Prof. Tadashi Ishii Named IPI-Award Recipient 2010

The International Selection Board for the IPI Award, now in its 11th year, has named Professor Tadashi Ishii as the recipient for 2010. The announcement was made 8th March, 2010 at the International Patent Information Conference and Exposition, IPI-ConfEx, held in Lisbon, Portugal - http://www.IPI-ConfEx.com


"Today, it is taken for granted that there is widespread access to Japanese patent information, but someone had to push for it and work hard to make this possible", said Lucy Akers, Chair of the International Selection Board responsible for naming the recipient each year. Ms. Akers continued: "Professor Ishii has been an outstanding advocate for designing and implementing patent information policy in Japan. Through his personality and broad view on the global patent system, he was a major initiator of strong trilateral cooperation between the JPO, EPO, and USPTO."

Presiding over the event were Ms. Akers and other IPI-Award Selection Board members: Dr. Gerhard Fischer, Mr. Koh Ishii, Mr. Aalt van de Kuilen, Mrs. Minoo Philipp and Ms. Edlyn Simmons. Those not able to be present were Dr. Thomas Lorenz, Ms. Cynthia Barcelon Yang, and Mr. Roy Zimmermann. The proceedings were commenced by IPI Award founder and sponsor, Mr. Ford Khorsandian of Technology & Patent Research, TPR International.

Professor Ishii has dedicated his entire working life to the advancement of intellectual property and patent information. After graduating from Chuo University in 1968, he joined the Japanese Patent Office. By 1986, he was Director of the Automation Planning Division, and in 1991 became Director of Patent Information Planning. Moving up through the ranks, he finally became Deputy Commissioner of the JPO in 1999. He later served as the Director General at AIPPI in Japan and, since 2003, has been Dean and Professor of Intellectual Property at the Osaka Institute of Technology.

Throughout his long and distinguished career at the JPO, Prof. Ishii played a major role in the development of information systems with the aim of implementing a paperless office. Due to his action and leadership, Japanese patent information is available, accessible and used throughout the world for the benefit of the international community. One of Prof. Ishii's first achievements at the JPO was the implementation of an online filing system (the first of its kind in the world). The system was first offered to major Japanese companies filing an average of 20,000 applications per year, and was progressively extended to all applicants via the Internet. This gave easy access to Japanese dossiers during their prosecution and facilitated the exchange of priority documents among the trilateral offices, i.e. with the EPO and USPTO.

Professor Ishii played a leading role in developing JPO electronic search tools resulting in the design and implementation of the F-term database and the development of a search engine for Japanese characters.

He is remembered by Mr. Jacques Michel, former Vice President of the EPO, for "His clear understanding or the international scene and strong spirit of cooperation", noting that Prof. Ishii's contribution to the trilateral cooperation was "most impressive". Moreover, Prof. Ishii had a strong influence on the patent information dissemination policy in Japan through the extension of English translation to all Japanese abstracts (PAJ database); the design and implementation of IPDL; Japanese to English on-the-fly translation; and general availability of patent data at little or no cost to users.

Professor Ishii was nominated by Jacques Michel (Consultant) and seconded by Pierre Buffet (Questel) and Guillaume Minnoye (EPO).

Professor Ishii's book, 'E-Government and Intellectual Property', speaks to the demands and requirements of a completely automated patent office, contributing many ideas and concepts that are operational in the patent world today.

The IPI Award consists of a plaque and an honorarium of $3000. The presentation ceremony to Prof. Tadashi Ishii will take place at an evening dinner event on May 3rd during the upcoming annual meeting of the Patent Information Users Group in Baltimore, Maryland, May 1-6, 2010 - http://www.PIUG.org

The International Patent Information Award is sponsored by patent search firm TPR International, specializing in in-depth patent and non-patent literature searching and analysis for validity, infringement, patentability and other purposes, as well as providing tailored searching and analysis solutions - www.TPRInternational.com

Further information will be posted on the IPI-Award website soon at www.IPI-Award.com, or contact Trudi Jones, Trudi@TPRInternational.com, +1 (858) 592 9084.