Preface for Fourth Workshop on Patent Translation

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Welcome to the fourth workshop on patent translation. 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. The number of participants was about 30. In the workshop, three invited speakers talked, 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 Ms. Rachel Chrem from WIPO and two users' viewpoints from EPO and JPO were presented. There were approximately 30 participants. 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 Ms. Sophie Mangin from EPO, and the other by Mr. Dang Wang from CIPO. In the workshop, three talks from the users' viewpoints were presented by USPTO, KIPO, and JPO. There were approximately 40 participants. In the general session, five papers were published. In the panel discussion, five panelists under the moderator Dr. Akira Ushioda from Fujitsu Lab. participated.

The importance of patent translation has increased because worldwide patent application unification is planned, and information exchange should be accelerated. The fourth workshop will be held with MT Summit XIII on September 23, 2011 in Xiamen. The Chair is Shoichi Yokoyama with Co-Chairs Terumasa Ehara and Dang Wang. The concepts of the workshop are as follows:

Patent documents are 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 their works in progress. This workshop will consist of three invited talks, presentation of submitted papers, and one panel discussion.

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