CURRENT STATUS & FUTURE REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONAL IP EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMME IN NIGERIA
BACK GROUND

• Nigeria’s enormous oil wealth, huge population, large market and now political stability makes it a hub of intellectual activity.

• It is a key player in Africa in the following fields:
  - Agriculture: with several Universities, colleges and research institutes dealing with specific issues of this sector, coupled with increasing farmers access to bank credit and fertilizers.
PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

-In Nigeria, the Department of Commercial Law, also known as, Registry of Trademarks, Patents & Designs is responsible for the registration and administration of industrial property rights (Trademarks, Patents & Designs) and is located under the Federal Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

- Whereas, Copyrights is administered by the Nigerian Copyrights Commission (NCC) and is located under the Federal Ministry of Justice. The NCC has a functional copyrights institute since the year 2000.
Cont...

• PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
  In Nigeria, the administration of industrial property rights is under the Federal Ministry of Commerce & Industry, while copyrights administration is placed under the Nigerian Copyrights Commission (NCC) which is under the Federal Ministry of Justice.
  - The NCC has a copyrights institute, which has been in operation for nearly a decade.
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• The Registry of Trademarks, Patents & Designs on the other hand does not have such training institution (at least until now), and therefore relies on WIPO-WWA, USPTO-GIPA, The Swedish Intellectual Property Academy, and the Norwegian Industrial Property Academy to meet its training needs.
CHALLENGES

• The most daunting challenges facing the Registry in this area are as follows:
  • Lack of awareness and understanding of the concept of IP in both public & private sectors.
  • Inadequate funding for IP training
  • Lack of modern training equipments
• Lack of synergy amongst training institutions
• Setting up of libraries and access to data bases
THE WAY FORWARD

• Adequate funding for training activities, including the setting up of IP Academies
• Training and Retraining
• Full digitalization of operations and the establishment of a Research library and access to data bases.
• Effective liaison between IP Academies and training institutions, academic exchanges and peer review on how IP training programmes are designed and offered.
CONCLUSION

• There is no doubt that the enormous potential of Nigeria’s intellectual property rights has remained largely untapped and if appropriately utilized, the DG-WIPO said and I quote: "it will be more important than Nigeria’s famed oil wealth."

• Through effective IP Training for:
  - IP Examiners
  - Local entrepreneurs
  - Government Agencies
  - Universities, Colleges, Polytechnics & Research Institutes

These potential will be unlocked.
THANK YOU!