

Opening Remarks of the Deputy Director General, Mr. John Sandage, to  
the WIPO Experts Forum on International Technology Transfer  
February 16, 2015

10.15 – 10.30

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives of Member States, IGOs and NGOs, Invited  
Speakers, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning. I should like to welcome all of you to the World Intellectual Property  
Organization (WIPO) Headquarters in Geneva, and to the WIPO Expert Forum on  
International Technology Transfer, which will be taking place in this Room A of WIPO  
over the next 3 days.

The WIPO Experts Forum on International Technology Transfer is one of the key  
deliverables of the Project entitled “Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer: Common  
Challenges — Building Solutions”, based on Development Agenda Recommendations 19,  
25, 26 & 28, a Project that was initiated by WIPO’s Committee on Development and  
Intellectual Property (CDIP) with a view to exploring possible initiatives and IP-related  
policies for promoting technology transfer, and the dissemination and facilitation of access to  
technology for development, particularly for the benefit of developing and least developed  
countries.

As further set-out in the original Project document approved by the CDIP (document  
CDIP/6/4 Rev.), the Project’s objective is to “explore new ways of establishing international  
IP collaboration, enhanced understanding and consensus on possible IP initiatives or policies  
to promote technology transfer”.

That original Project document envisaged the Project to be carried out in 5 successive stages: i) the holding of 5 regional consultations; ii) the preparation of 6 peer-reviewed analytic studies; iii) the holding of a *high-level expert forum*; iv) the creation of a web forum; and finally, v) the incorporation of any Project outcome, after consideration and approval by the CDIP, into WIPO programs.

Discussions in the CDIP on launching a Project on Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer: “Common Challenges – Building Solutions” began in 2009. As one of the first important achievements of the Project, the CDIP agreed, at its sixth session held in 2010, on a definition of the term “technology transfer” to be used as the basis for the Project.

As you may recall, that agreed definition reads as follows: “Transfer of technology refers broadly to a series of processes enabling and facilitating flows of skills, knowledge, ideas, know-how and technology among different stakeholders, such as university and research institutions, international organizations, IGOs, NGOs, private sector entities and individuals, as well as international technology transfer among countries.”

That definition thus covers both *national* technology transfer, that is, the transfer of skills, knowledge, ideas, know-how and technology among different stakeholders within a country, as well as *international* technology transfer, that is, the transfer of skills, knowledge, ideas, know-how and technology across borders and among countries.

Following the 5 regional consultation meetings and the receipt of the 6 studies, the Project is now coming to its final stages, namely, the convening of this International Expert Forum, the purpose of which will be to provide a framework for an open dialogue among experts from both developed and developing countries knowledgeable in public and private sector technology transfer, aimed at not only identifying “common challenges” but mainly at developing “*joint* solutions”, keeping in mind the title of the Project: “Common Challenges – Building Solutions”.

As you will have noticed in the program, the Forum is organized into three different sessions. The first session, entitled “Analytic studies on international technology transfer”, will feature presentations on the technology transfer studies which have been carried out under the Project by 6 international experts, followed by presentations by the peer-reviewers of these studies and a Q&A session, where the floor will be open to all of you to ask questions to the speakers.

The second session, entitled “Measures for promoting international technology transfer”, will discuss challenges and solutions to international technology transfer through a panel of 8 international experts, moderated by Ms. Alison Brimelow. These international experts were selected according to the selection criteria approved by Member States, notably with a view to seeking a balance in terms of their geographical representation (developed as well as developing countries), their affiliation (public and private sector), and their position with respect to the role of IP in technology transfer. The main task and challenge for these experts will be to identify recommendations or “thoughts” for inclusion in a list of possible measures for promoting technology transfer, to be submitted to the CDIP for its consideration, starting with the least common denominators between all perspectives and basing such thoughts on realistic and mutually acceptable and beneficial elements as a

starting point for building joint solutions. Each segment of the panel discussion will be followed by Q&As.

Finally, the third session entitled: "Review and Closing" will summarize the thoughts for consideration by the CDIP.

I wish to encourage all of you to actively participate in this event over the next three days and to take full advantage of the presence of these top-level experts in the field of technology transfer.

Before passing the floor to our first speakers for the two keynote speeches, I would like to make a couple of housekeeping announcements. The Secretariat would appreciate if you could fill out, towards the end of this event, the survey questionnaire which has been included in the packet that you received when you picked up your badge at the registration desk. If you have not yet received the packet, kindly pick one up at the registration desk in front of Room A.

There will be coffee breaks offered by WIPO twice a day in the middle of the mornings and afternoons in the Apollon Room in front of Room A. In case you would like to join us for lunch over the next three days, there will be reserved tables with green aprons at the back of the New Building cafeteria. Should you have any questions or queries, please feel free to address them to my colleagues here from the Secretariat.

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Finally, let me welcome all of you again in Geneva to the WIPO Expert Forum on International Technology Transfer and wish you all a successful meeting, with the hope that through our gathering for the next three days, we shall lay some of the foundations for solving the challenges in bridging the technology transfer divide through the sharing of intellectual property, technology and know-how.

Thank you for your attention.