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INAUGURATION OF IPR CELL IN KANNUR UNIVERSITY AND NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON 'PATENTS AND PATENT FILING IN BIOTECHNOLOGY' (FROM APRIL 24 - 25, 2009)

PIC-Kerala has established IPR Cell in Kannur University and it was inaugurated on 24th April 2009. In connection with that, a two- day National Workshop on 'Patents and Patent filing in Biotechnology' was organized in association with Dept. of Biotechnology & Microbiology, Kannur University, at Kannur from 24th - 25th April, 2009. Dr. P.K. Micheal Tharakan, Vice Chancellor, Kannur University, inaugurated the IPR Cell and the Workshop. Six lectures were delivered in the Workshop.

- 'An Overview of IPR with emphasis on Patenting in Biotechnology' by Adv. Febin James, Advocate, School of Legal Thoughts, Kottayam.
- 'Patent drafting and filing' by Shri. Narendra Bhatta, Patent Agent, Krishna & Saurastri Associates, Bangalore.

- 'Protection of Traditional Knowledge' by Dr. S. Rajasekharan, Senior Scientist, TBGRI, Thiruvananthapuram.
- 'Patenting System in India' by Adv. Febin James, Advocate, School of Legal Thoughts, Kottayam.
- 'How to make claims while drafting Patents' by Shri. Afsal, Patent Agent, Krishna & Saurastri Associates, Bangalore.
- 'Activities of KSCSTE & PIC-Kerala' by Mr. Safikh.S, Project Scientist, PIC-Kerala.

There were around 150 participants including PG Students and Faculty from the University and from nearby Colleges for the Workshop.



Dr. P.K. Micheal Tharakan, Vice Chancellor, Kannur University, inaugurates the IPR Cell



Dr. P.K. Micheal Tharakan giving his inaugural address



Dr. M. Haridas, Co-ordinator, IPR Cell, Kannur University, explaining about the objectives of the Cell



View of the Participants

SEMINAR AT ADOOR ON 'ADOLESCENT INNOVATORS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS' (ON MAY 25, 2009)

PIC-Kerala in association with Malankara Social Service Society (MSSS) organized a one day Seminar on 'Adolescent Innovators and Intellectual Property Rights' at All Saint's Higher Secondary School, Adoor, on 25th May 2009. Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble MLA inaugurated the Seminar. Three lectures were delivered in the Seminar.

- 'An Overview of IPR' by Er. Binuja Thomas, Scientific Officer, KSCSTE.

- 'Copyrights & Trademarks' by Adv. Hareendran, Lecturer, Govt. Law College, Trivandrum.
- 'Legal aspects of IPR' by Adv. Febin James, Advocate, School of Legal Thoughts, Kottayam.
- 'Activities of KSCSTE & PIC-Kerala' by Mr. Safikh.S, Project Scientist, PIC-Kerala.

More than 150 participants including Students and Teachers from the School as well as from the nearby Schools attended the Seminar.



Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble MLA inaugurates the Seminar



Hon'ble MLA giving his inaugural address



Participants of the programme

NATIONAL WORKSHOP IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ON 'ROLE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY' (ON JUNE 12, 2009)

PIC-Kerala in association with Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) organized a one day National Workshop on 'Intellectual Property Rights in the Knowledge Economy' at Seminar Hall, Priyadarshini Planetarium, Kerala State Science & Technology Museum, Thiruvananthapuram on 12th June, 2009. Dr. Ajit Prabhu V, Principal Scientific Officer, KSCSTE, welcomed the delegates. Shri. M. Vijayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Law & Parliamentary affairs, Govt. of Kerala, inaugurated the Workshop. Dr. E. P. Yesodharan, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE, presided over the function. Dr. R. Saha, Director, Patent Facilitation Centre, TIFAC, New Delhi, delivered the Keynote address. Shri. Yashawant Dev Panwar, Principal Scientific Officer, TIFAC proposed vote of thanks. There were three lectures delivered in the Seminar.

- 'New Dimensions of IPR' by Dr. R. Saha, Director, PFC-TIFAC, New Delhi.
- 'Patenting System in India' by Shri Ravi Bhola, Patent Attorney, K N S Partners, Bangalore.
- 'Patent Information and its Access' by Shri. Yashawant Dev Panwar, Principal Scientific Officer, PFC-TIFAC, New Delhi.

The technical sessions were followed by a panel discussion in which lot of queries on various issues of IPR were answered by the speakers. There were about 200 participants including Scientists, Researchers, Students and Faculty from Engineering, Management & Law Colleges, Grass root Innovators, etc., in the Workshop.



Shri. M. Vijayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Law & Parliamentary affairs, inaugurates the Workshop



Dr. R. Saha, Director, PFC - TIFAC, New Delhi delivering the Keynote address.



Shri. Yashawant Dev Panwar, Principal Scientific Officer, TIFAC, delivering his lecture



A view of the participants



NATIONAL SEMINAR IN THRISSUR ON 'INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN AGRICULTURE' (ON JUNE 20, 2009)

PIC-Kerala in association with Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur organized a one day National Seminar on 'Intellectual Property Rights in Agriculture' at College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara, Thrissur on 20th June, 2009. Shri. Rajaji Mathew Thomas, Hon'ble MLA, inaugurated the Seminar. Shri. T.C. James, Director, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Govt. of India, delivered the Keynote address. Five lectures were delivered in the Seminar.

- 'Introduction to IPR and support from KSCSTE' by Er. Binuja Thomas, Scientific Officer, KSCSTE.
- 'Patenting System in India' by Shri. S. Afsar, Patent Agent, Krishna & Saurastri Associates, Bangalore.

- 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right' by Dr. C.R. Elsy, Professor & Convener, IPR Cell, Kerala Agricultural University.
- 'Geographical Indications Registration and legal Dimensions' by Shri. Thimmanna P.P, Advocate & Associate, Krishna & Saurastri Associates, Bangalore.
- 'Protection of GI's of Agricultural Goods - Case Studies' by Dr. Jessy Thomas, Professor, Kerala Agricultural University.

There were about 100 participants including Scientists, Faculty & Students from Agricultural University & nearby Institutions attended the Seminar.



Shri. Rajaji Mathew Thomas, Hon'ble MLA inaugurates the Seminar.



A view from the inaugural session



Er. Binuja Thomas, Scientific Officer, KSCSTE, offering felicitation at the Seminar.



Participants of the programme.

SEMINAR IN KOTTAYAM ON 'INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS' (ON JUNE 20, 2009)

PIC-Kerala in association with Kerala Ganitha Sasthra Parishad, Kottayam, organized a one day Seminar on 'Intellectual Property Rights' at MD Seminary Hall, Kottayam, on 20th June, 2009. Three lectures were delivered in the Seminar.

➤ 'An Overview of IPR with special emphasis on Patents' by Shri. V.P.Balagangadharan, Scientist & Head Technology Transfer & Documentation Group, VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram.

➤ 'Protection of Traditional Knowledge' by Dr. S. Rajasekharan, Senior Scientist, TBGRI, Palode, Thiruvananthapuram.

➤ 'Role of KSCSTE & PIC-Kerala in promoting IPR in the State' by Mr. Safikh.S, Project Scientist, PIC-Kerala.

More than 100 participants including Engineering Students, Law Students and Teachers from various Colleges participated in the Seminar.



A view from the inaugural session



Participants listening the lecture



Shri. V.P.Balagangadharan, Scientist, VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram delivering his lecture



Dr. S. Rajasekharan, Senior Scientist, TBGRI, Thiruvananthapuram taking classes



IPR NEWS

GOOGLE VICTORIOUS IN DOMAIN NAME DISPUTES

Google has emerged as the victor in a dispute over a pair of domain names at the World Intellectual Property Rights Organization (WIPO). The search engine - which holds some 60 per cent of the market share in worldwide searches, according to India's Economic Times - complained about the domain names 'mygooglemoney.com' and 'googlelehd.com' to the United Nations-run agency, stating both were in violation of Google's Intellectual Property Rights. Sole panelist Christian Schalk asserted that the two Indian entities that set up the names had registered them in "bad faith" and had used the trade name Google without any right - a move which he said was designed to confuse internet users. Tech Crunch reported last week that while the search engine has debuted its venture capital fund - known as Google Ventures - it does not own or operate the domain name 'googleventures.com'. According to the blog, the current registered domain name, which was set up in 2004, is set to expire later this year.

(Source: www.globalgold.co.uk, 06.04.2009)

CHINA TOPS IN TRADEMARK APPLICATIONS

In 2008, nearly 700,000 Trademark applications were submitted in China, marking the seventh consecutive year that the Country has ranked first in the World for the number of applications. This is according to the information from the WIPO Inter-Regional High Level forum on intellectual Property held in Beijing. The State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) handled a total of over 17,000 trademark applications under the Madrid System for international registration of trademarks in 2008, up 4.9% compared to the year 2007 and ranking first in the World for four years in a row. SAIC is also making progress in international trademarks protection. Prior to 1979, 20 Countries and regions had come and registered trademarks in China.

(Source: Journal on IPR, NISCAIR, CSIR, Vol. 14, May 2009)

INDIAN ASSOCIATION SEEKS IPR FOR 'PUNERI PAGADI'

A Pune-based organization has sought geographical exclusivity for the famous headgear 'Puneri Pagadi'. The pagadi is considered as a symbol of pride and honour in the region. Pune-based Shree Puneri Pagadi Sangh has submitted an application before the Geographical Indication Registry, seeking the GI (geographical indication) tag for the turban.

According to the information available with the official Journal of the Geographical Indication, Sangh has sought GI status for Puneri Pagadi under "Class 25", which deals with clothing, footwear and headgear products. "We are also seeking the GI tag for Puneri Pagadi with an aim to preserve the culture and a significant identity of the city," Sangh's representative Great Mission Group Consultancy's Ganesh Hingmire said.

The application claims that Mahadev Govind Ranade introduced the prevalent "Puneri Pagadi" for the first time nearly two centuries ago. Since then, it has been worn by great leaders and famous personalities like Lokmanya Tilak, J S Karandikar, D D Sathye, Tatyasaheb Kelkar and Dato Waman Pottadar. "Puneri Pagadi" has now become a matter of heritage, the Sangh claims.

(Source: Business Standard, 07.04.2009)

PATENT ON STEM CELL TECHNIQUE

Novocell, the biotechnology Company, received a Patent that essentially gives its control over all endoderm cells made from human embryonic stem cells. Endoderm cells are precursor cells that can eventually develop into cells of the pancreas, lungs, intestine, liver, thymus, bladder and thyroid. Novocell is developing a diabetes therapy by using embryonic stem cells to create insuling producing islet cells. In 2008, Novocell was the first company to document that it could make human embryonic stem cells evolve first into endoderm cells and then into insulin-producing cells. It then became the first to apply for a Patent on the gateway cells. Under the patent, any company using human embryonic stem cells to make any of those types of cells by first making endoderm cells must have a license from Novocell. The Patent is for composition, meaning, it is not for how to make the endoderm cells, but the actual cells, the product of the recipe. Such Patents can be controversial. Scientists complained that the embryonic stem cell Patent hinders research.

(Source: Journal on IPR, NISCAIR, CSIR, Vol. 14, May 2009)

JENNIFER LOPEZ GAIN RIGHTS TO JENNIFERLOPEZ.NET AND JENNIFERLOPEZ.ORG

US based singer and actress Jennifer Lopez has won rights to two domain names which were being used to mislead fans to pages filled with advertisements. She has now won the ownership of jenniferlopez.net and jenniferlopez.org domains. The case was decided by the World Intellectual Property Organization which deals in such disputes. The ownership of these domains would soon be transferred to Jennifer Lopez Foundation. Pierce Brosnan, Tom Cruise, Celine Dion, Scarlett Johansson, Nicole Kdman, Madonna and Julia Roberts are some other celebrities who have won similar cyber squatting lawsuits against domain squatters.

(Source: <http://news.techwhack.com>, 11.04.2009)



IPR NEWS

POTTER PUBLISHER SUED OVER COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

The publishers of JK Rowling's Harry Potter books have been sued by the estate of a late British Writer Adrian Jacobs for Copyright infringement. Jacob's estate insists that Bloomsbury publishing bosses snubbed him and then used his idea as the basis for the boy wizard franchise.

Jacob's reportedly approached Bloomsbury Publishing bosses in 1987, ten years before his death and attempted to sell them his Willy. But the publishers were not impressed with his work. And now the writer's estate has issued proceedings in the English High Court, claiming copyright infringement. Family members claim Rowling's book Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire "steals" segments of Jacob's novel "The Adventures of Willy the Wizard No 1 living Land"

(Source: The Business Line, 17.06.2009)

UP TO 25,000 JOBS IN OFFERING FOR IP PROFESSIONALS IN 2-3 Years

Rising awareness and growing competition in the corporate world is expected to boost the requirement of Intellectual Property professionals in the Country, with up to 25,000 jobs likely to be created for them in the next 2-3 years, experts say. "With need for IP professional increasing significantly in law firms, knowledge and legal process outsourcing companies and other corporate houses," Global Institute of Intellectual Property CEO Atulya Nath told a news agency.

The Intellectual Property (IP) space in the country is warming up with increased awareness about patents, trademarks etc due to increasing competition among companies and growing cases of infringement of IP rights, experts said. They believe the need for IP professionals would increase considerably in the coming years and may also lead towards IP becoming a lucrative career option for youngsters in legal or management fields. At present, the Country is experiencing a shortage of IP professionals as compared to global IP law firms and indicates towards the huge growth potential of the industry in India. The jobs of IP professionals include drafting, implementing and enforcement and can also be divided in three spheres -- legal, technical and management fields requirement IP professionals.

"Enforcement of IP issues is an area which would generate so many jobs in the coming days, as we all are witnessing an increase in the number of cases related with the infringement of intellectual property rights", law firm Kochhar & Co IP expert Rodney D Ryder said. Intellectual Property (IP) laws in the Country have been in a transition phase over the last decade as the country complies with its obligations under Trade Related aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS). The IP industry includes Patents, Trademarks, Designs, Geographical Indications and Copyrights. "The role of IP professionals would further increase in the coming days as the issues related with patent, trademarks, design and copyrights are becoming more vital," Ryder added.

(Source: www.zeenews.com, 21.06.2009)



IPR NEWS

NOVARTIS MAY CHALLENGE VERDICT DENYING PATENT FOR CANCER DRUG

Swiss drug maker Novartis AG may challenge the Indian Patent tribunal's verdict that its blood cancer drug Glivec cannot be granted Patent protection in the country. Novartis may challenge the ruling at the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) forum of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and also in one of the High Courts of India, escalating the dispute. A Novartis spokesperson said the company is exploring all the options available before it.

The Swiss drug maker lost its four-year-long legal fight to patent Glivec in India when the country's Intellectual Property Appellate Board (Ipab) ruled that the drug cannot be granted a Patent, citing its non-compatibility with the Country's Patent law and unaffordable pricing. Ipab cited a provision under which a patent is granted only if a product is more efficacious than existing drug molecules. Shamnad Basheer, an expert in international Patent law and Professor at the National University of Juridical Sciences at Kolkata, said the ruling could be challenged in International forums for its interpretation of the terminology "enhanced efficacy" mentioned in Indian patent law.

And the other reason cited by the tribunal, that the decision was based on the "excessive pricing" of the drug, may not be compatible with provisions required to decide on patent issues, Basheer said. It is the first time that the tribunal used the price of a drug as a reason to reject a patent appeal. Ipab noted that Glivec costs Rs1.2 lakh for a month's treatment per patient, saying it was far too high a price for ordinary people and, therefore, any patent granted to support such a high monopoly price would be against public order. Section 3(d) of India's patent law doesn't permit any modified form of an invention that was known prior to 1995 seeking a patent right in the country unless the claimed modification results in increased efficacy.

In a 198-page ruling, the Ipab panel stated that while the drug had novelty as well as inventiveness, it failed to demonstrate "significantly enhanced efficacy". Novartis had in 2006 challenged a decision by the Chennai Patent office to reject its application for Glivec. The Company questioned the decision of the Patent Office that heard at least six pre-grant oppositions filed by patient groups and local drug makers, on the grounds that the drug had been granted Patents in several Countries accepting its inventiveness.

(Source: www.livemint.com, 09.07.2009)

Disclaimer: The views expressed in the IPR News column of the bulletin are not necessarily those of the KSCSTE or its Institutions.

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