



SYMPOSIUM

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WIPO SYMPOSIUM ON TRADE SECRETS AND INNOVATION

organized by
the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Geneva, May 23 to 24, 2022

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

prepared by the International Bureau of WIPO

Monday, May 23, 2022

Trade Secrets in the IP system: Confidentiality and its Limits

9.00 – 10.00 Registration

10.00 – 10.10 **Welcome Address**

Mr. Daren Tang, Director General, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

10.10 – 10.30 **Key Note Speech** Speaker: TBD

10.30 – 11.30 **Topic 1** **Trade Secrets in Innovation Policies and IP Strategies – Recent Developments**

The cross-cutting nature of trade secrets implies that the role and impact of trade secret protection on national innovation policies and IP strategies is multi-faceted. In setting the scene, the speakers of this Panel will provide a bird's eye view of the significance of trade secrets in any business relationship (including business disputes) in both service and technology sectors. They will also illustrate recent developments and trends in this area.

Speakers: TBD

11.30 – 11.45 Coffee Break

11.45 – 13.00 **Topic 2** **Navigating Trade Secret Systems in the Changing IP and Innovation Environment**

Trade secret systems operate in the wider context of the IP system as a whole and of knowledge creation and dissemination, which constantly evolve. Unique characteristics of trade secrets in comparison to other forms of IP require special attention. At the same time, these characteristics provide opportunities for integrating them in the overall IP and business strategies. The Panel will address these specificities and intersection of trade secrets and other IP, particularly patents. It will also illustrate business cases that successfully built a complementary relationship between trade secret protection and various other appropriation mechanisms.

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: TBD

13.00 – 15.00 Lunch Break

15.00 – 16.30 **Topic 3**

Balancing Legitimate Interests in the Trade Secret System

In order to ensure effective protection against unfair competition and to facilitate generation and sharing of valuable information among market players, designing a trade secret system requires striking a delicate balance among competing interests of various stakeholders. At the heart of such consideration may be the public interest underlying the legal protection of trade secrets. The Panel will address these issues, and discuss whether there are any particular challenges in this regard due to the unique characteristics of trade secrets.

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: TBD

16.30 – 16.45 Coffee Break

16.45 – 18.00 **Topic 4**

Trade Secrets and Digital Data

Digital data are becoming the central feature of an increasingly digitalized economy. Potential significance of artificial intelligence in a wide range of activities also points to the importance of understanding their impact. This Panel will consider whether and how digital data can be protected as trade secrets. It will focus on various types of data and look into the scope of protection and its potential implications to the innovation ecosystem.

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: TBD

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Trade Secrets in Action: Secrecy, Confidence and Knowledge Sharing

10.00 – 11.30 **Topic 5**

Trade Secrets in the Value Chain

This Panel will discuss practical aspects of generation and licensing of trade secrets in a collaborative and sustainable innovation ecosystem, which involves various players having specific expertise, such as research institutions, start-ups, manufacturing companies and distributors. Bringing their strength together, public-private-partnerships have become a well-established innovation model.

The Panel will explore the use of trade secret systems in supporting innovation and sharing of knowledge through business cases. It will also address issues relating to non-disclosure agreements that serves multiple purposes for engaging with business partners and collaborators.

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: TBD

11.30 – 11.45 Coffee Break

11.45 – 13.00 **Topic 6**

Trade Secret Management

Management of trade secrets is vital for maintaining the trade secret protection, which are not granted through government registration. The Panel will discuss best practices for identification and protection of company's trade secret assets, validation of such assets and management tools, including the adequate measures of safeguarding undisclosed information. It will also explore some of the contemporary issues, such as management of trade secrets in increasingly virtual working environment and against the backdrop of mobility of employees.

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: TBD

13.00 – 15.00 Lunch Break

15.00 – 16.15 **Topic 7**

Trade Secrets in Action: Development and Dissemination of Medical Technologies

The possibility of protecting research outputs by trade secrets, patents and other appropriation mechanisms is available in all technological fields. Nevertheless, the role of trade secrets in the innovation cycle of medical technologies has increasingly been put in the limelight. For example, technological advancement of biologics and biotherapeutics that are generally not as easy to reverse engineer as traditional small-molecule innovations may influence industrial organization of this sector. Based on their real world experiences, the Panelists will discuss how trade secrets relate to the development and dissemination of medical technologies. They will highlight key issues in this complex innovation process supported by a mix of private and public engagements.

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: TBD

16.15 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 17.45 **Topic 8**

Enforcement of Trade Secrets and Defense Against Allegation of Misappropriation : Litigations and Alternative Dispute Settlement Mechanisms

Because of the unique characteristics of trade secrets, there are specific challenges relating to trade secret disputes. The complexity of such challenges may increase when a dispute has a cross-border character. Understanding not only the litigation strategies but also potential alternative measures to effectively settle a dispute involving trade secrets may benefit all parties. The Panelists will discuss key issues that are particularly relevant to trade secret enforcement and defense against allegation of trade secret misappropriation, especially in international disputes. They will also explore the potential benefits of arbitration and mediation in settling trade secret disputes.

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: TBD

17.45 – 18.00 **Close of Sessions**

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