

Africa Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 95

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1. Important topics

ARIPO: 3rd edition of the Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Conference (HIPOC)^{1, 2, 3, 4}

The 3rd edition of the Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Conference (HIPOC) was held on 6-8 June 2024 in Praia, Cape Verde. The conference, with the theme “Leading Towards a Thriving African Intellectual Property Ecosystem” was attended by 22 Heads of IP Office from the ARIPO member states. The aim was to promote the exchange of experiences on the administration and management of intellectual property rights in the region, strengthening cooperation among member countries towards sustainable development.

ARIPO: WIPO - ARIPO Meeting on the Development of a Regional Technology & Innovation Support Center (TISC) Network⁵

Jointly organized by WIPO, supported by the Japanese Patent Office (JPO), this meeting was held at the ARIPO Secretariat on 6 June 2024. The TISCs activity supports ARIPO with technologies to support innovation.

ARIPO: ARIPO - CNIPA launch Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program⁶

A bilateral Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program was implemented by ARIPO and the China National Intellectual Property Administration. The program shall be a trial period of 5 years from 8 June 2024 - 7 June 2029. This enables an applicant who received a positive outcome on patent claims from one participating office to request expedited examination of corresponding claims in the other participating office, thereby allowing a patentability decision on the latter office more quickly.

ARIPO/OAPI: 7th OAPI-ARIPO Joint Commission^{7, 8, 9, 10}

The 7th OAPI-ARIPO Joint Commission, held in Harare on 12-13 June 2024 reaffirmed the two offices' common desire to combine efforts to ensure better protection of intellectual property in their member states and in Africa. The meeting ended with signature of the 2024-25 Work Plan.

¹https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_the-3rd-edition-of-the-heads-of-intellectual-activity-7204493780140437505-Ohfu/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

²https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=855970259900618&id=100064629555026&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=oEbWxwYo0TPOXqMR

³https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=856582986506012&id=100064629555026&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=psOOTqNEzQKAXbh1

⁴https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=857888336375477&id=100064629555026&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=jEuP8DdaiKuRjCj

⁵https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_aripo-aripomemberstates-activity-7204499918059671552-oh0R/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

⁶<https://www.aripo.org/public/news/ARIPO+-+CNIPA+launch+Patent+Prosecution+Highway+Pilot+Program-1719585149>

⁷https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_aripo-oapi-aripo-activity-7206681873396215808-L55T/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

⁸https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=882101317286688&id=100064604834858&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=908aeBxaNlyPz3pa

⁹<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/879-oapi-aripo-deux-offices-une-vision>

¹⁰https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_aripo-africa-intellectualproperty-activity-7207107473667719168-t4fa/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

ARIPO/Kenya: High-Level IP Training for African Enforcement Officials^{11, 12}

AfriPI partnered with ARIPO and the Kenyan Industrial Property Institute (KIPI) delivered a high-level training program on intellectual property enforcement for ARIPO member states. The program, held in Nairobi, Kenya on 28-30 May 2024 included a discussion on the latest international legal frameworks of IP rights enforcement, regional approaches to combat piracy and counterfeiting and leveraging technology for effective enforcement in the digital age.

Egypt: Strengthening Intellectual Property Partnership: The U.S Commits to Egypt's Creative Industries¹³

The United States IP Enforcement Office and the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) reaffirmed its commitment to its partnership with Egypt during a visit to Cairo on 10-11 June 2024. Discussions included the creative industry landscape and the IP environment that supports and protect the creators; and emphasizing the mutual interest in promoting IP rights, economic growth and partnership between the USA and Egypt.

Egypt: China Extends Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Programs with Egypt and Iceland¹⁴

The Chinese National Intellectual Property Administration announced an extension of the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot projects with the Icelandic Patent Office and the Egyptian Patent Office. This was announced on 28 June 2024 and results in both projects being extended from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029.

OAPI: Technical support for the reference collections of accredited research and review centers for plant varieties in OAPI^{15, 16, 17}

The Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) and Intellectual Property in Africa provides technical support for the reference collections of accredited research and review centers for plant varieties in OAPI. This was done through a training workshop from 7-9 May 2024 for the staff of the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research. Another training session was held from 30-31 May 2024 for the technical staff of the National Centre of Agronomic Research de Cote d'Ivoire. On 5-7 June 2024, training was also provided at the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development station in Mbalmayo, Cameroon.

The technical support includes making an inventory of reference collections of plant varieties available in the examination centers; writing procedure manuals for the implementation reference collections according to varieties of botanical species and carrying out training for this; and formulate recommendations for future actions to be carried out to build capacity.

¹¹<https://afripi.org/en/news/afripi-partnered-kiipi-and-aripo-deliver-high-level-ip-training-african-enforcement-officials>

¹²https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_afripi-activity-7201219651513520129-BpBC/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

¹³<https://eg.usembassy.gov/strengthening-intellectual-property-partnership/>

¹⁴<https://www.chinaiplawupdate.com/2024/07/china-extends-patent-prosecution-highway-pilot-programs-with-egypt-and-iceland/>

¹⁵https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=471105262104705&id=100076157045831&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=fsPQseBq2ja3NGn1

¹⁶https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=476496708232227&id=100076157045831&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=EX8TcDVeo99pW3Oj

¹⁷<https://www.facebook.com/100076157045831/posts/480127887869109/?rdid=s9hIAqE6IRmSiZW3>

OAPI: Support for the network of OAPI judges – 4th conference^{18, 19, 20, 21}

AfriPI convened the Judges' Network for the fourth and final seminar on IP litigation and practice on 25-27 June 2024 in Libreville, Gabon. This helps strengthen IP litigation and IP-related issues within the judicial and administrative systems and to contribute to provide and synchronize digital case-law.

Zambia: Annual Report - The Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA), Zambia²²

In June 2024, The Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA), Zambia published its Annual Report. The Report provides insight into the functions of the Agency, along with performance reports and statistics during 2022-2023; and discussions on its objectives. In 2023, 2,445 trade mark applications, 9 patent applications and 168 industrial design applications were filed. 2023 also saw 211 copyright lodgments being filed. This marks a significant increase in the number of intellectual property rights applications filed in 2023, which stood at 2,622 compared to 2,095 in 2022.

2. Additional topics

Africa:

AfriPI reaffirms support for African Union's Continental Strategy on Geographical Indications

<https://afripi.org/en/news/afripi-reaffirms-support-african-unions-continental-strategy-geographical-indications> (2024.06.14)

Africa IP SME Helpdesk - IP Training in Africa Webinar

<https://www.facebook.com/100076157045831/posts/478873274661237/?rdid=iBziAVfodHc0w74z> (2024.06.17)

ENRICH in Africa Webinar: Opportunities and Challenges for Leveraging #IntellectualProperty in Africa #AfricalPSMEHelpdesk

<https://www.facebook.com/100076157045831/posts/478873274661237/?rdid=iBziAVfodHc0w74z> (2024.06.17)

USPTO hosts dialogue on enhancing patent innovation ecosystems in United States, Africa

<https://thebftonline.com/2024/06/25/uspto-hosts-dialogue-on-enhancing-patent-innovation-ecosystems-in-united-states-africa/> (2024.06.25)

WIPO African Regional Conference in Support of Accelerated Life Sciences Innovation in Uganda

¹⁸<https://afripi.org/en/activities/support-network-oapi-judges-4th-conference>

¹⁹<https://afripi.org/en/news/afripi-hosts-final-conference-boost-oapi-judges-ip-expertise>

²⁰https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=485180497363848&id=100076157045831&mibextid=qi2Omg&rddid=0qLSaRYbL9bbuDHx

²¹https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=484153254133239&id=100076157045831&mibextid=qi2Omg&rddid=yIWjKIWIQDhAckJT

²²<https://www.pacra.org.zm/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/ONLINE-PUBLICATION-REPORT.pdf>

<https://www.wipo.int/web/technology-transfer/w/news/2024/african-regional-conference-uganda>
(2024.06.27)

Algeria:

Settling Disputes in the Field of Intellectual Property for the Benefit of Judges

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=877137584458626&id=100064871767413&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=POLfiNhCFKEHlcsz (2024.06.06)

National Conference on the Drafting of Digital Law

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=877281151110936&id=100064871767413&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=aylR8agrGi0NOBSE (2024.06.06)

ARIPO:

2nd edition of the African Publishers Conference

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=875891457907674&id=100064604834858&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=dTZBQXeTGa9OZhh5 (2024.06.03)

'Women in IP' conference for ARIPO Member States

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=875891457907674&id=100064604834858&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=Mr6GIIQrutEZ59mS (2024.06.03)

ARIPO Regional Workshop on Plant Variety Protection

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_happeningnow-aripo-activity-7209186932893855745-fGvZ/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
(2024.06.19); https://www.linkedin.com/posts/bemanya-twebaze-922255192_accra-sdgs-pvp-ugcPost-7211306297613291521-jNXW/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop (2024.06.26)

Cape Verde:

MCIC receives a courtesy visit from the Director General of ARIPO

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=868330562006022&id=100064872572834&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=vMcI1W08YH3LfptD (2024.06.05)

Cape Verde's commitment to African Agenda in IP

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=868817611957317&id=100064872572834&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=FNKoOIYeTwvR62UI (2024.06.06)

Ethiopia:

Agreement between Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority with Hibret Bank

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=839626421521249&id=100064216956705&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=2eh8zxsx2RPDbzMkk (2024.05.31)

Discussions on updates to trademarks

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=852013140282577&id=100064216956705&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=yNiIWIENh5FwG1Fb (2024.06.21)

Training on branding and trademark protection

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=856545609829330&id=100064216956705&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=M1WpkdgrllmRSikP (2024.06.28)

Kenya:

Brand Protection Training for Law Enforcement Agencies

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeithauthority_mrs-agnes-karingu-deputy-director-education-activity-7204094312509300736-1iR7/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop (2024.06.03)

Kenya tightens fake imports war with pre-shipment checks

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeithauthority_upholdingauthenticity-anticounterfeit-consumerprotection-activity-7204745818338136064--QbG/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop (2024.06.08)

Kenya Hosts Isippe-2 To Mark World Anti-Counterfeit Day 2024

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/508-kenya-hosts-isippe-2-to-mark-world-anti-counterfeit-day-2024> (2024.06.09)

Govt Orders Immediate Closure of Accounts Used by MCSK For Royalties Collection

<https://www.kenyans.co.ke/news/101600-govt-orders-immediate-closure-accounts-used-mcsk-royalties-collection> (2024.06.13)

Interior Ministry Discloses Nairobi, Central & Rift Valley Lead in Sale of Bhang & Counterfeit Alcohol

<https://www.kenyans.co.ke/news/101803-interior-ministry-discloses-nairobi-central-rift-valley-lead-sale-bhang-counterfeit> (2024.06.19)

Holographic Asia delegation visits to explore Partnership to Combat Counterfeiting using Cutting-Edge Technology

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeithauthority_holographic-asia-delegation-visits-to-explore-activity-7209200585902891008-6aos/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop (2024.06.19)

Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) hosted a delegation from Holographic Asia Company

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/512-holographic-asia-delegation-visits-to-explore-partnership-to-combat-counterfeiting-using-cutting-edge-technology> (2024.06.21)

Industrial Property Rights Commercialization Survey Report in Kenya

https://www.kipi.go.ke/sites/default/files/2024-05/KIPI_Commercialization_Report_Final.pdf
(2024.06.29)

Liberia:

Liberia: LIPO Raises Awareness on Intellectual Property Rights Among Filmmakers at Journey Home Film Festival

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-lipo-raises-awareness-on-intellectual-property-rights-among-filmmakers-at-journey-home-film-festival/> (2024.06.24)

Namibia:

Combating Content Piracy Together

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202406140676.html> (2024.06.14)

OAPI:

Examination to obtain the title of "Industrial Property Advisor"

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/877-conseil-en-propri%C3%A9t%C3%A9-industrielle-les-candidats-passent-l%E2%80%99examen-%C3%A0-l%E2%80%99oapi> (2024.06.01)

Visit from Director General of WIPO

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=791483876418647&id=100066711241602&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=gVTgBzw9OoBfLHRS (2024.06.01);

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/878-comment-am%C3%A9liorer-l%E2%80%99utilisation-de-la-propri%C3%A9t%C3%A9-intellectuelle-en-afrique> (2024.06.08);

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/878-comment-am%C3%A9liorer-l%E2%80%99utilisation-de-la-propri%C3%A9t%C3%A9-intellectuelle-en-afrique>

WIPO-OAPI Conference

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=792693659631002&id=100066711241602&mibextid=xfxF2i&rdid=K8l2N35LLYcN4Le3 (2024.06.03)

Working session around the presentation of the Protected Geographical Indication

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_indicationgeographiqueprotaezgaeze-oapi-activity-7211381154157871106-GYYU/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop (2024.06.26)

Presentation of Certificate of Registration of the Madd of Casamance

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_indicationgeographiqueprotaezgaeze-oapi-activity-7211374337881214979-grOB/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop (2024.06.26)

Geographic Indications: Challenges and Opportunities for Africa

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=483939287487969&id=100076157045831&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=kl9VLVjONFc16PDa (2024.06.25)

Master in Intellectual Property: 39 new executives made available to Member States

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/883-master-en-propri%C3%A9t%C3%A9-intellectuelle-39-nouveaux-cadres-mis-%C3%A0-la-disposition-des-etats-membres> (2024.06.28)

Top start for the face-to-face phase of CAGEC

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/880-top-d%C3%A9part-pour-la-phase-pr%C3%A9sentielle-du-cagec> (2024.06.18)

South Africa:

Possible innovation collaborations between Department of Science and Innovation and National Intellectual Property Management Office with the Science and Technology Office of the Embassy of Switzerland

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/national-intellectual-property-management-office-nipmo-_innovation-clean-tech-blockchain-activity-7204328096290816000-looZ/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop (2024.06.05)

Joburg cops pounced on factory producing counterfeit clothes, seized R6.6 million worth in fake brands

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-and-courts/joburg-cops-pounced-on-factory-producing-counterfeit-clothes-seized-r66-million-worth-in-fake-brands-5ea31874-a0fb-4af3-b510-a61182d57007> (2024.06.13)

Showmax faces allegations of intellectual property theft

<https://www.news24.com/citypress/trending/showmax-faces-allegations-of-intellectual-property-theft-20240616> (2024.06.16)

WIPO and TIH Concludes IP Management Clinic in South Africa

https://www.wipo.int/sme/en/news/2024/news_0015.html (2024.06.24)

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