

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BASICS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND OVERVIEW OF IP MANAGEMENT

Universities and R&D Institutions Webinar Series: Sessions 1 and 2

The core mission of the Research Institute/University is training and conducting research, problem solving and developing innovative abilities, while at the same time promoting the advancement, preservation and dissemination of knowledge. In fulfilling the above, the Research Institute/ University must seek to protect the rights and privileges of its stakeholders in their pursuit of knowledge, whilst at the same time balancing this with the philosophy of sharing information with the public for socioeconomic transformation.

Despite the dire need for encouraging the practical application and economic use of the results of research carried out at the Universities/R&D for the benefit of the general public, the stakeholders of many institutional IP policy (employees, students, visiting researchers, etc.) are usually not familiar with the complex issue of intellectual property (IP) rights and transfer of technology, It is on that ground that, under its Agenda for Development, the WIPO in partnership with ARIPO and OAPI , adopted the Guidelines for formulation of Policy on Intellectual Property for the research institutions. The Guidelines relate to the ownership, protection and commercial exploitation of Intellectual Property created by researchers in the course of their duties or activities at the research institution and suggest the rules of the Institution for cooperation with industrial and business organizations while providing guidelines on the sharing of the economic benefits arising from the commercialization of Intellectual Property.

In order for the African Universities and Research institutions to get a full ownership of their IP policies, the WIPO-BA is launching, along the existing training programs offered by its World Academy, specific virtual training modules tailored for African Universities/R&D. This week, the first part of the virtual capacity building will cover fundamentals of IP that will hopefully help the stakeholders of the Universities/R&D to learn:

- How to ensure the national IPR regime in place or to revise can best promote innovation, creativity, access to knowledge and transfer of technology;
- How to regulate access, protection and exploitation of research results; etc.
- How to research findings, inventions, innovations and creative works are used for public benefit of society;
- how to outline modalities and mechanisms through which staff, researchers, students, collaborators, visitors, partners and other stakeholders can equitably/fairly protect the IP they create, for both their benefit and socioeconomic transformation.

In order to achieve these objectives, the first part of the presentations will take you to:

- Basics of IP (Getting used to IP issues); Day 1 - Intellectual property reaches into everyone's daily lives. A basic awareness and understanding of IP is therefore essential for today's university/research institutions stakeholders (students, lecturers, engineers, researchers, lawyers, politicians and managers). This presentation is designed as a basic introduction to a range of different IP rights to those with little or

no prior knowledge of IP. It covers the conceptual aspects of IP, definition, types or IP with a special attention to patent and copyrights.

- Brief introduction to patent (Day 1) - The purpose of this part is to introduce anyone to the world of patents and to provide a basic outline of the key procedures involved. It provides a brief overview of patents, including patent application, patent information and the ongoing protection of patents
- Brief introduction to copyright (Day 1) - This part seeks to provide a broad overview of copyright issues applicable to University/R&D institutions by approaching questions such as: What is copyright? Why is copyright relevant to Universities/Research institutions? What type of material does copyright protect? Who owns copyright? How long does copyright last?
- Why IP (Day 2) - Many people embark on their chosen professions without even a basic awareness of intellectual property. This part is designed to provide few arguments why universities and research institutions as key players in the innovation systems should take an active part in the IP global game. It also shows how the universities are involved in innovation systems and how some are performing as IP is concerned.
- Brief introduction to IP management (Day 2) - The aim of this part is to provide an understanding of the main steps in the management of IP; Policies and processes for managing IP from the earliest stage of creation; Strategies for enhancing IP portfolio and preparing it for commercialization; the steps required to manage and commercialize IP.

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