

and IP policies to enhance the national technological capacities; and

- To provide a platform for researchers, policy planners, industry representatives and administrators involved in the national STI policy planning and implementation.

Focus Areas

The following are few of the major focus areas of the Workshop:

- History and Background of NIS Concept;
 - What is NIS?
 - Why and by whom is it developed?
 - What are its main canons?
 - By whom and how was / is it used?
 - What is its usefulness?
 - What are its implementation strategies?
 - How is it linked to IP?
- Complementary concepts;
- Examples of NIS in practice;
- General IP Issues;
- Protection of IP in Research Projects;
- IP Management; and
- IP Commercialization and Enforcement.

Who Should Attend

The participants would be middle to high-level policy planners and administrators, academicians, researchers, industry representatives and IP experts from the ISESCO/ INIT/ COMSATS member countries of the Arab Region.

Eligibility Criteria

At least a Bachelor Degree holder having work experience in the areas relevant to the workshop title.

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*Third 3-day Regional Consultative
Workshop on*

National Innovation System and Intellectual Property (Arab Region)



5th - 7th October 2015

Tunis, Tunisia



Background and Introduction

National Innovation System (NIS) based on a well-considered Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) policy is regarded as one of the key drivers of national development that contributes towards enhancing socio-economic well being of its citizens. In order to face myriad challenges emanating from the prevailing political, economic and social conditions of a country, it is imperative to have a strong national STI policy in order to ensure the realization of long term growth and development targets. In this regard, a robust institutional framework that can enhance national competitiveness and have the necessary flexibility to adapt to the changing environment is prerequisite. State intervention is also necessary to safeguard a nation's interests since the market forces alone cannot guarantee sustainable socio-economic development. It is equally important to realize the fact that the generation, accumulation and dissemination of 'practically applicable knowledge' has become the primary source of development, competitiveness and wealth creation. The judicious and timely application of the latest scientific advances in new products, processes, and services leads societies and nation-states to becoming knowledge economies.

During the past few decades, the concept of NIS has become popular as a core conceptual framework for analyzing the technological advancement, which is considered an indispensable foundation of long-term socio-economic development. With liberalization of the world trade, a well developed and successfully implemented NIS has been widely recognized as a *sine qua non* for promotion of science and technology led sustainable economic growth. This concept of NIS rests on the assertion that understanding of linkages among institutions, especially how they relate to each other as elements of a collective system of knowledge creation and diffusion, is crucial in improving a country's economic

performance. It stipulates that a 'system of innovation' is constituted by elements (i.e. firms universities, research institutions, funding agencies, etc.) and relationships that have impact upon the production, diffusion and use of new economically useful knowledge, responsible for translating basic and applied research results into technology and products.

Intellectual Property (IP) is an intangible asset of its owner legally granted and protected from unauthorized use. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) contribute significantly to the national and state economies as an instrument for driving creativity and innovation by safeguarding the efforts of the original creators and restraining others from illegal use. Many industries rely heavily on active enforcement of IP laws for their patents, trademarks, and copyrights while the consumers depend on the IP regime to ensure the originality and quality of the products they buy. IPR are of enormous importance to safeguard business interests of industries which are part of the NIS. The researchers and policy practitioners need to be aware of issues related with the successful implementation of IP policy fundamentals and management strategies.

In view of the regional theme of the event, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), the Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT) and the Tunisian National Commission for Education, Science and Culture are jointly organizing the Third 3-Day Regional Consultative Workshop on 'National Innovation System and Intellectual Property (Arab Region)', scheduled to be held on 5th - 7th October 2015 in Tunis, Tunisia.

Series of Workshops

The first and second workshops of the series on NIS

and IP were held in Islamabad-Pakistan (2013) and Rabat-Morocco (2014) for the Asian and African regions, respectively. Over 90 participants have benefitted so far from the expert seminars on various Asian/African models of NIS and IPR regimes through this series of workshops. The technical sessions of these workshops comprised talks and presentations that introduced innovation, its types and classifications; highlighted the impact and effect of innovation on national economy; discussed delivery mechanisms for and key agents and actors in a national innovation system; expounded intellectual property and its role in creating a knowledge-driven economy; covered the perspectives of academia, industry and policy makers; as well as dilated upon key issues viz. patent filing, prosecution and enforcement. An insight into the innovation policies of the developing countries from Asian/African regions was also provided during the events through the country-specific presentations made by the participants hailing from different parts of these regions.

Aims and Objectives

The Consultative Workshop aims to conduct mediated deliberations on the innovation-driven policy interventions and their impact on NIS of countries of the Arab Region. The main objective of the Workshop is developing capability of the participants from the ISESCO, COMSATS and INIT Member States of the Arab Region to understand and possibly develop sound NIS policies for strengthening the technology capability, as well as responding effectively to the challenges of building competitiveness amid globalization and rapid technological change. The specific objectives of the sessions include:

- To raise understanding of the participants on NIS and IP, including its policy concept, evolution, key elements and the facilitating factors;
- To explore an enabling framework for sound NIS