

WHO, WIPO, WTO Workshop on Innovation in, and Access to, COVID-19 Technologies:

Accessing and Using Information Resources for the Pandemic Response

Antony Taubman is Director of the Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division, World Trade Organization. From 2002 to 2009, he directed the Global Intellectual Property Issues Division of WIPO (including the Traditional Knowledge Division and Life Sciences Program), covering a wide range of programs on intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore, the life sciences, and related global issues including public health and climate, the environment, climate change, human rights, food security, bioethics and indigenous issues. After a diplomatic career, he left the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in 2001 to join the newly-formed Australian Centre for Intellectual Property in Agriculture, at the Australian National University, teaching and researching on international IP law. From 1998 to 2001, he was Director of the International Intellectual Property Section of DFAT, and in that capacity was engaged in multilateral and bilateral negotiations on intellectual property issues, domestic policy development, regional cooperation, and TRIPS dispute settlement. He has authored numerous publications on the TRIPS Agreement and on international intellectual property law and policy and cognate policy field. Postgraduate teaching appointments at several universities include curriculum design and teaching at the University of Melbourne, the Australian National University, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Edinburgh, as well as numerous contributions to other educational and training programs in many countries. In 2008, the Rockefeller Foundation awarded him a Bellagio residential fellowship for his work on TRIPS and public policy issues.

He joined DFAT in 1988 as a career diplomat, and his service included disarmament policy and participation in the negotiations on the Chemical Weapons Convention, a posting in the Australian Embassy in Tehran as Deputy Head of Mission, and a posting to the Hague as Alternate Representative to the Preparatory Commission for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Chair of the Expert Group on Confidentiality. He previously worked for WIPO from 1995 to 1998, his duties then including development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, the development of the revised WIPO program and budget, and associated policy development. A registered patent attorney, he worked in private practice in the law of patents, trademarks and designs in Melbourne in the 1980s. His tertiary education has included computer science, mathematics, engineering, classical languages, philosophy, international relations and law, and he has taught ancient Greek philosophy at Melbourne University.