

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2008 to June 2009

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) carries out its Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (TACB) programs and activities for Africa at the request of Member States. WIPO's commitment to African Member States focuses on assisting them in their efforts to build national capacities to enable them take full advantage of their intellectual property systems. It is expected that as a result, each African country will have in place a strong, inclusive and comprehensive national intellectual property system that will allow its citizens to successfully create, protect, promote, and commercialize its intellectual property assets. WIPO is working hand in hand with its Member States to promote intellectual property as a strategic tool for economic growth and national development and to implement NEPAD priorities and the African Union (AU) 10-year Capacity Building Programme. WIPO is also helping African countries and LDCs in integrating IP in national development programs and in formulating appropriate strategies and plans to exploit IP for sustainable development

Intellectual Property (IP) Strategies and IP Development Plans

The national IP strategies involve a long term process which lays out the policy at the national level. They will provide the Member States with a shared vision, common objectives and an agreed framework for modernizing and utilizing the IP system for development benefits. In the framework of the strategies IP offices are being encouraged and supported to undertake a systematic needs assessment through various tools and mechanisms such as IP audit tools, IP needs assessment questionnaires and SWOT analysis with the aim of assessing their modernization needs for service and development orientation for achieving a comprehensive approach to the development of IP plan.

The IP plan aims at providing a comprehensive and integrated plan over time whereby all national stakeholders can work together to create, own and exploit research results, innovations, new technologies and works of creativity. This would facilitate country-specific demand-driven, development-oriented, transparent and result-based programs which will be monitored, evaluated and owned by the country. IP strategies and IP Development Plans have been or are in the process of being formulated in countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Morocco, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia. They have been elaborated in keeping with the needs and priorities reflected in national development plans and other policy framework such as the national strategic development plan for Rwanda Vision 2020 and the Liberian Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Mechanisms for consultation, review, reporting and evaluation between WIPO and the authorities concerned are an integral part of the process throughout the life cycles of the activities. The range of activities deployed within this context varies according to each country

and includes, *inter alia*, transfer of technology in Nigeria, research and development (R&D) for universities in Mauritius and Rwanda, creation of networks in West, East, Southern and Central Africa to enhance copyright management etc. In 2009, a workshop will be carried out in Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia, to review IP policy or strategy.

Capacity Building

The technical assistance program and activities of WIPO have been tailored to respond to diverse and specific needs in order to develop and enhance their capacity in important areas of IP such as planning for IP development, awareness building, human resource development, strengthening of relevant institutions and infrastructure, formulation of legislation taking into account flexibilities under the current international IP regime, and enhancing professional capabilities and building tools for SMEs. To strengthen the capacity of institutions responsible for the administration of the IP system, as well as the capacity of other stakeholders, such as universities, research and development institutions, enterprises, professional associations and collective management organizations in the use and management of IP for development, the following activities have been undertaken:

- Inter-regional Forum on Service and Development-oriented IP Administrations, Geneva, June 2008. This meeting was highly attended and was a good occasion to share experiences on IP management;
- Inter-Regional Forum on technical assistance for IP capacity building: needs assessment to capacity development and benefit realization, Geneva, November-December 2008;
- Inter-Regional/Regional/Sub-Regional meetings on Copyright Egypt (Nov.2008);
- Inter-Regional/Regional/Sub-Regional meeting on SMEs in Senegal (last quarter of 2008);
- Inter-Regional/Regional/Sub-Regional meetings on Transfer of Technology in Cameroon (last quarter of 2008);
- National Symposium on Intellectual Property Education, Training and Research (first quarter of 2008, Gaborone, Botswana);
- Regional Workshop on Strengthening the Capacity of Universities and Research Centers in valuation of research;
- WIPO Intensive Training Course on Copyright, Related Rights and Collective Management (Malawi).

Innovation

A large range of activities were organized in order to provide an opportunity to discuss the latest international trends and developments in planning strategy for the development of intellectual property; the appropriate policy approaches, strategic framework and institutional mechanisms for utilizing intellectual property as a powerful tool for an innovative economy; intellectual property as a common language for government and markets in the promotion of competitiveness, innovation and creativity; as well as intellectual property rights policies to foster innovation and diffusion of technology in emerging areas of the economy. Some activities include:

- Pilot initiatives in selected OAPI Member States to enhance access to, and sharing of patent and other IP commercial and technical information by Research Institutions and Industry groups. On-going pilot scheme to interface ARIPO and its Member States could be extended to database owners.
- ARIPO and Member States Patent Documents Scanning Project for the PatentScope System. The objective of the project is to digitize and index patent documents in ARIPO and its member States for data exchange with WIPO Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) PatentScope system and other value added services related to acquisition and development of technology in the field of industrial property. This project is liable to overcome some of the obstacles that stand in the way of technological development in Africa.
- Meetings were also organized on subject related to innovations and transfer of technology:
 - WIPO Regional Workshop on IP and Technology Management for Universities (Nigeria, May 2008);
 - Regional Training Workshop on Patent Drafting (Ethiopia, December 2008, Tunisia, July 2008);
 - International Workshop on Industrial Property in the Knowledge Economy Challenges for Africa and its Diaspora (Yaoundé, Cameroon, October 2008);
 - Successful Technology Licensing Program (Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Senegal).
- A Training Manual on Technology Licensing for Uganda;
- A three-day mission to discuss patenting modalities and assess needs (Banjul);
- WIPO Inter-Regional Forum on the Role of Intellectual Property (IP) in the Innovative Economy. India (WIPO covered the participation).

Traditional knowledge and Traditional cultural Expressions (TCEs)

- Assistance to ARIPO and OAPI, and their member States, for the elaboration of harmonized regional instruments for the protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs);
- The establishment of regional task force consisting of regional experts to develop a regional approach towards intellectual property (IP) and traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expression (TCEs);
- Study on the identification, recording and IP value of folklore in Senegal was completed at the national level in October 2008;
- Workshop on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (June 19 and 20, 2008, Chavanne-de-Bogis, Suisse). The aim of the Workshop was to agree on a common African position with regard to those questions;
- South Africa Indigenous Knowledge Systems policy and workshop on the WIPO TK toolkit April 14 to 18, 2008.

Copyright Collective Management

The following-dimensional objectives have characterized the delivery of copyright-related activities:

- The creation of incentives-oriented institutional framework to widen the range of beneficiaries of the copyright protection system in the continent, including stakeholders in

the field of the publishing industry and emerging cross-cutting business models such as the on-line content delivery;

- Specialized capacity-building programs dovetailed with the modernization of business procedures in the field of collective management; state-of-the-art activities have been conducted to provide highly-competitive business rules to collective management organizations as well as IT tools and solutions for automating their operations;
- In addition to training programs, activities have been conducted to facilitate the creation of new CMOs to enable policy makers, rights holders and the creative industry to benefit from the copyright protection system”;
- Launching of phase II of the Regional Training on Reprography for ARIPO Member States with a focus on Management and Policy;
- Launching of phase I of the Regional Training on Reprography for OAPI Member States: Introduction to Reprographic Rights Management for Collective Management Organizations (CMOs);
- Development of an integrated framework for the establishment and/or enhancement of Collective Management Systems in the Portuguese speaking countries of Africa;
- Development of an integrated framework for the establishment and in support of the Regional Network of CMO and Copyright Office in Central Africa region;
- Training on the use of the WIPOCOS software for WIPOCOS Officials and User societies; and
- Regional Training and Collective Management of Related Rights, Johannesburg, September 2008.

NEPAD

In the framework of UN agencies support to NEPAD, WIPO was represented at the Ninth Regional Consultation Meeting of United Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Program. WIPO attended also the meetings of the Cluster on Science and Technology as well as the cluster on Market Access and Industry.

WIPO is also cooperating with African Union in the implementation of Africa’s Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action. In this context WIPO attended the African Cluster on Science and Technology Meeting and African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (in Abuja, Nigeria) and participated in different meetings organized by the African Union on the Establishment of Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO).

WIPO has also participated in the meeting of the Technical Committee on the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (Ethiopia and South Africa).