



## **Statement on Expanding Self Representation Under the Draft Patent Law Treaty**

Under existing international agreements, individuals and businesses are required to have local registered patent representatives for essentially all patent procedures, including simple administrative actions. Such mandatory representation can be both time-consuming and expensive.

A Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of a new international Patent Law Treaty (PLT) will be held at the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 11 through June 2, 2000. Proposals for Article 7 of the draft PLT would expand the ability of an applicant to represent himself with respect to the formal requirements associated with patent applications.

Recognising the value of expanding technology, the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) supports such proposals to expand opportunities for individuals and businesses to represent themselves, and urges governments of the Pacific Basin to support such changes to the PLT.

Endorsed by the PBEC Steering Committee 03/19/00  
Adopted by the PBEC Board of Directors 03/19/00  
2000 International General Meeting, Honolulu, HI USA