

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM
OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Addendum

The World Bank

The present document reproduces the updated information on technical and financial cooperation activities relevant to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, which has been received from the World Bank by means of a communication, dated 2 September 1997.¹

WORLD BANK ASSISTANCE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

China

The Bank-assisted Economic Law Reform Project has provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) in finalizing implementing regulations for the Foreign Trade Law. The provisions of these regulations have been framed to meet international standards such as those provided under the TRIPS Agreement.

India

Plant variety protection (PVP) is a key component of ongoing studies on improving the productivity of agricultural inputs. Gene patenting is another important issue. This study deals with the contentious policy issue of whether royalties may be claimed on unimproved varieties.

Indonesia

In May 1997, Indonesia passed and ratified new intellectual property rights to comply with commitments under the TRIPS Agreement and the Berne Convention. The Bank is currently negotiating an Information Infrastructure Development Project that will strengthen the legal and regulatory framework of Indonesia's IPRs. The assistance provided will include legal advisory services and policy studies; support to legal training for relevant staff; and strengthening of the Directorate General of Copyright, Patent and Trademark (DGCPT).

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¹The information should be read in conjunction with the information provided by the World Bank in 1996, which is contained in document IP/C/W/35/Add.5.

Turkey

The Bank is at the identification stage of a Technology Development Project in Turkey. One of the components identified for inclusion in this project is the strengthening of intellectual property laws. The project will assist Turkey in institution building with a view to enabling accession to the European Patent Convention, the Madrid Protocol and the Hague Agreement; harmonization; law enforcement; and public awareness of intellectual property rights issues.

Zimbabwe

An ongoing project on improving the productivity of agricultural inputs deals with the potential role of plant breeders' rights and gene patenting along with other regulatory reforms designed to raise farmers' productivity levels. A key issue in this context concerns the fact that companies may have used Plant Variety Protection to assert ownership rights to varieties that are in the public domain.

All countries

A short study on "Intellectual Property Rights after the Uruguay Round" is being prepared. This study will survey the aspects of intellectual property rights that developing countries must evaluate in order to pursue a technology development strategy. The study will consider the costs involved in upgrading intellectual property rights, and the need for technical assistance in areas such as plant varieties, integrated circuits, and protection of new technologies.