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**From:** Jeanette Eldridge  
**Sent:** 21 May 2021 17:04  
**Subject:** BPIP: First IPI-ConfEx Connect Virtual Gathering 19 May 2021

Dear BPIP colleagues

Last item of the day!

You'll remember that last week we received an invite to attend this session. A few BPIP members were able to attend (Nathan, Susan, Jeanette) – here are some brief notes as feedback!

The invite was open to a maximum of 100 attendees, but there were only 25-30 attendees (including IPI reps: Ford, Trudi, Lucy, Natasha), which included several CEPIUG, JAPIO and PIUG colleagues. We were assigned to a series of short breakout sessions, each of 6-7 people, of a few minutes' duration, only enough time to do a very quick round table of intros.

People seemed mostly quite reticent, perhaps unsure of the purpose of the meeting; it was telling that a significant number on the call are retired/semi-retired, which might indicate the level of interest from current practitioners is low (the last IPI-ConfEx was a while ago – 2018?). Several respondents wanted there to be some specific agenda items/content topics in advance of any future sessions to assess whether to attend.

The whole meeting was scheduled for ¾h but lasted 1h. A poll was run towards the end of the meeting:

- Frequency of meetings – 41% favoured 3-monthly
- Purpose of meetings – 86% said it should be both social and educational
- Duration – 64% voted for 1h
- Time of day – 59% voted for 3pm UK time

A few snippets that people were able to share in the main session were:

- The Italian group celebrated their birthday in February and have regular [virtual] Friday social sessions
- The EPO uses Zoom (rather than MS Teams) for opposition hearings, but it needs the client installed for the simultaneous translation offered
- Clarivate's purchase of ProQuest, as [recently](#) revealed, will obviously have an impact on the vendor landscape (but no time to debate how!)
- People interested in AI/ML can look at <https://www.ml4patents.com/>
- A big emphasis on IP landscaping in Japan – see <https://conferenceindex.org/conferences/intellectual-property/japan?>
- CEPIUG did a Smart Working survey – brief notes on this have been shared previously in the [CEPIUG 25th Meeting Notes](#)

As follow-up, Natasha sent out this message:

It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces at the IPI-ConfEx 'Connect' Virtual Gathering on zoom this week. Thank you to all those who participated. If you have any feedback from the meeting, please let me know.

At the meeting there was a common consensus that these virtual gatherings are of interest to the patent information community and it would be useful to have these

every two to three months for both professional networking as well as talks and discussions on patent information best practices.

We'd like to ask the patent information community to put forward your ideas, suggestions and preferences for topics and/or speakers for future virtual gatherings. These are welcome from those that participated as well as those that were unable to attend on this occasion.

Please send any suggestions and speaker/topic ideas to me at [natasha.fowler@ipi-institute.com](mailto:natasha.fowler@ipi-institute.com).

We will be in contact with you all soon regarding future virtual gatherings.

Best regards,

Natasha Fowler

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Regards

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10