

**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.

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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.

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- 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 !

