

**SYMPOSIUM ON LDC PRIORITY NEEDS FOR
TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION
EXPERIENCE OF UGANDA**

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Introduction

- On 29 November 2005 the WTO TRIPS Council extended the original TRIPS Article 66.1 transition period for implementation of the TRIPS Agreement by LDCs, from 1 January 2006 to 1 July 2013.
- That decision called for LDCs to provide the WTO TRIPS Council, preferably before 1 January 2008, as much information as possible on their individual priority needs for technical and financial assistance for implementing the TRIPS Agreement.

Cont

- In 2007, Uganda received technical assistance from DFID/ICTSD and Saana Consulting to carry out the needs assessment. Challenges were identified in the following areas:
 - IP policy, legal and regulatory framework;
 - Promoting innovation, technology transfer, creativity and using IP for development;
 - IPR administration infrastructure; and
 - Enforcement and regulation regime for IPRs.

Uganda Trade and Intellectual Property Project (UTIP)

- UTIP program was developed in 2008 with the help of DFID/Saana Consulting. Activities for support identified in the following areas:
- Cluster 1 – IP Regulation (Updating the National IP Policy, Legal & Regulatory Framework)
- Cluster 2 – IP Administration (Modernizing IPR Administration)
- Cluster 3 – IP Enforcement (Strengthening Enforcement and related Regulation of IPRs)
- Cluster 4 – IP Diffusion (Using IP for Business, Innovation, Creativity and Technology Transfer)



Progress

- TA received to carry out the following:
- studies in different IP areas to guide the process of policy formulation;
- National and Regional IP forum;
- DDIP carried out in the area of current intellectual property laws and access to Medicines, educational materials and whether they support technology transfer;
- Drafting a national IP policy;

Progress

- Modernization of IPR Administration-URSB
- Innovation fund –Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
- IP policy developed by Makerere University
- Use of IP for business: Light years IP developed proposal on Vanilla and shear butter, WIPO working on cotton, vanilla and sesame
- Training of the Judiciary, legal practitioners, governmental officials

Challenges

- IP had not been included as a priority in DTIS in 2006, DTIS is yet to be reviewed;
- Difficult to get consolidated funds for the whole project;
- Where activity is on legal review the process tends to be lengthy, making implementation difficult;
- Institutional fragmentation in dealing with IP;
- More emphasis on setting up laws without looking at implementation challenges;



Challenges

- Limited funding for some clusters i.e. Cluster 3: enforcement and related regulations-training of trainers and officers on IP, tailored skills development for the judiciary and public prosecutors;
- Cluster 4: IP diffusion: IP awareness for the business community, researchers, academia, IP professional skills development for the legal practitioners, IP education.



Way Forward and Conclusion

- The needs assessment report needs to be updated to assess progress so far and outstanding activities;
- The National IP Committee needs to be formalized;
- IP has been identified as a priority in the National Development Plan;
- Developing IP tools for business should be accompanied by marketing strategies for the products identified;
- Donors should explore possibilities of funding regional projects especially where countries are facing similar challenges such as EAC;



Way forward and conclusion

- Due to lack of comprehensive program i.e. on sensitization and training, it is difficult to assess benefits of some programs since they are provided in pieces;
- Possible solution could be to develop a national sensitization and training program within the project and allow donors to fund different training and sensitization activities within the program;



Way forward and Conclusion

- IP is competing with other priorities at the national and international level and therefore the budget may have to be scaled down;
- Donors should explore ways of increasing assistance to those countries that have completed the needs assessment so that progress can be made by 2013.



Thank You

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