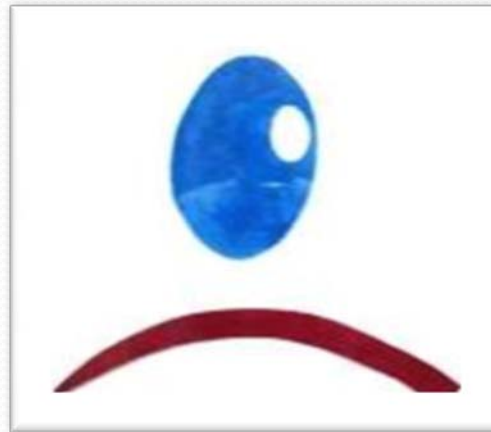




**Workshop on Access to Scientific and
Technical Information for Technological
Capacity Building with a Focus on
Products of Export Interest for English
Speaking Least Developed Countries
Organized By: WIPO, JPO and ARIPO
Harare, Zimbabwe: Oct. 21-24, 2014**

ETHIOPIAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE



USE OF IP SYSTEM FOR RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPEMNT INISTITUTIONS AND BUSINESS
COMPETITIVENESS:

ETHIOPIAN EXPERIENCE

By Girma Bejiga

October – 2014
Harare / Zimbabwe

Outline

- Establishment of EIPO
- IP Administration and IP System in Ethiopia
- Science, Technology and Innovation Policy in Ethiopia
- Ethiopian Technology Priority Areas
- Institutions
- Patent

Establishment of EIPO

- **Prior 2003 IP Administration in Ethiopia was Fragmented**
 - ❖ Patent was administrated by the then Science and Technology Commission
 - ❖ Copyright and related matter was Administrated by the former Youth, Sport and Culture Ministry
 - ❖ Management of Trade mark was handled by the the Ministry of Trade and Industry

- **The Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office was established by :**
 - ❑ *Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office Establishment Proclamation No. 320/2003*

Objectives

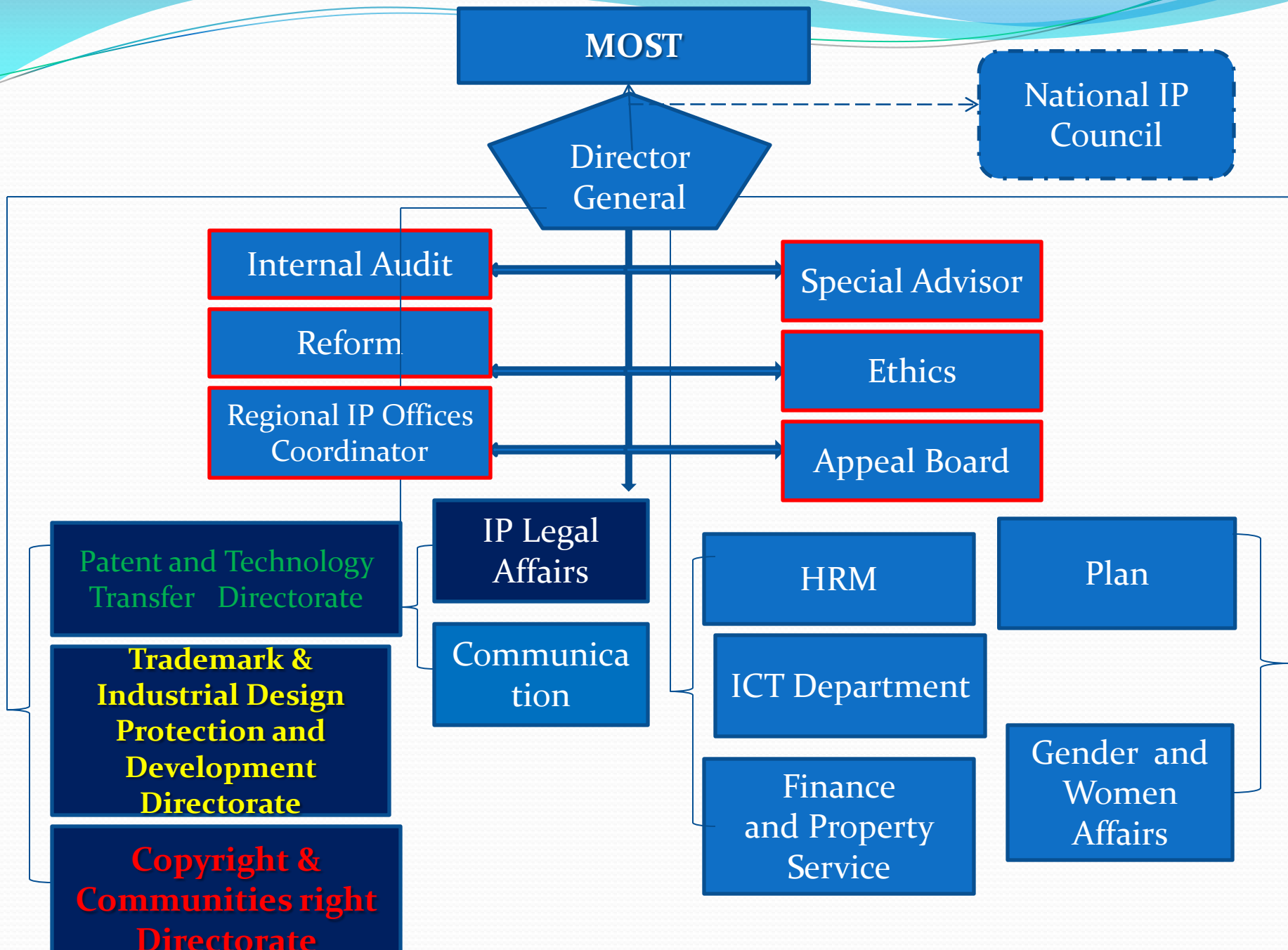
- Protect intellectual property rights,
- Create an information system and provide service to users,
- Develop and submit policy and legislation proposal to the Government on IP,
- Render advisory services on intellectual property matters and undertake popularization activities to create awareness among the general public,
- Support and strengthen inventors, authors and musicians associations and other similar societies,
- Establish relationship with national, regional and international intellectual property offices and other relevant institutions.

The Office Was Composed of Six Organizational Units:

- Patents Directorate
- Trademark Directorate
- Copyright Directorate
- Information and Documentation Directorate
- Law, Policy and Plan Directorate
- Administration and Finance

Business Process Re-engineering(BPR)

- **During FY 2009 EIPO carried out Business Process Re-engineering(BPR) studies across the organization to harmonize its Mission with the National Development Agenda and has started its implementation in 2010 to achieve superior performances.**



VISION

We envision having an IP office that plays key roles by an ongoing quest for excellence with in all operational functions ensuring **national technology capacity building, fair trade and cultural assets and values development**

MISSION....

- Provide an **integrated and high-end services** to government efforts geared towards building a national technology capacity by facilitating provision of IP information to entities in need and development oriented investors and **enhance technology transfer** for sustainable national development
- **Ensure strategic IP protection** that in turn stimulates the generation of new ideas in different technology categories, trade and cultural magnitude

...MISSION

- Facilitate the **commercialization of IP assets** thereby making IP to be a strategic development tool
- **Encourage actors in the IP regime, innovators and entrepreneurs** to ride the wave of the future and make the nation productive and globally competitive in its trade transactions



Intellectual Property System in Ethiopia

IP POLICY and Legal Framework...

- THE PROTECTION OF IP WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE 1994 CONSTITUTION OF THE FDRE (Articles 51(19) and 77(6))
 - Inventions, Minor Inventions and Industrial Designs law and regulation: **Proc.No 123/1995**
 - Inventions, Minor Inventions and Industrial Designs Regulation: **Proc.No 123/1995**
 - Trade Mark Registration and Protection Law: **Proc.No.501/2006**
 - Trade Mark Registration and Protection Regulation: **Proc.No.501/2006**
 - Copyright and Related Rights Protection Law : **Proc.No.410/2004**
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...IP POLICY and Legal Framework

- The Plant Breeders' Right Law: **Proc.No.418/2006**
- Access to Genetic Resources and Community Knowledge and Community Rights:
Proc.No.482/2006
Acceded to world Intellectual Property Organization in 1998 **Acce.Proc.No.90/1997**

On going Process toward membership of WTO as of 2003

- **National IP Policy**

IP ELEMENTS CURRENTLY ADMINISTERED BY EIPO

- Patents
- Trademark
- Copyrights and Community rights

Core processes in EIPO

- ❖ **PATENT PROTECTION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER DIRECTORATE**
- ❖ **TRADEMARK AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGN PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**
- ❖ **COPYRIGHT AND COMMUNITY RIGHTS PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**



The Patent Directorate

SERVICES RENDERED BY THE PATENT DIRECTORATE

- Registration and protection
- Patent Information
- Technology transfer

Patent , Utility Model and Industrial Designs are protected by the Proclamation Concerning Inventions, Minor Inventions and Industrial Designs Law and Regulation

Proc.No 123/1995 & Regulation no. 12

- The Proclamation includes Four forms of protection:
 - Patents
 - Patents of Introduction
 - Utility Model
 - Industrial Design

The first Patent Applications

TYPE OF APPLICATION	FILING DATE OF THE FIRST APPLICATION
PATENT	25 May 1997
PATENT OF INTRODUCTION	25 February 1997
UTILITY MODEL	29 August 1996

GRANTED

GRANTED

PATENT	102
PATENT OF INTRODUCTION	124
UTILITY MODEL	650
total	876

Industrial Designs

- Industrial Designs:- Criteria of Protection for Industrial Designs
 - Originality
 - Industrial Applicability
- Industrial designs, that are **contrary to public order or morality**, are excluded from protection.
- The protection period of an industrial design lasts for a period of **five years** which may be renewed **for two times extensions of five years each**.
- Most the applications for industrial design protection are for **shoe and furniture design**

Utility Model

- **Utility model** protection is given to inventions which are:
 - **New in Ethiopia**
 - **Industrially applicable**
- Reasons for inclusion of Utility Model Protection in the law:
 - Most of the inventions in Ethiopia involve small adaptations of existing technologies which do not qualify for patent protection
 - These inventions can have a positive impact on the growth of productivity in the country.
 - To encourage local inventors

Patents of Introduction

- Are granted to inventions which:
 - are patented abroad
 - are not expired
 - are not been patented in Ethiopia
- ❑ **The term of protection of Patent of Introduction is for a period of 10 year.**

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy..

Intellectual property System

Strategies

- *Make use of IP information at large in support of the efforts to build national technology capability;*
- *Establish and implement a system that ensures effective protection of indigenous genetic resources and IP assets of the nation besides bringing benefit out of them.*

...Science, Technology and Innovation Policy

Intellectual Property System

Strategies

- *Develop and implement the application of IPR systems at national and institutional level;*
- *Strengthen and implement copyright protection in such a way to encourage and promote creative works;*
- *strengthen trademark protection to create a healthy and competitive environment among manufacturing and service providing enterprises.*



PATENT INFORMATION

PATENT INFORMATION

- Collecting, organizing and dissemination of patent information
- The dissemination is based on areas which are given priority by the government.

Areas given priority by the government :

- Metal technology
- Textile technology
- Leather and leather products technology
- Agricultural technology
- Agro Processing technology
- Biotechnology
- Construction technology
- Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals
- Information and Electronics technology

Types of Technology Disseminated

- Biotechnology
- Agriculture and Casting
- Food Processing Technology
- Machine Technology
- Plant Protection Technology
- Sensor and Resin Technology
- Chemical Technology
- Mechanical Technology
- Networking Technology
- Water Resources Technology

Patent Information are disseminated to

- Universities and Colleges
- SME's and Industries
- Agricultural Research Institute
- Information Net Security Agency
- Hospitals
- TVET's of National and Regional States
- Amhara National Regional State Capacity Building Bureau
- Tigray Region Science and Technology Commission

Our main sources of Patent Information

- USPTO (US Patent and Trademark Office)
- JPO (Japan Patent Office)
- SIPO (State IP Office of the P.D.R of China)
- Downloading from different Databases.
 - Patent lens
 - EPO
 - Using IPC green

Patent Information

- Currently there are about 55 million Patent Information
- On the average, we disseminated 2.5 million patent information per year.



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Service Delivered by TT section :

- Documentation of profiles of Patent and Utility Model holders.
- Provide support and advice in response to their problems
- Provide assistance in market –linkage with different parties which helps them to commercialize their products.

...Service Delivered by TT section...

- Prepare competition among owners of invention or project papers and produce rewarding systems for the winner of the competition
- To facilitate the introduction of those owners of inventions to the public at large through different media mechanisms.
- Facilitations of different exhibitions, workshops, seminars which popularize works of inventors /especially of youth and women/.

...Service Delivered by TT Department :

- Facilitate collaborations among inventors, TVET centers , Financial institutions(CBE and CBBE), FMF Inist.. To change their Ideas to practical prototypes or mass productions.

An IP financing Policy indicator paper, which strongly suggests the financing system to convert ideas into practice, has been prepared

TRAINING

- ❖ Providing training for stake holders and inventors at administrative regions.
 - Tigrai
 - Amhara
 - Dehub region
- ❖ Organizing discussion forums with :
 - Inventors
 - Enforcement bodies
 - Stakeholders
 - Financial Institutions

The TISC project

- National TISC centre has been established and administered by EIPO.
- TISC centres are established in 9 Universities, in one regional state science and technology commission in one TVET and in one Polytechnic Institute.
- It is planned to establish in 10 additional Universities.

TISC centres

1. Addis Ababa Science And Technology University
2. Ethiopian Health Nutrition Research Institute
3. Addis Ababa University Technology Institute
4. Asosa University
5. Gondar University
6. Bahir Dar University
7. Mekele University

TISC centres

8. Medawalabu University
9. Dire Dawa University
10. Tigray Science and Technology
Commission
11. Amhara TVET
12. Adama Poly Technic College

...Main challenges of UM grantees

- Financial problems,
- unavailability of workshops to design, test & produce prototypes and mass productions,
- shortage of spare parts, raw materials and related machineries,
- Lack of awareness on how to start up and manage small businesses,
- lack of awareness on patent and related laws of our country and others,

CHALLENGES

- High turnover of staff,
- Inadequate skill and experience of staff,
- Lack of budget and facilities ,
- Limited knowledge of IPR's by enforcement bodies and the public at large,
- Lack of National IP policy
- Lack of coordination with different stake holders



THANK YOU