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The following are the recommendations of the Regional Industrial Property Seminar for the English-speaking Caribbean countries held in Barbados from 25 to 29 May, 1981 under the Joint Sponsorship of World Intellectual Property Organization, Economic Commission for Latin America - Office for the Caribbean (ECLA), Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the general discussions and conclusions, the participants expressed views on ways and means of dealing with problems and proposed some possible solutions to improve the industrial property system in the region, as expressed in the following recommendations:

A. To Governments

(1) At the National Level

(a) Governments should strengthen their industrial property systems in order to better encourage, protect, promote and develop their national inventive and innovative capabilities by:

(i) initiating the enactment of new industrial property laws which would provide for a modern institutional framework of the administration of industrial property rights as well as for the control of licensing agreements related to industrial property;

(ii) training, locally or abroad, existing staff of industrial property administrations and recruiting and training additional staff;

(iii) providing the minimum indispensable office accommodation and equipment for the smooth functioning of industrial property administrations;

(b) Governments should adopt policies for the coordination of industrial property activities with other relevant activities --including research and development activities -- so as not only to achieve working links among them but also to integrate industrial property activities in the process of their national economic development plans;

(c) Governments should examine the possibility of joining international cooperation schemes in the field of industrial property offered through WIPO, in order to benefit as much as possible from such cooperation.

(2) At the Regional Level

Governments should take necessary measures to establish or strengthen, as the case may be, institutional arrangements in the field of industrial property administration as well as in the field of patent documentation and information services which, by the pooling of efforts, human and other resources existing in the region, would:

(i) avoid duplication of efforts in the carrying out of tasks related to administration of industrial property;

(ii) facilitate the access to technological information contained in patent documents to industry and research and development institutions by the collection and dissemination of such information through a regional patent documentation and information mechanism;

(iii) contribute to the improvement of the terms and conditions and ultimately minimize the cost of transfer of technology related to industrial property.

B. To WIPO, ECLA'S Office for the Caribbean, CARICOM Secretariat and CIDA

(a) WIPO, ECLA's Office for the Caribbean, CARICOM Secretariat and CIDA:

(i) should, within their field of competence, consult and cooperate in order to endeavour to assist the English-speaking Caribbean countries in the possible implementation of the recommendations made to the Governments by the experts participating in this Seminar;

(ii) WIPO should examine the possibility of increasing its assistance to the English-speaking Caribbean countries for the purposes of modernizing their industrial property system as well as establishing the regional institutional mechanisms which would increase cooperation among them in this field; WIPO should also examine the possibility of establishing a nucleus of patent documentation and information mechanisms capable of serving the needs of the countries and serving as a link between each country and any regional patent documentation and information mechanism that could be set up or strengthened;

(iii) ECLA's Office for the Caribbean and CARICOM Secretariat should cooperate and coordinate their assistance and undertake any study that may be deemed fit in order to aid WIPO to implement any regional industrial property project which could be agreed to by the interested English-speaking Caribbean countries;

(iv) CIDA should consider increasing its financial support to the English-speaking Caribbean countries in assisting WIPO in the implementation, at the national or regional level, of any industrial property project that could be agreed upon by the English-speaking countries;

(b) WIPO, ECLA's Office for the Caribbean, the CARICOM Secretariat and CIDA should examine the possibility of holding other regional seminars in the English-speaking Caribbean countries in other fields of industrial property and patent information and documentation matters.