

A new service to help under-resourced inventors and small businesses in developing countries get patent protection for their inventions

How does it work?

The Inventor Assistance Program matches inventors with patent attorneys who are willing to give them **free legal advice** on how to file a patent to protect their inventions.

Patent protection is a powerful legal tool that allows the patent owner to control who uses their invention. Patents can be very valuable. All too often, however, inventors and small businesses in the developing world fail to obtain patents because they lack the resources or specialist knowledge needed to use the system.

The Inventor Assistance Program aims to help solve that problem by putting eligible inventors and small businesses in touch with an expert in their country who is willing to help them free of charge.

The program is a joint initiative of the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** and the **World Economic Forum**, with support and input from some of the world's leading businesses and law firms.

For more information, visit:
www.wipo.int/iap

Who benefits?

Inventors benefit because patent protection gives them more scope to profit from their inventions.

Patent attorneys benefit from *pro bono* work by increasing their professional experience and making contacts who may in time become paying clients as their business grows.

Governments and IP offices benefit because better patent applications will increase the total value of IP assets within the economy, as well as reducing the time IP offices have to spend dealing with badly drafted patent applications.

And by increasing the understanding and use of the patent system, the program will stimulate innovation and benefit **society as a whole**.

Get involved

The Inventor Assistance Program is just getting started. After the successful launch of a pilot project in Colombia, we are working with **governments** and **IP offices** in other developing countries to expand membership.

Patent attorneys and **law firms** are invited to join the program as Members. We are also keen to hear from **inventors** and **small businesses** who would like to participate.

And we would be interested in hearing from **potential sponsors** – international businesses, patent attorney associations and inventors associations – that would like to join us in supporting this venture.



Membership

Membership is open to governments, patent attorneys and supporters who accept the guiding principles of the program, as detailed on our website.

Strategic direction, guidance and support are provided by the Steering Committee, which includes among its members, high-level intellectual property policy makers, senior business leaders, experienced patent attorneys, government officials of participating countries, and senior staff from the World Economic Forum and WIPO.

For more information
contact **WIPO** at www.wipo.int

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