EMERGING ISSUES IN IP
ARIPO and its Partners Commemorate Master in Intellectual Property Programme Day

FEATURE STORY
The Entrepreneur Creating Ghana’s Next Generation of Inventors

HIGHLIGHTS
ARIPO awarded for timely completion of HQ extension project

Digital Revolution: ARIPO launches free IP Database
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (ARIPO)

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.

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.

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 provide Member States, with 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.

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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The third quarter of the year at ARIPO has been quite eventful in affairs surrounding Intellectual Property (IP). On September 10, 2018, we launched a centralized regional Intellectual Property (IP) database with published IP titles from ARIPO and its Member States that is free and easy to access. The database is designed to efficiently serve multiple purposes, including on-line provision of published IP data, encouragement of regional trade, IP scientific research, IP rights protection and enforcement in the ARIPO region, as well as sustainable development of IP.

The Organization has also been in the forefront in assuming IP rights for greater importance. On August 20, ARIPO and its partners in the Master in Intellectual Property (MIP) degree programme, Africa University (AU) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), dedicated the day to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the MIP programme at the Africa University campus in Mutare, Zimbabwe. The commemoration also coincided with the official welcoming of students who have been enrolled in the 11th cohort of the programme. A textbook on IP was also launched. The IP book, “Intellectual Property Law, Practice and Management,” was made possible by ARIPO, AU, and Japan Patent Office with support from WIPO.

In collaboration with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana, ARIPO launched a two-year Master of Science in Intellectual Property (MIP) programme on August 28, 2018. Having a second university in Africa offering the Masters in IP will greatly impact on the increase of IP experts in Africa.

In our continued effort to create awareness of IP in Africa, ARIPO continued with the IP roving seminars for Academic and Research Institutions under the theme “Fostering creativity and Innovation for Economic Growth and Development in Africa.” In July, two seminars were held at the University of Botswana and at the University of Eduardo Mondlane. One of recommendations that ARIPO has received so far from the seminars is the request to hold more of these seminars as they proved to be informative and helped with the realization why these institutions needed IP policies. At the start of July, a training of trainers’ workshop for high ranking police officers from ARIPO member states was also held. ARIPO with its cooperating partners acknowledge the need for the law enforces to understand and know when there is IP infringement and the action to take.

In this edition of the magazine, you will be updated not only on ARIPO’s activities but also on our Member States updates as well as innovation and other IP issues from Africa. Do write to us on the email below for more on IP in Africa.

Email: communications@aripo.org
HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS

Training on IP for High Ranking Police Officers from ARIPO Member States

A regional Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on the ‘Teaching of Intellectual Property (IP) In Police Colleges’ of the ARIPO Member States was held at the ARIPO headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe from July 2 to 3, 2018.

The participants received two toolkits to serve as manuals for prosecutors and law enforcement officers to assist in the prosecution of IP infringement. The toolkits received were "Investigating and Prosecuting IP Crime: Training materials for Law Enforcement Authorities and Prosecutors", and "Investigating and Prosecuting IP Crime: Training Supplement.

The toolkits manuals focus on counterfeiting and piracy based on the TRIPS obligations that member of the WTO to provide for criminal procedures and penalties to be applied at least in cases of wilful trademark counterfeiting or copyright piracy on a commercial scale (Article 61 TRIPS Agreement).

The manuals can also be customized to be used in IP curricula’s in Police colleges in the Member States.

Some of the issues envisaged in the manual include identification of essential elements of the relevant offences and the analysis of requirements for successful prosecution of IP crimes, boarder enforcement, jurisdiction in cross-border matters, mutual legal assistance, explanations and potential solutions for challenges and experiences being faced in the investigation of IP crime and tables of relevant charging provisions of 10 Jurisdiction’s (Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania- Mainland and Zanzibar, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe).


The workshop organized by ARIPO, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO).

Botswana Urged to Transform to a Knowledge-Based Economy at the ARIPO IP Roving Seminar

The fourth IP Roving Seminar for Academic and Research Institutions by ARIPO was held at the University of Botswana from July 5 to 6, 2018. The seminar was hosted by the University of Botswana and organized by ARIPO together with the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA).

The seminar was officially opened by CIPA Registrar General, Mr Conductor Paul Masena, on behalf of the Republic of Botswana. Mr. Masena pointed out that the theme of the seminar, “Fostering creativity and Innovation for Economic Growth and Development in Africa,” was relevant to a developing economy such as Botswana as the country heavily relied on natural resources especially in the mining sector.

“Diamonds are not forever. Botswana has seen the need to transform from a resource based economy to a knowledge based one anchored on innovation. Innovation is widely recognized as a driver for economic transformation, and this recognition is featured in several of Botswana’s national development policies and strategies,” noted Mr Masena.
He added that the seminar came at an opportune time for Botswana as the country needs to find innovative ways to diversify her economy away from diamonds. In fact, the institutions targeted at the seminar play a crucial role and potential to generate knowledge and innovative solutions to problems that can be transformed into products and services to diversify the economy.

At his welcoming remarks, the University of Botswana Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Norris, pointed out that research and innovations outputs are required to produce impact in communities, industries and for the diversification of the economy. The impact, in form of goods, services, policy development and implementation are expected from the knowledge generated at tertiary institutions and research centres with Tertiary institutions as epicentres of economic diversification.

The ARIPO Director General, Mr Fernando dos Santos, highlighted that Botswana was a country where IP was a vibrant topic with the efforts of the Botswana Innovation Hub, the Botswana Institute of Technology, Research and Innovation (BITRI), Botswana Vaccine Institute, the Department of Agricultural Research, the Human Resource Development Council among others who were leading the country innovation ideas.

Mr Dos Santos noted that Botswana, since joining the ARIPO Harare Protocol for the protection of patents, utility models and industrial designs, has received 6328 patents, 879 industrial designs and 63 utility models from the around the world through the ARIPO system. Under the Banjul Protocol on protection of marks, Botswana has so far received 2002 marks.

However, despite the good statistics from around the world designating Botswana, the contribution by Botswana universities and institutions has been minimal. The Botswana Institute of Technology and Innovation has only registered one patent, one industrial design and one trademark while the Botswana Technology Centre has only one patent. Mr Dos Santos was optimistic that from the seminar that participants would appreciate the important role that IP protection plays in rewarding and promoting creativity and innovation.

A total of 81 participants attended the IP Roving Seminar.

ARIPO Awarded for Timely Completion of HQ Extension Project

ARIPO received a special award from the Project Management Zimbabwe (PMZ) for being able to complete the construction of its headquarters extension within the planned time.

The award presented at the PMZ’s 8th Annual Project Managers Dinner on June 29, 2018 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Harare recognizes organizations or project managers able to complete huge projects as planned.

The Director General of ARIPO, Mr Fernando dos Santos received the award that was presented by the Zimbabwe’s Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Honourable Professor Ammon Murwira.

This is the second time ARIPO has been recognized and awarded in relation to the new ARIPO headquarters building in a span of seven months. On December 18, 2017, ARIPO was awarded as the best property developed under commercial projects category in 2017 at the Zimbabwe Project Management Awards 2017 organized by the Chartered Institute of Project Managers Zimbabwe.

The ARIPO new building was inaugurated in December 2016.
INTA Middle East and Africa Conference

Registration is open for the International Trademark Association’s 2018 Middle East and Africa Conference: Innovation, Investment, and IP, December 10-11, 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

This timely educational event will explore the opportunities and challenges of attracting investment into the Middle East and Africa, how innovation is re-shaping the economy, and the importance of a robust IP strategy for effective protection and enforcement in these regions. Hear from industry experts and government officials as they share essential insights and strategies to help your brand achieve a business edge.

Special Discount! As an ARIPO member you will receive the discounted INTA member rate when you enter this code at time on registration: 2018DubaiPartnerEB

For additional information regarding the conference program, speakers and registration, please visit www.inta.org/2018Dubai today.

OTHER EVENTS

- 42nd Session of the Administrative Council of ARIPO, 19-23 November 2018, Windhoek, Namibia
- Validation Workshop of the Comparative Study of Industrial Property Laws, 20 November 2018, Windhoek, Namibia
- 14th Session of the Audit Committee, 3-4 December 2018, ARIPO HQ
- WIPO-ARIPO-JPO Workshop on Intellectual Property Management in Universities and R&D Institutions, 5-6 December 2018, ARIPO HQ
Transfer of Copyright & Related Rights Administration in Zambia

The Zambian Government transferred the administration of Copyright and Related Rights from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services to the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in May 2018. This means that both Industrial Property and Copyright and Related Rights will be administered by the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA).

Arising from the changes mentioned above, all correspondence should now be addressed to PACRA, which is now in charge of administering Intellectual Property in Zambia.

PACRA address is:
PACRA House, Haile Selassie Avenue, Long acres
P.O. Box 32020 Lusaka Zambia.
Email address: A.Bwembya@pacra.org.zm or pro@pacra.org.zm
Name and title of Head: Anthony Bwembya - Registrar & CEO

Malawi Joins the Madrid System

On September 25, 2018, the Government of Malawi deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol with WIPO’s Director General, making Malawi the 102nd member of the Madrid System, which now covers 118 countries. The Protocol will enter into force for Malawi on December 25, 2018. Starting December 25, 2018 local brand owners in Malawi can begin using the Madrid System to protect their marks in the 117 territories of the
System's other 101 members by filing a single international application and paying a single set of fees.

With its straightforward designation process, foreign companies and trademark owners can, from this December, seek trademark protection through the Madrid System when selling their products and services in Malawi.

The deposit, made by Mr. Samuel Tembenu, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of Malawi, includes declarations under Articles 5(2) (b) and (c) of the Protocol (extension of the refusal period to 18 months and beyond for oppositions), Rules 7(2) (intention to use the mark) and 20bis(6) (b) (recording of licenses in the International Register has no effect in Malawi) of the Common Regulations.

**Protecting your brand in Malawi**
Malawi's accession spotlights the Madrid System's emergence as a key component of protecting marks internationally, offering a convenient and cost-effective solution for brand owners worldwide.


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**Namibia’s Industrial Property (IP) Act of 2012 Comes into Force**

The Namibian Industrial Property Act, 2012 finally come into effect on 1 August 2018. According to the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA), with the new Industrial Property (IP) Act, 2012 coming into force, it brings with it some exciting changes such as:

1. Introduction of protection of Utility Models;
2. Expansion on the term of protection for patents from 14 years to 20 years;
3. Introduction of substantive examination for patents (to be facilitated through ARIPO);
4. Introduction of Annual renewal requirements for patents;
5. Introduction of new fees; and

In line with the new IP Act 2012 in Namibia, BIPA published its first IP Bulletin. The bulletin will be published monthly.


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**BIPA Publish FIRST IP Bulletin**

In line with the new IP Act 2012 in Namibia, BIPA published its first IP Bulletin. The bulletin will be published monthly.
New Staff at ARIPO

Mrs. Michelle Nicola Rusere joined ARIPO in July 2018 as the Human Capital Associate. Prior to joining ARIPO she worked as the Assistant Manager, Human Resources at the CBZ Holdings Limited, Zimbabwe.

She joined CBZ Holdings Limited in October 2011 and during her tenure Michelle was responsible for putting recruitment strategies in action including the selection and placement of employees. Her role in the department was to help the new hires get acquainted with the organization’s work pattern by incorporating a training program for every new employee. She also assisted Management in handling disciplinary cases correctly in line with the relevant Codes of Conduct & ensuring that correct charges are framed and served. Prior to CBZ, Mrs. Rusere was employed as a Research Assistant at CB Richard Ellis and her major duties were collation and analysis in presentation of property benchmarking data as required by various departments.

Mrs. Rusere is a holder of a Diploma in Human Resources Management with the Institute of People Management of Zimbabwe, Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honors) Degree in Psychology with Africa University. She is currently studying towards a Master’s in Business Administration with Edinburgh Business School.
The Dynamics of the Knowledge Economy: A Zimbabwean Perspective

The knowledge economy ushers in infinite possibilities to generate new scientific research and breakthroughs, fuelling job opportunities, economic growth, and improve the quality of life. As such the knowledge economy has the great potential for developed and developing countries alike and Zimbabwe specifically to generate a new economy based on services, industries and companies that did not exist a few years ago. This will be a reality soon for Zimbabwe.

Intellectual property commonly abbreviated IP is defined as the “creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce” by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) the United Nations specialized agency on Intellectual Property matters headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland with a membership of 191-member states including Zimbabwe or innovation is not foreign to us as Zimbabweans and the spectacular Great Zimbabwe design speaks volumes of our capacity and ingenuity. Even the bible for those who read it in the book of Proverbs 8:12 says “I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions” I especially like what Proverbs 12:27 says “the lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man's precious possession.” In my lifetime I hope to see a diligent Africa that will roast and enjoy the benefits of its own value chains with regards its natural resources be they diamonds, platinum, gold, oil, cocoa etc.

Africa University which is a Methodist church related private university in Mutare which offers a master’s degree in Intellectual Property now has Intellectual Property as one of its mandatory courses has had an operational innovation hub known as i5 Hub since October 2017 (Africa University, 2018). In July 2018, we learnt that the government through the Higher and Tertiary Education sector, Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development Ministry has availed $15 million for the construction of innovation hubs in six universities. These universities are namely National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Midlands State University (MSU), University of Zimbabwe, (UZ) Harare Institute of Technology (HIT), Zimbabwe Defence University and Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT). Additionally, on the 28th of June 2018 the Zimbabwe National Intellectual Property Policy and Implementation Strategy (2018-2022) was launched by the Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mr. Ziyambi Ziyambi at the Rainbow Towers Hotel in Harare to spur innovation and creativity in various sectors of the economy.

Intellectual Property or Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are intangible assets however they are increasingly important as societies and economies become more knowledge-based and should ideally appear even in balance sheets. According to (Forbes, 2017) the brand alone i.e. the trademark or the name alone of the following companies Apple, Google, Microsoft, Facebook and Amazon are valued at USD 182.8 billion, USD 132.1 billion, USD 104.9 billion, USD 94.8 billion and USD 70.9 billion respectively. This means they can access a loan or lines of credit using their trademark alone which has acquired distinctiveness due to a world class service or product associated with it. Knowledge and or data as well as its application are more valuable than oil. We must understand from the onset that knowledge and data can be duplicated, shared, and reused and also that “the supply of data is soaring in both volume and type so rapidly that it cannot be controlled or monopolized (Mandel, 2017).

In contrast capital equipment such as a crane can only be used by one party at any given time, additionally most tangible assets depreciate with time and or usage, however knowledge and data appreciate in value with time and usage; that is, the more the organization uses the data across more use cases, the more valuable, complete and accurate the data becomes. Traditional economics dictates that the value of durable goods can only be attained by possession of the physical item or article and not just knowing it. Data on the other hand data has its value in knowing the information itself and not merely just possessing it.

IPR’s are negative rights in that they give their owner the right to exclude others from benefiting from their innovations. IPRs are also territorial in nature in that protection usually has to be actively pursued in each country it is required. I know that’s a mouth full but as Dr Carl Sagan once famously put it “You have to know the past to understand the present.” Allow me to attempt to simplify this over the next couple of weeks but have at the back of your head the fact that digital technologies bring Intellectual Property into the day-to-day life of everyone and they challenge conventional wisdom on IP.
The first and second industrial revolution which relied primarily on human labour where characterised by water and steam power to mechanize production in the first revolution followed by use of electric power to create mass production in the second revolution. The Third revolution focused more on usage of electronics, robotics and information and communications technologies to automate production and reduce reliance on a human labour force to improve efficiency and reduce costs. The fourth industrial revolution or what is usually referred to as industry 4.0 is currently upon us. Industry 4.0 will interrogate the automation process and its outputs and through the use of learning algorithms what we call machine learning or Artificial Intelligence. We see today human beings and machines interact at an unprecedented level and data is collected or analysed from things such as your mobile phone, your watch, your TV, your washing machine, your microwave. This reliance on things that are hungry for data or constantly collecting data that are interconnected reigns supreme hence the term Internet of Things commonly abbreviated IoT.

Value is generated by new types of analysis rather than ownership of the data”. While most commodities such as currencies are fungible and can be substituted it is well noted that one piece of data cannot be substituted for another as each data set carries different information. In the age of IoT it has been alluded to how ”Data management and distribution in Big Data environment is critical for achieving self-aware and self-learning machines” (Lee, Yang, & Hung-An, 2014). Being in a knowledge economy which depending on the level of automation is also called a digital economy the biggest asset becomes innovation and know-how the ultimate goal being how to perform tasks and produce products and services that are either better, faster, cost effective, smarter than your competitors all in the effort to secure an ever-diminishing market share which is vulnerable to innovative disruptors such as Uber and Airbnb.

The Airbnb business model is fascinating and the companies value proposition is to provide a service which is a meeting place which is essentially a community-based online platform for those who own properties and might not be using them for a particular period to those who want to rent that property temporarily for whatever reason thereby cultivating a sharing-economy by allowing property owners (hosts) to rent out units and homes. It connects hosts and travellers and facilitates the process of renting without Airbnb assuming any of the risk let alone owning any rooms itself and its business process and website of app which includes an independent rating system of those who rent and those who provide the facilities being its primary investment. Airbnb have turned the traditional seller-customers relationship upside down by creating peer-to-peer model where you review each other. It’s fascinating that the idea of the website platform and the business process is more valuable that the real estate that is owned but its members.

Similarly, Uber which is also a disruptor in the traditionally taxi service and has a value proposition to sides, the passengers as well as the drivers. For riders like me, the value propositions are that it is the best and safest way to get around, to be able to request a ride on demand or schedule it for a particular date or time with a tap of a button 24/7 and track the driver arriving and know the cost in advance and you can make a cashless payment. For drivers, it’s the opportunity to earn, the freedom of choosing their work hours and the ease of getting started. These example shows how respect for IP and the availability of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) data and its subsequent analysis is the cornerstone for the economic and technological development of any company or country.

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Bibliography


Children across Ghana are able to pursue their science dreams thanks to the small kit.

"Sir, sir, sir," scream more than 30 children in exhilaration, jumping out of their small wooden chairs in a classroom on the edge of a lush, grassy valley.

The race is on at Berekuso Junior High School on the outskirts of Accra, Ghana’s capital, to see who can connect a series of wires and transistors to make a tiny buzzer squeal.

Within seconds the room is accosted with dozens of high pitched buzzing sounds. The children are wild with excitement. It’s impossible to tell who has won. A year ago, these teenagers were being taught electronics with a black board, chalk and a smattering of books. Now they have everything they need in front of them to build their own circuits.

Textbook Invention

Charles Ofori Antipem, 25, is behind all this.

He created a science set, a small black box the size and price (at $15) of a textbook packed with electrical kit.

"Being able to put the sets on the desks of the students and see that glow in their eyes when they build that first electrical circuit," he says, "That is what keeps us going."

Charles set up his company Dext Technology 18 months ago. He now has nine members of staff, and has so far sold more than 5,000 sets to government and private schools across Ghana.

The idea started with his roommate, Michael Asante Afrifa, in their dorm room at university. They want every child in Ghana to have access to one in the next two years.

"Getting the knowledge from the book is one thing but being able to experience it with experimentation is what is really important," he says.

It’s expected that the 2020s are going to be a decade of redeployment into jobs requiring some sort of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) qualification. No one really knows how many of the world’s jobs will morph into those requiring these new skill-sets but estimates put it at around 80%.

But sub-Saharan Africa is massively lagging behind in terms of its investment in STEM education and training. As a region on its own, the UN states it will need 2.5 million engineers alone just to meet its sustainable development goal (SDG) of improving access to clean water and sanitation.

Dr. Thomas Tagoe, a member of the Ghana Science Association, says instilling in children a love of science is particularly important as the country does not have enough engineers and IT specialists.

“It’s a digital age and we need the persons who can take advantage of it,” he says.

“It means we could move away from being a developing country to a place that’s really known for its expertise in science.”
Science Rules

Charles grew up in a house where science ruled. His dad, who died a few years ago, taught science in the local school.

“He always wanted us to consume every bit of knowledge we could find, especially things related to science.”

But Charles had no access to the internet or even basic science and technology equipment when he was at school. “The limits were the tools that I had in my hands,” he says, adding that he wants to change that for today’s school children.

The science kit only costs $15.

“I feel like my job should be to do as much as I can to empower the next generation even more than I was empowered by my dad, so that they can take on the big challenges that are going to come.”

Six hours North West of Berekuso, in a small workshop in a tech hub in the city of Kumasi, Charles’ team is busy putting together the science sets.

They are welding thousands of tiny conductors onto miniature resistors.

“Ok, this is it,” says Charles with pride holding up the small black box. He points out the manual, the electronic components, the iron filings for electromagnetism, the light box, the mirrors and then in the middle, the batteries that power it all. Charles has a scheduled call from a potential client who wants to introduce the science sets into schools in cocoa-growing communities in neighboring Ivory Coast.

He’s a passionate salesman, answering every question with ease. As he ends the call a smile creeps onto his face. “It went well,” he says, explaining they have agreed to buy a few trial sets.

“That could lead to more orders of sets or an investment in the science sets,” he says.

Back in Berekuso on a dusty road a few kilometres away from the school, 15-year-old Princess Makafui sits with her school friends doing her homework.

Her family is squatting in a house that was never finished. It doesn’t have all its walls let alone electricity. The sun has already set and they are working from a single light, placed in the middle of the table, that they invented themselves.

“It’s a light cube,” Princess says proudly. “It means we can all use a side of the cube to see our homework.” Princess and her team of 12 teenage girls won a regional science competition for their invention. They created it using the science set.

Before the science sets, our science classes were very boring. We weren’t understanding science because everything was in theory,” she says.

For Charles, the idea that he is creating a new generation of inventors, is everything he could have hoped for.

“Seeing students coming up with innovations with their science sets is exactly the point we’ve been trying to prove.

“When you give students access to the tools they will begin to find solutions to problems around them using that knowledge.”

An inventor who creates inventors? “That sounds good,” he says, beaming. “If my dad were here he would be absolutely proud.”

This article was published by BBC News on 11 September 2018 https://www.bbc.com/news/business-44846317
Digital Revolution in Africa: ARIPO Unveils Groundbreaking Free IP Database

- The African Regional IP Organisation (ARIPO) launches free online IP database
- The centralised platform has trademarks from ARIPO and all of its member states
- ARIPO DG: database will ‘foster economic growth and development in Africa’

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) has launched a free online database as it bids to centralise IP records from across the continent. The move is a groundbreaking one in Africa, as it represents a significant step forward in the digitisation of African IP data, especially in terms of easy-to-access search functionality, and should be on the radar of rights holders across the world.

The appointment event for ARIPO’s Regional IP Database was held last week in Harare, Zimbabwe. The project began in 2014 with the aim of creating a centralised database of ARIPO’s IP records and those of its member states. In turn, then, the database should be able to replace the different standalone IP search platforms operated by ARIPO and 13 of its member states. During development of the digital database, there were three main objectives that ARIPO was hoping to achieve:

- Enhance the efficiency of business processing and other administrative work at the ARIPO office and those of its member states;
- Facilitate the accessibility and use of IP information in the region and in Africa at large;
- Strengthen IT institutional capacity in the ARIPO region and beyond.

In a speech during the launch event (and sent in full to WTR), ARIPO’s director general Fernando dos Santos ostensibly confirmed that each of the objectives had been met. “Technology is an agent of change, and major technological innovations have resulted in paradigm shifts in the way business is conducted. At the ARIPO office we are utilizing IT tools to establish our presence in global intellectual property and to foster creativity and innovation for economic growth and development in Africa,” he said. “The Regional IP Database is designed to serve multiple purposes, including online provision of published IP data, encouragement of regional trade, IP scientific research, IP rights protection and enforcement in the ARIPO region, as well as sustainable development of IP.”

One of the key partners in the project was WIPO, with the organisation’s project manager in the IP office business solutions division Gregory Sadyalunda attending the launch. According to WIPO’s 2016 IP Statistics Report, Africa as a whole accounted for just 0.6% of the total IP designs, patents and trademark applications filed internationally. The new database, according to ARIPO, “will contribute significantly to improve the use and uptake of IP in the ARIPO region, thereby increasing the number of local and regional applications which is still very low”.

As it stands, there is over 400,000 trademark applications and 1,500 designs in the database across the 13 different offices (ARIPO, Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe). As the below table shows, the most marks come from Kenya, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Tanzania.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Trademarks</th>
<th>Designs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>74,940</td>
<td>1,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>71,235</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>54,180</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>44,206</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>36,728</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>32,581</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>29,971</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>28,599</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>27,501</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>23,124</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>9,176</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>7,850</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARIPO</td>
<td>2,160</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For rights holders across the world, the launch of ARIPO’s Regional IP Database is a positive step forward when it comes to the consolidation of trademark data. Users already have access to the EUIPO’s ever-expanding TMView platform, which today contains 51 million trademarks (including African data including ARIPO and Morocco), while IP Australia is planning to launch an internationally-linked trademark database. This latest offering adds to the array of free options available to users. For service providers, these free platforms could challenge their business models – but equally they could encourage further innovation, which will in turn benefit users further. For practitioners, increased access to free and easy-to-access trademark searches from more and more countries around the world is something to be both applauded and encouraged.

Article written by Tim Lince, Senior reporter at World Trademark Review


ARIPO MAGAZINE: Vol. 8, No.3, July - September 2018
ARIPO Launches Masters in Intellectual Property at KNUST, Ghana

The Africa Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) in collaboration with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana launched a two-year Master of Science in Intellectual Property (MIP) programme. The programme that is jointly organized by ARIPO and KNUST was launched on 28 August 2018.

The Malawi’s Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, who is also the Chairman of the ARIPO Council of Ministers, Hon. Samuel Tembenu said the programme was timely as African countries need to bridge the capacity gap on intellectual property. He added that growth in Africa and ability to compete in the knowledge economy would be facilitated by the increase of innovation in the continent.

He commended ARIPO for recognizing the IP capacity gap and for taking the necessary measures by the launch of the MIP programme in Ghana which also complements the MIP programme at the Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. The two programs will increase the numbers of IP experts in Africa.

The ARIPO Director General, Mr. Fernando dos Santos said that ARIPO was committed to provide a critical mass of IP professionals to facilitate the socio-economic development of not only ARIPO member countries, but Africa as a whole.

He praised Mr. Sylvanus Tettey-Tamakloe, Ghana’s former ambassador to Zimbabwe, for the special role he played in bringing the programme to KNUST and thanked the university authorities for accepting to host the course.

The KNUST Vice Chancellor, Professor Kwasi Obiri Danso, was grateful for the fruition of the programme. He said it was timely as Ghana needed professionals in the IP sector to deal with the numerous challenges in the area.

The Ghana Registrar General, Ms. Jemima Mamaa Oware, said IP education and dissemination was high on the agenda of the National Intellectual Property reforms and it is envisaged that it would be taught from kindergarten to the tertiary levels. ARIPO is sponsoring ten students from its member states.

*Additional information from the Ghana News Agency*

EMERGING ISSUES IN IP

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Without innovation there can never be any change, but everything will stagnate. In Africa we will always have serious problems of stagnation if we don’t invest in research.” He gave as examples, Japan, South Korea and Singapore who embraced technology to develop their economies and were spending substantially on research. “Why don’t we prioritise the technologies that are pertinent to our economies instead of running to the West to buy their goods?” he bemoaned. While successful companies invested on average 10% of their revenues on research, African economies on the other hand did token investments of less than 0.1%.

WIPO, represented by its Counsellor, Martha Chikowore, welcomed the new students into the programme and thanked all the partners for their respective roles they are playing to support the programme through scholarships and sponsorship of lectures for the programme. She said Africa’s industry and society were looking for solutions to their everyday challenges. To that effect she challenged the students to provide the solutions to the problems. She informed the students that the world was moving far with technology and as such most solutions to modern problems were technological and were coming in the form of intangible capital and therefore Africa needed to quickly adapt.

The Director General of ARIPO Mr Fernando dos Santos affirmed ARIPO’s continued commitment to the MIP programme through student scholarships, teaching staff and facilities for the practical phase of the course at the ARIPO Office, and facilitation of field visits to relevant institutions. He said that IP training was critical in addressing IP human resource capacity for the continent.

The representative of the government of Japan Mr Niagawa also expressed the commitment of his government through the Japan Funds-in-Trust to support African countries to promote their IP systems saying, “Having strong African IP systems is one of the critical foundations to encourage innovation and to attract foreign investment as well as sustainable development”. He thus urged the new students to help in building IP systems in their countries after they complete their studies.

Meanwhile, the partners also took the occasion to launch a textbook titled, “Intellectual Property Law, Practice and Management: Perspectives from Africa”, which was published jointly by the AU, ARIPO and Japan Patent Office (JPO) courtesy of financial support provided by the Japanese government. Launching the book, one of the editors Mr Emmanuel Sackey, who is also ARIPO’s IP Development Executive, said the book has managed to make even the most complex areas of IP more comprehensible for students studying for any IP course. Another book which was published by the partners chronicling the history of the MIP programme from inception to the 10th cohort was also launched on the MIP day.

The MIP programme was launched in 2008. The commemoration also saw the official welcoming of students who have been enrolled in the 11th cohort of the programme. The MIP programme has to date graduated 295 students from 26 African countries.
What is Your Security Mechanism?

Are you struggling with weak patents that do not set your business apart from competitors? Are you searching for an effective force in the protection of patents, trademarks, industrial design and copyright?

ARIPO is Africa’s leading intellectual property hub. As our mission statements echoes, we pledge to promote, harmonize and protect industrial property and ensure that this contributes to the social, economic and technological development of its Member States. The organization’s functions touch the lives of millions of people in forms of intellectual property. It comprises of 19 member states which enable businesses to exploit their intellectual property fully. Applicants who choose the ARIPO route save cost, since the focus of deployment of these resources is one in one application, one central process and one attorney.

As an organization we are aware that a number of difficulties are hampering the development of IP protection in Africa, but the political will is there to improve the system for local businesses and the population hence the significance of ARIPO.

There is need to vigorously generate awareness on IP issues in Africa and globally hence, to those who are wondering, registering a trade mark doesn’t guarantee you that your mark will never be infringed. However, it does give you exclusive rights to use the mark and to prevent its unauthorized use on goods and services that are identical or similar to yours this is why it is imperative to exercise these protective rights.

You may find yourself asking the following questions:

Do you need to register a trade mark?

You do not have to register a trade mark to use it. You can use an unregistered mark to promote your goods and service. However, if you do not register your trade mark, other businesses may be able to use it, or register it and prevent you from using it later.

Why register for a trade mark?

Registering your trade mark can help you get exclusive rights to use, license, and franchise or sell your mark. It can also help you:
- prevent others from using the same or similar mark

Use trade mark symbols to claim your rights

When you register a trade mark in the Africa, you can use symbols to indicate that you own the mark. For unregistered trademarks, you may use the abbreviation TM.

The use of these symbols has no legal significance, other than showing to the public your claim of the trade mark rights. This in itself may help protect your rights and dissuade others from using the same or similar mark without your consent.

How to deal with conflicting trademarks?

If someone tries to register a trade mark that is identical or similar to yours, you can oppose, object or consent to the registration. The right course of action will depend on your specific circumstances. If you wish to use a trade mark, but find that someone had already registered it in bad faith, or has not been using it in the course of trade, you may apply for invalidation or revocation.

What recognition or benefits are there for IP applicants?

- Through protection an Intellectual Property Right allows the rights-holder to exclude others from commercially exploiting the rights covered by the holder in a certain country or region and for a specific period of time.
- IP information is an important resource for researchers and investors, entrepreneurs and commercial enterprises. ARIPO gives its clients access to information regarding new technologies in order to stimulate innovation and contribute to economic growth.
- Applicants become beneficiaries’ of a modern IP system. That is, improvements in the management of copyrights and related rights. Also, we have a digitalized information retrieval system which can be done online; ARIPO is exclusively a paperless office!

Intellectual Property is the best way of ensuring innovation and progress. Create valuable assets for your business at ARIPO today.

Article written by Miss Marvel Kapenya, a student from Africa University and an intern at ARIPO
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.

CONFERENCE FACILITIES

All the conference facilities can be hired for seminars, workshops or symposiums and ARIPO’s professional technical staff are always available on the ground to assist. The facilities are offered as a full package or room hire only as follows:

<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 60 inch LED monitors
- 3 interpretation booths
- Fully air-conditioned
- Individual charging ports
- Wheel chair access
- Spacious and comfortable seats
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

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.

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.

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

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