



Integrated IP management: Building Development & User Oriented IP institutions in Ethiopia

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By

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I. Introduction

- ◆ IP a recent phenomenon in Ethiopia
- ◆ Endeavour made to:
 - build IP institution
 - Create Coordination mechanism
 - Promote IP education and training
 - Render Information and Advisory Services
- Purpose and scope of presentation
 - Give an overview of the IP institutions and their main functions,
 - highlight coordination mechanisms, major achievements , challenges faced and the ongoing Endeavour

III. IP Management

3.1 Background

- ◆ Had been weak and fragmented
- ◆ Establishment of EIPO, on April 8, 2003 by Proclamation

3.2 Objectives of the Office

- ◆ To facilitate the provision of adequate legal protection for and exploitation of IP in the country
- ◆ To collect, organize and disseminate technological information contained in patent documents and encourage its utilization.
- ◆ To study analyze and recommend policies and legislation on IP to the Government.
- ◆ To promote knowledge and understanding of IP among the general public

3.3 Vision of EIPO

III. IP Management contd.

3.3 Vision of EIPO

To be a leading development oriented national intellectual property office that promotes local inventive and creative activities, facilitates the flow of foreign technology and makes a meaningful contribution to the advancement of cultural values and the development of industry and commerce and improvement of the living conditions of Ethiopians.

3.4 Mission of EIPO

To provide an efficient and effective intellectual property service that enhances the value and use of the Intellectual property assets of individuals, business establishments, research centers, institutions of higher education, technical & vocational centers

3.5 Strategic plan of EIPO

3.6 Services of EIPO

III. IP Management contd.

3.7 Regional IP offices

3.8 Right holders societies

- ✓ Ethiopian Inventors Association,
- ✓ Ethiopian Musicians association,
- ✓ Audio-visual Producers Association
- ✓ Film Producers Society
- ✓ Authors society
- ✓ Ethiopian Collective Copyright Management Society

3.9 IP attorneys and agents

3.10 IP Management & Technology transfer unit- IAR

III. Coordination Mechanisms

❖ **National IP council**

- Established in 2004
- Consist of representatives of relevant Government bodies & leaders of Societies
- give guidance, render advisory service and coordinate actions amongst key players

❖ **Regional IP councils**

- Amhara & Southern Peoples Regional States
- Membership, powers and responsibilities

❖ **Collaboration & partnership in and outside of Ethiopia**

IV. IP Information & Advisory Service

□ National IP Information & advisory Service center

- Established with the support of World Bank and WIPO
- Inaugurated in April 2008
- on Average 10 visitors
- Patent Search & Information Service (upon request & SDI)

□ IP information focal units (45)

- ✓ Higher learning Institutions
- ✓ R & D organizations
- ✓ Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ Small & medium Enterprises
- ✓ Relevant Government Institutions

□ Regional IP offices

V. IP Education & Training

- ◆ **Universities- public and private**
- ◆ **WIPO Training & Distance Learning Program**
 - ✓ EIPO staff
 - ✓ Members of right holders societies
 - ✓ Enforcement officials
 - ✓ Staff of Relevant Government bodies
- ◆ **EIPO IP Training & Awareness Program**
 - ✓ On the job training of Staff & focal persons
 - ✓ Print & electronic Media
 - ✓ Workshops
 - ✓ Website-www.eipo.gov.et
- ◆ **Right holders societies**

Major Achievements

- ◆ **Establishment of an effective institutional framework**
 - ✓ linkage and coordination
 - ✓ user and delivery oriented service
 - ✓ Consensus building and shared goals
- ◆ **Relative Increase of awareness of intellectual property by key players- Government, right holders, the general Public etc.,**
- ◆ **Offering of intellectual property courses by public and private in Addis Ababa and regional states**
- ◆ **Increased support from and partnership with Outside IP organizations**
- ◆ **Tangible contributions made to the national socio-economic development**

VII. Challenges

- Weak IP Management Capacity- IP Attorneys, Societies etc.,
- Absence of IP management and Technology transfer units in IP Assets Generating and user institutions
- Inaccessibility and in very few cases unaffordability of the services of EIPO and IP Attorneys
- Inadequate awareness on IP by potential users (IP assets identification, protection and exploitation)
- Inadequate linkage amongst Key Actors- example absence of a coordination mechanism between IP rights holders and Potential users/exploiters of the assets

VI. Ongoing Efforts

- ◆ Paradigm Shift at EIPO
 - ✓ Function to Process oriented organization
 - ✓ Reactive to Proactive
 - ✓ Development Catalyst
- ◆ Strengthening coordination mechanisms, Networking & Partnership
- ◆ Expanding IP education in tertiary, secondary & Primary Schools
- ◆ Undertaking Coordinated, target oriented IP popularization
- ◆ Building capacity of IP attorneys and IP institutions

VII. Conclusion

◆ **Positive developments and Achievements with in a short Period of time**

- IP Institutions are new and young but are producing tangible results
- Increased awareness on the need and importance of IP institutions
- Clarity of direction, consensus and shared goals amongst key players

◆ **Need to:**

- build capacity and strengthen networking & Partnership of existing institution
- create new IP institution
- Strengthen cooperation with foreign national, Regional & international IP organizations



***Thank You
Very Much***