THE USE OF STATISTICS BY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES TO PLAN THEIR ACTIVITIES – Uganda Experience

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By

Peter Opio

Director, Business and Industry Statistics

Uganda Bureau of Statistics

Presentation overview

- What is and why statistics are important?
- Pre-requisites for statistical production
- About URSB
- About UBOS
- Collecting and managing IP statistics
- Developed Area of IP Statistics
- Summary Statistics of IP
- Analysing and interpretation of IP statistics
- IP statistics Use in IP planning activities
- Institutions that use IP Statistics
- Challenges in use of IP Statistics and possible solutions

- Statistics is the science and practice of developing human knowledge through the use of empirical data.

  - This can be in form of **tables**, **figures**, **graphs**, **charts**, etc

- Statistics, on its own, may be meaningless to some people. Its correct interpretation is what gives it value.

- Hence statistics constitute measurable ideas, countable issues, etc with their associated interpretation.

- The age of evidence-based decision making

- The results-based agenda has created greater demand for data –
  - **Monitoring government performance**

- Knowing what is going wrong and what is going right – Showing the level –

  - **Evaluation of programme**.

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Tel: +256(0)-41-4706000 ¤ E-mail: ubos@ubos.org

4

- Capacity of Officers to handle statistics– Problem of allergy to Statistics

- Statistics must be part of the reporting mechanisms in the IP Offices.

- **Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) is the National IP Office of Uganda.**

- ▪ Is a semi-autonomous statutory body established in 1998 by Chapter 210 of the Laws of Uganda.

- ▪ Created to take over the functions of the Registrar General's office under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

- ▪ In July 2010, URSB was granted self accounting status.

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6

The Services Bureau is mandated to undertake registration of:-

- Intellectual Property rights, namely patents, trademarks, industrial designs and copyright.

- Companies and business names, partnerships, documents, secured transactions such as debentures, mortgages and chattel transfers.

- Marriages and licensing places of worship

- Handling all insolvency matters.

About Uganda Bureau Statistics (UBOS)

➤ Semi autonomous government agency created under the UBOS act 1998

➤ Mandated to ensure the production of quality and timely official statistics

➤ It constitutes a coordinating, monitoring and supervisory body for the National Statistical system.

➤ UBOS developed a comprehensive Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD), in collaboration with Key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs),

➤ The plan provides a framework for strengthening Statistical development and Capacity in the entire NSS **that includes URSB** in order to support the results based agenda of Government.

About UBOS... CONT

➢The PNSD aims at strengthening the NSS in:

o Statistical production, by means of international guidelines and best practice

o Bringing coordination and synergy among users and producers

o Developing capacity to produce, analyse and use statistics

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9

Collecting IP statistics In Uganda :

➢ IP Statistics that are normally collected include applications, registrations, renewals for Trademarks, patent annuities and copy Rights.

➢ The statistics are collected using the Manual Registers of Copyright, patents and trademarks for both applications and registrations.

➢ However, Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) is also used in collecting IP statistics.

➢ IPAS is used to automate all registration processes. IP statistics and information can be retrieved from IPAS.

Collecting IP statistics : IPAS Tool

➢ Tools used to collect data is the recommended Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

➢ It is a flexible, modular system that can be customized to individual industrial property (IP) offices to automate their IP business and administrative processes.

➢ The system allows receipt of application to registration, including post-registration actions such as amendments, assignment, renewals

➢ Provides regular update of statistics (weekly or monthly basis)

Developed area of IP Statistics at URSB

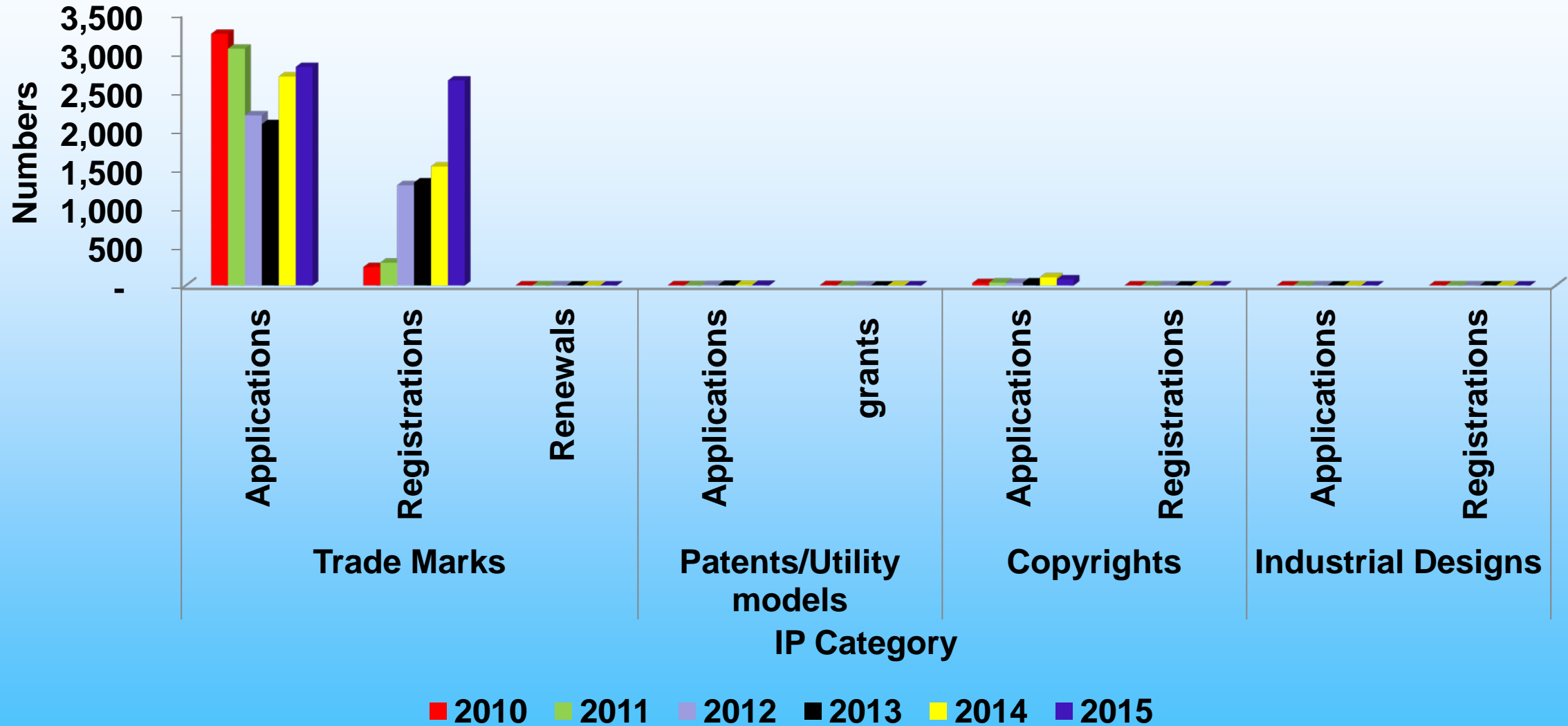➢ URSB maintains statistics for Patents, Utility Models, Trademarks and Copyright.

➢ Others not developed include:

   Industrial Design and Geographical indications as the laws are not yet operational.
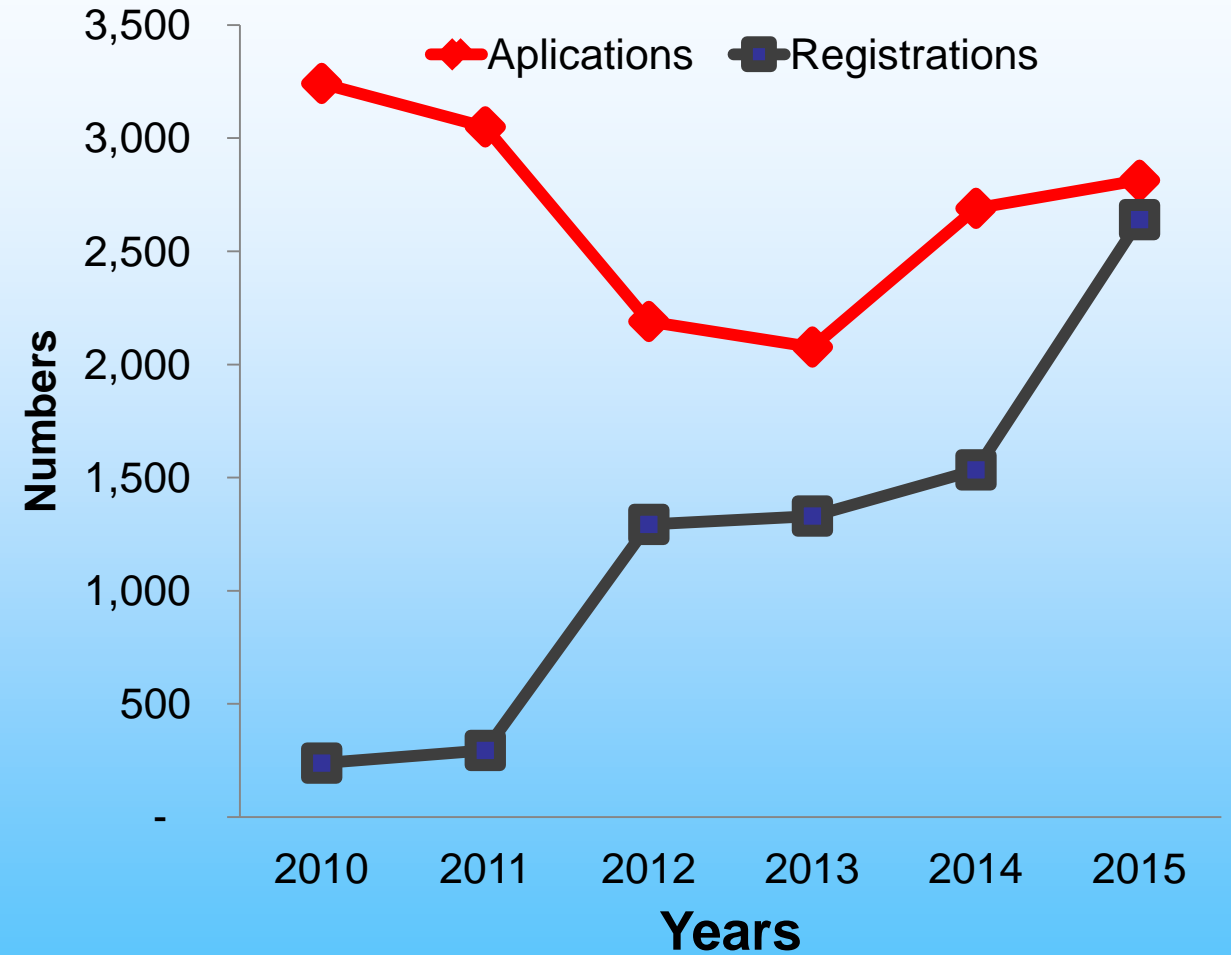
Summary of IP Statistics 2010-2015

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Trade Marks	Applications	3,242	3,050	2,190	2,077	2,690	2,814
	Registrations	238	294	1,293	1,330	1,534	2,640
	Renewals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Patents/Utility models	Applications	2	1	4	9	5	9
	Grants	5	-	-	-	1	2
Copyrights	Applications	30	38	33	40	105	79
	Registrations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Industrial Designs	Applications	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Registrations	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: *Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB)*

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Category of IP statistics from 2010- 2015

Example: Trademark statistics of Uganda 2010 - 2015

➢ Trend level shows an increase in registrations from 2010 to 2015.

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15

➢ It is observed that there has been a steady rise in the number of Trade Mark registrations. This can be attributed to:

- Increased awareness on what qualifies for Trademark registration
  - leading to less rejected Trademark applications.

- Increased staffing in IP office, hence less back log of work (what comes in is quickly processed out).

- Upgrade of IPAS (Trademark processing system) making it easier to process Trademark applications.

- It is Government policy to register businesses and have their Trademarks registered.

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16

IP statistics help the IP office in following areas:

➢ **Planning which groups to engage more in awareness creation:**

Depending on number of applications of a particular type of IP. For example if patent applications are few, the office will plan for more awareness on patent protection.

➢ **Staffing level:**

Helps in decision making on staffing level

If there is backlog, this means there is more work than what available officers can work on.

More IP applications implies more work and thus need to increase staff.

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17

➢ **Performance of office/officers:**

IP statistics help to determine the performance of the IP Office and challenges faced.

Increase in number of applications and registration implies office is performing well. This means that the public is more aware of IP protection.

IP statistics help to determine the weaknesses of the IP office and how to approach them.

At the end of every week, statistics are compiled from what each officer has handled, say one Trademark handles 30 registrations and another handles only 5 registrations.

➢ **Budgeting**

- In IP Office, for example determining which section (patents, copyright, trademarks) needs more awareness activity to promote a product that is performing poorly

➢ **Resolving conflicts**

- by encouraging dialogue, and promotes the exchange of best practices

➢ **Patent statistics** help to determine the innovation level of the country.

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19

➢ **For Policy – in Decision making and planning.**

- It helps to understand which sector has more e.g. Trade Marks. Is it in Agriculture, or Pharmaceuticals or Telecommunications. This information once available will help policy makers re-direct investments strategies etc.

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20

➤ **Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives:**

 ❖ SMEs and businesses use trademark protection to protect their brands,

 ❖ Having more Trademark applications is an indicator of increased business activity.

➤ **National Planning Authority:**

 ❖ Determine the level of development from the creativity and innovation levels.

➤ **The Revenue Authority:**

 ❖ determine the non tax collections

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1. **Inconsistent results due to different methods used to collect data**

The different methods used to collect data include:

- ❖ Mostly different persons using different parameters when trying to get the same information

2. **Other challenges include:**

- ❖ What is captured in Automated system not tallying with what is captured in manual system

➢ **These include:**

> ➢ Have a focal point person in charge of statistics

> ➢ Capacity building in generating statistics and records management

> ➢ Conduct data cleaning and reconciliation

Having a clear methodology on data collection **(*There is none at moment, need to develop one)***

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23

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