

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**  
**SENSITIZATION TRAINING FOR UNIVERSITY**  
**MANAGEMENT BOARD, DEANS/DIRECTORS AND**  
**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) CHAMPIONS ON**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**  
**RIGHTS POLICY**

**VENUE: CENTRAL CATERING UNIT (CCU) HALL**

**DATE: JUNE 5 – 6, 2013**

**Talking Notes**

**BACKGROUND**

The University of Nairobi formulated its IP Policy to guide its management, employees, students and associates concerning the development, ownership, management and marketing of intellectual property in 2006. The IP Policy was reviewed earlier this year to align it to the Constitution of Kenya 2010, new University governance structure and global good practices in IP management. The Intellectual Property management Office (IPMO) operates from UNITID Building at the Kenyatta National Hospital Campus of the University.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

The following are some of the achievements of the office since its creation:-

- Initiated sensitization of the staff and students on IPRs issues;
- Reviewed the IP policy;
- Developed the IP policy implementation tools Invention disclosure form, IP policy acceptance agreement form, Material transfer agreement form;
- The office is recognized as a patent agent;
- Concluded two technology licensing agreements;
- Filed 3 patent applications;
- Registered two (2) Trade Marks and 47 Copyright works; and,
- Facilitated drawing of many MoUs and collaborative research agreements.

## **CHALLENGES**

Besides the usual teething problems that are encountered in starting relatively new units in any organization, the most significant challenge has been to get staff and students to disclose their creations for purposes of protection prior to commercialization. This problem has been rightly attributed to lack of awareness about IP. It is my hope that this problem will diminish as a result of sensitization workshops like this one.

## **IP SENSITIZATION PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

Right from the appointment and deployment of key staff, the IPMO realized that to execute its wide mandate there was an urgent need to create awareness about the nature and purpose of the Intellectual Property system across the entire university. Accordingly, a flexible program was designed to use existing entry points such as College Academic Board (CAB) meetings that would afford the greatest opportunity for the IPMO team to meet and interact with policy and decision makers in the constituent colleges and central administration units of the university.

Although the objective was to pig-back on existing and time-tested information flow channels of the university, an allowance was inbuilt into the program to engage and sensitize lower administrative units in colleges even before the top decision making organs (CABs) were covered. The effectiveness of this approach is manifested in the number of hits on the various elements of the IP policy that was posted on the main university website and the number of enquiries by individual researchers from colleges whose CABs are yet to be sensitized.

Finally on this score, there was need to ensure sustainability of the program by identifying and training suitably motivated individuals to be

based in colleges for purposes of maintaining the momentum as well as supporting researchers and creators to maximize the use of services offered by IPMO. Those individuals who were appointed by college principals using criteria communicated by IPMO are the IP Champions who will be here today and tomorrow as trainees. As I have already hinted, the IP sensitization program is dynamic and highly responsive to developments that offer opportunities to drive the message home. Case in point in this regard is the full coverage of and comprehensive report on the last UoN Open Day and participation of the office as in the just concluded series of training sessions on Grant proposal writing.

### **PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP**

Having given this brief outline of the IP awareness campaign at the University, I wish now to say something about the purpose of this workshop. Before I do that, I wish to point out that this workshop is intended as a primer to a planned series of engagements that will see IP awareness, appreciation and application become a routine in the lowest governance unit of the university. It is therefore anticipated that this workshop will be followed fairly quickly by a series of intensive training of Chairpersons of Departments, research program/project principal investigators and heads of thematic units. IP champions are expected to play a critical role in planning and running of these planned training sessions.

The selection of resource persons and participants was therefore deliberately designed to reflect this desired direction. You will have noticed that the bulk of speakers are from three National Intellectual Property Offices. The topic to be covered by the CEO of NCST&I is deliberate and is anchored on the realization that there is need to reward creativity in line with the Constitution, the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 and the UoN IP policy. It should serve to give useful insights into opportunities available to fund award schemes for creativity, the creation of which the university management has pronounced its intention to initiate.

Also, as you will have noticed from the program, each branch of the intellectual property system will be covered through an overview delivered by the CEO of the organization followed by a detailed expose on the subject by a hands on expert. This arrangement is intended for members of UMB, Deans/Directors and Registrars on one hand and IP Champions on the other hand. This is in line with the expected roles of the various stakeholders in the implementation of the next phase of the program. I am convinced that the critical role of the IP champions in enhancing the visibility of the UoN's research output that is critical in the attainment of a world-class university status as enshrined in our mission and vision statement will get a vital boost through the buy-in of the university management, which is an objective of this workshop.

With those few remarks, it is my pleasant duty to invite the Vice Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, to address us and officially open the workshop.

Thank you

**DVC RPE**  
**JUNE 5, 2013**