

Opening Remarks

WIPO Meeting on Developing the TISC Project: Second Workshop on the Effective Use of Technical and Scientific Information, Training of Trainers and TISC Project Planning Meeting

**Karongi, Rwanda
June 1, 2015**

1. Acknowledgement

I am very pleased that this event is being held as part of the Japan Funds-in-Trust project.

I very much appreciate that the Meeting is being organized today thanks to the hard work and efforts by the Government of the Republic of Rwanda and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

2. Support of Development of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) System in Africa by the Japanese Government

In 2008, the Japanese government established a new Funds-in-Trust in order to support capacity building in the field of IPRs in Africa and least developed countries by increasing the existing amount of contribution of Funds-in-Trust of Japan.

The three main objectives of the Funds-in-Trust are:

- (i) To promote the awareness of the importance of industrial property system for economic and technological development and of the benefits to be derived from the effective use of the system;
- (ii) To assist the developing countries in establishing or strengthening their industrial property laws and institutions; and
- (iii) To facilitate the development of human resources in the sectors concerned with the administration and utilization of the industrial property system in close cooperation with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI).

The activities under this Funds-in-Trust are conducted by cooperation between WIPO and Japan Patent Office (JPO).

3. Meeting in Rwanda

This event is being held as part of the WIPO Japan Funds-in-Trust Program for Africa with the following purposes:

- (i) To build capacity through the development of national networks of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) capable of assisting local users in Rwanda to effectively use and exploit technology in patent and in science & technology journal databases;

- and
- (ii) To facilitate more effective development of the TISC network through practical sessions on raising awareness and training of trainers

Rwanda is working on eliminating corruption and improving the investment environment. In particular, it is attracting foreign direct investment, notably in such areas as the ICT in recent years.

In the field of intellectual property, I understand that Rwanda announced an ambitious Intellectual Property Policy in 2010 and since then has been steadily implementing the measures, such as accession to WIPO treaties.

It is my sincere wish that this event would provide an opportunity for promoting utilization of technology databases in Rwanda, and that it would eventually contribute to further protection and better utilization of intellectual property in Rwanda.