HIGHLIGHTS

ARIPO: A Hub for IP Development

STAFF MATTERS

ARIPO Head of Human Capital Scoops Global Human Resources Excellency Award

FEATURE STORY

Innovation-Improving Lives

DID YOU KNOW?

WIPO Policy on Gender Equality

Huge Potential for IP Professionals
INTRODUCTION

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is an intergovernmental organization, which was established on 9 December, 1976 under the Lusaka Agreement signed in Lusaka, Zambia. Its mandate is to develop, harmonize and promote intellectual property in the Member States of the Organization and in Africa.

Membership of the Organization is open to all the States members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) or the African Union (AU). Currently there are nineteen Member States, namely; Botswana, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Substantive activities of the Organization are implemented through three treaties each focusing on a specific field of intellectual property. These treaties are: (a) the Harare Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs; (b) the Banjul Protocol on Marks, and (c) the Swakopmund Protocol on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore. A fourth treaty, the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants is yet to enter into force.

The Harare Protocol was concluded in 1982 and entered into force on 25 April, 1984. Among other functions, it empowers the ARIPO Office to grant patents and register industrial designs as well as utility models on behalf of the treaty’s contracting states. The Harare Protocol incorporates other international treaties of relevance, for instance, the Paris Convention, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and therefore enables applicants from the African region and elsewhere to file international applications and obtain protection of their intellectual property rights. The Harare Protocol has also been linked to the Budapest Treaty, which enables applicant to provide information on new micro-organisms claimed in patent applications. All Member States of ARIPO, with the exception of Somalia, are party to this treaty.

Search services

ARIPO has custody of worldwide patent documents. With the available documentation and information retrieval systems, the organization offers several search services to the public including state of the art, novelty, validity, Bibliographic and Patent map searches.


The Protocol empowers the ARIPO Office to register marks for goods and services in respect of and on behalf of the contracting states. Similar to the Harare Protocol, the Banjul Protocol provides a centralised system of registration and provides a mechanism for the ARIPO system to co-exist with the national systems of the Banjul Protocol contracting states. Thus, an applicant can choose to register a mark with a national office for protection limited to that country or may elect to use the ARIPO route in which case the application should designate at least one contracting state up to the maximum of ten.

The Swakopmund Protocol was concluded on 9 August, 2010 at a diplomatic conference held in Swakopmund, Namibia. It entered into force on 11 May, 2015. It acknowledges that traditional and local communities have for long utilised their traditional knowledge and culture for their survival and livelihood, and that there is now a gradual disappearance, erosion, misuse, unlawful exploitation and misappropriation of this traditional knowledge and folklore. Thus, the treaty seeks to empower and enhance capacity of custodians of traditional knowledge and folklore to realise their aspirations and prosperity through an effective protection system that will create a conducive environment for the respect, recognition, development and promotion of traditional knowledge and expressions of folklore and their continued use and development.

The Arusha Protocol for The Protection of New Varieties of Plants

The Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants was concluded by a Diplomatic Conference that was held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania on 6 July, 2015. The Protocol will enter into force only when four States have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession. The Protocol will permit Member States to provide protection on new plant varieties to their inventors within a unified plant variety protection system that recognizes the need to provide growers and farmers with improved varieties of plants in order to ensure sustainable agricultural production.

Protection of Copyright and Related Rights

ARIPOs mandate on Copyright and Related Rights aims to ensure the Organization coordinates and develop policies for the effective growth and protection of Copyright and Related Rights, recognizing the value of creative industries to the contribution of national economies and employment in Member States, the emancipation of copyright from all forms of piracy and strengthening infrastructure used for enforcement of copyright laws in the Member States and Africa at large.

Capacity Building Activities and Awareness Creation

ARIPO established a state of the art Acaderny, which was inaugurated on 15 February, 2006 to serve as a center of excellence in teaching, training, research and skills development in the field of intellectual property for different target audiences, including creators, inventors, artists, business managers and IP professionals, journalists, parliamentarians, policy makers, university lecturers, government officials of IP institutions, students and the civil society. The Academy provides intellectual property training in different areas including Masters in Intellectual Property, tailor-made courses, professional courses, research studies, attachments, internships and fellowships, and training programmes that focus on industrial property, copyright, enforcement, traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore.
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Intellectual Property is the ownership of ideas. Unlike tangible assets to your business such as computers or your office, intellectual property is a collection of ideas and concepts.

Intellectual property rights are like any other property rights. They allow creators, or owners, of patents, trademarks or copyrighted works to benefit from their own work or investment in a creation. These rights are outlined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides for the right to benefit from the protection of moral and material interests resulting from authorship of scientific, literary or artistic productions.

There are several compelling reasons why intellectual property should be protected and promoted. First, the progress and well-being of humanity rest on its capacity to create and invent new works in the areas of technology and culture. Second, the legal protection of new creations encourages the commitment of additional resources for further innovation. Third, the promotion and protection of intellectual property spurs economic growth, creates new jobs and industries, and enhances the quality and enjoyment of life.

An efficient and equitable intellectual property system can help all countries to realize intellectual property’s potential as a catalyst for economic development and social and cultural well-being. The intellectual property system helps strike a balance between the interests of innovators and the public interest, providing an environment in which creativity and invention can flourish, for the benefit of all.

Intellectual property refers to creations of the mind: inventions; literary and artistic works; and symbols, names and images used in commerce. Intellectual property is divided into two categories: Industrial Property includes patents for inventions, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications. Copyright covers literary works (such as novels, poems and plays), films, music, artistic works (e.g., drawings, paintings, photographs and sculptures) and architectural design. Rights related to copyright include those of performing artists in their performances, producers of phonograms in their recordings, and broadcasters in their radio and television programs.

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is an inter-governmental organization (IGO) that facilitates cooperation among member states in intellectual property matters, with the objective of pooling financial and human resources, and seeking technological advancement for economic, social, technological, scientific and industrial development.

The history of ARIPO goes back to the early seventies when a Regional Seminar on patents and copyright for English-speaking African countries was held in Nairobi. That seminar recommended that a regional industrial property organization be set up. In 1973 the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) responded to a request by these English-speaking countries for assistance in pooling their resources together in industrial property matters by establishing a regional organization. Following a number of meetings at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa and WIPO in Geneva, a draft Agreement on the Creation of the Industrial Property Organization for English-speaking Africa (ESARIPO) was prepared. This agreement, now known as the Lusaka Agreement, was adopted by a Diplomatic Conference held in Lusaka, Zambia on December 9, 1976.

It is imperative that we continue to engage each other towards ensuring that copyright and related rights are handled with the importance that it deserves. ARIPO is looking forward for Member States to contribute on having an Africa Agenda on Copyright and Related Rights that will input to the ARIPO Intellectual Property Agenda for the benefit of Africa and shape the Intellectual Property System in Africa. ARIPO would also like to put in place a regional voluntary copyright registration and notification system. To that aim, a feasibility study has been done and a policy framework will be drafted for consideration by the governing bodies of ARIPO.

We look forward to get feedback from you through our email below.

communications@aripo.org
The foundations of Africa are built on a diverse and often turbulent history, from European colonisation to economic struggles.

Africa may not necessarily be widely known for its groundbreaking technological advancements, but it is home to some ambitious innovators and policymakers.

However, the continent’s understanding of the complex matter of IP is lacking, Fernando dos Santos, director general of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), tells WIPR.

Despite this admission, ARIPO is addressing this challenge head-on and is determined to become a hub for IP development on the continent.

To achieve this vision, the organisation realises that it must improve its own internal systems and streamline procedures to become an efficient body. “ARIPO is increasingly becoming a reference not only in the administration of IP rights but also in advocating a better use of IP in the continent,” explains dos Santos.

“To that aim, becoming a hub means also being a centre in terms of communications technology systems, training activities and research in IP.”

He adds that IP organisations have been advocating for an approach to development that puts IP at its centre.

Dos Santos says that now governments are starting to understand this goal, the next step is to produce evidence of how IP can be incorporated into the development policies of each country.

“ARIPO can play a role in that regard and this requires more collaboration with new partners such as universities and research institutions in producing that evidence.”

To this end, ARIPO is upgrading the ARIPO Academy in Harare, Zimbabwe to work alongside universities...
in producing evidence to assist policymakers to create informed decisions on the use of IP for development.

**Fighting Counterfeits**

In an effort to curb counterfeiting, ARIPO is taking part in different initiatives to raise awareness of the consequences it has on the economy, in conjunction with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Interpol and the World Customs Organization. Employment, tax collection, health, safety and even security can be compromised by the practice of counterfeiting, says dos Santos.

ARIPO and its 19 member states have organised seminars and workshops highlighting the problem.

In collaboration with WIPO, it has also facilitated ‘training of trainers’ programmes for police academies, designed to introduce IP modules and courses to help authorities better understand the topic. Tanzania, Botswana and Uganda are all now teaching IP courses in their police academies, with Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, Rwanda and Gambia set to introduce them soon.

While dos Santos says these are effective techniques in curbing counterfeiting, he acknowledges that more work needs to be done.

“Vigorous campaigns to educate people about the negative impact of counterfeiting must be undertaken; border measures must be strengthened; seizure and destruction of counterfeit goods must be encouraged in many cases; and legislation must be improved.”

**Training and Awareness**

An area of focus for ARIPO last year was to revive the organisation’s image as a hub for IP development in Africa.

This aim was largely achieved through its marketing strategy and by developing a business model outlining the use of ARIPO’s newly inaugurated premises as a centre for IP training and awareness. “ARIPO was at the forefront of the development of the ‘Africa Copyright Agenda’ that was jointly adopted by WIPO, ARIPO, collective management organisations and copyright offices in Africa at the ARIPO headquarters in June 2017,” explains dos Santos.

“WIPO and ARIPO developed the ‘Guidelines for the Development of IP Policies for Universities and Research Institutions in Africa’, which will guide African higher learning and research institutions in the development of their internal IP policies.”

**IP Figures**

When it comes to the number of patent applications filed, the figure has been relatively steady from 2013 to 2017.

Last year, there were 747 applications, up from 697 in 2016. However, the 2017 figure represents a decline on 2015 (780) and 2014 (835).

Industrial design filings from 2013 to 2017 went through a more significant change. There were only 91 for 2017, compared to 219 in 2013, although the 2017 figure is an increase on the 83 reported in 2016.

At 381, the number of trademarks filed in 2017 reached a new peak compared to the previous four years: 296 in 2016; 283 in 2015; 362 in 2014; and 321 in 2013.

**Development is Key**

A main challenge for ARIPO moving forward will be helping decision-makers understand how IP can help with the continent’s development.

According to dos Santos, IP has been neglected and excluded from the member countries’ main development policies.

“Governments seem to be in a hurry to tackle issues related to hunger, failing policies in agriculture, and lack of innovation,” he says.

“Unfortunately, in many situations they are focusing on the symptoms instead of dealing with the root causes of the lack of creativity and innovation in Africa, which are deeply linked to the low uptake of the IP system in the continent over many years.”

“IP organisations have been advocating for an approach to development that puts IP at its centre.” He adds that the lack of understanding of IP frameworks is part of a bigger problem: that of failing to grasp the role that IP plays in developing the entire African continent.

Furthermore, while there are advantages to the Madrid System—such as African countries benefiting from commonly agreed procedures worldwide—he says there are some difficulties in its implementation “due to outdated legislation in some countries and a lack of domestication of the international instrument at the national level”.

In 2015, ARIPO adopted the Arusha Protocol, in order to protect crop growers’ rights and enhance agricultural productivity, innovation and development in ARIPO’s member states. Currently, there are five signatories to the protocol, although the ratification process is still open.

“The difficult situation of the African continent in terms of agriculture is well known: a young and fast-growing population, and perennial hunger which is a result of low levels of agricultural productivity, low
yields, crop diseases and cyclical droughts,” says dos Santos.

“The plant variety system is one of the elements that could ensure food sustainability by creating a system that benefits breeders, the seed industry, the farmers at all levels, and in general the African population.”

Working Together
Africa is unusual in that the continent has two regional IP offices. Whereas ARIPO’s member states are spread throughout the continent, its counterpart, the Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI), covers central and north-west countries in Africa.

ARIPO and OAPI serve similar purposes, but they were established in different contexts and circumstances, resulting in two systems. OAPI is more of a unitary system, with the office acting as the sole IP governing body for its member states. ARIPO, on the other hand, operates as a designation system and although it covers several countries, its member states also have individual IP offices.

Last year, the two bodies signed a cooperation agreement that allows them to harmonise their systems, and exchange technical information and develop training, including in the field of creating IP awareness. The cooperation will enable ARIPO and OAPI to offer assistance to each other when needed. Perhaps most important, says dos Santos, the agreement will allow the offices to take common positions on major IP issues affecting their member states at continental and international levels.

“With this agreement, the two organisations will be collaborating more in analysing the recent trends in IP, especially those that affect the African countries, and jointly craft a common position that will assist member states to take informed decision on IP matters,” he tells WIPR.

In addition, this will assist African countries in international negotiations, particularly when it comes to IP norm-setting and policy guidance.

With IP being so complex, combined with a lack of understanding into the issue, why isn’t there just one IP office for the whole continent?

The answer, says dos Santos, is simple: Africa is diverse.

“Africa is not a country but a group of 54 countries with history, traditions, legal frameworks and systems that are different,” he explains.

“On top of that there is a strong sense of sovereignty with regard to sensitive issues such as IP.”

Dos Santos says it’s important to note that there are countries not covered by either ARIPO or OAPI. As a result, a sophisticated and well-planned inclusive process is required to produce a solution to the administration of IP across Africa.

As ARIPO and OAPI continue to work on harmonisation efforts, the African Union is also working on a solution aimed at boosting harmonisation.

“Whatever solution will be brought, it is important to underline that it must consider ARIPO and OAPI as building blocks due to their long history of pan-Africanism and technical expertise in the area of IP,” dos Santos says.

While becoming a hub for IP development in Africa is an important part of ARIPO’s strategy, the success of this vision will largely depend on collaboration with others, most notably, OAPI.

ARIPO by numbers
• Members of the African Union: 54
• ARIPO member states: 19
• Trademark applications in 2017: 381 (a new high compared to the previous four years)
• Patent applications in 2017: 747
• Design filings in 2017: 91

This article was written and published by World Intellectual Property Review (WIPR) in their January/February 2018 magazine.
ARIPO Head of Human Capital Scoops Global Human Resources Excellency Award

ARIPO Head of Human Capital, Mr. Graham Mhlakaza has been ranked one of the world’s most influential Human Resources Practitioners in the World.

Mr. Mhlakaza was bestowed with the 100 Global Most Influential Human Resources Leaders Award at the World Human Resources Development Congress held in Mumbai, India from 15-17 February 2018. He made it to the top 100 list of influential Human Resources practitioners drawn from various companies and organizations around the globe who were also bestowed with the award.

The accolade was in recognition of his contributions to the development and delivery of proven Organizational transformation-biased and strategically aligned human capital solutions that drive sustainable corporate performance throughout his career spanning over the last 12 years.

Mr. Mhlakaza dedicated the award to the entire ARIPO Team whom he believes without its support, it could not have been possible to get such a prestigious award. He also dedicated the award to his wife and children for their continued support and motivation.
New Staff at ARIPO

**Mr. John Kagwa**
Mr. John Marius Kagwa joined ARIPO in February 2018 as a Patent Examiner-Telecoms. Prior to joining ARIPO, he worked as a Patent Examiner at Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB).

He joined URSB in 2012 as one of its first Examiners. During his time at URSB he played a key role in running operations of IP Directorate especially in improving the patent registration system. He actively participated in IP awareness activities, amendment of the Uganda patent law, set up of the Industrial Design registration system, and roll-out of the WIPO-TISC program in universities and research institutions.

He worked with Huawei Technologies, Uganda as a Transmission Engineer where he handled microwave link setup, site commissioning, onsite troubleshooting and maintenance for Warid Telecom (now Airtel Uganda). John also worked as a District Information Technology Officer for Nakapiripirit, Uganda where he supervised ICT projects at the district.

John holds a B.Eng in Telecommunications Engineering from Kyambogo University, Uganda. He has undergone diverse IP trainings with WIPO, JPO, PRV, KIPO and ARIPO.

**Ms. Odireleng Keipopele**
Ms. Odireleng Keipopele joined ARIPO in February 2018 as a Patent Examiner-Biochemistry.

Prior to joining ARIPO Ms. Keipopele served as a laboratory technician liaising Food Chemist for 14 years in a research and development Institution; National Food Technology Research in Kanye, Botswana, in a Food Chemistry Laboratory dealing with nutritional evaluation of biochemical and chemical components in the indigenous foods and related products of Botswana for value addition in terms of chemical food safety and quality assurance for food processing and technology transfer.

Ms. Keipopele, a food Chemist/Biochemist and Intellectual Property Expert, holds Masters in Intellectual Property from Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe through the sponsorship of World Intellectual Property Organasation (WIPO), for capacity building in Africa interims of IP. Her research was on the Current Utilization and the Legal Protection of the Indigenous Medicinal Plants in Botswana mainly focusing on their current commercialization and their use in the research based Institutions and the governing laws. Ms. Keipopele also possesses Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry, Chemistry and Microbiology from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University which is now Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Ms. Keipopele has also completed a WIPO distance learning course on patent searching.
Targeting Internet Service Providers (ISPs) as Means to Curtail Online Copyright Piracy

Online copyright piracy has been the fastest growing form of copyright infringement globally. This has been attributed to the rapid advancement in technology that has brought myriad challenges in the copyright industry. Online piracy refers to the unlawful copying and/or distribution of copyrighted material over the Internet without authorization from the copyright owner. People have in the recent past been pirating copyright-protected content ranging from music, television shows, movies, video games, eBooks, computer software and other digital contents without realising that they are committing a serious crime. This form of crime is usually committed through communication channels provided by Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

ISPs are companies that make it possible for people to communicate over the internet. They provide the means or channel of making content available to the public over the Internet. Examples of ISPs in Kenya include ZUKU, which is a brand under the Wananchi Group; Safaricom, Airtel and Telkom Kenya, which are the principal telecommunication companies in Kenya; Faiba which is a brand under Jamii Telecom; Access Kenya; and Liquid Telecom which is the former Kenya Data Networks. These companies play an important role in ensuring that users are able to communicate remotely through the internet. Whether roping in these companies to help in the fight against online piracy would achieve the desired results is yet to be tested in Kenya. However, it has been argued that since they make it possible for copyright content to be available online, they should also be able to police it to ensure that such content is not pirated and that the content is not in itself an infringement of another person’s copyright.

Service Provision
ISPs often provide people with the means to make content available over the Internet to the public at large. When a person misuses this resource the ISP has a legal and moral duty to take action to prevent the misuse. If they fail to do so, they ought to be liable for the willful or negligent failure to take any active steps in preventing the abuse by its subscribers. Another reason why liability should also fall on ISPs is that when a person abuses the privilege advanced to him/her by the ISP and violates the copyright laws, he/she should ideally be liable. However, it would be hard to find the person who violated the law since most people will use mobile hand held devises such as laptops, tablets or smart phones. On the other hand, many ISPs are corporate entities with fixed places of business and easy to find. Third, infringers may lack financial resources to pay a substantial liability judgment when found guilty of online copyright infringement. Therefore, it would be ideal for copyright holders to target ISPs because they almost always have resources to pay the judgement debt. The recently published Kenya Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2017, which is on the committee stage, proposes to bring on board ISPs in the fight against online copyright piracy. The Bill, however, states that ISPs will not have an obligation to monitor content or to investigate infringing activity within its services.

It proposes a notice-and-takedown procedure for ISPs to disable access to infringing material. An ISP will only be liable when it fails to pull down a copyright infringing content after a takedown notice has been issued to it by the copyright owner.

Legislation
The Bill introduces ‘safe harbours’, which is a United States concept, and constitutes conduct that is exempt from liability and includes cases where an ISP only provides access to, transmits, routes or provides storage for infringing content in the ordinary course of business. An ISP will not be liable in cases of automatic, intermediate and temporary storage of infringing content for efficient transmission. An ISP will also not be liable where infringing content is stored at the request of the recipient. Where an ISP refers users to a webpage containing infringing content, they will not be liable. The European Union Data Protection Directive of 1995 attempted to set international safe harbour principles. On the other hand the United States’ Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 successfully made provisions for safe harbor and managed to tame digital piracy to some length. Kenya is using the same approach in the Bill in an attempt to deal with the challenges brought about by the technological advancements. While some people decry the harsh penalties proposed in the Kenya Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2017, many industry players’ hope that the increased penalty will act as a deterrent and at least reduce if not stop the illicit web sharing and distribution of copyrighted music, movies, eBooks and other copyright protected material in Kenya.

Mr. Paul Kaindo, an Advocate and Intellectual Property (IP) expert, is a legal counsel at the Kenya Copyright Board.
Protecting Intellectual Property Rights in the Billion-Dollar World of Virtual Gaming

Virtual reality may have found a game-changing partner: esports.

Recently it was announced that Justice League VR: The Complete Experience is making its way from IMAX VR locations to PlayStation VR headsets, enabling video game users to step into the shoes of their favorite superheroes, such as Batman and Wonder Woman. The news comes on the heels of announcements that the publisher of the wildly popular video game Halo will team up with Microsoft to incorporate mixed reality headsets into the game and that Intel will create a competitive VR esports league with the help of ESL and Oculus. It’s clear that the days of esports being merely a spectator sport are numbered, as soon users won’t just be sitting and watching the story unfold on a computer screen, they’ll be immersed in it. What challenges will this immersion create when it comes to protecting one’s intellectual property rights to the contents of a game and the innovative technologies involved, like VR? Undoubtedly, disputes over ownership of the underlying technology will increase as more players have a hand in the soon-to-be billion-dollar industry.

On the content side, developers will continue to seek protection of their copyright to the games and the underlying concepts regarding how the games are played. The Copyright Office has stated that copyright law does not protect the idea of a game by itself. Once a game has been made public, nothing in copyright law prevents others from developing another game based on similar principles. However, copyright law does protect the expression of ideas, the unique expression of the game’s underlying concepts that make the character and content of the game. If there is some copying, courts typically look to whether the allegedly infringing work is “based upon” or “substantially similar to” the original work. Generally, third parties are allowed to use the ideas contained in the game so long as they don’t copy the expression of those ideas from the original work — such as the underlying software game code or those creative elements of the game that make up the “look and feel” of the copyrighted work. This will remain the case when the gaming industry incorporates VR, crafting a more complex gaming world for the user.

There’s no doubt the game developer owns the content of the game, but as VR enables the user to interact with the content in a variety of ways, clear-cut ownership may get lost amidst the grey legal areas surrounding the virtual world. The question becomes where does the developer’s right to the software providing the content end and where does the VR provider’s right to the software empowering the user’s experience with such content begin?

The legal dangers with this virtual gaming world will be largely rooted in the lack of clarity around intellectual property rights when content and technology come together to produce something new and valuable.

On the technology side, patents provide the owner with a right to exclude others from making, using, selling, offering to sell and importing patented inventions. Generally, there are two types of patents at issue in terms of VR:
1. “utility” patents protect the way a technology works and
2. “design” patents protect the way an article looks.

Both types of patents are at play when considering the functionality and processes of the game, game features and arena, as well as arcade center
features. Several gaming patents have already been filed, one of which is called “Determining Game Skill Factor.” This patent discloses an algorithm evaluating how much of the outcome of a given game depends on skill versus chance.

Patent protection of this sort will be extremely vital in the esports-VR space as the filings of patent applications for VR technology drastically increase. Just last year, more than 30,000 patent applications were filed directed specifically to VR-related technologies. Although patent law does not protect abstract concepts that may be implicated in a virtual gaming universe, filing appropriate patent applications to protect new technology implementations in the space can and should be done.

The legal dangers with this virtual gaming world will be largely rooted in the lack of clarity around intellectual property rights when content and technology come together to produce something new and valuable. Innovators engaged with these new VR technologies will need to negotiate the ownership rights of any future valuable intellectual property that may be created through this partnership.

Considering these legal implications ahead of time can pave the way for a happy marriage between the soon-to-be billion-dollar gaming industry and VR. According to Business Insider, VR headsets alone will grow to a $2.8 billion industry in 2020. Goldman Sachs predicts revenue from all categories of VR, including software, will reach $110 billion by 2020.

VR and esports together could be a hugely successful collaboration. The addition of VR to games, such as Dota 2, has already garnered great attention. VR technology will transform the esports industry, as people will no longer be separated by screens but, rather, will play in a shared virtual space. Reality and computer-generated content will be so tightly integrated that users won’t be able to tell one from the other.

For now, innovators in virtual gaming face substantial uncertainty about the extent to which they can protect their innovations and competitive advantages as they fight to give gamers the best experience.

Contributor
Brianna Ricque Howard is a Los Angeles-based associate at global law firm Nixon Peabody LLP. She primarily practices complex commercial litigation and intellectual property litigation and is a member of the firm’s esports task force.

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**International IP Perspectives**
Innovation—Improving Lives

Africa, diverse with unique and rich cultures is a crucible of nascent potentially revolutionary innovations. Innovation is not a new concept to Africa. From ages in time innovations have been the backbone of Africa. A refrigerator was an innovation borrowed from the man in the hills of Kabale positioned in the South Western part of Uganda on the Eastern part of the African continent. This man wakes up at the crow of the cock carries his hoe to his garden up the hill, clogged and hidden by the thick fog. At mid-day he is invaded by the scorching sun out of the blue that is accompanied with a thirst of water and hunger. He discovers that he can actually cool his water by just burying his container under the ground. Furthermore, in this same ground he could actually retain heat to roast his potato, which was a necessary energy boost for the day’s work. These innovations are tales that have been told around the fireplace or community gatherings from generation to generation.

Innovation is not a new concept in Africa. It has always been a necessity that has enabled us to navigate the daily uncertainties of life. Significant and sustainable progress for the transformation of Africa is not possible without tapping the potential of minds. The current generation is vibrant, driven and better positioned than previous generations to play an active role in the transformations of lives.

What is Innovation one would ask?! In the simplest terms, Innovation is basically nurturing an idea to something valuable with cost attached to it. With the current trend of growing interest towards innovation as one of the key contributors to different economies across Africa. Innovation should focus on the ideas that are used as lessons that will build creative communities and provide them with a cause.

Communities rather than individuals are the basic elements of a sustainable and manageable innovation. This is because communal innovation habitually stem from creation of new recipes, new ways to merge old and new ideas and ideas to create new technologies and solutions, products and services. These mishmashes usually come from people from different back grounds, with different ideas, knowledge and insights finding one another and coming together hence a community.

The South Korea national strategy of the Informatization concept is one practical way of having communal innovation nurtured.

The government of South Korea takes up a rural village and
- Trains actual and desirous entrepreneurs and business owners in basic computer literacy
- Provides internet availability to the village
- Provides a space on a central web portal for the village to showcase their several products and services

With such incentives, individuals with in the community are encouraged to come up with more brilliant ideas that are not necessary accounted to the individuals but to the community that boosts up the country economic and social wellbeing.

Communities are able sustain innovation because as they explore ideas they can transform and grow, especially at adapting to new conditions. Creative communities with diverse back grounds are able to come up with smart innovative smart solutions. The challenge however is how to establish such a creative, curious and diverse community. Here hierarchies, rules, targets and bureaucracy are completely useless. The most effective way to shape a creative community is to ensure it is drawn together and motivated by a cause. Communities get structured by the laws of attraction: people are attracted to one another and to a cause they share.

So the fundamental element of sustainable innovation is a creative community with a cause. If African countries want more innovative societies, there is a need to build up such communities. What are the implications of that for individuals, communities and governments?

One of the major implication is that education should be revised to ensure young people develop the kinds of social, emotional and intellectual capabilities they need to form, contribute to and lead communities of this kind. Schools as low as primary should be the foundation of these creative communities with a cause; syllabus should be tailor made for this to be successful.

Addressing social challenges by means of innovation requires setting clear and agreed definitions and the creation of a new framework to better understand the changing nature of innovation and the range of economic, social and technical drivers for these communities to be established for improvement of lives.

Imagine an Africa covered with such communities, improved lives will be inevitable and collection of these across the continent, Africa would be a tree with branches that is sprouting ever green leaves even amidst harsh conditions.

*Article published in the WIPO magazine*
Huge Potential for IP Professionals

A thorough understanding of Intellectual Property rights is essential for the on-going industrialisation of Africa but this area is poorly served by the current graduate curriculum on the continent. Susan Mwiti describes how groundbreaking work by the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) is reversing this trend.

Africa’s enduring capacity deficits can be blamed on the mismatch of training across the continent where countries put more emphasis on training people in the humanities and do not balance it with studies that offer technical skills.

Today, 80% of African students study humanities. Broken down, the statistics shows that 95% of African students study Social Science, Business, and Law, while only 4% study Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction. Worse still, only 2% study Agriculture even though agriculture contributes 32% of the continent’s GDP.

Therefore, practical interventions that are adapted to capacity imperatives and Africa’s plans for structural transformation are key to socio-economic growth.

Critically, one area that still has insignificant capacity is Intellectual Property (IP) rights. In fact, some African countries to date have no IP offices at all.

Yet Africa has a great tradition of innovation and creativity and has extraordinary creative resources, but has often struggled to realise its full economic potential because it lacks the understanding of the importance of IP rights and functional IP systems.

In today’s knowledge economy, innovation, creativity and IP hold far-reaching promise for spurring economic growth, trade and employment. Thankfully, although African economies still face many competing and compelling policy priorities, innovation and IP are slowly but surely rising on the policy agenda. What is lacking is implementation.

Negligible Number of IP Professionals

In the last decade, African countries have become more aware of the global IP law system and have in turn made efforts to establish IP systems through which they seek to add value to their innovative and creative resources. Yet, despite the growth of IP in Africa, there is still a negligible number of IP professionals on the continent to make a significant change.

This is why, since 2008, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) has been creating a critical mass of IP experts on the continent, in partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe.

Together with these partners, ARIPO has supported a Masters in Intellectual Property (MIP) programme at the Africa University, which has so far produced 252 graduates drawn from over 25 African countries.

In furtherance of the programme, ARIPO, in partnership with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana, and the Intellectual Property Office of Ghana, enrolled the first intake of MIP students at the KNUST in February 2018. Another programme targeting East Africa is in the pipeline, to be hosted by the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

Currently, the number of African institutions offering a specialisation in IP is minimal. Apart from ARIPO, the other big group offering specialisation in IP is the Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI), based in Cameroon. OAPI is the Francophone equivalent of ARIPO. As an institution that looks after the IP interests of Francophone Africa, OAPI offers a Master’s degree in IP in French, in partnership with the University of Yaoundé II. So far, it has produced 192 graduates since 2010. Like ARIPO’s programme, OAPI’s is also supported by WIPO.

In September last year, the Strathmore University Law School in Kenya also launched a Master of Laws (LLM) programme that gives students the opportunity to study Intellectual Property Law.

Harmonising IP Laws

ARIPO and OAPI have been the building blocks of IP in Africa due to their long history of pan-Africanism and technical expertise. However, despite the efforts of these two regional organisations, much more is needed in terms of harmonising IP policies. In most of Anglophone Africa, IP laws are not identical. But in West Africa, regional strategies on IP create a more favorable environment for IP rights registration under OAPI.

Last year, ARIPO and OAPI signed an agreement to establish a comprehensive cooperation framework on IP matters. The two organisations agreed to work towards the harmonisation of their systems, exchange documentation and technical information, and cooperate in the development of training and joint capacity building programmes, including IP awareness creation.
The two organisations also agreed to take common positions on major IP issues affecting their member states at the continental and international levels.

With this agreement, ARIPO and OAPI will collaborate more in analysing new trends in IP, especially those that affect their member countries, and jointly craft common positions that will assist member states to take informed decisions on IP matters.

According to ARIPO’s Director General, Fernando dos Santos, ARIPO is increasingly becoming a reference point not only in the administration of IP rights but also in advocating for a better use of IP on the continent.

For some time, IP organisations have been advocating for an approach that puts IP at the centre of African development. Now that governments are slowly understanding this vision, it is important that evidence is produced on how IP can benefit African countries if they incorporate IP in their development policies.

ARIPO’s Director General believes that the organisation can play a role in producing the evidence. “This,” he says, “requires more collaboration with new partners such as universities and research institutions who will work with the ARIPO Academy in producing that evidence.”

Creating IP Awareness
Remarkably, awareness creation is shifting to universities as most do not have IP policies. The first and encouraging steps were taken in 2017 when ARIPO organised awareness creation seminars at universities in Sierra Leone, Zambia, Swaziland and Rwanda. The “Guidelines for the development of IP Policies for Universities and Research Institutions in Africa” which were presented at these seminars raised a lot of interest. The Guidelines were jointly developed by ARIPO and WIPO.

This year, according to Dos Santos, ARIPO together with WIPO will launch pilot-projects to test the model introduced by the Guidelines. “We believe that with this, we will assist universities and research institutions to set their vision on the use of IP that will significantly have an impact on society,” Dos Santos added.

In addition to developing human capacity in IP, ARIPO has also, over the past quarter century, been engaged in institutional capacity building for national IP offices. Together with WIPO, ARIPO has also facilitated the “training of trainers programmes” that target police academies in member states. Beneficiary police academies in Tanzania, Botswana and Uganda are now teaching IP in their courses.

Despite the modest progress made on IP so far, African governments still do not seem to be addressing the root cause of the lack of creativity and innovation on the continent which is deeply linked to the low uptake of IP. In November last year, ARIPO’s Council of Ministers met in Lilongwe, Malawi, and tasked the organisation to conduct a study and establish why this is the case, a development that might see countries coming up with IP policies (including IP in school curricula) and establishing IP systems that work.

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Emerging Issues in IP

Patently Lucrative: The Intellectual Property that Makes Big Money for the University

By Greta Kaul

Compounds developed in Robert Vince’s University of Minnesota lab to combat the HIV virus made the University more than $600 million dollars.

In the 1980s, when the medical community was searching for treatments for the HIV — at that time, with few exceptions, a death sentence — Robert Vince’s University of Minnesota lab submitted compounds he thought might hamper the virus’ ability to take hold of people’s bodies to the National Institutes of Health for testing.

Ultimately, the compounds, dideoxycarbocyclic nucleosides, were commercialized by the company now known as GlaxoSmithKline and used to make the drug abacavir, which is also known by its brand name, Ziagen. It was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1998.

Before its patent expired a few years ago, the drug made the University more than $600 million dollars, according to Vince, now the director of the school’s Center for Drug Design.

But it’s not the school’s only intellectual property hit. In the 2017 fiscal year, 273 technologies — everything from varieties of mums, grapes and blueberries, to cancer treatments and a virtual driving mirror — generated about $22.8 million in revenue for the University of Minnesota, according data on patent revenue from the school. That’s a pretty good haul: A study by the Milken Institute, a think-tank, ranked the University 14th among U.S. universities on its technology transfer and commercialization index, which takes into account commercialization licenses issued, licensing income, patents issued and start-ups, in 2017. It ranked seventh in 2006.

And while $23 million is a drop in the bucket of the institution’s more than $3.8 billion budget for 2017, it’s still a lot of money that goes to fund research and departments at the school.

Monetizing intellectual property

It’s only in the last 40-or-so years, since 1980, that U.S. universities have made sizable chunks of change from intellectual property. That’s when Congress passed the Bayh-Dole Act.

In this act, lawmakers handed research institutions the ability to commercialize technologies developed with federal funding, which formerly belonged to the federal government. At the time, the federal government held some 28,000 patents, and had licensed less than 5 percent of them, according to the Government Accountability Office.

This paved the way for research institutions, including the University of Minnesota, to expand technology commercialization efforts.

At the U, it works like this: if a researcher has developed something they think is novel, they report it to the Office for Technology Commercialization.

Revenue from patented technology for the University of Minnesota by fiscal year, 2007-2017

Patents and other licensed technologies earned the University of Minnesota more than $542 million between 2007 and 2017.

“We have a staff, pretty much all of whom...
have backgrounds in academia and/or private industry, (who) will evaluate the invention, and will file it for appropriate IP protection,” said Thomas Hutton, operations director and chief of staff for the University’s Office for Technology Commercialization. Many of the protections are patents, though copyrights and trademarks apply in some scenarios.

When it comes to patents, the office is looking for two things: whether it’s something that’s possible to patent, and whether that patent is something the University can protect.

“It has to be novel ... it has to be useful, it has to have some practical application, and it has to be inventive or non-obvious,” Hutton said.

The office then looks for businesses or other partners to license the technology to. Often, it’s the researcher that suggests the university talk to a specific company, Hutton said.

How much it costs to license the technology depends on a few factors, including deals for similar technologies, how far along the technology is in its development, demand for the technology and how much revenue the licensee is likely to generate.

With federal funding, the rules surrounding commercialization of technology are usually pretty straightforward. When it comes to research funded by foundations or industry, the terms of commercialization can vary, Hutton said.

In the last decade, according data provided by the U, the top revenue-generating technologies for the University were:

- The compounds behind abacavir: $370.6 million
- Vaccines and treatments for mystery swine disease, which costs swine producers in the U.S. an estimated $640 million annually, made the University $25.8 million.
- A technology for introducing nucleic acid into the DNA of a cell: $16.4 million.
- The “sleeping beauty” gene-editing technique, developed by University of Minnesota researchers studying fish, is now used in cancer immunotherapies. It was licensed and made the school $16.2 million.
- The Honeycrisp apple, perhaps the University’s best-known piece of intellectual property, generated $10.7 million for the U in the last 10 years. Its U.S. patent expired in 2008, but foreign patents on the apple breed continue to generate money.

Revenue-generating patents for the U, 2007-2017
This table contains the names of patents and other licensed technologies owned by the University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dideoxycarbocyclic Nucleosides</td>
<td>370,598,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins/South Dakota State C-I-P (Mystery Swine Disease)</td>
<td>25,800,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNA-based Transposon System for the Introduction of Nucleic Acid into the DNA of a Cell</td>
<td>16,365,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis of SB11: An Advanced Transposase for the Sleeping Beauty Transposon System</td>
<td>16,230,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Tree: Honeycrisp</td>
<td>10,711,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The College of Direct Support</td>
<td>6,816,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Tree, &quot;Minneiska&quot; Providing the SweeTango® Apple</td>
<td>6,063,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kit of Material Containing a Polypeptide of Pancreatic Islet Amyloid and/or Antibodies Directed Against Said Polypeptide</td>
<td>5,735,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avenue World Languages Software</td>
<td>3,375,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flipgrid Software</td>
<td>3,375,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: University of Minnesota

EMERGING ISSUES IN IP
Perhaps the University best-known piece of intellectual property, the Honeycrisp apple, generated $10.7 million for the University of Minnesota and the total amount of revenue generated for the university by that technology from fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2017.

**Patent revenue**
The revenues from patents is split three ways between the inventors as a group, the departments those inventors work in and the school’s Office of the Vice President for Research, according to university policy. Royalty money from Abacavir actually helped to found the Center for Drug Design, Vince said.

It’s nice, the center’s director said, because research grants from foundations or the federal government tend to restrict the type of research that can be done. Not so with royalty money.

“When I get grants from the NIH, if I get a grant to work on a herpes virus, I couldn’t use that money to — say, (work on) ideas about Alzheimer’s,” Vince said.

That’s actually something the Center for Drug Design is working on now — for example, a camera that scans the retina for signs of a protein that causes plaques that portend of Alzheimer’s disease. “We can look at the retina of the eye, tell whether somebody is going to be getting Alzheimer’s,” Vince said.


Creative Commons/Michele Dorsey Walfred
Perhaps the University best-known piece of intellectual property, the Honeycrisp apple, generated $10.7 million for the University in the last 10 years.
WIPO Policy on Gender Equality

1. As the United Nations (UN) specialized agency dedicated to promoting innovation and creativity for economic, social and cultural development through the use of intellectual property (IP), WIPO is committed to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women within its mandate and in line with the commitments of the UN, including those expressed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), Economic and Social Council Agreed Conclusions 1997/2 (A/52/3), Millennium Development Goals (2000) and the UN System-Wide Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (CEB/2006/2). These commitments recognize that economic, social and cultural development cannot be sustained without gender equality and women’s empowerment.

2. This WIPO Policy on Gender Equality is intended to provide a general framework for how WIPO aims to integrate a gender perspective in its policies and programs as well as in human resources policies and procedures. WIPO Policy on Gender Equality, therefore, includes both gender mainstreaming in WIPO policies and programs, as well as gender equality within WIPO’s workplace, including staffing. The implementation of the WIPO Policy on Gender Equality is operationalized by WIPO Programs and supported through annual action plans developed by the WIPO Gender and Diversity Specialist, in close cooperation with the Gender Focal Points.

Gender Mainstreaming in WIPO Policies and Programs

3. Achieving gender equality is a cross-cutting objective in WIPO’s work. To ensure that gender perspectives are introduced in WIPO’s Programs in a sustainable manner, these will be mainstreamed throughout the Organization using a phased and gradual approach, ensuring that lessons learned in one Program can be built upon and replicated in other areas of work. A key principle underlying this approach is communication and knowledge sharing, ensuring that examples of good practices for mainstreaming gender perspectives in one Program are documented and shared across the Organization.

4. Developing and/or strengthening staff capacity and competency in gender analysis are essential prerequisites to the successful mainstreaming of gender perspectives into the work of the Organization. Therefore, the gender mainstreaming efforts will be complemented and underpinned by building the necessary capacities of staff in order to institutionalize gender equality. This institutionalization of gender equality will be supported by developing specific tools, such as checklists and guidance notes, and further integrating gender-related competencies in WIPO’s Core and Managerial Competency Framework as part of WIPO’s Performance Management and Staff Development System (PMSDS).

5. The mainstreaming of gender perspectives in WIPO policies and Programs will be in line with WIPO’s Results-Based Management principles and approaches. Gender perspectives, including gender analysis and the development of applicable gender-sensitive performance indicators, will therefore be gradually integrated into the strategic planning, biennial planning and annual work planning processes, as well as implementation and monitoring, performance assessment and evaluation mechanisms. Member States’ input will be systematically sought in this process during discussions in the Program and Budget Committee and the Assemblies on the Program and Budgets and the Program Performance Reports.

6. In its gender mainstreaming efforts, WIPO is committed to and will be guided by the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN SWAP). WIPO will participate systematically in inter-agency coordination mechanisms on gender equality and the empowerment of women to ensure that it draws on relevant experiences in other UN entities.

Gender Equality in the WIPO Workplace

7. To promote gender equality within WIPO’s workplace, with the paramount consideration in the recruitment and appointment of staff members being the need to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity as per the Staff Regulations and Rules, the Organization strives to achieve gender balance in staffing at all levels by 2020.

8. All advisory bodies to the Director General will include members of both genders.
9. An enabling work environment is essential to promoting gender equality in the workplace. Measures will be taken to foster an enabling environment, including the support of work-life balance initiatives, career development, and prevention of discrimination and harassment for men and women.

Roles and Responsibilities

10. Realizing the Policy’s goal of promoting gender equality requires commitment of each WIPO staff member.

11. The Gender and Diversity Specialist, reporting to the Director of Human Resources Management Department, is responsible for facilitating the development and coordination of the implementation of the WIPO Policy on Gender Equality and the annual action plans, as well as monitoring and evaluating their progress. The Gender and Diversity Specialist is also responsible for coordinating the capacity building of staff, developing communication and knowledge sharing initiatives, developing tools and guidance notes and sharing experiences from other UN entities.

12. Program Managers are responsible for ensuring that gender perspectives are incorporated in their work program, as applicable. They are equally responsible for promoting gender equality in the workplace and fostering an enabling environment, which include supporting work-life balance and career development, as well as preventing discrimination and harassment. Program Managers appoint a Gender Focal Point for each Program, except where one Gender Focal Point covers more than one Program.

13. Gender Focal Points assist Program Managers to meet their responsibilities to ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated in their work program, as applicable. They support the implementation of the WIPO Policy on Gender Equality and the corresponding annual action plans within their Program.

Implementation

14. Leadership, responsibility and accountability for the successful implementation of the WIPO Policy on Gender Equality and action plans rest with the Program Managers.

15. Member States will be kept fully informed of progress made in the implementation of this policy.

Source
INTRODUCTION

The new ARIPO Headquarters Building was officially inaugurated on 9 December 2016. Its location is a premier area, a diplomatic zone and has a greenery view. The new building incorporates extensive office space, conference facilities, state-of-the-art auditorium, cafeteria and courtyard garden which is set to become a gallery/exhibition space displaying samples of registered Intellectual Property (IP). It also has an ample parking lot. It is within this context that the Organization is making available some of the new facilities to the public for hire.

This business model provides the basic information for hiring the state-of-the-art facilities and the premier IP services that ARIPO offers.

ARIPO FACILITIES FOR HIRE

The new ARIPO Headquarters Building offers state-of-the-art facilities geared towards providing excellent impressions for a professional outlook that any business would be proud to be associated with. First impressions are crucial and a great environment can give a business pitch and the best chance of success. The facilities offer a variety of meeting packages that range from intimate private spaces to ambient conference rooms that can accommodate up to 150 participants. All meeting facilities are equipped with designer furniture and aesthetic artwork, high performance audiovisual and conference equipment.

### ARIPO FACILITIES FOR HIRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FULL PACKAGE</th>
<th>ROOM HIRE ONLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stationery (writing pad, pen, markers, flip charts)</td>
<td>Stationery (writing pad, pen, markers, flip charts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead projector</td>
<td>Overhead projector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA system</td>
<td>PA system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teleconferencing equipment</td>
<td>Teleconferencing equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshments (juices, sweets, water)</td>
<td>Refreshments (juices, sweets, water)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch, morning and afternoon teas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wi-Fi available for both packages

### 1. THE AUDITORIUM

The ARIPO state-of-the-art auditorium has a seating capacity of 150 people and is acoustic and sound engineered to function as a broadcast centre that enables live presentations and discussions through large flat screen monitors.

**The auditorium, the first of its kind in Harare, has:**

- 3rd Generation Confidea® conference system which features, focused intelligent audio visual equipment, state-of-the-art Quad-Band wireless technologies, fault-tolerant error correcting protocols and advanced encryption algorithms
- Equipment allows moderated discussion, simultaneous interpretation and electronic voting
- 3 x 60inch LED monitors
- 3 interpretation booths
- Fully air-conditioned
- Individual charging ports
- Wheel chair access
- Spacious and comfortable seats
2. JEREMIAH HERBERT NTABGOBA CONFERENCE HALL

The Jeremiah Herbert Ntabgoba Conference Hall with the seating capacity of 50 people has:
- State-of-the-art digital projector
- High speed wireless audio system
- Interpretation booth
- 50 inch LED Screen
- Projector
- Desk microphones

3. MULTI-PURPOSE HALL

ARIPO has a multi-purpose hall with the seating capacity of 60 people, which can also be converted into other usage such as entertainment, catering and seminars. However with a large number of participants using the main conference hall, the multi-purpose hall can be given as gratis for catering services.

CAFETERIA

For all meetings, conferences or symposiums, ARIPO offers a spacious cafeteria with a seating capacity of 60 people. The cafeteria may be used for events and meetings taking place at ARIPO or can be hired separately by those seeking to outsource meals for their guests. Additional arrangements can be made for hosting dinners and other meals outside working hours. If the number exceeds 60, the multi-purpose hall can be used as a cafeteria.

BOARDROOMS

There are two impressive Boardrooms which accommodate up to 10 people each and are ideal for executive meetings including conference calls, presentations, screenings or breakout sessions. The Boardrooms are supported by integrated audiovisual equipment including video conferencing facility.
The Boardrooms are equipped with:
- Integrated AV equipment
- HDLCD TV
- Polycom conference phone
- Featured artwork
- White board
- Free Wi-Fi

TRAINING LAB

Technical, online and virtual training are a key part of modern learning. ARIPO offers a spacious modern training lab equipped with 25 workstations, Wi-Fi, projector and audio equipment. The training lab can be used for practical trainings that require use of computers.

Anderson Ray Zikonda Library

The library facilities offer:
- Free access and subscription
- Specialized collection of books, dissertations on IP
- Free access to specialized IP collections and books
- Free virtual library access
- Free information research services

Our highly qualified and experienced Team also offers:
- Indexing services
- Editorial services
- Bibliography services
- Reproduction and binding services for a fee

Place an advertisement in the ARIPO magazine. For more details and rates send email to communications@aripo.org or call +263 24 2 794 065/6/8/54.
Master in Intellectual Property (MIP)

Jointly offered by:
The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO);
The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO);
and Africa University (AU)

2018/2019 ADMISSIONS

THE PROGRAM
Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the Master in Intellectual Property (MIP) Program. The Degree is jointly offered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Academy, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and Africa University (AU), with financial support from the Government of Japan.

The duration is twelve months, from May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019, structured in three parts, as follows:

- **First Part (May 1 to July 20, 2018):** WIPO Academy Distance Learning Courses, undertaken via the Internet;
- **Second Part (August 1 to December 8, 2018):** Residential phase requiring physical attendance at lectures undertaken at Africa University in Mutare (Zimbabwe) and practical training sessions at ARIPO in Harare.
- **Third Part (December 11, 2018 to April 30, 2019):** Dissertation Phase requiring research and writing on an approved topic.

The Program adopts a comparative approach, with particular emphasis on Africa. Lectures are given by leading academics, intellectual property practitioners, intellectual property officers and other experts drawn from across Africa.

The provisional curriculum of the Program is available on the following website: Africa University (http://africau.edu/programmes/MastersinIntellectualproperty.html)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
The MIP Programme is open to government officials, industry practitioners, senior students and young professionals from academic, research and development or other relevant background who wish to upgrade their knowledge and skills in Intellectual Property law and practice. To be eligible, candidates are required to hold a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree (second lower class) from a recognized university in any discipline and have a minimum of two years work experience. Proof of English proficiency is required, therefore, students coming from countries where the official language is not English will need to submit evidence of proficiency in an appropriate internationally approved English examination e.g IELTS, TOEFL.

AWARD
Upon satisfactory completion of the program, participants will be awarded a Master in Intellectual Property (MIP) by Africa University on behalf of WIPO and ARIPO.

FEES AND COSTS
For tuition, registration and accommodation fees please follow link (subject to annual review). Cost of meals and upkeep is estimated at US$350.00 per month per person.

SCHOLARSHIPS
With a view to contributing to the development of human resources in the field of Intellectual Property in Africa, WIPO, ARIPO and the Government of Japan will provide approximately 30 scholarships to qualified candidates from Africa. The scholarship shall cover the cost of a return air ticket, board and lodge at Africa University and ARIPO, tuition fees, registration fees and medical insurance.

To apply for scholarships online follow the following link
https://welc.wipo.int/acc/index.jsf?page=aipCatalog.xhtml&lang=en&cc=MIP_AFRICA#plus_ MIP_AFRICA
APPLICATION PROCEDURE
Interested candidates fulfilling the above mentioned requirements are invited to send their written applications to the following address:

Assistant Registrar-Academic Affairs
Africa University
Fairview Road, Off Nyanga Road
Old Mutare,
P.O. Box 1320
Mutare
Zimbabwe

or

Email scanned copies to academic@africau.edu and studentrecruitment@africau.edu and applications@africau.edu

Application forms shall be accompanied by detailed curriculum vitae, CERTIFIED copies of university degree certificates/diplomas and transcripts and at least two letters of reference. These documents are to be received by Africa University no later than February 28, 2018. Applicants wishing to be considered for the various scholarships should specifically indicate so in their application, and endure that they apply online at the WIPO website.

Detailed information concerning the MIP Program is provided on the websites of Africa University (http://africau.edu/programmes/MastersinIntellectualproperty.html), the WIPO Academy (www.wipo.int/academy) and ARIPO (www.aripo.org).