

# Key developments

A TISC Arab Regional Meeting was held in Algiers in collaboration with the Algerian National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI) in May to explore opportunities for strengthening regional cooperation among representatives from nine TISC networks (Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic) and the League of Arab States. A bilateral agreement to exchange experiences in the development of their TISC networks was signed between Algeria and Djibouti in this context.

With 1,494 TISCs in 93 countries by the end of 2023, the TISC Project and Performance Management Platform (TPPM) developed by WIPO to support the growing global TISC network in managing national TISC networks more effectively was rolled out in 14 countries. The platform will especially help TISC coordinators manage their national projects, and coordinate, evaluate and report on their activities.

A WIPO TISC staff certification program was also developed to professionalize TISC management and increase the standardization of TISC operations, raise the quality of services across TISCs, improve client confidence, and improve career development pathways for TISC staff to increase retention of highly skilled TISC personnel. The certification program, which comprises a foundation level and specializations with associated competency frameworks, was launched as a pilot course in collaboration with the WIPO Academy in six countries (China, Kenya, Madagascar, Peru, Philippines and Saudi Arabia) in November. The course includes distance learning and in-class components, and assessments. The TISC staff foundation certification is expected to be rolled out globally, and certification on TISC staff specialization in novelty/patentability search is expected to be piloted in 2024.

In an effort to continuously update existing tools and develop new resources for TISCs, a toolkit for identifying and using inventions in the public domain, complementary to the WIPO guides, was finalized. This contains practical tools that help collect and analyze data and support decision-making in the development of new products and services based on inventions in the public domain. A new modular blended-learning training package to build knowledge and skills in using these tools was also piloted in selected TISC host institutions in Malaysia and the Philippines.

The Patent Register Portal, which acts as an interactive directory and gateway to online patent registers and gazettes to guide users to relevant sources of legal status information, also underwent a comprehensive review. As a result, all jurisdiction files and links to national online registers and gazettes were reviewed and updated.

In the area of patent analytics, a second edition of the 2022 patent landscape report (PLR) on COVID-19-related vaccines and therapeutics was published, alongside two further PLRs on graphite and ilmenite and their related applications. The [WIPO patent analytics website](#) was also completely revamped, with new interactive visualizations and key findings accompanying our latest reports.

In November, WIPO launched a Patent Analytics Community of Practice as a thought-leadership initiative designed to formalize and support the global patent analytics practitioners' community. WIPO aims to establish a committed and engaged community, which will be achieved through systematic knowledge and resource sharing, international cooperation,

collective learning, and the creation of common understanding, best practices and advancements in the field of patent analytics.

A package of resources and capacity-building programs to support TISCs and technology transfer structures in enhancing their knowledge and strengthening their capacities in life sciences also continued to be developed, including guides and training materials on patent searches, IP management, IP valuation and technology transfer in the field of biotechnology. Two regional conferences on accelerated life sciences innovation were also organized in Asia (Philippines) and Latin America (Mexico) for TISC and technology transfer professionals in these regions to support them in developing skills and capacities in IP identification, protection and management, and technology transfer strategies for health technologies.

In the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, WIPO and the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) implemented two projects with the aim to provide an enabling framework for the efficient identification, management and commercialization of research outcomes and the resulting IP, and to strengthen the capacities of technology transfer structures in the region. These projects, supported by the Japan Industrial Property Global Funds-In-Trust, included the development of a regional institutional IP policy model for academic and research institutions in ASEAN member states. It also included an IP valuation toolkit containing a set of regionally agreed principles and practices to enable the creation of more transparent IP market relations and an environment of trust in IP transactions in the region.

To help universities create innovative incentive programs for their academic researchers and encourage them to participate in technology transfer and knowledge exchange activities, a new guide – *Incentives in Technology Transfer: A guide to encourage, recognize and reward researchers and professionals* – was also published.

In the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, a pioneering on-the-job training program was launched by WIPO in cooperation with the Southern African Research & Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) within the framework of a new partnership between the two organizations. This tailored program, supported by the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and NIPMO, provided an opportunity for 12 professionals actively involved in technology transfer activities in academic and research institutions in Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe to work closely with experienced technology transfer professionals across six TTOs in South Africa, and gain firsthand experience of the daily operations, processes and strategies of TTOs (see the Special Feature of this report for more on this initiative).



On-the-job training program participants. See Video: Technology Transfer in Action in Southern Africa <https://www.wipo.int/technology-transfer/en/stories/tech-transfer-southern-africa.html>