WIPO/IP/DDK/02/1(b)

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: November 2002





WIPO ASIAN REGIONAL SEMINAR ON AN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STRATEGY FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMEs)

organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

in cooperation with the International Intellectual Property Training Institute (IIPTI)

> and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO)

Daeduk, Daejeon, Republic of Korea, November 26 to 28, 2002

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMES) DIVISION OF WIPO

Document prepared by the International Bureau of WIPO

WIPO ASIAN REGIONAL SEMINAR ON an INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY Strategy FOR small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

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An Overview of the Objectives, Strategies and Activities of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) Division of WIPO

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- The importance of SMEs for economic and social development is universally accepted.
- More than 90% of enterprises in all economies are SMEs, making a significant contribution to employment, trade, investment and economic growth
- Most countries have SMEs support policies and programs including tax incentives, differentiated fees, subsidies, technical supports, professional training, etc

Why Focus on IP and SMEs?

- In the new knowledge economy, intangible assets, including innovative ideas, information and knowhow have become central business assets
- SMEs are proven **innovators** and are the driving force behind a number of technological breakthroughs
- In the US, SMEs contribute 2.38 times more innovations per employee than do larger firms (Source: OECD)



The Challenge

• Many studies show that **SMEs** worldwide largely **under-utilize the intellectual property system**



Reasons for low use of IP System by SMEs

- Unawareness of the IP system and its usefulness
- Perceived high costs and complexity of IP system
- Lack of easily accessible assistance



- In September 2000, the WIPO Assemblies approved the proposal of the International Bureau that:
 - certain activities planned for 2001 be realigned or refocused towards SMEs
 - "...a substantial new program of activities, focusing on the intellectual property-related needs of SMEs worldwide, be included in the draft Program and Budget for the next [2002-2003] biennium"
- SMEs Division established in October 2000



The vision

- IP Empowerment
 - Improving the policy framework and business environment to make it conducive and easier for SMEs to use the IP system
 - Improving competitiveness of SME by enabling SMEs to fully exploit their innovative and creative potential through an effective use of the IP system
- IP-Oriented Knowledge and Wealth Creation by SMEs worldwide in all sectors of the economy



The strategy

- 1. Target a new audience
- 2. Create simple SME-friendly material
- 3. Focus on new areas
- 4. Gather and provide information
- 5. Cooperation and partnerships
- 6. Strengthen outreach activities of IP offices

NEW AUDIENCE

- Bringing IP Issues to SME Events
- Bringing Business Perspective to IP Events
- New Partnership: Open Door Policy (IGOs, Government SME Focal Points, SME Support, Training and Financing Institutions, National Chambers of Commerce and Industry, SME Associations, SME Research Institutions, and Civil Society, Private Sector Institutions, Universities, etc)



- Summit Economic Forum of the Central European Initiative (CEI) (Italy, Nov 2001)
- Virtual (Online) World Congress of SMEs and Young Entrepreneurs (Oct-Dec, 2001)
- Video Conference of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (Feb 2002)
- WASME International Conference for SMEs (Gibraltar, April 2002)



- Conference on SMEs (Croatia, June 2002)
- Small Scale Industries Convention (India, August 2002)
- International Conference of NASME on Enhancing the Competitiveness and Growth of SMEs (Nigeria, Sept 2002)
- Summit Economic Forum of the Central European Initiative (CEI) (Macedonia, Nov 2002)

Bringing Business Perspective to IP Events

- PATINNOVA/EPIDOS Joint Annual Conference (Cardiff, Oct 2001)
- China Symposium organized by EU, EPO and SIPO on IP Strategies for Enterprises following WTO accession (Nov 2001)
- WIPO National Seminar on Industrial Property and the PCT (Mauritius, July 2002)
- Presentations in WIPO Academy Events in Geneva



Creating simple SME - Friendly material

- Web site in English, French and Spanish
- Articles for various magazines and web sites of partner institutions
- Monthly news letters with information, links and documents for subscribers
- IP and SMEs Brochure
- IP Guides



Web Site of SMEs Division

- Six Languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese)
- Web Site Hits:

45,890 (August 2002)

45,241 (July 2002)

39,967 (June 2002)

44,694 (May 2002)



Web Site of SMEs Division

- Content:
 - IP for Business
 - IP and E-Commerce
 - Activities
 - Best Practices
 - Case Studies
 - Documents



Magazine Articles

- Articles for magazines and web sites of partner institutions
- WIPO Magazine Articles:
 - Why is IP Relevant to Business?
 - The Role of Trademarks in Marketing
 - The Power of Designs for Marketing Success
 - Patents: Tapping the Potential of Innovative New Products
 - Trade Secrets are Gold Nuggets: Protect them
 - Trade Secrets: Policy Framework and Best Practices
 - The Value of Collective and Certification of Marks for Small Players



IP for SMEs Newsletter

- Monthly e-mail newsletter (Updates, with information, links and documents for subscribers)
- Three Languages (En, Fr, Sp)
- Some 1700 subscribers by Sept 2002



GUIDES

- Joint IP guides in cooperation with other IGOs:
 - -Technology license agreements * (ITC)
 - -Crafts and Visual Arts * (ITC)
 - -Toy Industry # (UNIDO)
 - -Machine Tool Industry # (UNIDO)
- IP input for Guide on Exporting Automotive Components (ITC)
- * Under preparation
- # Under discussion



- Trademarks
- Licensing IP
- Industrial Designs
- Patents
- Trade Secrets
- E-commerce
- Copyright



Other Products (under preparation)

- SME Policy Guidelines
- Distance Learning Program
- IP Toolbox for SMEs



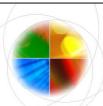
Focus on new areas

- Use of IP for financing (venture capital, securitization)
- Accounting and valuation of IP assets; IP audit
- Fiscal policies and IP (e.g. tax incentives for R&D activities, patenting, licensing, etc.)
- IP services to SMEs by incubators, technology parks, chambers of commerce and SME associations



Focus on new areas(2)

- Copyright and SMEs in the cultural industries (MERCOSUR and Arab study on cultural industries; Caribbean Music Industry Project)
- IP needs of SMEs in specific sectors such as biotechnology, agriculture, handicrafts, software
- Insurance and IP



Gather and provide information

- Best Practices (on the SME web site and later also in a booklet)
- Collection of case studies
- STEP Group Report on IP and SMEs in Norway
- Korean Study
- Development of Policy Guidelines; Milan Plan of Action



PARTNERSHIPS

- Internal (WIPO)
- External
 - -IGOs
 - -Government
 - -Private Sector
 - -Civil Society (NGOs)



PARTNERSHIPS

- Reciprocal Links (Internal and External)
- Hosting and Republication of Content, including E-mail updates
- CD-ROM distribution to new audience
- Customized Articles
- Joint Activities (Studies, Guides, Events, NFAPs)
- Training the Trainers



KEY INTERNAL PARTNERS

- Cooperation for Development Bureaus
- The Division for Cooperation with Certain Countries in Europe and Asia
- Worldwide Academy
- Global Protection Systems Sector
- E-Commerce and Arbitration and Mediation Center
- Innovation Promotion Division



KEY EXTERNAL PARTNERS

- UNCTAD
- UNEĆA
- UNECE
- UNESCWA
- UNIDO
- UNESCO

- IP Offices
- SME Focal Points
- WASME
- ILO/
- ITC
- APCTT



Strengthen outreach activities of IP Offices

- Meeting of Heads of Latin American IP Offices in Quito, Ecuador (November 2001) with discussion on promoting IP among SMEs
- NFAPs for Philippines and Mongolia
- Dissemination of Best Practices
- Customized information



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