



## **Regional Forum on the Role of Patents and the PCT in Research in Developing Countries Nairobi, from March 30 to April 1, 2009**

### **WIPO's Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program and Development Agenda**

- Françoise Wege
- Senior Counsellor, Technical Assistance and  
Capacity Building Bureau for Africa, WIPO



## **Introduction**

- **WIPO's overall mission is:**  
**To promote the protection of IP rights  
worldwide and extend the benefits  
of the international IP system to all  
member States**
- **WIPO membership: 184**  
**These include:**
  - **137 developing Countries**
  - **50 LDCs**
  - **45 sub saharan African countries**



## I. Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program

**WIPO Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (TACB) program falls under Strategic Goal III:**

**« Facilitating the Use of IP for development »**

**It is aimed at:**

- facilitating the development of modern and balanced IP systems in developing countries, and**
- promoting its use for improving the business environment, encouraging innovation, creativity and transfer of technology**



## TACB Service providers

**TACB Sector :**

- 4 Regional Bureaus ( Bureau for Africa, Arab, Asia and Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean)**
- Division for Cooperation with certain Countries in Europe and Asia**
- Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) Division**
- Legislative and Legal Advice Division**
- Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Division**



- **Others:**

- **WIPO Worldwide Academy (WWA)**
- **IP Offices Automation Division**
- **Division for Infrastructure Services and Innovation Promotion (DISIP)**
- **Creative Industries Division**
- **Development Agenda Division**
- **Traditional Knowledge Division**



## TACB Scope

- **The scope of TACB is:**

- **Legislative assistance and advice**
- **Building efficient and modern IP Infrastructure**
- **Building countries' sustainable capacity in the areas of IP policy making, human resources, institutions and strategic and effective use of the system**

- **New focus:**

- **development of national and institutional IP policies and strategies**
- **projects approach with concrete deliverables**



## Guiding principles

- **TA principles are:**
  - demand-driven
  - Transparent
  - No “one-size fits all” model. TA is tailored to meet each country’s priorities, special needs and its level of development
  - Developing synergies with other providers of technical assistance



## Challenges

- **Diversity of stakeholders (IP offices, policy-makers, R&D institutions, universities, inventors, legal practitioners, economic operators, customs and police, judges, right holders, consumers, etc.)**
- **Increasing awareness of the catalytic role played by IP in accelerating economic, social and cultural development, and**
- **transforming the potential of IP into real, tangible developmental benefits**



## **Strategies**

- **Encourage and support countries to developing national and institutional plans, policies and strategies**
- **Support formulate and implementation of pro-active IP capacity-building programs**
- **Support the modernization of IP administrations and infrastructure**
- **Develop tools which facilitate access to IP technical information and other IP services**



## **Strategies (cont'd)**

- **Provide advice to enable countries to make informed decisions in updating of IP legislations and use of flexibilities**
- **Foster inter and intra-regional cooperation**



## Inter-regional Cooperation

- **Regional IP Organizations:**  
ARIPO, OAPI
- **Regional/Sub-regional Cooperation Groupings:**  
CEMAC, COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, etc.
- **Regional organizations and UN Commissions:**  
AU, ARCT, ECA etc.
- **Regional Banks:**  
AfDB, ADB, IDB, IADB, Afrexim Bank, etc.
- **Other partners**



## Highlights of Some TA Activities

### ARIPO and OAPI

- **Facilitating the elaboration of harmonized regional instruments for the protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs)**
- **Assistance in the implementation of the “Libreville Initiative” of OAPI member States on the valorization of traditional medicine**
- **Development and implementation of pilot projects on geographical indications in 4 OAPI Countries**
- **Support to ARIPO and OAPI training centers and joint organization of training programs**
- **Supporting the development of and facilitating access to IP databases. It is envisaged to extend these projects to OAPI countries.**
- **Assistance to strengthen the Networks of Collective Management Societies**



## Highlights (cont'd)

### Elaboration of IP policies, plans and strategies

- Assistance in development of national IP policies, plans and strategies based on IP audits and needs assessment
- Elaboration of practical guidelines for elaboration of IP strategies

### • Innovation and SMEs

- Aim: Raise IP awareness among R&D institutions and SMEs and enhance strategic use of IP by innovators and SMEs
- Supporting formulation & implementation of policies and strategies
- Development of practical guides
- Development of IP licensing, Technology management, IP valuation, patent drafting ..skills
- Creating Research Institutions Networks



## Highlights cont'd

### Assistance to LDCs

**Aim: To address special needs of LDCs**

**Some activities:**

- Developing useful tools (guide on IP licensing)
- Conducting specialized studies (surveys on traditional knowledge)
- Building capacity of policy makers and IP professionals
- Establishment of Patent Information and Advisory Services Centers



### **IP Offices Automation:**

- **Aim:** To enhance the efficiency and timely delivery of registration services to users
- **Activities:** Streamlining of business procedures, customization of the system to meet IP offices' needs, training & knowledge transfer to local staff, technical support and advice.
- **Impact evaluation:** Monitoring and impact evaluation have shown that the level of benefit and impact varies from country to country depending on challenges faced by each office. The conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation were useful for enhancing and improving the quality of assistance.



## **Highlights (cont'd)**

### **Legislative and Legal Advice**

**Aim:** To promote the formulation of effective legal systems

**Activities:**

- **Provision, upon request, of comments and advice on new laws and draft regulations**
- **Provision of advice on flexibilities**
- **Compilation of laws**
- **Conducting awareness raising programs**





## Highlights cont'd

### WIPO Worldwide Academy

**Aim: Create a reservoir of IP specialists**

**Programs:**

- **Distance Learning Program**
- **Professional Training**
- **IP Teaching in universities**

**Approach: Training trainers in partnerships with Academic Institutions/IGOs/NGOs**



## Highlights cont'd

**Some programs of interest:**

**WIPO/ARIPO/Africa University MIP program (a similar program is envisaged for French-Speaking countries in cooperation with OAPI)**

**A Post-graduate program in IP management with INPI Portugal and Lisbon –school of Economics and Management**

**Specialization Certificate in IP with the UNISA**

**Specialization program in IP, Turin.**



## II. Development Agenda

**The WIPO Development Agenda (DA) was adopted by the Assembly of Member States in September 2008 following a long series of consultations.**

**It is a set of recommendations which seek to mainstream development considerations into the work of WIPO, targeting specifically, activities related to technical assistance and norm-setting.**



## DA Clusters

**Recommendations are grouped into clusters as reproduced below:**

- **Cluster A: Technical assistance and capacity building:**
  - Promoting a development-oriented IP culture and generating greater public awareness on IP
  - Introducing IP at different academic levels
  - Placing particular emphasis on the needs of SMEs and institutions dealing with scientific research and cultural industries
  - Promoting transparency in the roster of consultants for TA
  - Strengthening national capacity for protection of domestic creations, innovations and inventions and to support the development of national scientific and technological infrastructure



## DA Clusters (cont'd)

- **Cluster B: Norm Setting, Flexibilities, Public Policy and Public Domain.**

The cluster recommends, among others, that norm-setting activities should:

- be inclusive and member-driven
- take into account different levels of development and the balance between costs and benefits
- be participatory
- take into account the flexibilities offered
- be in line with the principle of neutrality of the WIPO Secretariat, and

Urges the IGC to accelerate the process on the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore without prejudice to any outcome, including the development of an international instrument or instruments.



## Institutional framework

- A Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) was set up to monitor the implementation of the recommendations and report to the Assemblies.
- The Committee has already met twice, the third session will be held in Geneva from April 27 to May 1, 2009 to examine the progress made.
- A Development Agenda Coordination Division (DACD) was recently established to facilitate the integration of the development dimension into programs of different sectors of the organization.
- The DA recommendations have been reflected in the revised Program-Budget for 2008/2009 and were taken into account in designing the program-Budget for 2010/2011.



**Thank you**