

WIPO General Assemblies, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2 to October 11, 20117

INTERVENTION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Report on the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE), Item 20

Thank you chair.

Trinidad and Tobago has taken the approach of enhancing IP compliance through respect and the project entitled, “Building Respect for Intellectual Property (BRIP)”. The BRIP project is multifaceted in nature. It consists of a roving IP exhibition and a roving IP clinic funded by the Ministry of Finance Public Sector Investment Program. It targets many publics: primary and secondary schools, university, business, chambers of commerce, government including the municipal and city police units, research institutions, individual creators and inventors and the general public. The exhibition and clinic roves around the islands accessing these publics at their places of business. The program also reaches these publics using both traditional and new media to communicate its antipiracy and anti-counterfeit messages.

T&T is also participating in the “Building Respect for IP and Tourism “ competition. Our competition is a poster competition. It is being administered for the students of the secondary schools in the sister isle of Tobago. The IP Office visited Tobago and introduced the competition and the subject of IP to the School Administrators, Teachers and Students. This activity will continue when the schools reopen this month after the summer vacation.

Other elements of our BRIP programme include:

- The strengthening of our Ad Hoc Committee on Enforcement to include other stakeholder representatives from business, industry, research and the inventive/creative communities. The existing membership of the Ad Hoc Committee includes representatives from the Customs Division, the central Police and the Bureau of Standards.
- Creating awareness of IP, IPR and the IP System amongst the Municipal and City Police;
- Developing a partnership with the Public Service Academy, the Police Academy, The Customs Training Centre, The University of Trinidad and Tobago and The University of The West Indies to introduce Introductory IP courses to their employees and students. The IP Office is also pursuing a Technical Assistance Program with WIPO to establish a National IP Academy. Needs assessment has been completed and the preliminary project proposals has been prepared and submitted to WIPO;
- Developing strategies for increase licensing opportunities for new technologies and creative works developed locally;
- Developing a strategy to introduce IP in the primary and secondary school curriculum.

The T&T IP Office seeks to continue its BRIP program in 2018.

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