

# Challenges in the Formulation and Implementation of National IP Policy and Strategy - Ghana

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# Outline

- Introduction
- Current Status
- Challenges
- Lessons learnt

# Introduction

- Rational for National IP Policy and Strategy – as a result of Ghana's Trade Sector Support Programme (TSSP)- 2006 to 2010- which aims at bringing Ghana's IPRs in line with international norms and best practices.
- Development of the IP Policy one of the output under a project. (The Swiss Ghana Intellectual Property project which begun in July 2009- ends in December 2012.)
- Project aims at strengthening the management of IPR , encourage innovation and creativity in Ghana.
- IP Policy and Strategy informed by existing national development policies
- Oversight responsibility of project is under the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (MOJAG)and Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI)

# Current Status

- Formation and inauguration of National IP Policy Committee in year 2010.
- Membership -various MDA's, Research Institutions, Universities and other stakeholders.(Director level)
- Sensitization of members of the National IP Policy Committee with Assistance from WIPO in December 2010
- Preparation of a background document by an independent consultant this was completed in April, 2010

# Current Status(contd)

- NIPPC has held two residential working sessions .( 2 + 3 days)
- Outputs of these meetings are:
  - ( a) draft framework for the development of the National IP Policy and Strategy
  - (b) Inputs for the drafting of the National IP Policy.
  - NIPPC work closely with the Consultant of WIPO

# Current Status (Contd)

- First draft-will be reviewed by NIPPC at a one day non-residential working session in January 2012
- First draft- will then go through a validation process with the stakeholders
- Finalised and submitted to Cabinet for approval by April 2012.
- What is Involved? - Thematic Areas of Draft Policy and Strategy.
  - Legal Framework
  - Institutional Framework

# Current Status (Contd)

- -IP generation activities
  - Commercial Exploitation and technology transfer.
  - enforcement of IP rights
  - Human Resource development
  - Awareness Creation of IP issues
  - Development and Promotion of IP Service industries.
  - Promote Research on IP related Issues.

# Current Status (contd)

- From this policy objectives 38 indicative projects covering all these thematic areas have been identified .
- Proposed Implementation Framework :
  - - Inter Ministerial Coordinating Group , which is the Highest body
  - -Steering Committee(NIPPC members)
- Project Management Unit



## Current Status( contd)

- Interagency Coordinating Group- Focal persons from the implementing agencies.
- Design a monitoring and Evaluation framework aimed at improving performance, achievement of intended objectives.

# Challenges

- **Formation of NIPPC–**
- Took effort to get nominees from all relevant stakeholders( a few still have not attended meetings)
- Members either had faint knowledge or none on IP and IP related issues.
- **Procurement of services of a Consultants-**
  - (i) undertake preparation of background paper
  - (ii) draft the National IP Policy and Strategy.

# Lessons Learnt

- Ghana should have activated components of the IP Development Plan with WIPO with respect to the Development of the National IP Policy earlier than we did.
- Engaging NIPPC members in different fora on IP issues, added on to their knowledge which enhanced their contributions during working sessions
- Members collaborate and work as a team,(buy in by members of Committee)

**THANK YOU.**