



# **WIPO's Assistance Program under the FIT Japan for Africa and LDCs**

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# Japan Funds-In-Trust/IP-Africa & LDCs

FIT supports technical assistance and capacity building in the field of industrial property in Africa and LDCs

- Established in 2008, following the adoption of recommendation under the WIPO Development Agenda
- Government of Japan has annually contributed 1.1 million Swiss Francs
- Administered by the Regional Bureau for Africa at WIPO

# Supports

Japan FIT/IP - Africa & LDCs supports various activities.

- Events for key IP actors
- IP Office Modernization
- Capacity Building

# Events for key IP actors

Providing fora for discussing IP issues for policy-makers, law-makers, officials from IP offices, or representatives from the private sector.

- Policy Dialogue
- Meeting for parliamentarians

# Policy Dialogue

Bringing together policy-makers - key players in the establishment and development of national IP systems.

- March 12 and 13, 2013, Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)



Side event on the promotion of local products at a WIPO conference in Tanzania, 2013 (Photo: Zainul A. Mzige)

# Meeting for parliamentarians

Helping keep law-makers up-to-date with the very latest developments in the field of IP.

■ June 10 and 11, 2014, Lomé (Togo)



Parliamentarians and Mr. Hideo Hato, the Commissioner of the Japan Patent Office. (Photo: WIPO)

# IP Office Modernization

Helping IP offices modernize their infrastructure and working practices.

- Data capture
- IPAS deployment
- IPAS training

# Data capture

Digitizing IP files such as trademark, industrial design, and patent documents.

- 2014 - Ethiopia, Nigeria, OAPI
- 2013 - Zimbabwe
- 2012 - Mauritius



# IPAS deployment

Assisting with the roll-out of Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) in IP offices.

Electronic document management system (EDMS) for IPAS was deployed in the following countries.

- 2014 - Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, and Namibia

# IPAS training

Helping IP offices provide fully paperless, digitized services to their users.

- October 14 to 18, 2013 - Harare, Zimbabwe
- October 3 to 7, 2011 - Harare, Zimbabwe

# Capacity Building

Supporting diverse education, training, and research opportunities.

- Scholarships

- Training

# Scholarships

Offering scholarships for WIPO-supported programs.

## ■ Master's degree in Intellectual Property (MIP)

Up to 10 students per program

- Zimbabwe – jointly offered with Africa University, ARIPO, WIPO Academy
- Cameroon – jointly offered with University of Yaoundé II, OAPI, WIPO Academy

## ■ WIPO Summer School

Up to 10 students

# Training

Supporting various trainings.

- Classification standards
- Examination
- TISCs (Technology and Innovation Support Centers)

# Future plans

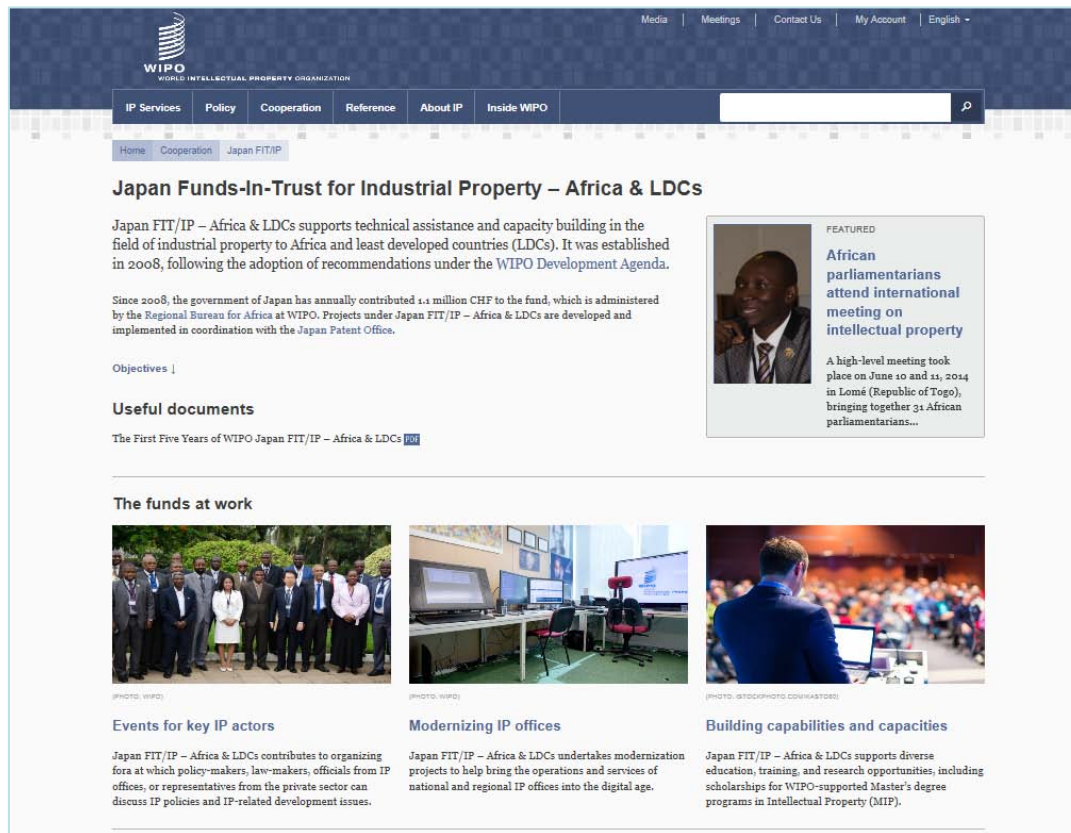
Here are some examples of future plans.

- Branding - value addition to local products
- IP office website - enhancing capabilities of transmitting information

# Website of Japan FIT/IP-Africa & LDCs

This is a website for Africa and LDCs.

■ [http://www.wipo.int/cooperation/en/funds\\_in\\_trust/japan\\_fitip/index.html](http://www.wipo.int/cooperation/en/funds_in_trust/japan_fitip/index.html)



The screenshot shows the WIPO website page for Japan FIT/IP-Africa & LDCs. The page features a dark blue header with the WIPO logo and navigation links. Below the header is a search bar and a menu with categories like IP Services, Policy, Cooperation, Reference, About IP, and Inside WIPO. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: Home > Cooperation > Japan FIT/IP. The title is "Japan Funds-In-Trust for Industrial Property – Africa & LDCs". The text describes the fund's purpose and establishment in 2008. A featured section highlights an international meeting on intellectual property in Lomé, Togo, in 2014. Below this are sections for "Useful documents" and "The funds at work", which includes three sub-sections: "Events for key IP actors", "Modernizing IP offices", and "Building capabilities and capacities". Each sub-section has a representative image and a brief description of the activities.

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## Japan Funds-In-Trust for Industrial Property – Africa & LDCs

Japan FIT/IP – Africa & LDCs supports technical assistance and capacity building in the field of industrial property to Africa and least developed countries (LDCs). It was established in 2008, following the adoption of recommendations under the WIPO Development Agenda.


Since 2008, the government of Japan has annually contributed 1.1 million CHF to the fund, which is administered by the Regional Bureau for Africa at WIPO. Projects under Japan FIT/IP – Africa & LDCs are developed and implemented in coordination with the Japan Patent Office.

Objectives |

### Useful documents

The First Five Years of WIPO Japan FIT/IP – Africa & LDCs PDF


### The funds at work



(PHOTO: WIPO)

#### Events for key IP actors


Japan FIT/IP – Africa & LDCs contributes to organizing fora at which policy-makers, law-makers, officials from IP offices, or representatives from the private sector can discuss IP policies and IP-related development issues.



(PHOTO: WIPO)

#### Modernizing IP offices

Japan FIT/IP – Africa & LDCs undertakes modernization projects to help bring the operations and services of national and regional IP offices into the digital age.



(PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/ASSTON)

#### Building capabilities and capacities

Japan FIT/IP – Africa & LDCs supports diverse education, training, and research opportunities, including scholarships for WIPO-supported Master's degree programs in Intellectual Property (MIP).

Thank you

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