

WIPO HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON THE GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PROMOTION OF INNOVATION

Tokyo, Japan
March 1 and 2, 2010

International Cooperation In Building An Equitable And
Effective Global IP Infrastructure For The Promotion Of
Innovation

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Model of IP Global Infrastructures
- Model of National IP Infrastructures
- IP Innovation Infrastructures
- Status of Infrastructures
- Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

- IP as a tool for economic development acknowledged world-wide;
- IP linked to innovation;
- Appropriate IP infrastructures required for innovation
- Search for better and improved IP infrastructures world wide;
- Lack of appropriate infrastructures an obstacle to innovation;
- Appropriate IP related infrastructures not easily attainable in developing countries of Africa;
- Therefore, innovativity remains evasive hence the need for international cooperation in building and equitable and effective global infrastructures for the promotion of inventions.

MODEL OF IP GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURES

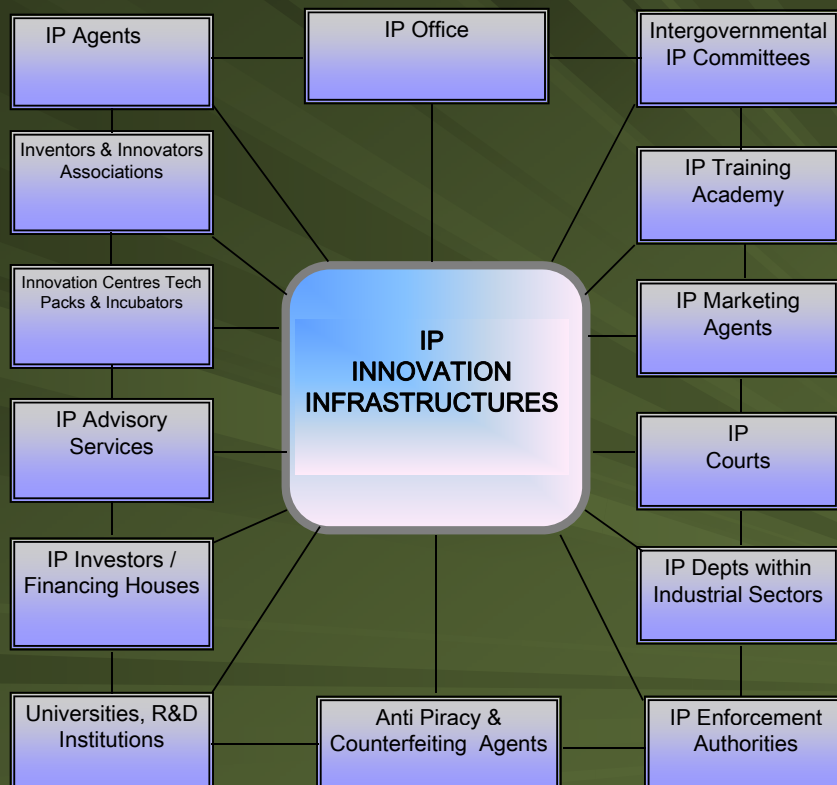
At international level IP Global Infrastructures should concern themselves with:

- Norm Setting;
 - IP standards
 - Internationally accepted criteria for IP use and protection;
- User driven IP systems;
 - providing high quality patents, timeously at reasonable cost
 - provides patents which guide R&D investments, determine risks in product development and certainty in commercialization
- International treaties based systems;
 - available through the PCT, Madrid, the Hague, etc. However, streamlining and improvement required
- Access to R&D;
 - Digitalization of information
 - Development of web tools
 - Use strategic partnership to mobilize R&D
 - PATENTSCOPE facilities
- WIPO Development Agenda;
 - Appropriate prescription for the development of IP Global Infrastructures in Developing Countries

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

- **Support for SMEs**
 - in collating IP to business growth
 - In IP commercialization
 - In preparation of prototypes
 - In IP mapping strategies
- **Incentives for inventors:**
 - Provide attractive filing terms for start-ups
 - Patent offices to avail expert advice at no cost
 - Make available free of charge search services
 - Make available the necessary Guidelines
- **Structures:**
 - amenable to economic development
 - supporting inventivity and innovativity
 - without cumbersome formalities

IP INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURES



IP INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

INSTITUTION	OVERAL MANDATE	RATING
IP Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Issuance of IP titles ■ Custody of IP files and records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Should be semi-autonomous ■ upgrading required
IP Agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Representatives for inventors and innovators ■ Accreditation, training and institutionalization required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Poorly organized ■ Drafting expertise inadequate ■ No appropriate criteria
Inventors and Innovation Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Non existent in many countries ■ Very few inventions ■ Not well connected with IFIA and other associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Poorly organized ■ Do not adequately support the needs of inventors

IP INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

INSTITUTION	OVERAL MANDATE	RATING
Innovation Centres Tech Packs & Incubators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ IP advice, evaluation, product development and commercialization ■ Localities for modern technologies located in R&D institutions ■ Start-up support, promote new companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Non existent in many countries ■ Where exist, poorly organized
IP Advisory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provision of advice on patenting, financial assistance, search service, prospects for protection, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Non existent ■ Function carried out by patent agents at costs
IP Investors and Financing Houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Financial support for obtaining protection ■ Invest in patented inventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Non existent ■ IP yet to be recognized as assets

IP INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

INSTITUTION	OVERAL MANDATE	RATING
Intergovernmental IP Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To coordinate IP stakeholders within Ministries ■ To develop national IP policies ■ Determine IP development trends & Priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Being established ■ Currently poorly organized
IP Training Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Centres of excellence in IP teaching and research ■ Development of expertise on IP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Non existence ■ Only at regional level
IP Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide assistance in the marketing and licensing of inventions ■ Carryout exhibitions during fairs and business events ■ Include new products in the media and internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Non existent

IP INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

INSTITUTION	OVERAL MANDATE	RATING
IP Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To adjudicate in IP disputes ■ Act as arbitrator on IP issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Exist in a number of countries ■ Poor judgments for lack of experience and precedence
IP Departments within Industrial Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maintain IP portfolio ■ Conduct IP searches ■ Improve innovativity and inventivity of the company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Non existent
IP Enforcement Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure enforcement of IP laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not equipped for this function due to lack of expertise
Anti Piracy and Counterfeiting Agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To prevent IP abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Non existent in many countries ■ Their establishment and training required

IP INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

INSTITUTION	OVERAL MANDATE	RATING
Universities, R&D Institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Include IP in their curriculum■ Collarate university research into industrial production■ Prepare researchers to support industrial development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Not all universities have IP teaching, policy, etc■ IP promotion units being established through regional initiatives

CONCLUSION

Global IP infrastructures for the promotion of innovation should:

- Strengthen the existing International Treaties;
- support a user driven system;
- Support Capacity Building and IP Automation;
- Promote Dissemination of Information and Networking;
- Promote web-based accessibility of IP Information;
- Develop conflict resolution, enforcement mechanism;
- Recognize IP as collateral as well as an asset;