

PILOT PROJECT

CREATING AN ENABLING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ENVIRONMENT TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND PACE FOR TECHNOLOGY SCOUTING, ABSORPTION, ADAPTATION & INNOVATION.

Introduction

The project to create an enabling intellectual property environment to increase the capacity and pace for technology scouting, absorption, adaptation and innovation (herein after the Project) seeks to harness the potential synergies of the different training opportunities from WIPO for universities and research institutions in the developing countries to achieve a more cumulative and sustainable impact on beneficiary countries. The Project seeks to coordinate training and other activities based on needs prioritization in countries relating to technology development and commercialization to enhance coherence.

Initially, the Project assembles a suite of complementary and related capacity-building and technical assistance activities from various Sectors of WIPO to form a prospectus to accomplish the long-term goal of building capacity and pace for technology scouting, absorption, adaptation and innovation using IP tools for developing countries and least developed countries. Various programs and initiatives, such as the Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC), the Distance Learning (DL) Courses, University Technology Licensing and Patent Drafting Training, among others, are linked into a logical curriculum.

The Project does not only enhance human resource capacities, but aims to build institutional capacity, by setting up enabling structures and organizing a networked community and facilitate a tripartite collaboration involving the local industries, the academic and research institutions and government, to use effectively the patent system to scout, attract, access, absorb, use and produce technologies, with the end in view of the country's greater participation in the global knowledge economy. As such, the Project will include assistance in strengthening in-country political and administrative support, organize stakeholders and apply a "hub and spoke" approach to skills enhancement. The Project will also require a longer term commitment and accountability of local institutions in the public and private sectors, so that the collective results of the activities are sustained by stakeholders.

Considering that the expected results involve the application of newly acquired skills in the context of an ongoing technology scouting, absorption, adaptation, innovation and commercialization operation in selected institutions of beneficiary countries, the Project necessarily takes a long-term perspective to providing development assistance, and it will target a selected group of stakeholders throughout the duration of the project.

Cooperation Strategy

It is envisaged that by coordinating and concentrating the activities to a networked community of practice, the results of the technical assistance provided to countries will result in demonstrated capacity for technology scouting, absorption, adaptation and innovation using the patent system. This strategy seeks to achieve the following -

- Coherence: different groups working as one and using a holistic approach to delivering technical assistance;
- Relevance: anchored on the priority needs and development plans of countries; and concentrating on the key stakeholders and beneficiaries;
- Effectiveness: performance indicators also reflect the desired collective outcome from all of the diverse activities;
- Efficiency: optimized use of resources through centralized planning and coordinated implementation; and
- Sustainability: longer-term impact through in-country stakeholder involvement and ownership.

Considering that the TISC have an existing engagement with institutions involved in technology development in countries, the Project will build upon the TISC network to create the networked community by adding on a more intensified *curriculum* and using an expanded technical assistance framework. However, other institutions and/or organizations that are engaging in technology research and management, as well as service-providers thereof, are welcome to join the Hub, and they will also become part of the TISC network. Since not all institutions in TISC are willing and capable to commit to the intensified training and engagement, which require additional resources, the envisioned networked community will comprise of fewer institutions at the core of the TISC network.

At the inception phase of the Project, an exploratory mission and in-depth feasibility study will be conducted to do the following:

- Validate the capacity, commitment and fit of institutions with TISC for inclusion into the Project;
- Scout for other institutions and/or organizations outside the TISC network that may be brought into the Project;
- Determine the key industrial sectors, together with their movers and drivers (successful business enterprises as well as start-up entrepreneurs) which will benefit from technology development;
- Scan the legal, regulatory, institutional and political environment for issues and challenges that need to be addressed or factored in when implementing the Project;
- Determine opportunities for collaboration with other international, regional and national organizations with existing initiatives in the country; and
- Identify the risks of the Project that need to be managed or mitigated.

On the side of WIPO, the Project will be managed by the Aspac Bureau, through the Program Officers who will coordinate with the relevant Sectors. A Project consultant will be engaged to draft the complete Project document and assist in the management of the Project. In the beneficiary countries, a Steering Committee will be formed to ensure stakeholder ownership in the planning and implementation of the Project. Members of the Committee will come from both the public and private sectors to nurture a public-private partnership promoting technology transfer, adaptation and innovation in the country. The Steering Committee will meet as often as necessary in the first year to discuss and agree on the implementation strategy of the Project and delineate the roles and responsibilities of the different actors of the Project. Thereafter, it will meet once a year. The executive function of the Steering Committee will be carried out by a Project Coordinator who will be WIPO's focal point for the Project. His/her functions and responsibilities will be decided by the Steering Committee.

The capacity-building component of the Project will involve institutional stakeholders as partners, which will provide the technical and managerial staff to be trained for work for the networked community. These institutions and organizations will receive other forms of technical assistance to achieve the expected results of the hub, with the expectation that the institutions will sustain the results beyond the term of the Project. Among them, one or two entities will be selected as the Lead Institutions, depending upon the circumstances existing

in the country. Lead Institutions will have an added responsibility of championing and managing the hub at the national level. For this purpose, importance is given to recruiting the right institutions and trainees from the institutions at the inception phase of the Project to ensure the success of the Project. A group of not more than 50 trainees from at most ten institutions or organizations will be recruited to join the networked community per country. They will enter into an agreement articulating the shared goals of the networked community and conditions to work therein.

The partner institutions and organizations, through their assigned technical and managerial staff, will benefit from the following capacity-building activities:

Time Frame	Activities
Month 1	MODULE 1. Basic IP Course & Workshops on Institutional IP Strategy, Business Model for Capturing the Value of Inventions & DL 101 Course
Month 2-3	MODULE 2. Patent Information Course Phase 1 ((Search tools and strategies for patent databases))
Month 4-5	MODULE 3. Expert Mission on Hub Organization & Workshop on Technology Management and the IP Handbook with Remote Advisory/Consultation
Month 6-8	MODULE 4. Patent Drafting Course Phase 1 (theories & regulations) & DL 301 Course
Month 9-11	MODULE 5. Patent Information Course Phase 2 (Types of patent searches: State of the Art, Patentability Validity) & DL 318 Course
Month 12-14	MODULE 6. Patent Drafting Course Phase 2 (Skills and Practice) & DL 320 Course
Month 15-18	MODULE 7. Hub Organizational Meeting, Regional Workshop on Technology Management with Remote Advisory/Consultation, Technology Development & DL 450 Course
Month 19-21	MODULE 8. Patent Information Course Phase 3 (Patent Analysis and Preparing Patent Landscape Reports)
Month 19-24	MODULE 9. Extended-Stay Short Courses at universities with Technology Management programs
Month 22-23	MODULE 10. Patent Prosecution Course Phase 1 (National filing) & Awareness Seminar for Industry
Month 24	MODULE 11. Patent Prosecution Course Phase 2 (International filing)
Month 25-36	MODULE 12. Hub Operations Meeting, Workshop on Technology Management & Technology Development with Remote Advisory/Consultation
Month 37-42	MODULE 13. Patent Information Course Phase 4 (Identification and Use of Patents in the Public Domain, including Freedom-to-Operate Searches) + Internship

Month 43-48	MODULE 14. Hub Operations Meeting, Regional Workshop on Technology Management with On-site Advisory/Consultation; Technology Development
Month 48-72	MODULE 15. Participation in Technology Transfer, Adaptation and Diffusion Platforms and networks (WIPO GREEN, ReSEARCH, etc.) and Continuing Education Activities

The capacity-building activities in each Module are designed to provide specific competencies required for to create the enabling environment for institutions to function as an effective platform for technology scouting, absorption, adaptation and innovation. Other training may be added as determined by the Steering Committee and WIPO. Initially, the competencies are clustered in four main tracks represented by the color codes for easy reference.

-  • IP Knowledge, Strategies and Network Track
-  • Patent Information Track
-  • Patent Drafting and Prosecution Track
-  • Technology Management & Hub Operations Track

Work Plan

Impact Statement (overall objective): The networked community contributes to the increased capacity and pace for technology scouting, absorption, adaptation and innovation in the beneficiary countries.

Outcome (expected results):

1. Increased use of the national and global patent system by residents of beneficiary country to support technology scouting, absorption, adaptation and innovation;
2. Sustained institutional change in the academic community and other relevant sectors that enables the country greater participation in the knowledge economy; and
3. A networked community of entities engaged in technology transfer and commercialization work is organized and linked to global networks for collaboration and market access.

Outputs of Activities (cumulative output):

For Outcome 1

- a) Partner institutions and organizations in the networked community are equipped with the skills and necessary tools to provide patent-related services, including patent search, analysis, advice, drafting and prosecution as well as technology management;
- b) Partner institutions and organizations in the networked community are providing service to local enterprises and individuals with technology and patent-related needs using the newly acquired skills and tools;
- c) Research endeavors in the local community have consulted with and are benefitting from the scientific and technology information found in patents; and
- d) The national IP office has established support structures and facilities to promote the use of the patent system for technology scouting, absorption, adaptation and innovation in the country.

For Outcome 2

- a) Technologies under development and/or managed by the partner institutions and organizations in the Networked community are further advanced through the capacity-building activities of the Project;
- b) Patent-related knowledge and skills are applied, transmitted and mainstreamed at the institutional level through the Networked community;
- c) A viable organization and/or business unit is established in partner institutions and organizations in the Networked community to continually provide patent-related services to benefit the local community; and
- d) Legal, regulatory and policy enhancements are proposed to increase the capacity and pace for technology scouting absorption, adaptation and innovation efforts in the beneficiary country.

For Outcome 3

- a) A strategic and action plan, containing short, mid-term and long-term goals, to accelerate the pace of technology scouting absorption, adaptation and innovation through the Networked community, is in place;
- b) Mechanisms for industry-academe collaboration for technology absorption, adaptation and innovation are established;

- c) The Networked community brings together the buyers, suppliers and intermediaries for technology development, usage and innovation in periodic gatherings and conferences;
- d) Cooperation agreements are entered into by partner institutions and organizations in the Networked community with other entities for technology collaboration and market access.

Outreach Plan: In parallel to the capacity-building activities, the Project will actively engage the business and political leaders of the beneficiary country to raise awareness on the role of the patent system in accelerating the pace of technology scouting, absorption, adaptation and innovation. At the same time, the outreach efforts hope to gain more support for the Project to build momentum and sustain the endeavors of the Project. For this purpose, advocacy *fora*, high-level meetings and press conferences will be organized in conjunction with every activity as part of the event or as a side event. In addition, two major events will be organized by the Project. One event, to be held at the start of the Project, will introduce the Steering Committee and partner institutions and organizations in the Networked community, while another event will announce that the Networked community is “open for business” in the middle of the Project. Before the end of the Project, an international outreach action plan is formulated for inter-regional exchanges and technology transfer.

Term of Project: The Project will run for three *biennia*. The first two *biennia* will be devoted to capacity-building as well as hub organization and operation, while the last *biennium* will focus on managing the demand side of the innovation equation and provide support for the continuing education, networking and participation in technology transfer and adaptation and innovation platforms. More specifically, the Project timeline is as follows:

Project Milestones	1 st Biennium		2 nd Biennium		3 rd Biennium	
Exploratory Mission, Feasibility Study, Finalization of Project Documents						
Project Constitution (Agreements, Steering Committee & Partnerships)						
Basic Capacity Development (Modules 1-7)						
Organization, Strategy & Operation of the Networked community						
Intensive Competency Enhancement (Modules 8-11)						
Advanced Competencies & International linkages (Modules 12-14)						
Technology Development (Modules 7, 9 & 14)						
Operation and Institutionalization of Patent Services in the Hubs						
Participation in Platforms & Competitions for Tech Transfer & Networking						
Raising the Demand for Patent Services						

Monitoring and Self-Evaluation: After the feasibility study is prepared, a more elaborate logical framework will be drafted as part of the Project Document. This will be discussed and agreed to jointly with the Steering Committee in order to assure that the quality criteria and performance indicators are clear to all parties. The monitoring of the Project will be carried out internally and externally at the end of every biennium. As a necessary corollary, the systematic collection of data will be incorporated into every activity to track the progress and ensure the accountability.

Exit Strategy: The Project takes into consideration an end point when the country takes over the endeavor completely and sustains the results of the Project beyond the duration of assistance. This is why the Project adopts a participatory approach to creating the Networked community and invites institutional stakeholders to be partners in the Hub. The concept of having Lead Institutions championing the Networked community at the country level is also another strategy to ensure greater ownership and capability to continue the Networked community. On the other hand, the Steering Committee, which oversees the entire Project, will design and implement a transition strategy towards the end of the Project after deciding on the future path based on the results achieved by the Project.