

WIPO
ICT Leadership
Dialogue
(WILD)

Emerging Technology for Small IP Offices: Tailored Approaches to Empowerment in the Digital Age

WIPO WILD Day 2 | April 15, 2025

WIPO

Day 2 – Harnessing Emerging Technologies for IP

- **Theme 8:** Emerging technologies for small IP offices: tailored approaches to empowerment in the digital age
- **Date:** April 15, 2025
- **Speaker:** Mr. Zafir Ali, Manager, Service Delivery and Support, Trinidad and Tobago Intellectual Property Office (TTIPO), Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs (AGLA)



Country Profile

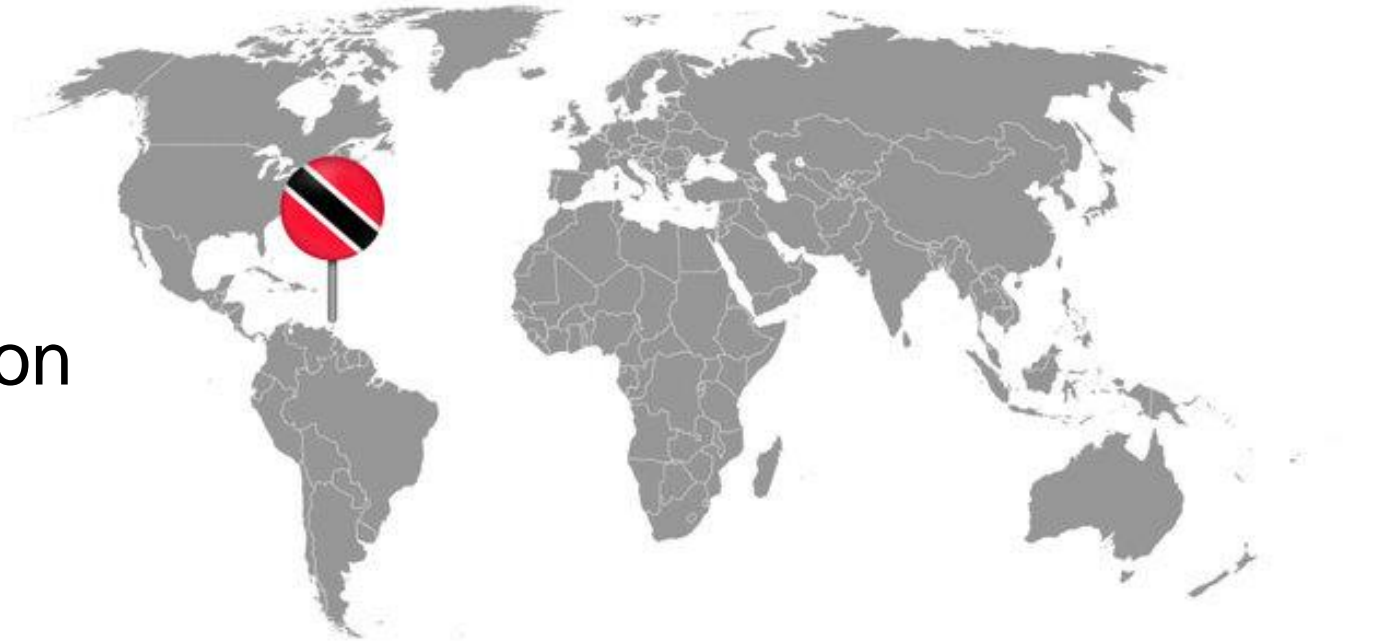
■ Location

■ Population

- Approximately 1.37 million

■ Size of TTIPO

- 60 members of staff



Agreements and Treaties

■ Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and Madrid Protocol

- On October 4th, 2019, Trinidad and Tobago joined three World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties namely, the Beijing Treaty, the Marrakesh Treaty and the Singapore Treaty.
- On October 12, 2020, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol with WIPO's Director General,



Agreements and Treaties

■ WIPO Cooperation Agreement

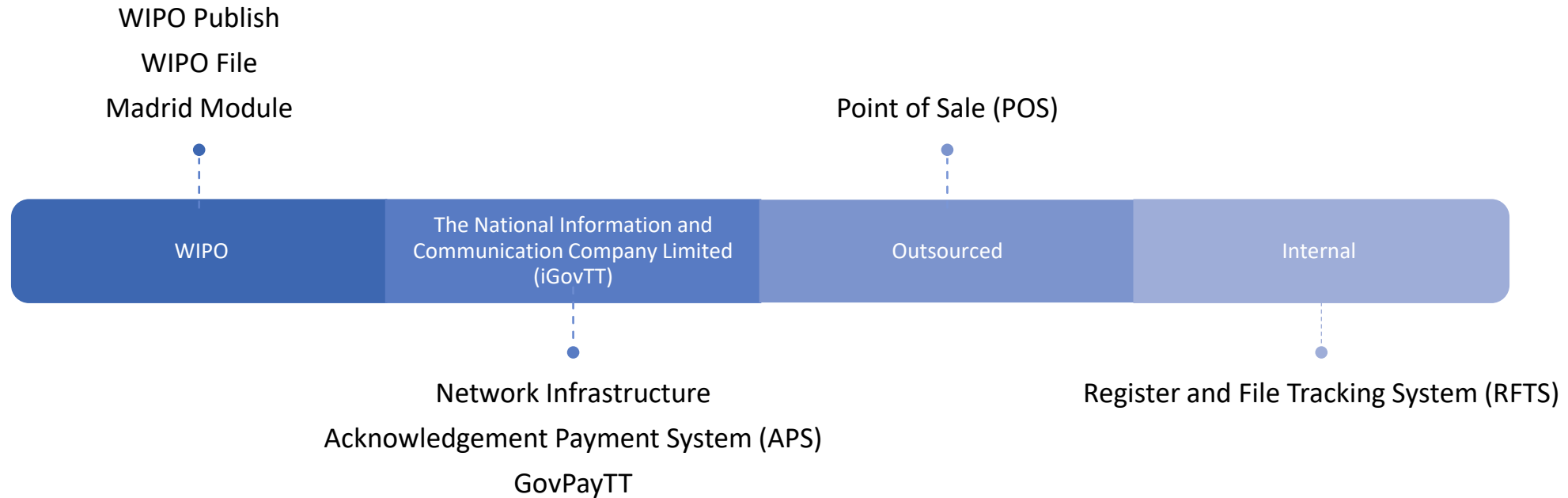
- On January 17, 2023, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs (AGLA), for and on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for the Automation of Business Services offered by the Trinidad and Tobago Intellectual Property Office (TTIPO).
- Main benefits of the Cooperation Agreement include the Industrial Property Automation System version 4 (IPAS 4), Electronic Document Management System (EDMS), WIPO File, WIPO Publish and Cloud Services.

Agreements and Treaties

- Accession to the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks paved the way for the modernization of trade marks and online filings in Trinidad and Tobago.
- The WIPO Cooperation Agreement ensured access to the WIPO suite of services for the TTIPO, most notably IPAS 4 in the future.
- As a result, the TTIPO has taken an integrated approach to progressing the work of the office together with offering a range of online services to its stakeholders.

List of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Systems

Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS)



ICT Systems and Services

Systems	Internal Services	eServices
IPAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception and processing of all applications and forms filed at TTIPO • Generation of letters and certificates 	
WIPO Publish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDMS for IPAS • Internal Search Tool for Trade Marks • Extraction of Trade Mark data for sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Search Tool for Trade Marks
WIPO File	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration of online submissions into IPAS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Filing of Trade Mark, Patent and Industrial Design applications, forms and related correspondence
Madrid Module	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception of Madrid designations into IPAS 	
RFTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracks movement of physical files and registers 	
POS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates acknowledgements for payments • Process payments and generate receipts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails acknowledgements and receipts to applicants and agents
APS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates online payment for acknowledgements via GovPayTT payments gateway

ICT Tools

■ For Trade Marks

- Global Brands Database – international searches and AI logo search
- Madrid Goods and Services Manager – classification examination
- TMview – international searches
- TMclass – classification examination
- Madrid e-Filing (MEF) - Trinidad and Tobago is the first from the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) Region to sign up to the Madrid e-Filing service. From January 10, 2023, trademark holders from Trinidad and Tobago were able to file their applications for international trademark registrations online, directly via the website of the Trinidad and Tobago Intellectual Property Office (TTIPO).
- Madrid Office Portal (MOP) – uploading Madrid related correspondence to WIPO
- Madrid Module – importing Madrid packages into IPAS

ICT Tools

■ For Patents

- Patentscope – international search of patent applications
- Espacenet – patent search tool
- Google Patents
- United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Patent Public Search

■ For Industrial Designs

- DESIGNview


■ For Geographical Indications

- Glview


ICT Tools



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE - OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



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Practice Direction for Online Filing and Payments

Madrid e-filing

International Union for the Protection of New Plant

Madrid Protocol

WIPO Alternative Dispute Resolution

WIPO Proof

WIPO Goods & Services Manager

T.M. Search

Journals

Forms



Proposed ICT Tools

■ For Enforcement

- Trinidad and Tobago is a pilot country for WIPO's Custom Recordation and Information System (CRIS) as an initiative of the AITTF.
- CRIS aims to enable an IP right holder or a representative thereof to record their registered IP rights with the national customs authority.
- This will allow the customs authorities to validate IP rights at the border and more effectively and efficiently examine, detain, seize, order forfeiture and ultimately destroy IP-infringing goods entering the country.
- Works on IPAS 4.

Proposed ICT Tools

■ For Copyright

- TTIPO is one of the pilot IP Offices for the development of a Copyright Registration System which will work with the most recent version of IPAS known as IPAS 4.
- This system will enable the public to voluntarily deposit their works with the IP Offices and receive proof of their submissions.

Data Sharing Initiatives

■ Sharing of Trade Mark Data

- WIPO Publish was configured for extraction of published trade mark data in April 2024.
- Published trade mark data was shared with WIPO for the Global Brands Database (GBD) on April 10, 2024.
- Subsequently, published trade mark data was shared with EUIPO for TMview on April 15, 2024.
- A second instance of WIPO Publish was deployed by the TTIPO as an online trade mark search on our website on April 23, 2024.
- Published data is shared with all parties on a daily basis

Horizontal Cooperation

■ The National Intellectual Property Training Centre (NIPTC) of the TTIPO

- A Unit of the TTIPO mandated to provide education, information, and training (EIT) services in Intellectual Property (IP) and to promote inventiveness and creativity.
- Established with Technical Assistance from the WIPO Academy. The WIPO Academy is committed to providing assistance to the NIPTC to support its operations, growth, and development.
- Through the NIPTC, training and assistance were provided to other countries in the region such as the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize and Bermuda.



Horizontal Cooperation

- **Study Visit of the Registrar General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Mrs. Camille Gomez-Jones.**



Horizontal Cooperation

- Intellectual Property Mission in Trinidad and Tobago from Bermuda's Registrar General and IP Department.



Horizontal Cooperation

- **Courtesy visit by Mr. Frank Clarke, Legal Examiner, Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property, Barbados, with the senior management of the TTIPO.**



Horizontal Cooperation

- TTIPO has assisted in training fellow Caribbean IP Offices in the use of ICT systems and ICT tools for the classification and examination of IP applications and in the administration of IPAS.
- Assistance has been provided to Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Becoming a Modernized, Paperless and Digitized IP Office

- TTIPO has the goal of becoming a fully modernized, paperless and digitized IP Office by 28th anniversary of the creation of the TTIPO (December 1, 2025).
- Steps taken to achieve this goal are:
 - Online filings via WIPO File
 - Electronic Document Management System via IPAS EDMS (using WIPO Publish)
 - Digitization Project with Digitization Unit of AGLA for scanning of backlog files to be imported into IPAS EDMS
 - Adobe Acrobat licenses for scanning, editing, processing and application of electronic signatures
 - Journals published online via TTIPO's website and social media platforms

Thank You

■ Thank you for your attention!

■ Contact at zafir.ali@ipo.gov.tt

■ TTIPO's Website <https://ipo.gov.tt/>