



4 October 2021

(21-7407)

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**Council for Trade-Related Aspects of
Intellectual Property Rights**

Original: English

**TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES:
INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

CANADA

The following communication, dated 15 September 2021, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Canada.

1 INTRODUCTION

Brief outline of technical cooperation activities undertaken during the reporting year

1. Article 67 of the *WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights* (TRIPS) requires that, "[i]n order to facilitate the implementation of this Agreement, developed country Members shall provide, on request and on mutually agreed terms and conditions, technical and financial cooperation in favour of developed and least-developed country Members". Pursuant to Article 67 of the TRIPS Agreement, the Council for TRIPS requests that developed country Members report on their technical and financial cooperation programmes in favour of developing and least developed countries (LDCs). The present document provides an update on Canada's activities in respect of technical and financial cooperation in the area of intellectual property (IP) in favour of developing country and LDC Members, covering the 2020-2021 period.

2. Canada continues to undertake a number of technical cooperation activities in favour of developing and LDCs at the multilateral, plurilateral, and bilateral levels. At the multilateral level, Canada works in close collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), as well as with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group (APEC-IPEG) where Canada participates in the IPEG's biannual deliberations aimed at sharing information and best practices on IP rights. In addition, Canada's technical cooperation activities are administered by the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), Global Affairs Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and other Government of Canada departments and agencies. Other Canadian institutions that receive funding from the Government of Canada, such as the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL), and the University of Ottawa, are also involved in international technical cooperation efforts.

3. Details of technical cooperation activities are provided in the Annex.

ANNEX¹

Name of programme or project	CIPO-WIPO Executive Workshop on IP Office Management
Date and end date	24 April 2021 - 7 May 2021
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	<p>CIPO hosts and delivers an annual CIPO-WIPO Executive Workshop on management techniques in the delivery of IP services, for senior officials from developing countries. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's workshop was held virtually over the course of two weeks. As a new feature this year, participants were required to conduct an IP management research project under the guidance of a CIPO advisor.</p> <p>The objectives of the two-week workshop were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance knowledge and skills in the area of management techniques in the delivery of IP services; • Improve the capacity of IP officials; • Provide participants with first-hand experience of the nature and scope of Canada's IP expertise, products and services; and • Provide a forum to exchange ideas and experiences with officials from other IP offices.
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	
Outputs or impact	
Website for further information	https://www.wipo.int/tad/en/activitydetails.jsp?id=23361
Contact point for further information	

¹ In English only.

Name of programme or project	Pilot Program of Training for patent examiners in the area of computer-implemented inventions for Central American countries and the Dominican Republic
Date and end date	7 September 2020 - 30 September 2020
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Nicaragua; Panama
Brief description	Upon request from WIPO, CIPO provided technical assistance in the form of assisting with a pilot collaborative training programme for patent examiners in Latin American countries. A patent examiner from CIPO provided an overview of Canadian laws and regulations, as well as on the practice of CIPO on the substantive examination of computer-implemented inventions; the examiner also presented examination cases.
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	
Outputs or impact	
Website for further information	
Contact point for further information	

Name of programme or project	Pre-recorded webinars on IP and patents on the website of Trade Facilitation Office (TFO) Canada
Date and end date	1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	<p>These webinars, which were recorded in 2016 through CIPO collaboration with TFO Canada, are available in English on the TFO Canada website for embassies, consulates and businesses from developing and emerging countries.</p> <p>Topics covered: Basics of Canadian IP, Registering patents in Canada, Registering trademarks in Canada, IP Foundations for women entrepreneurs, Overview of IP – trademarks for SMEs.</p>
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	
Outputs or impact	
Website for further information	https://www.tfocanada.ca/webinars.php
Contact point for further information	

Name of programme or project	Open African Innovation Research network (Open AIR)
Date and end date	
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	<p>Open AIR is a unique collaborative network of researchers spread across Africa and Canada. Their research aims to ease tensions between IP and access to knowledge, and to understand how knowledge-based businesses can take advantage of global opportunities, while sharing the benefits of innovation throughout society. Open AIR is funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and has a Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) until March 2022. They were also selected for the Queen Elizabeth Scholars – Advanced Scholars programme, funded through Universities Canada.</p> <p>A new phase which started in 2018, implemented in collaboration with the University of Cape Town, South Africa, will research how Africa's high-tech hubs are facilitating the adaptation and adoption of emerging technologies in Africa, including artificial intelligence; how maker communities facilitate inclusive innovation, especially by empowering women and girls and benefitting members of marginalized groups; and how to build confidence in Indigenous populations to effectively participate in collaborative knowledge production with optimal and equitable benefits.</p>
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	
Outputs or impact	
Website for further information	http://www.openair.africa
Contact point for further information	

Name of programme or project	Expert Deployment Mechanism for Trade and Development (EDM) – Strengthen Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) Protection in Viet Nam
Date and end date	1 January 2021
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	<p>This technical assistance activity is supporting the IP Office of Viet Nam to implement legal and administrative reforms that will better enable the country to fulfil its commitments under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).</p> <p>The technical assistance is benefitting officials in three major ways: i) it is exposing them to how sound marks and undisclosed test data for agricultural chemical products are protected in Canada; ii) it is exposing them to how IP rights are enforced by Canadian border officials and through criminal remedies; and iii) it is helping officials develop tools to raise public and private sector understanding of IP obligations in the CPTPP.</p>
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	
Outputs or impact	
Website for further information	https://edm-mde.ca/portfolio/strengthen-intellectual-property-rights-iprs-protection-in-viet-nam/
Contact point for further information	

Name of programme or project	Expert Deployment Mechanism for Trade and Development (EDM) – Strengthen Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) Protection in Viet Nam
Name of programme or project	Strengthening cyber policy research centres in the Global South – Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law
Date and end date	1 January 2019 - 31 December 2022
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	<p>This project is strengthening research and policy capacity on critical digital policy issues to ensure that policymakers in the Global South consistently use objective, high quality research to inform digital policy development. This project is supporting cyber policy research centres to develop a robust policy research agenda that addresses all facets of cyber and digital policy, including innovation, human rights, and security, and the interplay of these issues in the Global South.</p> <p>This project has created an academic, open access, peer-reviewed journal – the Journal of Intellectual Property and Information Technology (JIPIT). Strathmore University Press published volume one in May 2021, and is currently preparing for the next volume. A podcast has also been developed called The Friendly Troll, with observations of the global tech industry from the perspective of the Global South.</p>
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	
Outputs or impact	
Website for further information	https://www.idrc.ca/en/project/strengthening-cyber-policy-research-centres-global-south-centre-intellectual-property-and
Contact point for further information	

Name of programme or project	Initiative for Digital Rights in Latin America (INDELA)
Date and end date	1 January 2019 - 31 December 2021
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	Argentina; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Cuba; Ecuador; Mexico; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Uruguay; Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Brief description	The project is strengthening and supporting the digital rights ecosystem in Latin America by building the capacity of key and emerging thought leaders with skills, knowledge, and resources; addressing critical challenges around digital rights; and promoting coordination among funders and organizations.
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	
Outputs or impact	
Website for further information	https://www.idrc.ca/en/project/initiative-digital-rights-latin-america-indela
Contact point for further information	

Name of programme or project	Supplying free copies of Canadian patent documents for developing countries
Date and end date	
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	
Outputs or impact	
Website for further information	
Contact point for further information	

Name of programme or project	Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CPTL) – guidance, support, knowledge and tools
Date and end date	
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	The Canada-based CTPL is a Canadian institution that provides developing and transition economies with guidance and support to sustain them in the short-term and with the knowledge and tools to ensure their full participation in international trade agreements, including specific training on IP law and policy issues.
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	
Outputs or impact	
Website for further information	https://carleton.ca/ctpl/
Contact point for further information	

Name of programme or project	International IP Crime Training Seminars hosted by Interpol
Date and end date	
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	The RCMP has contributed to the seminars each year. The seminars have been given to participants from developed and least developed countries, facilitating the exchange of best practices and techniques, and networking.
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	
Outputs or impact	
Website for further information	
Contact point for further information	