011, a set of mock certification exams were held in the United States and Europe to test the design of a future international certification exam which would establish a high standard by which to evaluate the skill and competency of patent information professionals who search and analyze patent information. The certification initiative is a co-operative collaboration between the PDG, CEPIUG and PIUG.

The mock exams consisted of two exams, Paper A and B. Paper A was an online exam that required participants to devise a search strategy for either a chemistry related product or an engineering related product. In addition, two versions of Chemistry Paper A were randomly provided to participants to test different exam approaches. Paper B was an offline exam that required participants to answer short answer questions on patent law concepts and to complete a novelty or validity analysis case study and a patent infringement analysis case study. Ahead of the exams, each participant elected the technical field (chemistry or engineering) in which they wished to complete Paper A and B. The mock exams were provided only in English and a total of seven hours was allotted for the completion of each exam. The exams were held in person over a two day period. The participants did not have prior access to sample questions and were not made aware of the expectations of the exams. The mock examination committee would like to sincerely thank the participants for generously volunteering their time in completing the mock exams.

The committee would also like to sincerely thank the database providers who generously donated database access to the participants for completing Paper A. The committee would also like to thank the organizations that generously provided the venue for holding the exams.

As the goal of the mock exams was to learn how to set suitable exams and not test individual participants, the exams were completed anonymously such that the markers of the exams did not know the identity of the participants. The participants who sat the exams have already been notified of their results by candidate number only. This information will not be shared with the general public. The results of the mock exams have provided valuable insight into the improvement of the exams and also the training needs of the candidates for future exams. A summary of the proposed improvements can be found below in the document entitled “What will change?”

Please also find below a copy of each of the mock exams and the corresponding sample answers. Once you have had a chance to review the documents, the mock exam committee welcomes comments and questions about the exams. Please post your comments and questions directly in this discussion forum in response to this post. If you are a PIUG member and you would like to post your comments anonymously, then please use the available generic user names and passwords. If you are interested in helping devise the real certification exams to be offered in the future, please contact certification at piug dot org.

Exam papers

- Chemistry Paper A V1 - 2 cases (Mock Exam 2011)
- Chemistry Paper A V2 - choice (Mock Exam 2011)
- Chemistry Paper B (Mock Exam 2011) (will take a minute or so to load as it's a large file)
- Engineering Paper A (Mock Exam 2011)
- Engineering Paper B (Mock Exam 2011)

Sample Answers

- Sample answer Chemistry Paper A - opposition (Mock Exam 2011)
- Sample answer Chemistry Paper A - patent infringement (Mock Exam 2011)
- Sample Answers Chemistry Paper B (Mock Exam 2011)
- Sample Answers Engineering Paper A - patent infringement (Mock Exam 2011)
- Sample Answers Engineering Paper A - validity (Mock Exam 2011)
- Sample Answers Engineering Paper B (Mock Exam 2011)

Other

- What will change?