**Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO)**

**Vice Chancellor’s Office**

**University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office of University of Benin is a resourceful intellectual Property Manager that promotes and manages the University’s Intellectual Property portfolios through Patents, Copyrights, Technology licensing and commercialization of Research and Development (RD) results. The IPTTO also serves to enhance the ease of transfer and localisation of Technologies in all disciplines, thus positioning itself as a bridge between the research disciplines of the University and cognate industry partners.

At the inception of the IPTTO of University of Benin, the centre was a mere Unit with less visibility and attraction to its activities, but with the operational modifications introduced overtime coupled with its elevation as a strategic resourceful fulcrum of the University, the IPTTO has been upgraded to a Directorate, affiliated to the Vice-Chancellor’s Office with the statutory mandate to efficiently and proficiently execute its core mandates, which include, but not limited to the following:

1. The Auditing of all Research and Development (RD) Projects.
2. Promoting and Boosting Research and Development.
3. Patenting of Innovations and Research Results.
4. Creating Awareness on the Intellectual Property.
5. Enhancing and fostering strategic collaboration with Management Research Institutions and industries.

In line with UNIBEN’s IPTTO’s mandate to stimulate awareness and interest in original research through the mechanism of seminars, presentations and orientation workshops. The IPTTO Directorate in collaboration with the Centre for excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI) organized a five (5) day sensitization and capacity building workshop with the theme: “INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEM,ENT IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS” for staff and students of University of Benin on 15th November to 19th November, 2021.

The aim of the workshop amongst others was to help institute framework to formulate and implement intellectual property on original research and creativity in the University through the Intellectual Property Portfolios and Technology Transfer processes. A further objective of the workshop was to promote purposeful research and intellectual property management on research results, innovations and inventions.

**ATTENDANCE**

The distinguished Vice-Chancellor of the University of Benin, Professor Lilian Salami was the Special Guest of Honour and was ably represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Ekewan Campus, Professor John Oghene. Also, in attendance were the representatives of National Office and Technology Acquisition Promotions (NOTAP) led by Mr. Smart Tuedor, Deputy Director, Technology Acquisition and Research department who represented the Director General of NOTAP. The NOTAP officials also served as resource persons in the workshop.

The workshop attracted an average of fifty (50) participants daily. The table below represents the attendance data of participants and facilitators for the 5 day progeramme.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/No** | **DAY ONE TO FIVE** | **REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS** | **FACILITATORS** |
| 1 | 15th November | 57 | 4 |
| 2 | 16th November | 65 | 4 |
| 3 | 17th November | 55 | 4 |
| 4 | 18th November | 58 | 5 |
| 5 | 19th November | 47 | 4 |

**THE WORKSHOP SESSION**

The workshop commenced on the 15th November, 2021 with the accreditation of participants, which comprised of staff and postgraduate students. The participants were made to undergo pre and post-evaluation test.

The Pre-evaluation Test on the opening day before the paper presentations by the facilitators was meant to determine participants’ level of knowledge on the course prior to their participation in the workshop. While the Post-evaluation Test conducted on the last day of the programme was targeted at ascertaining their level of understanding of the course after participation in the programme.

The welcome Address was delivered by Professor John Oghene, The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Ekehuan Campus on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Benin, Professor Lilian Salami, while the Goodwill Address was presented by the Director, UNIBEN IPTTO, Professor A.B.O. Ogedegbe.

Furthermore, the Director General, NOTAP delivered the keynote address through his representative, Mr. Smart Tuedor.

**PAPER PRESENTATION**

A total of twenty (20) papers were presented at the workshop by eleven (11) facilitators. However, four (4) papers were presented on each day of the programme. The topics were painstainkingly selected to meet the course requirements. The robost presentations by the facilitators, which included representations by officials of NOTAP and Ms Damca Ramijak, Senior Expert for Science and Innovation, World Bank, made the programme insightful and meaningful.

Interestingly, the participants were further exposed to a practical session in the course of the workshop, where an invention (a Security Device) was presented and analysed. Also showcased were samples of patent and copyright certifications issued by the patent office of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment and Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) respectively. The creativity and novelty of the exhibited security device elicited commendations from the audience, particularly by the representatives of NOTAP and the World Bank. The presentation below represents the names of the facilitators and papers (topics) presented.

**TOPICS AND FACILITATORS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **TOPICS** | **FACILITATORS** | **STATUS** |
| 1234567891011121314 | Commercialisation of Research Results through Institutional Strategic Linkage with Industries and Entrepreneurs.i.University Intellectual Property Rights: The Legal Perspectiveii. The Application of New Technology on Research Results: The Case for Copyrights. i. Research Ethics and Scientific Integrity.ii. Research Commercialisation: Implication for Research and Design.Intellectual Property Considerations on Innovations and Research Results.The Relevance and Application of University’s Intellectual Property PolicyInstitutional Repository in the Management of Intellectual Property Policy.Intellectual Property Ownership Rights of Use and Commercialisation in Tertiary Institutions.Academic Dishonesty: The Plagiarism Conundrum.Patent Processes and Technological Transfer in Tertiary Institution.i. Patent Management on Research Result.ii. Patent Database Rights and Disclosuresiii. Document Procedure for Patent InformationAcademic Research and Copyright Management.The Operation and Relevance of IPTTO in the University of Benin.International Perspectives on Research Commercialisation and Intellectual Property Management.i. The Protection of Intellectual Property Rights Managementii. Marketing, Commercialisation and Licensing of Intellectual Property.iii. The Role of Technology Transfer in Intellectual Property Management. | Dr. Godwin IgharoDr. Desmond OriakhogbaProfessor F.E. OkonofuaProfessor (Mrs) C.O. OkieimenProfessor Nelson O. OgbaDr. Luke ObasuyiProfessor Job OdionProfessor Charity EmaviweProfessor Ernest IzevbigieMr. Kenny Shalom AyoadeProfessor Emeka ChanuMr. Charles EdebiriMs. Danica RamljakMr. Smart Tuedor | Lecturer/ResearcherFaculty of Life SciencesUniversity of BeninLecturerFaculty of Law, University of BeninLecturerFaculty of Medicine, University of BeninLecturer/ResearcherFaculty of EngineeringUniversity of BeninLecturerFaculty of Law University of BeninLibrarian,John Harris LibraryUniversity of BeninLecturerFaculty of LawUniversity of BeninDirectorIPTTOIgbinedion UniversityVice-Chancellor, Mudame University,IrruaPatent Document OfficerNOTAP, AbujaLecturerFaculty of LawUniversity of BeninAdministrative/Researcher IPTTO,University of BeninSenior Expert for Science and Innovation, The World Bank.Deputy DirectorTechnology Acquisition and Research Coordinator Department, NOTAP, Abuja. |

**OBSERVATIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS**

i. The need to stimulate enlightenment and interest in original research through the mechanism of workshops, seminars and lectures in the University to further create awareness on intellectual property related practices.

ii. The need for the Promotion and Commercialization of Research and Development activities towards ensuring effective systems for translating R&D results to products and services for the benefits of innovators and the University.

iii. The case to subject all academic degree awarded by the University of Benin to high integrity and moral test through the inclusion of undergraduate Research Projects to the plagiarism Test conducted by the UNIBEN IPTTO.

iv. The need to strengthen the UNIBEN IPTTO to help position the University of Benin amongst the top rated in Research and Developement (R&D) by utilizing the required technology in facilitating the patenting of research results, innovations and inventions.

v. Tertiary institutions are the major drivers of research and Development in developed and developing nations. Hence, there is need for academic researchers to focus on applied research rather than concentrate efforts on publishing for financial benefits and career progression, which has become the norm in Nigerian’s higher institutions.

vii. The need for effective collaborations between NOTAP and National Universities Commission (NUC) to incorporate courses on Intellectual Property in the curriculum of Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria, particularly, at the entry levels of postgraduate programmes.

**CONCLUSION**

The Capacity Building workshop which commenced on Monday 15th November, 2021 came to an end on Friday, 19th November, 2021. The final day of the programme featured an interactive and communiqué session, where the participants reflected with relish on their positive experiences at the workshop. The outcome of the post-evaluation Test on the course after the paper presentations showed a remarkable improvement in comparison to the pre-evaluation Test, which indicated that the knowledge and capacity of the participants on Intellectual Property related practices have been considerably enhanced after the exercise.

The vote of thanks was delivered by the Director, IPTTO, Professor A.B.O. Ogedegbe, who appreciated the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lilian Salami for gracing the programme. The Director, IPTTO also expressed his gratitude to the facilitator who were present inspite of their busy schedules to share their vast knowledge and expertise through their incisive presentations, which made the workshop a grand success. Professor A.B.O. Ogedegbe was further appreciative of the support from the sponsoring organization, (CERHI) and the Committee tasked with the responsibility of organizing the workshop, while also not leaving out the participants, whose cooperation made the workshop impactful and memorable. He further urged the participants to imbibe and apply the knowledge garnered in the programme for their development and progression on Intellectual Property Practices.

Finally, in line with the closing formalities, there was a photography session, which was inclusive of the participants and all other stakeholders of the programme.

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