

Focus Areas

The following are few of the major focus areas of the Workshop:

- History and Background of NIS Concept;
 - What is NIS?
 - What is its source?
 - Why and by whom was it developed?
 - What are its main canons?
 - By whom and how was / is it used?
 - What is its usefulness?
 - What are its implementation strategies?
 - How is it linked to IP?
- Complementary concepts;
- Examples of NIS in practice;
- General IP Issues;
- Protection of IP in Research Projects;
- IP Management; and
- IP Commercialization and Enforcement.

Who Should Attend Workshop

The participants would be middle to high-level policy planners and administrators, academicians, and Ph.D. students from the OIC/INIT/COMSATS member countries.

Eligibility Criteria

Bachelor Degree / or work experience in the areas relevant to the workshop title.

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Co-organized by



2nd 3-day Regional Workshop
on

National Innovation System and Intellectual Property (African Region)

November 25- 27, 2014

Rabat, Morocco



Introduction and Background

National Innovation System (NIS) based on a well-considered Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) policy is regarded as one of the key drivers of a country's development that contributes towards enhancing the socio-economic well being of its citizens. In order to face myriad challenges emanating from the prevailing political, economic and social conditions of a country, it is imperative to have a strong national STI policy in order to ensure the realization of long term growth and development targets. In this regard, a robust institutional framework that can enhance national competitiveness and have the necessary flexibility to adapt to the changing environment is also necessary. State intervention is also necessary to safeguard a nation's interest since the market forces alone cannot guarantee sustainable socio-economic development.

It is equally important to realize the fact that the generation, accumulation and dissemination of 'practically applicable knowledge' has become the primary source of development, competitiveness and wealth creation. The judicious and timely application of the latest scientific advances in new products, processes, and services leads societies and nation-states to becoming knowledge economies.

During the past few decades, the concept of 'National Innovation System' has become popular as a core conceptual framework for analyzing the technological advancement, which is considered an indispensable foundation of long-term socio-economic development. With liberalization of the world trade, a well developed and implemented NIS has been widely recognized as a *sine qua non* for promotion of science and technology led sustainable economic growth.

This concept of NIS rests on the assertion that understanding of linkages among institutions, especially how they relate to each other as elements of a collective system of knowledge creation and diffusion, is crucial in improving a country's economic

performance. It stipulates that a 'system of innovation' is constituted by elements (i.e. firms universities, research institutions, funding agencies, etc.) and relationships that have impact upon the production, diffusion and use of new economically useful knowledge, responsible for translating basic and applied research results into technology and products.

Intellectual Property (IP) is an intangible asset of its owner legally granted and protected from unauthorized use. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) contribute significantly to the national and state economies as an instrument for driving creativity and innovation by safeguarding the efforts of the original creators and restraining others from legal use. Many industries rely heavily on active enforcement of IP laws for their patents, trademarks, and copyrights while the consumers depend on the IP regime to ensure the originality and quality of the products they buy.

IPR are of enormous importance to safeguard business interests of industries which are part of the NIS. The researchers and policy practitioners need to be aware of issues related with the successful implementation of IP policy fundamentals and management strategies.

The Workshop

The first of the series of workshops on NIS and IP was held in Islamabad, Pakistan. Over 70 participants attended lectures on various Asian models of National Innovation Systems and IPR regimes. These eight technical sessions consisted of talks and presentations that introduced innovation, its types and classifications; highlighted the impact and effect of innovation on national economy; discussed delivery mechanisms for and key agents and actors in a national innovation system; expounded intellectual property and its role in creating a knowledge-driven economy; covered the perspectives of academia, industries and R&D institutions; as well as addressed key issues viz. patent filing, prosecution and enforcement. An insight into the innovation policies of the developing countries from

Asian Region was also provided during the event through the country-specific presentations made by participants from Bangladesh, China, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, South Korea, and Sri Lanka.

In view of the cross regional theme of the event, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) and Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT), are jointly organizing the 2nd 3-Day Regional Consultative Workshop on 'National Innovation System and Intellectual Property (African Region)', scheduled to be held on November 25 - 27, 2014, in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco.

Aims and Objectives

The 2nd Consultative Workshop on 'National Innovation System and Intellectual Property (African Region)' aims to conduct mediated deliberations on the innovation-driven policy interventions and their impact on African countries' NIS. The main objective of the Workshop is developing capability of the participants from the OIC, COMSATS and INIT Member States (African Region) to understand and possibly develop sound NIS policies for strengthening the technology capability, as well as responding effectively to the challenges of building competitiveness amid globalization and rapid technological change. The specific objectives of the sessions include:

- To raise understanding of the participants on NIS and IP, including its policy concept, evolution, key elements and the facilitating factors;
- To explore an enabling policy framework for sound NIS and IP policies for enhancing the national technological capacities; and
- To provide a platform for research students, policy planners and administrators involved in the national STI policy planning and implementation.