

Country Report: Bangladesh



Mohammad Sanowar Hossain

Registrar

Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT)

Ministry of Industries

<http://www.dpdt.gov.bd/>

E-mail: registrar@dpdt.gov.bd

Shilpa Bhaban(6th Floor), 91, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka

Regional Seminar on Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Commercialization



*Facilitating Technology Transfer and
Management of IP Assets: Bangladesh*

Regional Seminar on Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Commercialization



Under the purview of Ministry of Industries, DPDT started its functions in a new form in 2004 with the mission of:

- Upgrading the IP infrastructure in Bangladesh,
- Modernizing the IP laws,
- Automation of the office activities,
- Developing human resources in the IP sector,
- Establishing link between researchers and the industries, and
- Creation, protection and utilization of IP resources for sustainable development of the country.

Vision of DPDT:

To turn this department (DPDT) into an international standard IP office by 2021

Sources: <http://www.dpdt.gov.bd/>
<http://dpdt.portal.gov.bd/>

Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT): An Overview



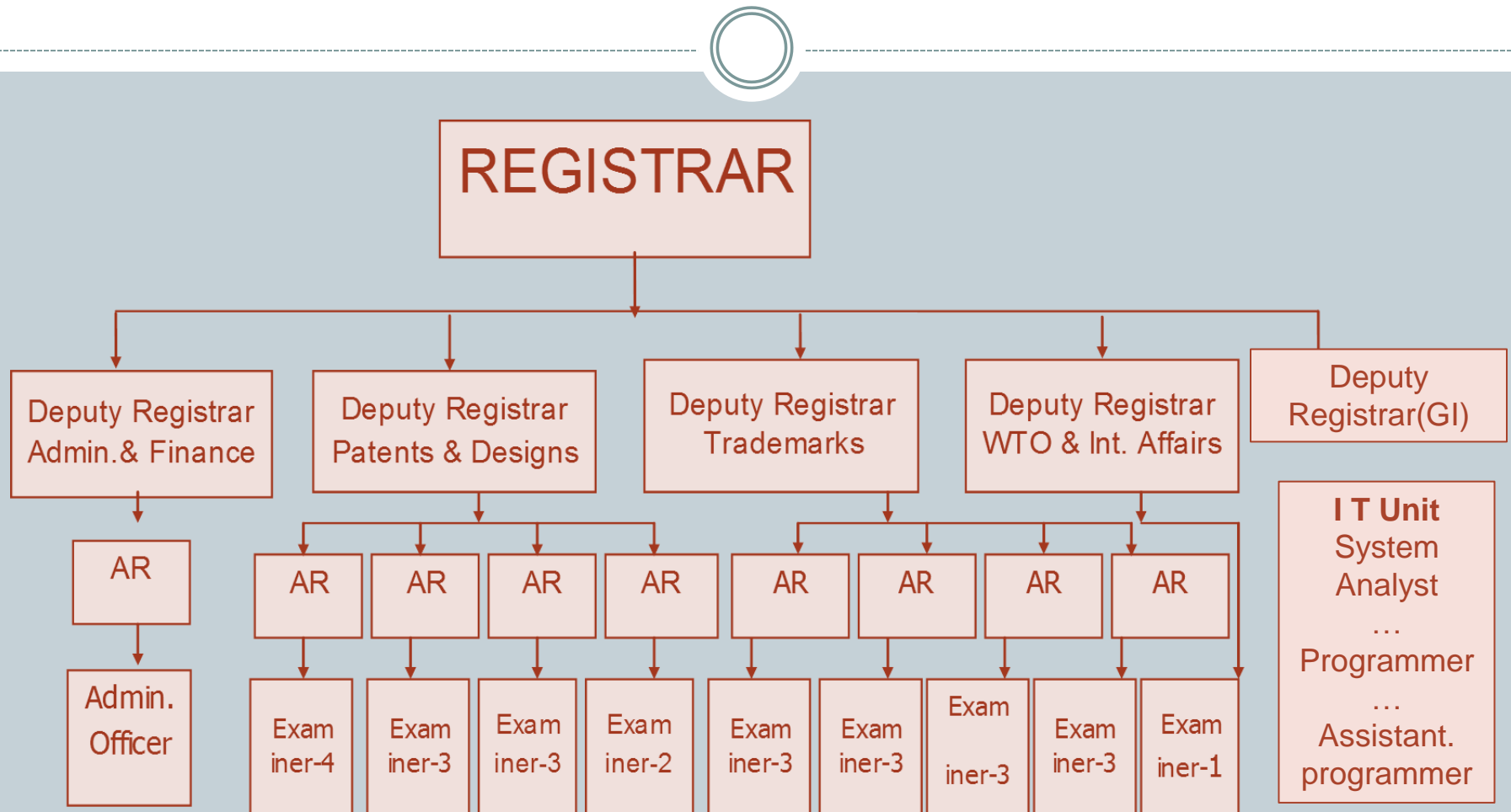
- DPDT is the key organization in Bangladesh for preserving industrial and intellectual properties in the form of patents, industrial designs, trademarks and GI
- It grants and renews patents, registers and renews industrial designs in accordance with the provisions of the Patents and Designs Act, 1911.
- It also registers and renews trademarks in accordance with the provisions of the Trademarks Act, 2009.
- DPDT has four wings and two units, namely,
 - i) Administration and Finance,
 - ii) Patents & Designs,
 - iii) Trademarks,
 - iv) World Trade Organization (WTO) and International Affairs.
- i) Geographical Indications (GI) Unit (nascent stage), and
- ii) IT Unit (full fledged)

Human Resources



• Total Manpower of DPDT.....	113
• Registrar.....	01
• Deputy Registrar.....	04
• Assistant Registrar.....	09
• System Analyst.....	01
• Programmer.....	01
• Assistant Programmer.....	01
• Examiner (Patents).....	10
• Examiner (Designs).....	02
• Examiner (Trademarks).....	12
• Examiner (WTO & International Affairs)...	01
• Asst. Examiner(Trademarks)	03
• Administrative Officer.....	01
• Librarian.....	01
• Supporting Staffs.....	66

Organogram of Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT)



Revenue Budget for DPDT



- 2012-13: BDT 29656000
- 2013-14: BDT 31,217000
- 2014-15: BDT 34,893000

Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT)

Domestic Laws Regarding Industrial Property Rights



- Bangladesh has the following Laws and Rules on Intellectual Property
- 1. Patents & Designs Act -1911,
- 2. Patents & Designs Rules 1933,
- 3. Trademarks Act 2009,
- 4. Trademarks Rules 1963,
- 5. Copyright Act 2000,
- 6. Copyright Rules 2006, and
- 7. Geographical Indications of Goods(Registration and Protection) Act 2013.
- Draft Patent Act 2014, Draft Design Act 2014, Draft Trademark Rules and Draft GI Rules are at several stages on their progression. They are floated at the ministry's website for the feedback from multi-stakeholder.

N.B. Issues related to Copyright belong to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs

Source:

http://www.moind.gov.bd/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=265&limit=15&limitstart=0&order=date&dir=DESC&Itemid=236

Present Situation and Future Direction of DPDT



- With the assistance from World Intellectual Property Organization(WIPO), DPDT started formulating Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy.
- DPDT has started partial automation using the IPAS software(only for internal search) since February,2014. DPDT has been working for full automation.
- Decision for establishing Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) has already been taken and DPDT with the assistance of WIPO has organized a training for the multi-stakeholder for this purpose on 17-18 June, 2014.

Present Situation and Future Direction of DPDT



- DPDT maintains communication with different IP offices of other countries and tries to explore the immense potentials and share experiences.
- DPDT has been working for expanding IP awareness by organizing seminars, symposiums and training workshops and various discussion meetings.

Present Situation and Future Direction of DPDT



- Future Automation Plan includes:
- a) Online filling/ application system
- b) Online payment/ E-Payment system
- c) Online Certification system
- d) Journal Publishing through online
- e) Publishing e-gazette
- f) Introducing client search against online payment
- g) Linking online application system and IPAS system, etc.

Current Automation Status:



Latest status of Patents, Designs and Trademarks files captured in IPAS (Industrial Property Automation System):

File Types	Captured Files
Patents	6440
Industrial Designs	18858
Trademarks	178,584
Total	203,882

Facilitating Technology Transfer and Management of IP Assets



How does IP facilitate technology transfer?

- Though patent results in the exclusive right of an inventor to commercially exploit his or her inventions within the national territories for a certain period, it actually helps transfer new technologies beyond national boundaries.
- As patent owners are obliged to disclose information or reveal their process of inventions, they **contribute to enrich the existing body of technical knowledge**. Thus IP encourages innovation which ultimately leads to the further progress of human society.

Facilitating Technology Transfer and Management of IP Assets



How does IP facilitate technology transfer?

- The monopoly (for a certain period) resulted from patent makes sure that the **patent owner recovers the expenses** he or she invested in research and development which plays role **as incentive to owners, researchers, inventors and investors.**

Facilitating Technology Transfer and Management of IP Assets



Channels through which technology is transferred across borders:

1. International trade
2. Foreign Direct Investment
3. Contractual **Licensing** of technologies and **franchising** trademarks or service marks to various firms, subsidiaries and joint ventures
 - Licensing--Patents can be licensed to companies and enterprises allowing them to reap the benefit of the invention in exchange for royalty.
 - License agreements help trade knowledge through making access of locally developed inventions into the wider international market

Facilitating Technology Transfer and Management of IP Assets: Experience of Bangladesh



- Bangladesh is a member of IP regimes such as WIPO, WTO.
- Economic realities of Bangladesh as a member of LDCs (major portion of GDP is allocated to address basic needs like food security, education, infrastructure and disaster management)
- Its size of economy, its level of economic development (pre-take off stage), meagre resources allocated for R&D pose challenges for effective inventor-investor connections.
- University-Industry communication is not widely practiced. Informal mechanism exists, such as consultancy of the faculties and transfer of know-how, joint or sponsored research projects etc.
- Lack of full time researchers in R&D (although government funded laboratories are there)

Technology Transfer and Commercialization



Commercialization is the final stage of innovation i.e. innovation transforms inventions into commercially viable products.

- Not all invented products can be commercialized.

For Successful Commercialization of Products:

- i) Successful commercialization strategies (analysis of investment cost, net gain from the real market,
 - ii) Effectiveness of IP Enforcement Mechanism(i.e. logical relations between ‘cost of obtaining and maintaining the patent’ and the ‘income generated from owning the patent’)
 - iii)Marketing strategies
 - iii)Strategic planning
- SMEs can use patents to attract investment

Technology Transfer and Commercialization: Potentials for Bangladesh



- Increasing number of private R&Ds in Bangladesh especially in agricultural sectors such as rice hybrids, poultry, livestock, seed variety, plant breeding and seed processing.
- Cheap Labor and Population Dividend: Bangladesh can reap benefit from its demographic dividend as largest segment of its population is of productive working age.
- MDG Successes: Bangladesh has gained success in achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals
- Bangladesh has liberal regime for FDI

Technology Transfer and Commercialization: Potentials for Bangladesh



- Steady GDP growth rate around 6% for nearly one decade despite recurring natural disasters
- Success in widening the access to Information Technology to root level
- Bangladesh has been ranked by Goldman Sachs Investment Bank as to be a member of Next 11 having promising outlooks for investment and future growth.
- Vision 2021 of Bangladesh Government

Concluding Remarks



- Effective linkage among academia, research organizations, industries and government should be established.
- Vigorous awareness building activities should be taken throughout the country.
- Scientists and innovators should be given proper recognition, awards and incentives.

Thank You

