

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

At its meeting of 16 June 2004, the Council for TRIPS agreed to invite intergovernmental organization observers to the Council to update the information on their technical and financial cooperation programmes relating to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

The present document reproduces the information which has been received from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) by means of a communication dated 22 July 2004.

Communications from other intergovernmental organizations will be circulated as addenda to this document.

Thank you for your letter of 16 July 2004 addressed to the Secretary-General requesting information on any technical and financial cooperation programmes of the OECD relating to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement. The Secretary-General asked me to reply directly to you. While the OECD has a range of activities underway relating to intellectual property rights and relevant to the TRIPS Agreement, we have not separately targeted implementation of the Agreement as the specific focus of technical co-operation. The OECD does not operate financial co-operation programmes related to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

One project that I would like to highlight, however, concerns a "High-level Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights and Economic Development in China: Meeting Challenges and Opportunities Following WTO Entry" organised by the OECD and held during 20-21 April 2004 in Beijing. This workshop highlighted the OECD experience concerning the increasing importance of IPR policies in promoting innovation and technological diffusion in order to enhance social and economic growth in a knowledge-based economy. Naturally, this type of activity is a complement to the strategy of the Chinese Government to "revitalise the nation through science and education" and to strengthen its IPR regime in line with the TRIPS Agreement. Ms Jayashree Watal, Counsellor in the Intellectual Property Division at WTO, attended and made a presentation at this workshop whose main results will be published in the Fall.

Links to information on a number of other OECD activities related to intellectual property rights can be found on the OECD web site at www.oecd.org/sti/ipr.
