



Department of Science and Technology
Government of India



***Training Programme on
Intellectual Property Rights and Related WTO Issues
April 28 – May 02, 2008, Jaipur***

Background

In this age of globalisation and increasing harmonisation of rules and practices for multilateral trade, investment and intellectual property rights (IPRs), participants in economic activities need to stay abreast of developments in many areas including the WTO rules. This applies equally to scientists and technologists working in various capacities in the Government of India.

Global rule making in the area of intellectual property was primarily in the domain of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) until a decade back. The Paris Convention (1967), the Berne Convention (1971), the Rome Convention (1961) and Washington Treaty (1989) of WIPO governed cross-border disciplines for intellectual property. While these treaties have been ratified by many countries, their implementation and enforcement left much to be desired. The emergence of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995 and the inclusion of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) under its acquis has obliged members to follow a set of uniform minimum standards in IPR protection.

The TRIPS Agreement has the objective of protecting and enforcing IPRs in order to contribute to the promotion of technological innovation and transfer and dissemination of technology to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge in a manner which is conducive to social and economic welfare and to a balance of rights and obligations.

The universe of IPRs in the TRIPS Agreement comprises of copyright and related rights, trademarks, geographical indications, industrial designs, patents, lay out designs of integrated circuits and trade secrets. While scientists would benefit from an exposure to the basic rules pertaining to all these IPRs, patent and copyright protection is of particular relevance to their functions of innovation and applied research.

This training programme has the aim of facilitating an overview of the basic principles of multilateral trading system (MTS) enshrined in the WTO and an understanding of the trade rules that apply to IPRs under its TRIPs Agreement. It will prepare the scientists and technologists to better exploit the opportunities that arise from the use of IPRs. This training programme will be relevant and beneficial for the scientists and technologists desirous of understanding advance IPR and WTO related issues and drafting of patents.

Methodology

The methodology adopted for undertaking the training programme includes lectures, case analysis, simulation exercises, interaction with experts, group discussions, etc. It will provide strategic understanding, develop core skills and encourage in-depth knowledge of the dynamics involved in IPR and related WTO issues.

Course Content

The programme has a duration of five working days and will cover following crucial areas of IPR and WTO related issues:

- Overview of the WTO
- Overview of TRIPS Agreement
- Enforcement under the TRIPS Agreement
- Copyrights and related rights and patents
- Implications of intellectual property rights for developing countries
- Basic features of the Indian Copyright Act, the Indian Patent Act and the Indian Plant Varieties Protection and Farmers' Rights Act.
- A brief overview of other IPR laws in India
- Relationship of IPRs with biotechnology, traditional knowledge and access and benefit sharing
- Patent drafting
- Future work and negotiations in the WTO relating to IPRs.

Resource persons

Resource persons will be comprised of eminent experts, practitioners and academicians in the field of advance IPR, WTO related issues and patent writing, namely,

- B. K. Zutshi, Former Indian Ambassador to the GATT
- Prabuddha Ganguli, CEO, VISION-IPR, Mumbai
- Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi
- Rajeshwari Hariharan, Partner, K & S Partners, New Delhi
- Atul Kaushik, Adviser (Projects), CUTS International, Jaipur
- Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International, Jaipur
- Archana A. Jatkar, Assistant Policy Analyst, CUTS International, Jaipur

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