

ECONOMICS OF IP AND INTERNATIONAL  
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER  
(Report by prof. A. Damodaran)

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# Three issues

1. The role of licensing in technology transfer
2. The role of patents stemming from public-funded research
3. The importance of absorptive capacity and the role of intellectual migration

# 1) The role of licensing in technology transfer

- Licensing: a key tool for international tech transfer envisaged by TRIPs agreements
- Markets for technologies: booming, but not all countries benefit from them, esp. the “Least Developed Countries” and several “Developing countries”
- Other channels for licensing:
  - compulsory licensing → drugs
  - patent pooling → complex technologies, incl. environmental technologies
  - negotiation for both is a highly-sensitive political issue: what arguments for mobilizing the scientific community and the public opinion in developed countries?

## 2) Patents stemming from public-funded research

- Public opinion's alertness and governments' influence in brokering deals may benefit from transparent information on how much inventions under scrutiny owe to pre-existing public research or direct public funding.
- « Traceability » principle
  - ✓ USPTO-like 'Government interest statement' in patents + data linkage to funding agencies administrative records
  - ✓ Extension to search reports → non-patent literature citations
- Many academic inventors could be allies in favouring international technology transfer through licensing and pooling.

### 3) Absorptive capacity and intellectual migration

- Increasing role of migrant inventors in S&T advances of developed countries
  - it can be traced through patents (PCT info on nationality / name analysis / data linkage)
  - info to be leveraged in 2 ways
    1. Public perception of who contribute to innovation in the world
      - it may help pushing licensing deals through
    2. Let governments and NGOs from all countries know who is who in the domain of relevant technologies → exploit diasporas, encourage involvement of returnees