

# Foreword

Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) and Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) in developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and transition countries play a key role in enabling local innovators to reach their innovation potential.

Typically located in patent offices, universities, research centers, and science and technology parks, TISCs enable researchers and inventors to get local support in accessing and using technological information from more than 140 million published patent documents and scores of scientific and technical publications. In recent years, many TISCs have started developing additional innovation support services in patent analytics, technology transfer, intellectual property (IP) management and commercialization to adapt to the needs of innovators.

TTOs and other technology transfer structures, such as techno-parks and IP hubs, reinforce local innovation ecosystems and facilitate connections between innovation stakeholders by bridging the gap between research and practice and by supporting the transfer of knowledge and technology from academia to industry.

Created and managed by the IP for Innovators Department (IPID) in the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector (IES), the TISC program and technology transfer projects support WIPO's mission to help member states develop their IP and innovation ecosystems and to support researchers and innovators in using the IP system for innovation promotion, technology transfer and economic growth.

“I see the role of WIPO at two different levels. The first one is the international policy level, where WIPO facilitates an international dialogue on technology transfer. At the second level, WIPO develops tools, manuals and guides to help actors of the innovation ecosystem such as universities, technology transfer offices and public research organizations do their daily work. This two-level work will allow us to actively engage in helping both innovators and creators take their ideas from the lab to the market.”

**Marco Alemán**

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