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The Role of Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) in Promoting Innovation, Business Competitiveness and Economic Growth

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

Prepared by the International Bureau of WIPO

MART LEESTI

Mr. Leesti is a former Commissioner of Patents and Registrar of Trademarks of Canada. He was accountable for the administration and operation of the patent, trademark, copyright, industrial design and integrated circuit topography statutes and activities of Canada. He was the first Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) and was responsible for establishing CIPO as an administratively and financially autonomous Special Operating Agency of the government in 1992.

In 1996, after a varied career spanning 28 years, he left the public service and began operating as an independent international management consultant. His practice focuses on assisting governments to implement modern and innovative intellectual property regimes that will effectively support national social and economic development policy goals.

Over the past 16 years he has carried out numerous consultancies to provide policy, planning and management support to governments of developing countries in South Asia, South-East Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean on a broad range of issues relating to establishment and modernization of national IP systems. He has also participated as a speaker in numerous regional and national seminars and conferences on intellectual property over this period.

McLEAN SIBANDA

Mr. Sibanda is an admitted attorney of the High Court of South Africa, a registered South African patent attorney and a Partner at Sibanda & Zantwijk Intellectual Property Attorneys since 2007.

He has wide experience in innovation, intellectual property, technology transfer and commercialization of intellectual property.

In February 2011, he assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer of The Innovation Hub (Africa's first accredited science park), a Blue IQ and Gauteng Provincial Government Initiative. Until January 2011, he was Group Executive for Commercialisation at the Technology Innovation Agency, after having spent 7 years with the Innovation Fund, a business unit of South Africa's Department of Science and Technology.

In the Innovation Fund, he held the roles of Senior Patent Attorney and Acting Executive Director. He was involved with the establishment of technology transfer offices and intellectual property capacity at higher education institutions, including the development of patent attorneys for the public sector. He also led the public consultation process on the Policy Framework for IP from Publicly Financed Research & Development and was seconded to the Department of Science and Technology to manage the process of drafting and finalising the legislation and associated regulations on Intellectual Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research & Development.

Prior to joining the Innovation Fund, he was with Adams & Adams Intellectual Property Attorneys where he practiced as a patent attorney, after having spent 7 years with De Beers Industrial Diamonds Division as a Senior Research Scientist working on various diamond synthesis processes and also in the role of Intellectual Property Team Leader. He has served as an IP Expert to the African Union (AU) on the drafting of the constitutive documents including situational analysis (published by the AU as "*Intellectual Property Situation in Africa – A profile*" Techno Africa policy monitor (4), African Union-STRC, 2009) for the establishment of the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization, following the decision of the AU Heads of States.

He has authored and co-authored a number of scientific and intellectual property articles, including a study on the State of Patenting in South Africa, published by The Innovation Fund in 2007.

He has been an invited speaker at both local and international conferences on scientific, intellectual property and innovation matters, including World Intellectual Property Organisation ("WIPO") forums as well as African Development Bank Group.

He tutors the WIPO courses on Advanced Patent Searching and Biotechnology Law. He has served on a number of boards of start-up companies and currently serves on the boards of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Technifin, Ideanav (www.ideanav.co.za) and the Innovation Hub.

He holds a Masters degree in Engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg) and Masters of Laws (LLM) (Commercial Law) degree from the University of South Africa (UNISA).

SHINTARO TAKAHARA

Mr. Takahara is currently Director, Secretariat of Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Japan.

He entered the Japan Patent Office (JPO) in 1990, and became a patent examiner in 1994. From 2003 to 2006, he worked for the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva as a First Secretary. After returning to the JPO in 2006, he became a patent appeals examiner. From 2008 to 2010, he participated in various intellectual property-related international fora, including WIPO, WTO, Trilateral and Five Offices meeting as Director for Multilateral Policy Office, International Affairs Division, JPO.

Then he was seconded to the Cabinet Secretariat and has been working in the current position since April 2010.

He completed his master's degree at Graduate school of Science, the University of Tokyo in 1990.

YE MIN THAN

Mr. Than, a national of Myanmar, is Senior Program Officer of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific of WIPO. Having joined WIPO in early 2002, he is part of the team that formulates, implements and manages technical assistance and capacity building programs for promoting effective use of intellectual property for development in Asia and the Pacific region. Prior to his current position, he worked at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland, for three years and also worked previously at WIPO from 1996 to 1997 at the Office of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

He holds Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in International Relations and Law from universities in Switzerland and Myanmar and also an advanced postgraduate diploma in intellectual property law from the University of South Africa (UNISA).

YOSHIHIRO NAKAYAMA

Mr. Nakayama, a national of Japan, is working as Assistant Director of the International Affairs Division, the Japan Patent Office (JPO).

He has been engaged in coordinating and implementing assistance programs for developing countries mainly in Asia and the Pacific Region in cooperation with WIPO (WIPO Funds-in-Trust/JAPAN) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since 2009.

He joined the JPO in 1988 and during his more than twenty years of service in the JPO, he has been assigned to various positions both in Japan and abroad. From 1996 to 2000 he worked at the Industrial Property Training Institute, planning and conducting training courses for JPO Officials including patent and trademark examiners. He was transferred to the Agency of Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) as an Assistant Director of the Industrial Science and Technology Frontier Program Division in 2000, where he was in charge of planning and coordinating programs concerning industrial science and technology.

He was sent to the United States and worked at the New York Office of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) as Director of the Intellectual Property Department from 2004 to 2008. There, he was in charge of preparing reports regarding the latest intellectual property trends by conducting research on new developments in intellectual property systems in the United States. After three and a half years at the New York Office, he was re-assigned in 2008 to the JPO in Tokyo, where he organized and implemented training courses for developing countries financed by the WIPO Funds-in-Trust/JAPAN and other resources.

He received his bachelor's degree in law from Senshu University, Tokyo, Japan in 1993.

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