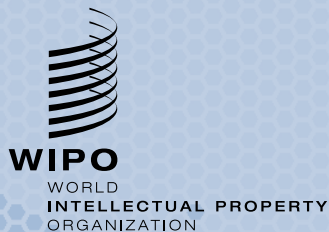


Japan FIT/IP for Africa and LDCs

From Inception to Casablanca



Japan
Patent Office



2017

The History of Japan FIT/IP for Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development)

African countries and Japan started the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) process in 1993 in cooperation with other development partners. TICAD was launched to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners. The first conference (TICAD I), held in Tokyo, successfully contributed to refocusing international attention on the importance and urgency of African development issues when “aid fatigue” set in after the Cold War.

Since then, Japan co-hosted conferences in 1998 (TICAD II) and in 2003 (TICAD III) in Tokyo, and in 2008 (TICAD IV) and in 2013 (TICAD V) in Yokohama. TICAD V turned out to be the largest international conference ever hosted by Japan. Among a total of at least 4,500 participants were representatives of 51 African countries, 31 development partner countries and Asian countries, including 39 heads of State and Government.

The TICAD is not simply a series of conferences but an evolving process. The process has been playing a catalytic role in translating its philosophy and priorities into tangible projects in areas such as human resources development and socio-economic infrastructure.

From the beginning, TICAD has advocated that “**ownership**” by African countries of their development processes and “**partnership**” by the international community in support of such ownership are essential for African development. TICAD shares this concept with the NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa’s Development) established in 2001 by African leaders. TICAD process and NEPAD support and complement each other.

In 2016, TICAD VI was held in Kenya – the first time TICAD had been held on African soil, enhancing the principles of African ownership and international partnership. Including side events within the venue, it brought together over 11,000 people including the representatives of 53 African countries (among them 32 Heads of State and Government from Africa) as well as development partner countries and Asian countries, international and regional organizations, the private sector, and civil society such as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).



Japan FIT/IP for Africa and LDCs

Around the time of TICAD III and IV, one of the most debated issues in the international fora dealing with intellectual property (IP) was the development implications of IP. The Member States of WIPO discussed the integration of development considerations into its activities. In 2007, the **WIPO Development Agenda** was formally established by its Member States, in a decision of the General Assembly, including the adoption of 45 recommendations.

In particular, recommendation 2 urges to: “Provide additional assistance to WIPO through donor funding, and **establish Trust-Funds or other voluntary funds within WIPO specifically for LDCs**, while continuing to accord high priority to finance activities in Africa through budgetary and extra-budgetary resources, to promote, inter alia, the legal, commercial, cultural, and economic exploitation of intellectual property in these countries.”

In 2008, a year after the establishment of WIPO Development Agenda, the participants at TICAD IV, while acknowledging the positive trends that had emerged across the African continent in general, identified boosting economic growth as one of the priority areas. The “Yokohama Action Plan”, the outcome of TICAD IV, encouraged all stakeholders, including the private sector, to act together in accelerating economic growth. The Government of Japan committed itself to mobilize all the policy tools it had to double direct investment from the Japanese private sector to Africa.

Under the Yokohama Action Plan, the Government of Japan made concrete proposals for private sector development. **The Japan Patent Office (JPO), in cooperation with WIPO, proposed to establish a new Trust-Funds arrangement (Funds-In-Trust: FIT) for industrial property dedicated to the development of Africa and LDCs.** The proposal had a clear objective: to support African countries to facilitate the growth of local industries through better use of their intellectual property systems and the increase of investments from the rest of the world through improvement of the trade and investment environment.

The proposal was welcomed by the two regional IP organizations in Africa: the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and l'*Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle* (OAPI). **In the field of IP, the JPO became a partner of Africa.**

In 2013, TICAD V confirmed that private sector-led growth is necessary for Africa's growth. **Japan committed itself to support Africa's efforts** in improving the local investment environment, which is essential to expand trade and investment by the private sector. As one of the initiatives in this priority area, Japan FIT/IP for Africa and LDCs was incorporated into the evolved "Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017", which will assist Africa in the development of IP infrastructures and human resources.

In 2016, in the opening session of TICAD VI, Prime Minister Abe announced that for a period of three years from 2016 to 2018, **Japan will invest for the future of Africa**, such as the human resource development of 10 million people ("Empowerment"), by making use of the strength of Japan ("Quality"). As a part of that commitment, **Japan will provide training to 1,000 people** to promote public awareness of intellectual property in Africa for a period of three years from 2016 to 2018. Japan FIT/IP for Africa and LDCs was incorporated into the implementation of this plan.

Since 2008, the Government of Japan has **contributed 1.1 million Swiss francs** a year to the fund. In 2015, Japan **increased its contribution to 1.6 million Swiss francs** so as to respond to growing needs from an emerging Africa.

Major events in the history of Japan FIT/IP for Africa and LDCs

1993	TICAD I
1998	TICAD II
2003	TICAD III
2007	<i>WIPO Development Agenda was established</i>
2008	TICAD IV / Japan FIT/IP for Africa and LDCs was established in WIPO
2013	TICAD V
2015	<i>Japan FIT/IP increased its contribution from 1.1 million CHF to 1.6 million CHF</i>
2016	TICAD VI

Activities under Japan FIT/IP for Africa and LDCs (FY 2008-2016)

Japan FIT/IP has **three pillars** in its activities. The first pillar is to organize **events for key IP actors** such as high-level policy dialogues for African ministers. Japan FIT/IP facilitates the use of IP system for development by supporting key actors in Africa.

The third pillar is **human resource development** in the field of IP. Human resource development has always been the focus of Japan's assistance in the TICAD process. Japan FIT/IP supports Africa to develop human resources who are able to use the IP system for development.

The second pillar is the **modernization of IP offices**. The ICT system and database are the fundamental infrastructure for a modern IP office. Japan FIT/IP supports IP offices in Africa to handle more and more IP files.



1 Events for Key IP Actors

Policy Dialogue on the Role of Intellectual Property in Economic, Social and Cultural Development

Japan FIT/IP contributes to organizing fora at which high-level policy-makers, officials from IP offices, and representatives from the private sector can discuss IP policies and IP-related development issues. Such **policy dialogues help leverage the IP system in Africa and LDCs to drive innovation and creativity forward.**

African Ministerial Conference, November 3 to 5, 2015, Dakar (Senegal)

This is an **IP forum of unprecedented size** where African ministers, IP experts from Africa and other continents, and participants from the private sector discussed IP policies to promote an intellectual creation cycle **for an Emerging Africa.**

The conference brought together over 400 participants, including around 50 ministers responsible for intellectual property, trade and culture as well as private sector members to adopt a plan for boosting the uptake of intellectual

property tools to help stimulate economic and social development across Africa.

The Dakar Declaration on Intellectual Property for Africa was adopted by ministers, establishing the elements of an action plan on exploiting IP system for fostering innovation and creativity in Africa for coming years.

This conference was organized in cooperation with the African Union and the Government of the Republic of Senegal.



H.E Mrs. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E Mr. Mohammed Dionne, Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal, Mr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology of AU, H.E. Mr. Takashi Kitahara, Ambassador of Japan to Senegal, Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO, Mr. Kunihiko Shimano, Director-General, Trial and Appeal Department of JPO, Ministers and Organizers (Photo: WIPO/Cheikh Saya Diop)



H.E Mrs. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius (Photo: WIPO/Cheikh Saya Diop)

African Ministerial Conference, March 12 and 13, 2013, Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania)

Under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Jakaya Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, more than 20 African ministers, senior policymakers, IP administrators and entrepreneurs gathered to discuss the role of IP in stimulating innovation and development. Over 200 participants attended the conference.

Emphasis was placed on strategic partnerships at international, regional and national level, by State and non-State actors, as well as on the importance of collaborative research, i.e. between research institutions and industries, to spur innovation, create value and business growth.

The conference was organized in co-operation with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.



Side event on the promotion of local products
(Photo: WIPO/Zainul A. Mzige)

The United Republic of Tanzania's President and African Ministers at the Conference in Dar es Salaam
(Photo: WIPO/Zainul A. Mzige)



Developing IP Knowledge among Law-makers

Japan FIT/IP contributes to organizing events that help keep law-makers up-to-date with the very latest developments in the field. **Law-makers play a key role in the establishment of an IP system.** The more they know about how a modern IP system functions, the better they are able to build the constructive partnerships that underpin such systems.

High Level Meeting for Members of Parliament of the ARIPO Member States, March 25 to 27, 2015, Kampala (Uganda)



Parliamentarians with H.E. Kahinda Otafiire, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Uganda (center) and Mr. Kunihiko Shimano, the Director-General of the Japan Patent Office (right) (Photo: WIPO)

“It is a well-known fact that no country has ever effectively developed without the use of intellectual property. Therefore, it is imperative that you as policymakers quickly adopt laws in our respective countries which will facilitate the use of intellectual property.” – H.E. Kahinda Otafiire, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Uganda

“For the purpose of improving IP legislation, it is indispensable to gain cooperation and support from the members of the legislative branch” – Mr. Kunihiko Shimano, Director-General, JPO

The meeting brought together 35 African parliamentarians from Member States of ARIPO. The objective was to learn more about the importance of the IP system and new treaties on topics from copyright to industrial and cultural development in Africa.

The highlight of the meeting was the introduction to the Marrakesh VIP Treaty, provided by experts who themselves were visually impaired. Their passion and desire for books in accessible formats was a strong message that resonated with the audience.



Ms. Beatrice Guzu, Chief Executive Officer, Uganda Disability Council, giving her presentation with notes in Braille, an accessible format (Photo: WIPO)

High Level Meeting for Members of Parliament of OAPI Member States, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti and Madagascar, June 11 and 12, 2014, Lomé (Togo)

“In an era when industrialization was the national priority for Japan, the establishment of industrial property laws marked the first major step towards economic development. Therefore, in the process of improving the intellectual property system, the initiative and the cooperation of the legislature are indispensable.” – Mr. Hideo Hato, Commissioner, JPO

The meeting brought together 31 African parliamentarians representing almost all Member States of OAPI, as well as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, and Madagascar.



A parliamentarian from Madagascar reading out the motion adopted (Photo: WIPO)



Parliamentarians and Mr. Hideo Hato, the Commissioner of JPO (Photo: WIPO)

The focus was placed on helping parliamentarians to become more familiar with the modern IP system. The hope is that, armed with their improved knowledge, they will return to their home countries better able to forge constructive partnerships between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of their respective countries to build a strong and balanced IP system.

The meeting was organized in cooperation with *l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* and the Government of the Republic of Togo.

2 Modernization of IP Offices

Japan FIT/IP undertakes modernization projects to help bring the operations and services of national and regional IP offices into the digital age. The major strand of modernization projects focuses on **data capture^(*) and digitization^(**) of paper IP files**, which allow IP offices to **handle IP files in an efficient manner**.

(*1) Project to capture bibliographic data from paper documents and to enter the data into the system.

(*2) Project to scan paper documents and to store the digitized data in the system.

Data capture and Digitization

In most IP offices in Africa, IP files are still in paper form. It is a time-consuming task to find a specific document from shelves of thousands of paper documents. There is also a risk of damage or loss of documents. Data capture and digitization **streamline and speed up** the business processes, which benefits both IP offices and users.

As the African economy is growing, the number of IP files is growing. Data capture and digitization are becoming more and more urgent. Japan FIT/IP will contribute to this transformation of IP offices.



Information technology and office automation
(Photo: WIPO)

Data Capture

- 2016 – Nigeria, Namibia (ongoing), Zambia (ongoing)
- 2015 – Botswana (ongoing), Zanzibar (ongoing)
- 2014 – Nigeria
- 2013 – Zimbabwe
- 2012 – Mauritius

Digitization

- 2016 – Egypt (ongoing), OAPI (ongoing), Botswana (ongoing), Malawi (ongoing), Mozambique (ongoing)
- 2015 – ARIPO (ongoing), Kenya (ongoing), Zimbabwe (ongoing)
- 2014 – OAPI
- 2013 – Ethiopia

Training on Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS)

WIPO IPAS is a workflow-based and highly customizable system that supports all the major business processes of an IP office. Training for IP office employees on IPAS is offered by Japan FIT/IP to help them provide fully paperless, digitized services to their users.

- In July 2016, a regional training workshop on IPAS was held in Maputo (Mozambique). Thirty-three participants from 20 national/regional IP offices attended the workshop. It dealt with data quality management, data exchange, online services and so on.
- In October 2015, a regional training workshop on IPAS was held in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe). Thirty-three participants from 21 national/regional IP offices learned IPAS tools for data validation and verification. The workshop aimed to build capacity regarding functions and tools for IP data quality supervision, productivity and governance.
- In April 2015, a regional training workshop on IPAS was held in Walvis Bay (Namibia). Twenty-four participants from IP offices learned IPAS tools for business process governance, accountability, transparency and supervision.
- In October 2013, a regional training workshop on IPAS was held in Harare (Zimbabwe). The objective was to build capacity and technical skills of IPAS focal points in IP offices. Twenty-one participants attended the workshop.

3 Human Resource Development

Education is a key element for Japan FIT/IP. Through scholarships, donation of textbooks, training opportunities and other activities, Japan FIT/IP supports Africa’s efforts in developing human resources and building capacity in the field of IP.

Master’s degree in Intellectual Property

A landmark Master’s program in IP was created in Africa University in Mutare (Zimbabwe), in cooperation with ARIPO and the WIPO Academy in 2008. A similar program has been developed in the University of Yaoundé II in cooperation with OAPI and the WIPO Academy. The objectives of the programs are to address the shortage of human resources in the Africa region by educating students and young professionals in the field of IP and to train trainers of IP for the region in order to meet the regional needs and perspectives.

Each year selected students have been granted scholarships to study MIP degrees. **Up to 10 students are selected per program for scholarships by Japan FIT/IP.**



Students learning about IP issues
(Photo: © Africa University)

Through these programs, IP professionals (university lecturers, lawyers, young professionals and graduate students, IP stakeholders) have graduated to become resource persons at national/regional institutions and in the private sector.



MIP graduation ceremony
(Photo: © Africa University)

Japan FIT/IP donates textbooks to MIP students.



Japan FIT/IP supports MIP students (Photo: WIPO)

Patent Drafting Course for Patent Agents in Africa

In October 2014, Japan FIT/IP sponsored an unprecedented meeting that took place in Harare (Zimbabwe), bringing together 36 African patent and trademark agents from 15 ARIPO Member States. The aim was to explore ways to improve their current business procedures and to work together on bettering the IP system in Africa. In the meeting, the participants expressed needs for training in patent drafting, which will help them **go the extra mile for their clients to**



Patent agents working on a practical exercise in small groups (Photo: WIPO)

protect IP and open up the industry in their countries.

Responding to the needs, in 2015, Japan FIT/IP supported **the launch of brand-new Patent Drafting Course in ARIPO**, which aims to enhance the drafting skills of patent agents in Africa.

Support for Technology Transfer

Japan FIT/IP supports training workshops and study programs to promote innovation and facilitate technology transfer based on the strategic use of IP in Africa. Japan FIT/IP promotes technology transfer of green technologies by supporting WIPO GREEN.



Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)

Japan FIT/IP has sponsored numerous seminars and workshops for TISCs, which aim to enhance the capacity of researchers and inventors in Africa and LDCs to use IP information in their innovation activities.

- In February 2017, three workshops were organized in Dakar, Thiès and Bambey (Senegal). Training on patent databases with practical exercises was provided to TISC staff and students at TISC host institutions.
- In January 2017, two workshops were organized in Kampala (Uganda) for Ugandan universities. They brought together over 80 participants. In the workshops, how universities in Uganda could benefit from TISC resources was explained.
- In May 2016, two workshops were organized in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar (Tanzania). Over 50 participants in Dar es Salaam and over 30 participants in Zanzibar received training on, among others, effective use of TISC resources with two examples of such use in the fields of bananas and safe drinking water.
- In April 2016, a workshop was organized in Abuja (Nigeria). The objective was to reinforce the local TISC network by giving training on the effective use of patent information and scientific publications. It brought together over 50 participants.
- In March 2016, a workshop was organized in Gaborone (Botswana). More than 30 participants from various local institutions participated in the workshop and learned about the usefulness and value of patent information for both the public and private sectors.
- In June 2015, two seminars were organized with the launch of new TISCs in two higher learning institutions in Karongi and Rulindo (Rwanda). More than 350 students and professors participated in the two seminars.
- In March 2015, two workshops were organized in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso). Around 25 researchers, professors and students were trained in searching and retrieving patent information and non-patent literature in each workshop.

- In February 2015, a workshop was organized in Accra (Ghana). Over 50 participants were trained on patent searching and using technologies and scientific information through presentations and practical exercises.
- In September 2014, two workshops were organized in the United Republic of Tanzania. Over 50 participants in Dar es Salaam and over 30 participants in Zanzibar received training in searching and exploiting technologies and scientific information to develop their respective activities.
- In June 2014, a seminar was organized for academic researchers and entrepreneurs in Lusaka (Zambia), which was followed by a roundtable discussion with major stakeholders to discuss establishing a national TISC network.
- In June 2014, a seminar, an awareness-raising activity and a training workshop were organized in Dakar, Bambey and Thiès (Senegal). Together with the activities, two new TISCs were launched at a hospital in Dakar and a university in Bambey.
- In May 2014, a seminar was organized in Sao Tomé (Sao Tomé and Príncipe), which provided training to TISC staff and to local participants. More than 30 participants took part in the seminar.

Empowering Local Actors through Training

Japan FIT/IP supports and trains local actors, building their knowledge of IP and branding. **The “Taita Basket” branding project empowers women basket-weavers to protect and promote their traditional craftwork through the IP system.**



A family art

“Taita Baskets” are sisal baskets made by women in Kenya’s Taita Taveta County. The baskets are laboriously crafted in a unique traditional way from hand-twisted thin sisal fibers dyed with natural plants. They are remarkably soft, thanks to their tightly woven fine mesh, and are resistant to color fading. The knowledge of basket-making has been passed down through the generations, from mother to daughter.



Basket weaving in a local village (Photos: WIPO)



Unlocking the power of IP

The first step in the project was a training workshop, which took place on February 17 and 18, 2016 in Voi (Kenya). It brought together 30 female basket weavers from surrounding villages to learn the importance of the trademark system, standards and quality control for branding products. Through lectures and exercises, the participants learned the importance of standards and quality control.



Lecture on quality improvement by basket-making experts

During subsequent on-site training sessions in two villages, the trainees shared with other group members what they had learned and discussed in the workshop: IP knowledge, standards, quality control and how to form an association.

A trainee shares her knowledge with other basket weavers in her village



Birth of a new association

In June, 2016, during week-long events in two local villages, some 450 basket weavers gathered – 300 in Kasigau and 150 in Sechu – to establish their association and formally agree on obtaining a collective mark to develop their regional brand. They discussed:

- the makeup of their new association;
- the logo design for their proposed collective mark;
- regulations on the use of the mark; and
- quality standards to be adopted.

Following the discussions, the basket weavers voted by majority to adopt all of the documents necessary to found their regional association and take the project forward. This represents the first



Considering logo options

step towards the development of the regional “Taita Basket” brand.

The Hon. Eng. Elijah Mwandoe, County Executive for Industrialization, Energy, ICT and Research, opened the meeting by proudly referring to the sisals of the region as among “the best in the world” and emphasizing the importance and relevance of the branding project to his county.



Discussion on the constitution of the association, presided over by the leader of the groups.



Mulling over basket designs in small groups



Photos: WIPO

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