

# Update on the implementation of Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) program


## **BOTSWANA**

**Malebogo Selemogo**

**Harare, Zimbabwe**

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 
- Background
  - TISC Activities
  - Challenges
  - Recommendations
  - Conclusion

# Background

- CIPA is mandated to register businesses and protect intellectual property rights through the administration of four (4) pieces of legislation, namely;
  - The Companies Act (CAP 42:01).
  - Registration of Business Names Act (CAP 42:05).
  - Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act (CAP 68:02).
  - Industrial Property Act (CAP 68:03).

# Background contd...

- Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) Service Level Agreement was signed in 2017.
- TISC Network was established in August 2018.
- Network targeted academic and research institutions at inception stage (about 10 institutions).
- Botswana Innovation Fund was established to promote and support innovation activities.

# Background contd...

## Technology and Innovation Support Center structure:

### WIPO

- Supports participating governments in preparing project documentation
- Helps address training and resource needs
- Enables sharing of experiences and best practices among TISC's

### GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

- Identifies national priorities
- Assesses user needs
- Signs off on project documentation

### NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

- Identifies potential Host Institutions, assesses their capacities, and support them in joining TISC project
- Act as main intermediary between WIPO & TISC Host institutions
- Coordinates activities of the national TISC network
- Monitors and evaluates TISC project progress

### HOST INSTITUTION

- Provides admin & Technical staff required to deliver TISC services
- Provides facilities & infrastructure

- **Government Authority** - Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) as the National Coordinator
- **National Focal Point** - Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH)
- **Host Institutions** – where the TISC centers will be hosted

# TISC Activities

## Awareness

- “Botswana Innovates Show” on private radio station weekly to promote innovation activities.
- Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) annual workshops for the inventors.
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) annual program for students, inventors and researchers.
- Women inventors in Business workshops in an effort to empower women.
- Conduct lectures for students in the engineering and fashion & design departments in University of Botswana every year.
- Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Week
- Winter Schools to train people on IP various topics especially ‘commercialisation’.
- Continued consultations with Senior Management on different institutions about TISC in an effort to build a strong TISC network.
- Promote the use of patent databases and non-patent databases when conducting awareness campaigns across the country.
- IP awareness for students.
- Participate in Global expo and different Fairs
- Support IP activities by universities and various communities.

# TISC Activities

## Capacity Building

- Researchers, inventors, innovators are recommended to enrol for WIPO Academy distance learning course such as patent search and drafting.
- To explore the Inventor Assistance Support (ISA) program provided by WIPO to support the inventors and small businesses.
- Continued training on patent information search for the researchers.
- Capacitate IP Attorneys on different IP topics.
- Encourage researchers, inventors, innovators and the public at large to participate in the Masters on IP programs across the African continent.

## Policy development

- **National IP Policy** – work in progress to be finalised before end of 2019
- **National Institutional Policy** for IP management to guide institutions on the administration of IP, innovation and related activities.
- **Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (RSTI) Policy** to promote investment in research & development.

# TISC Activities

## Competitions

- National Mathematics and Science competition for secondary and senior schools.
- Pitch Competitions for innovators
- 24 Hour Hackathon – innovators present solutions within 24 hours.
- Innovation competitions – private sector engagement



# TISC Activities contd...

- Currently, three (3) institutions have set-up the TISC centers and have started using atleast patent databases such as patentscope, espacenet etc.
- Botswana Innovation Hub to sign the TISC MoU with three (3) research institutions in October 2019.
- Monitoring and evaluation tool
- To roll-out TISC program to more institutions, SMME's, and the private sector in 2020.

# Challenges

- IP Awareness
- Funding
- Limited IP expertise
- Slow up-take of the TISC program by institutions

# Recommendations

- WIPO to set up a fund with developed countries to help the developing and least developed countries in accordance with Article 67 of TRIPS (Technical Cooperation).
- Encourage researchers, inventors, innovators to enrol for WIPO Distance Learning courses e.g. patent search and drafting amongst others.
- Intensify awareness on the importance of TISC, partnering with institutions that have already started the implementation.

# Conclusion

- The promotion of Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) and protection of intellectual property has potential to develop economic growth, create new jobs and industries and enhances the quality of life and enjoyment.

# How do I get more information

## In Gaborone

P O Box 102

Plot 181, Kgale Mews

Telephone: + 267 3673700/3188754

Fax: + 267 3188130

Website: [www.mti.gov.bw](http://www.mti.gov.bw)

## In Francistown

P O Box 2301

Plot 14201,Block 8

Telephone: + 267 2412339

Fax: +267 2421551

Website: [www.mti.gov.bw](http://www.mti.gov.bw)

## In Maun

Private Bag 107

Old D.A.M.S.A.C Opposite Veterinary

Telephone: +267 6800912/73127518

Website: [www.mti.gov.bw](http://www.mti.gov.bw)

## In Serowe

P O Box 3992

Plot 2154, Cas Centre, next to LEA Offices

Telephone: + 267 4630322

Fax: +267 4630513

Website: [www.mti.gov.bw](http://www.mti.gov.bw)



**THANK YOU**