

# 2023 Annual Report

AIPPI is the world's leading international organisation dedicated to the protection of intellectual property.



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# President's Address

**Shoichi Okuyama**  
President of AIPPI



Dear AIPPI Members,

AIPPI made a lot of progress during 2023. To better serve our membership, the AIPPI Bureau Members together with the General Secretariat staff started new initiatives. Our membership grew to 8223 as of the end of 2023. Our members are from over 130 countries with 68 active National and Regional Groups. There are 6 Statutory Committees, 25 Standing Committees and 3 Bureau Advisory Committees. We are particularly thankful for the splendid work and personal contributions of all our Committee members, and we appreciate the contributions of the National and Regional Groups. On top of that, AIPPI increased its activity on social media. For example, the LinkedIn account of AIPPI boasts more than 20,000 followers, more than our current membership, showing broad interest in AIPPI.

## **Istanbul Congress**

With the help of young and energetic members of the Turkish National Group, we could experience a wonderful AIPPI World Congress on 22-25 October 2023. We managed to have more than 2000 registrants. The venues, programmes, and entertainment events were all wonderful. This World Congress marked our return to normalcy post-pandemic on a global level. It was also held in the festive atmosphere of the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey, which was celebrated on 29 October 2023.



## **Young AIPPI Members Summit**

Our emphasis on young members continues. The registrations for the Young Members Summit held in June 2023 amounted to about 100. This was done over the internet, but covering all corners of the world is a remaining issue due to time differences.

## **AIPPI Spring Meeting**

The Spring Meeting, held in Venice on 30 March, was a new initiative for AIPPI. With a short period of time for preparation, the very first Spring Meeting was designed to be small – we had about 100 registrants. We were, however, very pleased with the wonderful programme. We are grateful to the Italian, Spanish and French National



# President's Address

Groups, who graciously let us have our Spring Meeting side-by-side with their trilateral meeting.

## **NGO Coordination Meetings**

We successfully organised two NGO Coordination Meetings during the INTA Annual Meeting and our Istanbul World Congress with more than ten IP organisations participating.

## **Bilateral meetings with GOs and NGOs**

During 2023, the Bureau was successful in expanding our relationships with governmental and non-governmental organisations around us. We visited EPO and WIPO as we did last year. The discussions shared with these organisations became deeper and more focused. Secondly, AIPPI was happy to visit WTO for the first time after the pandemic. Finally, we also participated in events organised by our sister organisations such as FICPI, LESI, APAA, Asean IPA, ASIPI and GRUR.



## **Scan the Globe**

With our 125th anniversary, we started a new programme entitled the Scan the Globe seminar series to cover countries and regions which are less known from an IP perspective. This seminar series spotlights different local IP practices and is available on the AIPPI YouTube channel.

## **Our Members and National and Regional Groups**

AIPPI exists to serve our members and National and Regional Groups. AIPPI is working toward the goal of harmonised IP protection to create a better and more uniformly developed world. Many members of the National and Regional Groups, which are the backbone of our organisation, have devoted substantial time and effort to support AIPPI as a global organisation. Their commitment and dedication have led to the strengthening of our activities on a national or regional level and thus increased AIPPI's influence in fostering the development of IP laws and treaties around the world. We look forward to expanding our activities and programmes together with the National and Regional Groups.

To conclude, the Bureau is prepared to assist any National and Regional Groups whenever help is needed. We encourage each member to participate in the various activities of AIPPI on a national or international level.

We ask AIPPI members to reach out to us with any comments and suggestions. The Bureau would like to hear from every member as your voice is important to us.

# AIPPI's Pursuit of Strategic Priorities in 2023

**Nazli Korkut Ozsoy**

Secretary General of AIPPI



The year 2023 marked a persistent recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic as alternative solutions emerged to address global economic challenges and uncertainties. Despite the growing divergences in various advanced and emerging markets and pessimistic forecasts regarding global growth and the societal well-being, the spirit of innovation and creativity remained undiminished. In such times, a robust and adaptable intellectual property landscape across the globe becomes invaluable, continually seeking solutions amidst rapidly evolving paradigms in technology-driven lifestyles, marketing formats, and challenging environmental and socio-economic issues.

In the final year of the AIPPI's Strategic Plan 2021-2023 we continued to address our members' expectations by organising programmes and events in various formats. Building upon our experience, we successfully hosted events both online and in-person, and supported smaller-scale regional events alongside our esteemed World Congress. These initiatives allowed us to leverage diverse channels to reach a wider audience of AIPPI members. Our "Scan the Globe" webinar series persisted aiming to shine a light on countries of focus that do not get as much presence in congresses as some other regions.

In 2023, we focused on Middle Eastern countries and Latin America & the Caribbean jurisdictions. Our members from different National Regional Groups shared and presented valuable information, insights, and tips relating to their legislation with the attendees. We are happy to see that the events themselves have not only served to create academic content but also strengthened the relations with the National Groups and paved the way for collaboration on future projects.

The collaboration between AIPPI and ASIPI flourished in 2023 with four rounds of webinars exploring topics such as genetic resources, cultural heritage, and traditional cultural expression. These events garnered significant participation and positive feedback, demonstrating the value of providing up-to-date information and experiences to our interested members.

The Young Summit, a highlight from the previous year, continued its success in 2023, featuring young speakers who delved into various aspects of generative AI and its impacts on the IP landscape, Unified Patent Court, potential IP liabilities in cross-border e-commerce online Marketplace, metaverse and the latest developments in virtual worlds through IP issues perspectives. The Young Members Committee had difficulty picking the topics of the summit from a remarkable amount of the proposals coming from the young members!

## AIPPI's Pursuit of Strategic Priorities in 2023

Introduced as a part of AIPPI International's initiative, the Spring Meeting in Venice attracted around 100 members in 2023. With its emphasis on facilitating networking and academic exchange and considering our members who could not be able to participate in the World Congress, the format where many of our young members were on the stage as speakers, moderators, and the pre-determined smaller scale (up to max. 250 attendees) received positive feedback. This encouraged the Bureau to continue in the coming years.

Throughout 2023, we were happy to witness the positive outcomes of the efforts started in 2022 to enhance AIPPI's refreshed presentation to its members, including the upgrade of the Members Directory of AIPPI. The increased personalisation of member profiles fostered interaction and facilitated access to resources regarding guidelines, protocols, and other lists that are important to the members and leadership of the National Regional Groups.

Furthermore, AIPPI embraced more popular and effective formats to enhance its online presence and information dissemination. AIPPI is aware of the impact of engagement on social media in terms of visibility of the association, and we managed to use the dedicated channels like the AIPPI Newsletter, National and Regional Groups Activity Reports, instant social media posts, YouTube videos, stories under the new communication strategy in terms of interaction and exposure. We are pleased to note that our LinkedIn followers have surpassed 20.000, and the number of followers of our Instagram stories has exceeded 1.200.

The decades-long journey of our organisation has underscored the significance of not just acquiring new members but also equipping them with the tools necessary to stay engaged, fulfilled and poised to make meaningful contributions. Membership saw reasonably significant growth in 2023, with net over 200 new members joining, notably including a substantial increase in young members. Our commitment to fostering connections throughout the year persisted through one-on-one meetings with National Groups. These interactions provided valuable and to-the-point insights, allowing the Bureau to gain a firsthand understanding of dynamics, positive developments, and various challenges faced by each group at a different level. We endeavoured to empower and motivate our members or at least learn the areas of focus to ensure they derive maximum value from their association with us.

In alignment with our Strategic Plan targets of broadening the range of discussion, we introduced a new Standing Committee on Plant Varieties, marking another milestone in our mission. This addition underscores our commitment to addressing another field of IP and representing AIPPI in front of relevant authorities while setting bridges to collaborate with them on shared objectives. Furthermore, one of the Bureau Advisory Committees (Diversity and Inclusion Committee), which was launched at the end of 2022, concentrated on the findings of a comprehensive survey shared with all members. The Committee diligently collated feedback and member requests. Subsequently, it delineated objectives aimed at advancing diversity and inclusion initiatives. These encompassed empowering the educational initiatives to deepen the understanding and awareness of D&I topics as well as enhancing collaboration and providing advice to the Bureau for meaningful actions.

## AIPPI's Pursuit of Strategic Priorities in 2023

Recognising that the sustainability and efficacy of an organisation's strategy and objectives hinge upon its ability to lay a solid foundation of previous years' experience, improvements and learned lessons. AIPPI remains committed to operating within the framework of its Strategic Plan 2024-2026. This forward-looking plan not only acknowledges the tangible successes achieved in the preceding years but also embraces the newly identified objectives in our dynamic and evolving intellectual property landscape and changing generations of membership. Moving forward, we will continue to actively engage in areas where AIPPI can make an impact, further strengthening the influence of our association to foster a more conducive environment for IP. Through our ongoing efforts, we aim to instil a sense of pride in our members, reaffirming the value of belonging to the AIPPI community.

# Facts & Figures

## Members

- Total AIPPI Members 8247 (+141)
- Young AIPPI Members 1098 (+161)

## National and Regional Groups with the most members

1	2	3	4	5
				
Germany	Japan	France	Italy	United Kingdom



## 2023 AIPPI World Congress – Istanbul

- 2,000 attendees
- 64 IP Sessions
- 25 Networking Sessions
- 17 AIPPI Café Sessions
- 49 Exhibitors & Sponsors
- 10 Media Partners



## Web Conferencing/Online Events

- 2 Genetic Resources Webinars
- 2 Cultural Heritage/Traditional Cultural Expression Webinars
- 2 Scan the Globe – Middle East and Latin & the Caribbean Webinars
- 1 WIPO Standard St.26 – PCT Sequence Listings Webinar
- 1 WTO TRIPS Council Webinar
- 2 Young AIPPI Events
- 5 AIPPI National Groups Webinars



## 2023 AIPPI Spring Meeting – Venice

- 150 Attendees (13 young members)
- 5 Sessions
- 32 Speakers






## Newsletter

- 8 Newsletters
- 126 Newsletter articles in total



# Facts & Figures

## Social Media

- 1  21,632 followers (+3,932)
- 2  7,503 followers
- 3  1,251 followers (+301)

## Top 3 Posts on LinkedIn:

**Top 1**

**AIPPI**  
22,511 followers  
5mo •

AIPPI is proud and excited to announce the new Bureau composition. The AIPPI Executive Committee has elected the following new Bureau Members during the [#2023AIPPIWorldCongress](#):

Shoichi Okuyama, President  
**Lorenza Ferrarri Hofer**, First Vice President  
 Maria Scungio, Second Vice President  
 Stéphane Pallik, Treasurer General  
 Nazlı T. Korkut, Secretary General  
 Regina Quek, First Deputy Secretary General  
 Fernando Becerra, Second Deputy Secretary General  
 Fred Barbieri, Assistant Secretary General  
 Simone Vandewynckel, Assistant Secretary General  
 Ari Laakkonen, Reporter General  
 Ralph Nack, First Deputy Reporter General  
 Guillaume HENRY, Second Deputy Reporter General  
 Lena Shen, Assistant Reporter General  
 Linda Lecomte, Assistant Reporter General  
 Johanna Flythström, Assistant Reporter General  
 Rafael Alab, Assistant Reporter General

**AIPPI Bureau Members**

**Presidency Team and Treasurer General**

Shoichi Okuyama, President  
 Lorenza Ferrarri Hofer, First Vice President  
 Maria Scungio, Second Vice President  
 Stéphane Pallik, Treasurer General

**Secretary General Team**

Nazlı T. Korkut, Secretary General  
 Regina Quek, First Deputy Secretary General  
 Fernando Becerra, Second Deputy Secretary General  
 Fred Barbieri, Assistant Secretary General  
 Simone Vandewynckel, Assistant Secretary General

**Reporter General Team**

Ari Laakkonen, Reporter General  
 Ralph Nack, First Deputy Reporter General  
 Guillaume HENRY, Second Deputy Reporter General  
 Lena Shen, Assistant Reporter General  
 Linda Lecomte, Assistant Reporter General  
 Johanna Flythström, Assistant Reporter General  
 Rafael Alab, Assistant Reporter General

Mesud Uzum and 243 others  
5 comments • 4 reposts

**Top 2**

**AIPPI**  
22,511 followers  
5mo •

Yesterday, AIPPI officially kicked off the [#2023AIPPIWorldCongress](#) in the beautiful [Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel & Conference Center](#) in the city that is the bridgeway between Europe and Asia. Thank you to all speakers, moderator [Esra Dündar Loiseau](#), AIPPI President Shoichi Okuyama, Mr. Muhammed Zeki Durak, the President of the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office, TurkPatent, and Mr. Habip Asan, the Director of the Division for Transition and Developed Countries at [World Intellectual Property Organization - WIPO](#) for taking the stage.

**2023 AIPPI World Congress**  
22-25 October 2023

**SHOICHI OKUYAMA**  
President, AIPPI

**HABİP ASAN**  
Director for Transition and Developed Countries at [World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\)](#)

Mesud Uzum and 183 others  
5 comments • 16 reposts

**Top 3**

**AIPPI**  
22,511 followers  
5mo •

The Cultural Evening of the [#2023AIPPIWorldCongress](#) took place yesterday in the beautiful [Unibirdirek Barni](#). This exclusive event gathered industry leaders and game-changers from around the globe under one roof with a taste of Turkey, providing a unique opportunity for networking, knowledge exchange and celebration.

**Unibirdirek Barni**

Amish Tiwari and 351 others  
1 comment • 5 reposts

## RGT Section Follows

**Ari Laakkonen**

Reporter General of AIPPI



Dear friends and colleagues,

During the course of 2023, the Association has continued to consolidate and expand its scientific activities, with some notable successes. We have:

- established a new Standing Committee on Plant Variety Rights;
- clearly set out AIPPI's position on a number of developing substantive IP issues, including proposals for royalty-free compulsory licensing of various vaccines;
- developed, at the 2023 World Congress in Istanbul, a series of timely and relevant Resolutions;
- set out to achieve, and have achieved, greater involvement in advocating IP issues (for example, by submitting an amicus opinion in relation to plausibility for the decision of the Enlarged Board of Appeal of the EPO in case G2/21);
- introduced greater access to AIPPI-provided social media channels to Standing Committees;
- sought greater engagement with other NGOs and governmental and inter-governmental bodies on policy issues; and
- sought to engage younger members of AIPPI more closely within the scientific work of the Association.

We are very grateful to several institutions and organisations, including the EU's Community Plant Variety Office, the European Patent Office, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Trade Organization for fruitful and engaging discussions. These discussions subsequently led to the participation of the Association as an observer in the Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge in 2024. I would like to thank each of the individuals involved for their co-operation and discussions.

In March 2023, the Association organised a Spring event in Venice, timed to coincide with the trilateral meeting of the French, Italian and Spanish groups of AIPPI. Whilst the event was small, it was also full to capacity and well attended from the region as well as internationally. It was especially pleasing to welcome so many younger members of AIPPI as speakers on panel sessions at Venice, and to witness the high quality of

## RGT Section Follows

the presentations. I would like to recognise the foresight and vision of Annie Tsoi and Nazli Korkut (the current and immediately preceding Secretary Generals of AIPPI), for promoting the concept of a Spring meeting and making it happen.

At the Istanbul Congress, we developed resolutions on the following issues:

- **Patents:** the Doctrine of Equivalents, in light of the German Formstein decision and other recent key decisions.
- **Trade marks:** proving trade mark use, in particular from an EU perspective following a number of high-profile judgments. This Resolution aims to harmonise laws in this area so as to provide a simplified framework for proving use which is not unduly burdensome to businesses.
- **Copyright:** this was the Association's first resolution concerning Collecting Societies and lays out certain key elements for the regulation of Collecting Societies.
- **General:** this resolution introduces the principles under which the responsibility of online market places and the liability of platforms and/or service providers for infringement can be determined. It is especially relevant as significant enforcement efforts are directed to online market places.
- **Experimental use and Bolar exemptions:** the Pharma Standing Committee has spearheaded a resolution on experimental use, particularly in relation to research tools, and prohibiting the use of such exemptions for the purposes of stockpiling.

All of the successes of the Association in 2023 are a direct result of the efforts of members. A resolution requires intensive and detailed work: proposals for Study Questions are put forward, reviewed by the Programme Committee, Study Guidelines are written, national group reports are written, a summary report is produced, a draft Resolution is discussed first at a Study Committee meeting and then at a plenary, before the Resolution eventually is adopted by ExCo. The total effort required is huge and I am grateful to the many hundreds of members that have contributed to each of the resolutions in 2023.

The work of the Association continues in between Congresses also via Standing Committees. AIPPI now has a total of 26 Standing Committees, and with an average of between 10-25 members in each Committee, it is clear that many hundreds of AIPPI members are continuing the scientific work of the Association in between Congresses: with calls, with meetings, by developing position papers, and by representing the Association at GO/NGO meetings. This is probably the biggest volunteer workforce for any IP association anywhere and it makes AIPPI unique. It enables AIPPI to have work product in every area of IP, with expertise to match, and this is what enables AIPPI to uniquely have a strong voice in every IP sector on a global level.

## RGT Section Follows

The contribution that AIPPI makes, and also made in 2023, extends further than any other association in several key respects. First, our influence and voice are present not only in Europe, but also in the Americas, Asia, and Africa/Middle East. Second, our work extends into every sector of IP. That is all thanks to our members and in particular AIPPI National and Regional Groups that do so much to promote and grow the Association.

In the coming years, I hope that the focus of AIPPI's scientific work will extend more to innovative legal solutions to the problems and issues facing businesses in the 2020s and beyond. One example is AI. AI is not just arriving but has widely been adopted including for tasks such as voice recognition, facial recognition, document analysis, the creative production of paintings and images, and the creative production of music, and many others. The IP issues that emerge from the use of AI will become critically relevant and this area will need to be addressed by the Association in greater depth.

I am confident that the work and reach of the Association will continue to grow, and this is all thanks to the hard work of the members.



# AIPPI Awards



**Member of Honour**  
Luiz Henrique do Amaral



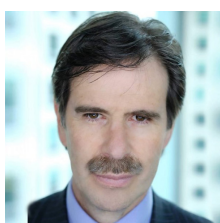
**Member of Honour**  
Peter Pawloy



**Member of Honour**  
Anne Marie Verschuur



**Award of Merit**  
Christopher Carani



**Member of Honour**  
Martin Michaus

Members who have made particularly noteworthy contributions to AIPPI or to its objectives may receive one of three special awards. They can be appointed as a President of Honour, a Member of Honour or granted an AIPPI Award of Merit.

Presidents of Honour are Members of Honour who are exceptionally distinguished in the field of intellectual property and have given exceptional service to AIPPI.

Members of Honour are people who have displayed outstanding merit in promoting the objectives of the association.

The AIPPI Award of Merit is granted to AIPPI members who have distinguished themselves in an outstanding way:

1. in connection with the international activities of AIPPI, in particular as Officers of AIPPI Committees or as Representatives of AIPPI
2. in a long-term leadership function in a National or Regional Group of AIPPI as organizers of international events
3. other unique contributions to the fulfillment of the aims of the association

## AIPPI Awards in 2023

At the Grand Finale of the 2023 AIPPI World Congress, the AIPPI President, Shoichi Okuyama, announced the latest recipients of AIPPI honours:

Luiz Henrique do Amaral, Anne Marie Verschuur, Martin Michaus and Peter Pawloy were named as the new Members of Honour.

Christopher Carani was named as the new Award of Merit.

## Selected AIPPI National & Regional Group Events

AIPPI selected some of the best in-person and online events organised by AIPPI National and Regional Groups in 2023.

### **2023 AIPPI China Youth IP Seminar**

*17–18 March 2023*

The 2023 AIPPI China Youth IP Seminar was held successfully in Chongli of Hebei Province, the venue of skiing events of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games on 17–18 March 2023 with more than 110 attendees across China, with most of them being young lawyers, patent or trademark attorneys.



### **The AIPPI National Group of Finland organised a UPC Mock Trial**

*21 April 2023*

The Finnish AIPPI Group organised a UPC Mock Trial together with the Market Court of Finland on Friday 21 April 2023. The event was held at the Market Court's premises in Helsinki, Finland, where the UPC Helsinki Local Division will begin to operate as of 1 June 2023. The mock trial was a great success with approximately 100 persons following the event either on-site or remotely via livestream.



## Selected AIPPI National & Regional Group Events

### **AIPPI Mexico: AMPPI's 12<sup>o</sup> International Congress "Cultural Heritage and Intellectual Property" (June)**

*26-27 April 2023*

On 26 and 27 April 2023, the Mexican Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AMPPI) and the Mexican group of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), held its 12th International Congress in Mexico City. It was a great success with different topics being discussed in round table discussions.



### **First Central American and Caribbean AIPPI Group Annual Congress took place on 21st July in San Salvador, El Salvador**

*21 July 2023*

Last year, the AIPPI – Central American and Caribbean Group took on the task to provide its members, and the regional IP community, with the opportunity of an In-Person Congress. Thanks to the collaborative spirit of the local IP association, Asociacion Salvadoreña para la Propiedad Intelectual (ASPI), the event came together and finally took place in the City of San Salvador, at the beautiful Hotel Barcelo on July 21st.





## Selected AIPPI National & Regional Group Events

### **Belgian AIPPI Young Event – Virtual reality, Gaming & IP: theory and practice**

*18 October 2023*

During the AIPPI Belgian Young Event, 30 young practitioners got immersed into Virtual Reality, Gaming and IPR. This event is organised each year, in order to give the opportunity to young IP practitioners to envisage IP from a different point of view and invite them to join AIPPI. Luc Peeters, Lector Game Entrepreneurship Digital Arts & Entertainment at Howest University of Applied Sciences, and Michael De Vroey, Attorney-at-law & Partner at Simont Braun shared insights on Virtual reality, gaming and IPR. But theory is not all, and the participants also had the chance to dive into the game!



### **AIPPI United Arab Emirates**

*27 April 2023*

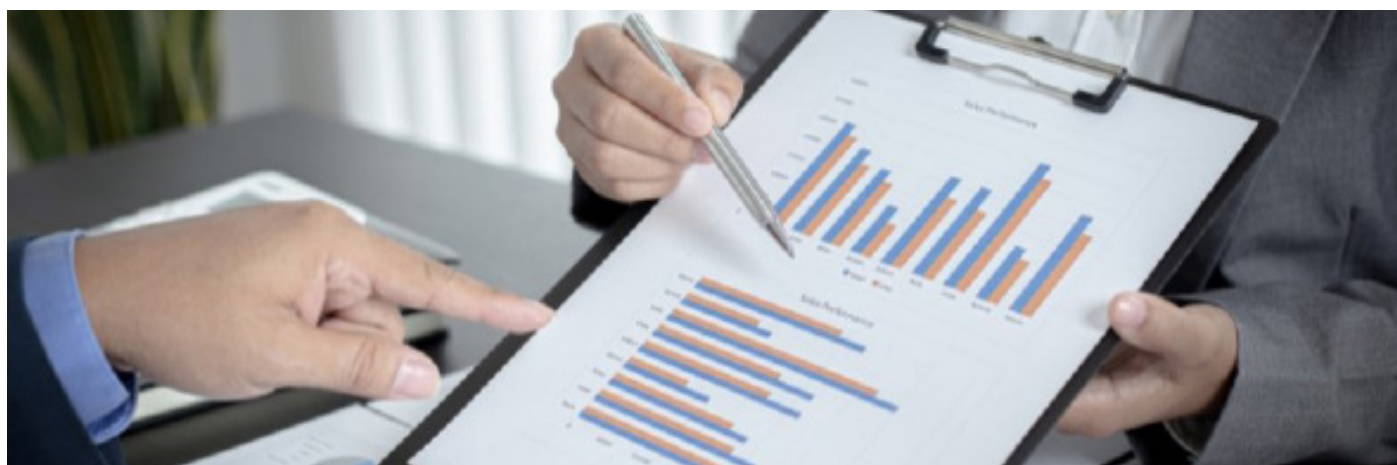
In celebration of World IP Day, AIPPI UAE organised a special IP gathering to discuss "IP & Innovation in the 5th industrial revolution" on April 27, 2023 at DIFC FinTech Hive. The event was a great success as a result of the fruitful collaboration with the DIFC IP Commissioner and with the support of the Ministry of Economy (MOE), the Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA), the Gulf Brand Protection Group (BPG), and the European Women Association (EWA).





## Financial Information

Profit & Loss	
Revenue	
Subscription	1,384,083
Other Income	703
Total Revenue	1,514,786
Total Expenses	1,517,842
GS Profit / Loss	-3,056
Congress Revenue	2,812,174
Congress Expenses	2,766,793
Congress Profit / Loss	45,381
Total Profit	42,325
*Numbers have not been audited	9.04.2024



# AIPPI Bureau



**President**  
Shoichi Okuyama  
(Japan)



**First Vice-President**  
Lorenza Ferrari Hofer  
(Switzerland)



**Second Vice-President**  
Maria Scungio  
(U.S.A)



**Reporter General**  
Ari Laakkonen  
(UK)



**First Deputy Reporter General**  
Ralph Nack  
(Germany)



**Second Deputy Reporter General**  
Guillaume Henry  
(France)



**Secretary General**  
Nazli Korkut Ozsoy  
(Turkiye)



**First Deputy Secretary General**  
Regina Quek  
(Singapore)



**Second Deputy Secretary General**  
Fernando Becerril  
(Mexico)



**Treasurer General**  
Stéphane Palix  
(France)

## Assistants



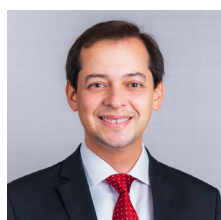
**Assistant Reporter General**  
Lena Shen  
(China)



**Assistant Reporter General**  
Linda Lecomte  
(U.S.A)



**Assistant Reporter General**  
Johanna Flythström  
(Finland)



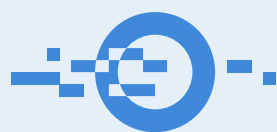
**Assistant Reporter General**  
Rafael Atab  
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**Assistant Secretary General**  
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(Belgium)



**Assistant Secretary General**  
Fred Barbieri  
(Canada)



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