



Regional Workshop Promoting Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights in ARIPO Member States

Press Release

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Accra, Ghana

Organised by:

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)

In collaboration with:

The Intellectual Property Rights & Innovation in Africa (AfrIPI)

and

The Registrar-General's Department, Ministry of Justice, Ghana



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Regional Workshop Promoting Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights in ARIPO Member States

Accra, Ghana – October 2, 2023: The Registrar-General's Department, Ministry of Justice Ghana, in collaboration with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and the Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation in Africa (AfrIPI), are pleased to announce a groundbreaking workshop aimed at fostering innovation and raising awareness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in the ARIPO Member States. The workshop, scheduled to take place from **October 3rd to 5th, 2023**, at the **Fiesta Royale Hotel in Accra, Ghana**, seeks to empower universities, R&D institutions, and Macro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in leveraging IPRs to drive technological advancement and sustainable development.

Under the theme "***The use of IP rights to foster innovation within ARIPO Member States***," this workshop will highlight the role of IPR including patents, industrial designs, and utility models in promoting innovation and economic growth. The workshop will highlight the changing role of universities, innovation hubs and R&D institutions in utilising information to foster innovation to promote economic growth.

According to the Director General of ARIPO, Mr. Bemanya Twebaze, this event aims to raise awareness about the significance of Intellectual Property, particularly how it fuels the technological innovations that drive human progress and the creative arts scene that enriches our lives. By tapping into what we as humans need at an individual level, exploring the shifting values within our communities, and investigating existing barriers, we can then understand the drivers of innovation growth in our context."

The workshop's program covers various topics, including an overview of ARIPO and AfrIPI, intellectual property rights principles and concepts, The Role of IP Offices in Promoting Innovation, the Use of Intellectual Property Rights for

Business Growth and Competitiveness by MSMEs in Africa, and success stories among other topics.

Ms. Aida Galindo, Project Leader of AfriPI, expressed her enthusiasm for the workshop, stating, "We are delighted to collaborate with the Registrar-General's Department, Ministry of Justice Ghana and ARIPO, in organising this workshop. We aim to promote innovation-driven growth in the region. The workshop will provide valuable insights into the practical applications of IPRs and their role in fostering technological advancement and boosting the income-generation capacities of businesses, including MSMEs."

The workshop will bring together participants from different ARIPO Member States, universities, technical institutions, MSMEs, and Registrar-General's Department of Ghana representatives. Notable attendees include Mrs Grace Ama Issahaque, Registrar-General of the Ministry of Justice, Ghana; H.E. Mr Irchad Ramiandrasoa Razaaly, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Ghana; and Hon. Godfred Yeboah Dame, Ghana's Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

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Notes to the editor

1. About Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual property rights ('IPRs' or 'IP rights') are legally enforceable rights over the use of inventions or other creative works. According to the definition of the World Intellectual Property Organization (<https://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/>), 'IP is protected in law by, for example, patents, copyright and trademarks, which enable people to earn recognition or financial benefit from what they invent or create. By striking the right balance between the interests of innovators and the wider public interest, the IP system aims to foster an environment in which creativity and innovation can flourish.'

IPRs include trademarks, patents, utility models, industrial designs, copyright, plant breeders' rights, layout designs of integrated circuits, geographical indications, new plant varieties and traditional knowledge, genetic resources, and expressions of folklore. However, certain variations in definitions and categories may be found in each country.

IP rights, as intangible assets, are key to the competitiveness of businesses in the global economy. IP rights are a primary method of securing a return on investment in innovation, creativity, and reputation. Apart from helping companies to protect their inventions from competitors, IP rights can also be an essential source of cash flow through licensing deals or IP sales. They are also a significant pull factor for attracting investors.

2. ARIPO

ARIPO is an intergovernmental organisation that facilitates cooperation among its Member States in intellectual property matters. The Organisation pools resources for the promotion, development, and harmonisation of the IP laws and policies of ARIPO Member States. The objective of ARIPO, amongst others, is to establish common services and bodies for IP rights coordination, development, and harmonisation. The Member States of ARIPO include Botswana, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya,

the Kingdom of Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Discover more about ARIPO at www.aripo.org

3. About AfrIPI

AfrIPI is a pan-African project that aims to support the European Union in administering, utilising, protecting and enforcing intellectual property rights across Africa. AfrIPI is aligned with IP rights best practices and supports the African Continental Free Trade Area and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Overall, the AfrIPI project aims to facilitate intra-African trade and African and European investment. The project is funded and directed by the European Union, and co-funded and implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office. Read more about AfrIPI at www.afripi.org

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