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

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**TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES:
INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

NORWAY

1. The following communication, dated 6 October 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Norway.

2. Norway provides technical cooperation activities that are relevant to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement through two institutions: The Norwegian Industrial Property Office (NIPO), a government entity – and The Norwegian Copyright Development Association (NORCODE), formed by industry organizations.

1 THE NORWEGIAN INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE

3. The Norwegian Industrial Property Office (NIPO) has been offering training courses in the area of intellectual property rights and patent information services in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for many years.

4. The main objective is to contribute to economic growth and reduction of poverty in developing countries by providing practical and academic assistance to strengthen the infrastructure of the IP systems and increase the capacity and competence in the area of industrial property rights.

5. Training courses and information services are financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and free of charge for the participants and users. WIPO contributes to the organization of training courses e.g. by handling applications from the participants and cover travel and accommodation for contributing personnel from WIPO.

6. A training course in the trademark area was conducted in the week of 7-11 October 2019. 15 participants from national industrial property offices in developing countries and countries in transition were invited. Participants came from Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Uganda (ARIPO – the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization).

7. The target group was officials who deal with intellectual property rights at a practical level. The objective of the course was to contribute to a better understanding of different intellectual property rights, with a focus on the practical work and administrative management of industrial property applications.

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9. Furthermore in 2019, the Norwegian Industrial Property Office has offered preliminary search services in the area of patents, through the WIPO Patent Information Services (WPIS) scheme

administered by WIPO. The target group for the service is users of industrial rights systems in developing countries (for example, businesses, research communities or individuals). More information can be found at this address: http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/data/developing_countries.html

10. In 2019, the Norwegian Industrial Property Office also arranged a full-year combined training and mentor course called the Patent Quality Program.

11. The target group was management and senior personnel in national industrial property offices in developing countries and countries in transition, with mandate to initiate and implement a specific project of improvement in their office. The programme was free of charge for the participants and fully financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

12. The programme gathered 15 participants from Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru and Uganda.

13. The Patent Quality Program consisted of four phases;

- In the first phase, the participants identified a patent-quality related project of interest for their national office.
- The second phase consisted of two weeks training in Oslo, where the Norwegian Intellectual Property Office, with representatives from private sector and academia, carried out lectures study visits and guided the practical preliminary work on the participant's projects of improvement.
- The third phase took place in the participant's home country where they implemented their project with remote support from a Norwegian colleague, who was available by telephone and e-mail.
- The fourth phase was a one-week follow-up session in a developing country, where representatives from WIPO Academy and the Norwegian Industrial property Office evaluated the projects together with the participants.

2 THE NORWEGIAN COPYRIGHT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

14. NORCODE was established in 2007. The association's objective is to carry out international development work in the copyright field, in order to support the cultural sector in developing countries.

2.1 NORCODE Regional Training Program on Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights 2019

15. The semi-annual training programme on exercise and management of copyright and related rights organized by NORCODE, took place two times in 2019:

- Regional Training Program, Africa: 28 May to 6 June 2019, Accra, Ghana;
- Regional Training Program, Asia: 4-14 November 2019, Hanoi, Viet Nam.

Objectives

16. The overall goal of the training is to provide a broad understanding of:

- The role and functions of collective management in different creative industries;
- Importance of solid governance structures and sustainability in collective management operations;
- Importance of sound licensing and distribution systems;
- Opportunities and challenges of digital exploitation on rights management.

17. The training also concentrates on solutions in emerging topics selected by the partnering organizations.

Target Participants

18. The programme is primarily tailored for persons in a leading position in a collective management organisation (CMO). It is equally well suited for persons in a leading position working in an intellectual property/copyright office which has a direct relation to a CMO in their country. Up to 20 participants are selected from countries in the region where collective management of rights currently exists.

Programme Structure

Phase 1: Preparation

Distance learning

19. By way of preparation, the participants are obliged to complete a distance learning course "Advanced Course on Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights for Collective Management Organizations (CMOs)" (DL 503), offered by the WIPO Academy. Participants are also encouraged to study the "Advanced Course on Copyright and Related Rights" (DL 201), subject to their prior knowledge on the legislative framework of copyright and related rights.

Individual study project

20. Each participant selects a topic for his/her individual study project. They submit a one-page study outline document based on a template, in conjunction with the application. The participants develop their studies during the training course and submit a written eight-12-page long report on their findings six months after the onsite training.

Country report

21. Prior to the training, each participant writes a country report, based on a template, to include an overview of the copyright system and current status of collective management in their countries. This country report is delivered two weeks before the training, where the results are presented.

Phase 2: Onsite Session

22. The second phase consists of a ten-day onsite training session where information is provided by local and international experts on all aspects of a well-functioning copyright system. Training includes interactive sessions with group discussions, case studies, simulated exercises and development of negotiation skills. This phase includes study visits to the copyright organizations of the host country.

Phase 3: Individual Study Projects

23. The third phase will take place in the participants' home countries where they work on their individual study project. This work is facilitated by tutoring online, when and where desired. The participants write a report on their topic within six months after the onsite session. The report is discussed and evaluated on an online platform.

Phase 4: Evaluation

24. The fourth phase consists of evaluation of the impact of the training course one year after the onsite session. The participants give feedback on how and where their participation at the training programme has enhanced their knowledge and how that has been demonstrated in practice in their work.

25. Participants are obliged to participate in all phases of the programme.

Partner organizations:

- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO Academy)
- The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO)
- International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC)
- International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI)
- The Societies' Council for the Collective Management of Performers' Rights (SCAPR)
- The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)

26. Participants in the regional programmes came from the following countries:

- Africa: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.
- Asia: Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

For more information: <http://norcode.no/news/>

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