

OVERVIEW AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TISCs IN MALAWI

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Technology and Innovation Support Centres in Malawi
- University of Malawi (Chancellor College)
- National Commission for Science and Technology
- Mzuzu University
- Malawi University of Science and Technology

INTRODUCTION

- Government of Malawi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the World Intellectual Property Organization on TISC (WIPO) in November 2016.
- Institutional agreement establishing 4 TISCs was concluded on 2nd December, 2016

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SUPPORT CENTRES IN MALAWI

- University of Malawi(Chancellor College)
- National Commission for science and Technology(NCST)
- Malawi University for science and Technology(MUST)
- Mzuzu University (MZUNI)

CHANCELLOR COLLEGE

- Chancellor college signed the institutional Agreement with the Malawi Government in December 2016.
- In May,2017 Tisc was established at Chancellor College (Room, Computers and Internet).
- On 26th October 2017, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development invited chancellor college for World food day and this was used as podium to raise awareness on TISC.

CHANCELLOR COLLEGE CONT'D

- Chancellor college is also working with the Inventors Association of Malawi (IAM) to raise awareness on TISC.
- TISC also assist the students and members of staff how they can register their new inventions with the IP office in Malawi.
- Two people have already benefited from the TISC by registering their patent with the IP office.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of video conferencing equipment hence preventing the TISC from accessing WIPO webinars and communicating with other TISCs in Malawi.
- TISC does not have access to national gazettes which are vital to researchers hence this is being solved.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- The centre took time to be established as the TISC program did not have a budget line of its own.
- High demand for access to HINARI and ARDI
- Provides for technical resources
- Coordinates with the IP office.
- Capacity building on IP as the TISC coordinator in 2017 attended the training program in Sweden.

CHALLENGES

- Tisc space very small as the library is going through maintenance to create more room for users.
- NSCT's firewall keeps blocking the ARDI and HINARI websites but this problem is being solved by the IT personnel.
- Continuous training and re- training program needed.

MALAWI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- TISC was created in the second half of 2017.
- It housed in the main library, furnished with enough shelves to accommodates IP publications from WIPO, ARIPO and National.
- It used by students and other researchers.
- The library has online information links and databases such as WIPO's Patent scope, ARDI, AGORA, HINARI and UPSTO.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of resources to support communications through webinars and video conferencing with other TISCs.
- However internet is widely available at the institution.

MZUZU UNIVERSITY

- TISC is easily accessible by the general public.
- The room is spacious and accommodates 60 people.
- 15 Computers are available and World Bank to contribute 10 more.
- The centre accommodates a mini library for IP publications.
- Number of people using the TISC keeps increasing every month.

CHALLENGES

- Mzuzu University did not have a vice Chancellor in 2016 until 2017 and this delayed the establishment of TISC.

COLLECTIVE CHALLENGES

- Connectivity and communication challenges.
- Capacity building.
- Lack of resources
- Administrative issues.

CONCLUSION

- Malawi TISC network still has room for growth as more Universities have interest to establish TISCs through the IP office.
- Malawi TISC network is active especially in the areas of awareness, research, development and commercialization of research results.
- TISCs resulted in the establishment of the Inventors Association of Malawi.
- IP office registered two patents through TISC.
- Malawi National Intellectual Property Policy was launched in May, 2019



THANK YOU
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