



IPAN AGM Chairman's Report 2021.

In 2021 IPAN continued in its purpose of raising the understanding of the importance and value of intellectual property but in the changed landscape impacted by the Covid-19 virus. Building on the on-line capabilities for communication and meetings IPAN has probably reached a greater diversity of audience through 2020/21 than in the times before the virus impacted our work. Of course, we are all looking forward to being able to meet and develop our awareness programme again in person. I certainly hope that will be the opportunity in 2022. For the present I thank all of you who have joined us for our second on-line AGM and for all the support and partnership we have received from our members.

Our “flagship” meeting for 2020 was our World IP Day event “IP Strategy for FinTech Start-ups and SMEs, held on-line on 26th April. As Chairman of the meeting with a panel of experts comprising of a mix of academic, law and industrial professionals I can say that IPAN demonstrated one of its particular benefits in bringing together such breadth and deep in IP from different perspectives. We were particularly privileged to receive the keynote address from Amanda Solloway MP, the then Minister for Science, Research and Innovation. Alessandro Hatami spoke on the importance of IP in the reinventing of banking and finance, Jane Lambert, barrister discussed the decision in Fintech Patents Case Communitis Plc v The Tall Group of Companies Ltd 2020, Dr. Fernando Da Cruz Vasconcellos from Valuation Consulting gave a very informative presentation on IP valuation for FinTech start-ups, Professor Xuan-Thao Nguyen, IP Finance Expert, University of Indiana spoke on developments in IP valuation to secure finance and Associate professor Dr. Janice Denoncourt, Nottingham Law school and IPAN Board member concluded with the role of governance for FinTech and start-ups, SMEs.

We were pleased to partner with the Law school at Nottingham Trent University for this event.

On 14 October we supported the Federation for Small Businesses in their event on “Discovering the hidden IP value in your business and how to unlock it”. Serial entrepreneur and IPAN Board member Mandy Haberman was our keynote speaker contribution to this webinar.

Immediately following our AGM we do hope you can stay while others join us on-line for our on-line Network event on “Artificial Intelligence (AI) and ISO Standards to support IP Management, Governance and Investment. We have great panel of speakers on this cutting-edge topic for IP and innovation in the 21st century.

As for 2020 we have been delighted in 2021 to continue our support for innovation and diversity through the excellent work of Dr. Bola Olabisi by participating in the Global

Women Inventors and Innovators Network (GWIIN). The winner of the IP award Patience Nwodu received an opportunity to present her business and IP to the IPAN Board and receive information and guidance for her business from the extensive range of IP expertise on our Board. I thank Professor Ruth Soetendorp for being the IPAN representative on the judging panel in 2020. For 2021 Associate Professor Dr. Janice Denoncourt has been our representative on the panel. The awards will be announced at the GlobalWIIN Virtual Awards Ceremony on 2nd December 2021 at 6.30pm GMT. You will be welcome to join this event. Please contact Dr. Denoncourt through our membership secretary if you would like to join the Awards Ceremony. IPAN sponsors the competition and awards ceremony with £1,000 per annum. Money we feel well invested in IP futures and awareness. We hope that inventors and innovators like Patience, will not only be successful in their businesses, but will become ambassadors for women entrepreneurs demonstrating the value of IP in the world of business and commerce.

For 2022 we are planning a progressive programme continuing our partnership with GWIIN, a Network event examining how the IP system works for small to medium sized businesses, a meeting IP and the Arts & Creative Industries with University of the Arts London and a special IP event celebration on WIPD 26th April. We hope that for at least some of these events it will be possible to hold them for in person attendance and also stream live for on-line viewing.

We continue to value all our members and partners, though if I may especially mention the UK IPO with our close links on IP consultations, IP services and specialist speakers, CIPA who provide premises at Halton House, Holborn and WIPO with our international links.

Thanks to IPAN's secretariat Janet Burgess as our membership secretary and Jon Pooley our IT and web site specialist. Both Janet and Jon have taken much of Steve Smith's multiple responsibilities, no mean feat. Steve was planning to be present this afternoon but unfortunately personal circumstances mean he is unable to attend. Particular thanks to Peter Prowse, a past President of IPAN who provided marketing and communications support for our programme. Peter has now retired from this role for personal and family reasons. We wish him well in what we are sure will be an active retired and want to record our thanks not just from IPAN but from the wider IP community for his years of service.

It is with sadness we note the passing of Dr. John Reid, OBE on 25th June 2021. John was founder of IPAN and made a great contribution to developing awareness of the importance and relevance of IP in the professional and business spheres. We recognise we owe a debt of gratitude to his foresight and endeavour for IP awareness in our gathering here today. In recognition of the contribution of John and others to IPAN we are in the process of commissioning a paper on the formation and development of IPAN and look forward to publishing this via our web site in the coming year.

I must acknowledge the tremendous work carried out by my fellow Board members. All their time and expertise provided pro-bono in the service of IP Awareness and education, Ian Wishart (also our Treasurer), Mandy Haberman serial entrepreneur, Professor Ruth Soetendorp, Nigel Worth, and a particular welcome to Stephen Jones (a past President of CIPA) and Associate Professor Dr. Janice Denoncourt.

Finally my thanks to all our members who all share in IPAN's goals and purposes. We are a Board are here for you if you have particular IP Awareness event of activity you would like our support and contribution to please do let us know. This will further help develop the richness and diversity of IPAN's role for the future while building on our well established foundations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John P. Ogier". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long horizontal stroke.

J. P. Ogier.
IPAN Chairman 2021.