Preface for Fifth Workshop on Patent Translation

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Welcome to the fifth workshop on patent translation. The fifth workshop will be held with MT Summit XIV on September 2, 2013, in Nice. The Chair will be Shoichi Yokoyama and the Co-Chair Hiroyuki Kaji. The keynote speech by Prof. Philipp Koehn from Edinburgh University, two invited speeches by representatives from major patent offices, and five presentations in the general session are planned.

Patent documents have become one of the major application areas of machine translation. The workshop aims to foster research and development of the technology for patent translation by providing a forum where researchers and practitioners can exchange their ideas, approaches, perspectives, and experiences from the work they are undertaking.

Topics of interests include, but are not limited to:
・MT and translation aids for patent documents
・Language resources for patent translation
・Evaluation techniques for patent translation
・Multilingual patent classification and retrieval

The workshop has been held four times as a part of every MT Summit since 2005, increasing its presence and drawing an ever larger number of participants. The brief history of the past workshops is as follows:

The first workshop (Chair: Shoichi Yokoyama) started with MT Summit X, on September 16, 2005, in Phuket, in order to discuss the special interest on patent translation from the viewpoint of users (patent offices), researchers, and makers. In the workshop, three invited speakers gave addresses, one was by Prof. Bente Maegaard from the University of Copenhagen, and two were user viewpoints from patent offices (EPO and JPO). In the general session, nine papers were published with a wrap-up meeting.

The second workshop (Co-Chair: Jun'ichi Tsujii and Shoichi Yokoyama) took place with MT Summit XI, on September 11, 2007, in Copenhagen. In the workshop, one invited talk by WIPO and two users' viewpoints from EPO and JPO were presented. In the general session, six papers were published.

The third workshop (Co-Chair: Terumasa Ehara and Shoichi Yokoyama) took place with MT Summit XII, on August 30, 2009, in Ottawa. There were two invited talks, one by EPO, and the other by CPIC. In the workshop, three talks from users' viewpoints were presented by USPTO, KIPO, and JPO. In the general session, five papers were published. In the panel discussion, five panelists under the moderator Dr. Akira Ushioda from Fujitsu Labs. participated.

The fourth workshop was held with MT Summit XIII on September 23, 2011, in Xiamen. The Chair was Shoichi Yokoyama with Co-Chairs Terumasa Ehara and Dang Wang. Three invited talks were given, the first by EPO, the second by CPIC, and the third by JPO. About 70 participants attended. Seven papers were presented in the general session. Prof. Ehara organized a panel discussion with five panelists.

The importance of patent translation has increased, along with the globalization of patents. The forthcoming fifth workshop will definitely be an excellent opportunity to share and exchange information regarding the latest technologies and trends in the patent translation domain.