



WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

submitted by

NIGERIA

An annual series of reports on the trademark information activities of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

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I. Evolution of registration activities:

The Trademarks Act Cap 436 Law of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 mandates the Registrar to before 1st June every year submit a report of the executed by or under the Registrar of this act to the Honourable Minister who shall lay a copy before each house of the National Assembly.

In the year ended 31st May 2001, a total of 10,306 foreign and local trademarks applications were received. These consist of 3,203 foreign applications and 7,103 domestic applications. This represented a 171% improvement upon the previous year wherein a total of 3,797 applications comprising 1307 foreign applications and 2490 domestic applications were received. It is believed that the improved business climate in Nigeria contributed much to the observed increase in the number of applications.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information, i.e., trademark gazettes:

One of the main sources of secondary trademark information is the trademark journal/gazette. It consists of the name of the registered mark, its classification in Class, ownership, logo, name and address of applicant. In the year ended 31st May 2002, no journal was published. However, this was due to logistic problems and finance. The mass storage medium is the compactus that houses the files of trademark applications. Efforts are being intensified to automate the operations of the trademark registry. It is expected that at completion, word processors and other equipment will be made available for storing trademark information.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of trademark information:

Nigeria employs the International Classification of Goods and Services for the purposes of Registration of Marks (Nice classification) for the purpose of her classification and reclassification activities. However, the Trademarks Act is being amended to include Service marks.

Presently, the electronic classification system is not in use in the Registry. Applicants are under obligation to use pre-defined terms for the classification applied.

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IV. Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep:

There is available in the Registry of Trademarks, Patents and Designs, a manual search office saddled with the responsibility of conducting search processes on Trademark applications, building, updating and up keeping search materials. The main storage medium which serves as the primary search tool is the index card. The cards are organized and arranged in steel pockets/drawers according to the Classes 1-34. Published journals are also used in order to prevent conflicting registration.

V. Activities in the field of computerized trademark search systems:

The Registry of Trademarks, Patents and Designs operate the manual trademark search system. WIPO is however in the process of automating the Registry.

VI. Administration of trademark services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, registering trademarks, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts):

The Registry of Trademarks is saddled statutorily to plan and administer trademark services to the public. There is available, a very efficient network of schedules which ensure smooth lodging of applications, registering trademarks, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts.

In doing this, the Registry is divided into the following units:

- Search unit
- Acceptance unit
- Patents unit
- Designs unit
- Administrative unit Certificate Issuance/Renewals Trademarks Journal Publication

Compactus

These units co-ordinate the requests of the general public.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of trademark documentation and information:

The Registry of Trademarks, Patents and Designs enjoys both International and regional co-operation in the exchange of trademark documentation and information. Official gazettes and machine-readable information on CD were received from WIPO, ARIPO, Japanese Patent Office, United States Patent Office. Trademarks journals were sent to WIPO, ARIPO and other offices.

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VIII. Matters concerning education and training including technical assistance to developing countries:

During the period under review, Nigeria enjoyed technical promotional activities in the form of seminars from AIPPI, USCLD and WIPO-EPO. The Commonwealth has also indicated its willingness to assist.

IX. Other relevant matters.

The Registry of Trademarks, Patents and Designs has recently taken delivery of the WIPONET Kits. This is expected to assist the office considerably in the area of information accessibility and availability.

Plans are underway to introduce the registration of service marks and this is expected to enlarge the scope of IPP in Nigeria. The Nigerian Government has also approved the centralization of the administration of intellectual property matters under one umbrella. To this end, there is to be established an Intellectual Property Commission of Nigeria (IPCON).

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