

BHUTAN

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION

Overview and Future ahead

Intellectual Property Division, MoEA

Policies

- Well-balanced & effective system
- To stimulate social, cultural, technological & economic growth

“All efforts will be made to protect intellectual property rights such as patents, copyrights and trademarks. This will also cover the protection of indigenous knowledge, expertise and arts and crafts from foreign ownership or control” (Druk Phuensum Tshogpa, 2008)

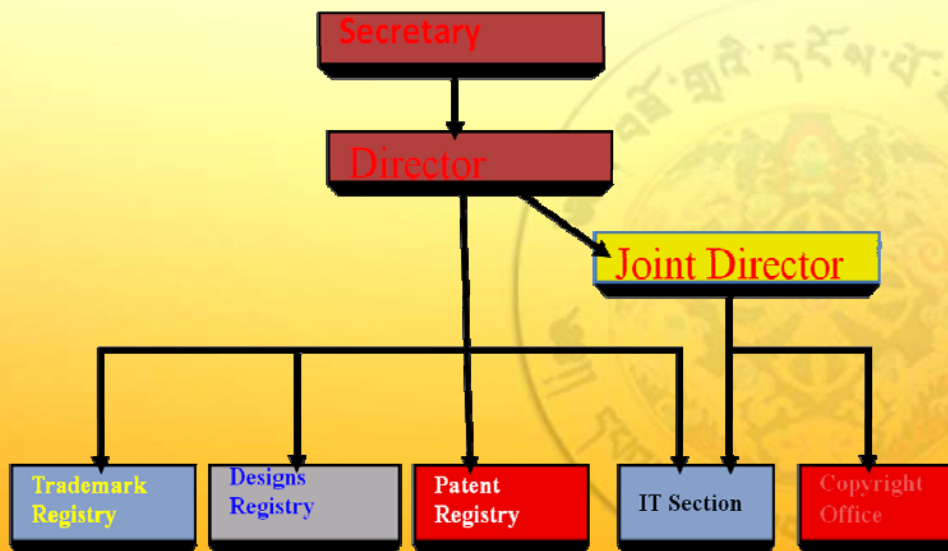
Intellectual Property Division, MoEA

Brief on IP System in Bhutan

- Established in the year 1997 as Legal Section under Ministry of Economic Affairs.
- Renamed as Intellectual Property Division (in 2000)
- Two Acts – Industrial Property Act and Copyright Act passed in the year 2001

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Organizational Chart of IPD



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COMPOSITION OF STAFF

Total staff	= 13
Director/ Registrar	= 1
Joint Director/Dy. Registrar	= 1
Trademark Examiner	=1
Asst. Trademark Examiner	=1
Patent Examiner (one out of station for Masters Degree)	=2
Asst. Patent Examiner	=1
Design Examiner	=1
Copyright Officer	=1
Asst. Copyright Officer	=1
Legal Officer	=0
Documentation Asst.	=1
Asst. Programmer	=1
IT Officer	=1

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Intellectual Property

Copyright and Related Rights

Industrial Property

Patents, Industrial Designs, Trademarks,

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Function

- To implement the two Laws
 - i. Copyright Act, 2001
 - ii. Industrial property Act, 2001
- Operation of Registry
 - i. Trademark Registry
 - ii. Industrial Design Registry
 - iii. Patent Registry and
 - iv. Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights

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cont.

- Registry plus functions include IP policy formulation and IP advisory and promotional services e.g. on strategic use and management of IP by businesses, technology information and transfer, IP outreach programmes, etc;
- Dissemination of information on IP targeting different groups.

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Present Situation

- Amendment of both the Acts of 2001.
- Awareness creation and outreach activities.
- Installation of IPAS(Industrial Property Automation System) is completed with assistance from WIPO in 2006
- Trademark Registry fully functioning from 2004

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Statistics on Trademark

Sl.	Particulars	1997- 2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
1	No. of applications	6032	1023	917	1048	581	9601
2	No. of registered application	4981	314	1	743	244	6283

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- Industrial Design Registry fully functioning from 2009
- So far four design applicants approached the office:
 - On furniture
 - Bumthang Fabrication
 - G4S on Security Design Dress
 - RBP on Security Design Dress
 - Advise and instructions were given
 - None of them submitted prescribed filled Forms

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- Groundwork for Patent Registry has been completed and Will be starting soon.

Voluntary Registration System for Copyright and Related Rights

- Application Forms and fee schedule are ready
- In the process of drafting Rules and Regulation for Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights
- TK, Geographical Indications.

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Member of the following Treaties and Conventions:

1. WIPO, March 16, 1994
2. Paris Convention on Industrial Property, August 4, 2000
3. The Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks August 04, 2000
4. The Protocol to the Madrid Agreement August 04, 2000
5. Berne Convention on Copyright, November 25, 2004

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Future Plans

- Further revision of Industrial Property Act and Copyright Act.
- Patent Registry and Voluntary Registration for Copyright and Related Rights will be starting soon.
- Strengthening Copyright and Related Rights.
- Collective Management Societies for Copyright.
- Intensive Awareness Campaigns, Seminars, Workshops and Trainings to be conducted
- To setup a unit for IP Information Services to the public

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CHALLENGES

1. Shortage of Manpower- both qualified and support staff
2. Budget Constraints.
3. Building up of local expertise.
4. Low level of awareness.

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Tashi Delek!

Yeshi Lhamo
(Copyright Officer)

Intellectual Property Division
Ministry of Economic Affairs

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