

# NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION ON IP

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## NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION

### THE NIGERIAN IP SYSTEM

- Registration of Industrial Property: by Registry of Trademarks, Patents and Industrial Design (Ministry of Commerce).
- Copyright: by Ministry of Culture (recently Ministry of Justice)
- NOTAP (Federal Ministry of Science & Technology)
- Member of **WIPO, Paris Convention, Berne Convention** etc
- **WIPO** provides tremendous support for IP in Nigeria (**Patent Registry, Copyright Office and NOTAP**)

# NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION

## THE NIGERIAN IP SYSTEM CONTD.

- The IP culture in Nigeria, especially patent, is very low as compared to other countries e.g. Japan, China and South Korea
- But awareness about the patent system and its usefulness is just growing among researchers in Nigeria (evolving awareness).
- The primary research objective of a typical university researcher is to get his/her work published in journals to earn promotion. **The slogan has been “publish or perish”.**

## THE NIGERIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM:

### (TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SOURCES/MAPPING)

- **INFRASTRUCTURE** (100,000 Primary Schools,
- 100,000 Secondary Schools, over 2000 Technical & Vocational Colleges/schools, 98 COE, 125 Polytechnics, 95 Universities, Over 200 Research Institutions, Industries ?)
- **CAPACITY** (PhDs?, Engineers?, Doctors?, Architects?, Diaspora ?, etc)
- **CAPABILITY** (Labs?, Workshops?, Test centres?, Libraries?, Museums? Etc)
- **INSTITUTIONAL NOMENCLATURE** (Commissions, Councils, Institutes, Centres, Offices, Colleges, Agencies, Boards, Complex, etc)

# NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION

## NOTAP PATENT SUPPORT SERVICES TO SMEs AND RESEARCHERS

With its Patent Information and Documentation Centre (PIDC), NOTAP provides patent support services to SMEs, Universities and Researchers, etc. The patent support services include:

- assisting inventors to patent their inventions at home and abroad,
- payment of all financial costs involved in patent application and registration
- provision of knowledge about patents (Typical Patents)

# NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION

## NOTAP PATENT SUPPORT SERVICES TO SMEs AND RESEARCHERS

- identification of alternative technology and their sources,
- awareness visits to universities and research centres
- demand on university administrators to count patents in the university points system for promotion.
- advice on licensing negotiations
- Internet/E-mail and WIPOnet connections,
- the slogan should not be “publish or perish” BUT “**Patent or Perish**” (i.e Innovate or Perish).

## **NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

- **NOTAP'S KEY INTERVENTION: IPTTO**

The establishment of the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Offices (IPTTO's) in Nigerian Universities, Tertiary Institutions and Research Institutes (RIs), which is the hallmark of a deliberate policy towards making Nigeria an Innovative society, began in 2006 with the primary objective to generate entrepreneurialism among researchers and students, and thus help diversify the economy

## **NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

### **IPTTO CONTD.**

Mechanism established to facilitate partnership activities in the states and zones where the tertiary/Research Institutions are located and beyond, with a view to impact on economic development.

- An institutional enabler structured to support the institution's initiative of developing patent culture and also develop an alignment between new values.
- Sets into motion the formal system of incentives and rewards that encourages faculties and individual researchers to be involved in partnerships.
- Between 2006-2009 NOTAP has established twenty-seven IPTTOs in Nigeria

## **NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

- **CONCEPT OF IPTTO**

The philosophy behind the establishment of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Offices (IPTTO's) in Nigeria tertiary/research institutes in Nigeria is to generate entrepreneurialism among researchers and students and thus help diversify the economy

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## **NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

### **OBJECTIVES OF IPTTO**

- To boost innovations and refocus R&D activities/projects in the Institutions
- To facilitate patenting of all inventions emanating from the institutions
- To establish business linkages between R&D institutions and industry
- To create technology-based SMEs from high-tech start-ups and spin-offs'

## **NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

### **FUNCTIONS OF IPTTO**

- To boost innovations and refocus R&D activities/projects in the Institutions
- To facilitate patenting of all inventions emanating from the institutions
- To establish business linkages between R&D institutions and industry
- To create technology-based SMEs from high-tech start-ups and spin-offs'

## **NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

### **NOTAPS'S IPTTO ACHIEVEMENT INDEX**

- IPTTO has improved patent culture and innovativeness in Institutions where they exist.
- IPTTO has improved University/ Research Institutes linkage with the industry.
- Provided modern technical and ICT facilities in each centre.

# **NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

## **NOTAP'S IPTTO ACHIEVEMENT INDEX CONTD.**

- Organized six(6) regional workshops in collaboration with WIPO-Geneva on developing IP policies and Technology Transfer Offices.
- Study tour to United kingdom (Sussex, Oxford and Cambridge universities) .This to enhance their performance in the execution of IPTTO program in their respective institutions.
- Invested over 150 million of its budgetary allocation on IPTTO initiative and development between 2006-2008.

# **NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

## **CHALLENGES OF IP IN NIGERIA**

- ❖ Weak IP awareness among the academia
- ❖ Poor inventive /innovative culture in most institutions
- ❖ Poor investment in R & D programme
- ❖ Poor commercial content of research outputs

# NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION

## CHALLENGES OF IP IN NIGERIA, CONTD.

- ❖ Institutional poor linkage with the industry
- ❖ Absence of institutional IP policy , technology transfer unit and poor incentive for commercial research activities.
- ❖
- ❖ Declining trend in the parliamentary budgetary fund
- ❖ Institutional weakness in project sustainability
- ❖ Absence of take off grant

# NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION

## CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Nigeria's patent culture is still unimpressive
- Need to Strengthen R&D Infrastructure
- Need to Review research projects:- demand-driven, relevance
- Need to coordinate and Finance the Patent Support System (NOTAP, NCC, Registry, etc)
  - Patenting assistance/support

# NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION

## CONCLUSIONS

- Commercialization of Technology (patents)
- Establishment of IP/Technology Transfer Offices (IPTTO) in Unis, RIs, Polys.
- Publications on Patenting
- Proposals on Rewards (benefit-sharing) for researchers
- Distribution of Typical Patents: PIDC documentation on expired Patents (i.e those in public domain)
- Need to Reorganize the TICs; as first step locate to innovation – generating Centres
- NOTAP to mount close collaboration with commercialization stakeholders especially the TICs

# NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Intellectual Property has become a critical element in modern strategy for the promotion of innovation, inventiveness, and transfer of technology.

- Because of differences in culture, level of development and of technological sophistication, strategies for ensuring maximum arousal of innovative activities would differ with country.
- Need more imaginative patenting strategies to be able to fully and fruitfully arouse innovative and inventive activities.

# **NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

## **CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTD.**

The IP Stakeholders to vigorously:

- encourage patent registration by researchers and inventors
- facilitate registration of patents
- re-examine the conditionalities for patentability and issues surrounding application, registration and granting of patents
- examine Patenting strategies for inventions and research results.

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# **NIGERIA: COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

**THANK YOU**