



**WIPO-ARIPO REGIONAL
MEETING ON THE
DEVELOPING THE
REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY
AND SUPPORT
CENTER(TISC) NETWORK
September 19 and 20, 2019.
Harare**

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Outline

- Introduction
- Awareness creation
- Other networks and capacity development initiatives
- Conclusion and Recommendation

Introduction

- Patents provide information on the state of art. Because the invention has to be disclosed fully, Patent document acts as teaching materials.
- patent databases can aid researches and industries especially in the developing and least developed countries for learning and identifying technologies that meet the needs of their people.

Cont'd

- Although available, these databases need minimum level of skill in order to access and make use of them
- Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC) become a key
- Lesotho has not yet established TISC

Awareness

- Promotion of access to and use of patent databases is highly crucial and a step in action for enhancing inventive and innovative activities
- In Lesotho we use platforms such as **Science, Innovation and Technology (SIT) Week** to raise awareness on IP including importance of patent literature. This year the SIT week was held on the 10 to 13th September 2019 and Registrar General's Office gave presentation to researchers, SMEs, academia, government officials and other stakeholders on the role of patents, highlighting their importance for business growth and competitiveness, and for overall economic growth.

Other Capacity development and networks

- Lesotho is part of Southern African Network of Biosciences and areas of collaboration have been identified and takes part in training aimed at skills transfer
- There is a Science and Technology Bill
- Integration of IP in Higher Education Sub-Sector Strategic Plan 2018/2022
- National University of Lesotho (NUL) has a draft institutional policy
- September 20, 2019 NUL will hold a seminar and IP Office is invited to present a paper on the need to Integrate IP in all government ministries

Recommendations

- Developing a roadmap for future TISC
- Stakeholder profiling and weighing capacity of each to host TISC
- Raising awareness on TISC targeting key stakeholders and potential users
- Conduct cost-benefit analysis

CHALLENGES

- Infrastructural needs
- Human resource
- Users response
- Financial resource

Conclusion

- Patents are viewed as the bed for economic development and the scientific and technological information contained in patent document can be used optimal by developing countries to meet their national objectives such as health, poverty reduction and job creation.
- There might be challenges in developing a new institution or office but the importance of TISC cannot be overlooked.

THANK YOU!