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CARIBBEAN PROJECT
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SEMINAR SERIES ON PATENT INFORMATION

BACKGROUND: As has been previously stated, the objective of the Caribbean project is to assist industrial development in the Caribbean region through the exploitation of technological information from patent files. Participants in this project are the Patent Information Documentation Unit (PIDU), a branch of the United Nations Economic Council for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN/ECLAC), and the Canadian Patent Office (CPO). Funding is provided by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

OBJECTIVES: The present series of seminars was undertaken by Mrs. Jacqueline Archer of PIDU and Mr. William MacDougall of the CPO. The objectives of these seminars were defined as follows:

- To inform participants of the four areas of intellectual property with an emphasis on patents;
- To allow participants to better understand patents and their use as a research tool to solve technical and business problems;
- To explain the central role of PIDU as a contact point and intermediary in providing access to CPO patent technical information services from the Caribbean region.

SEMINAR ARRANGEMENTS: The arrangements for these seminars were made by J. Archer through the appropriate government agencies or departments in each country acting as host. This series followed on the initial contacts established in March of this year by Jackie Archer and Todd Keller (TIS Branch, CPO) during their trip to seven Caribbean countries.

A total of four countries was visited at this time: Trinidad, Guyana, Grenada and St Lucia. The agencies contacted in Jamaica and Barbados were not able to make seminar arrangements at this time and asked to have them rescheduled to a later date. The schedule of events was as follows:

June 22, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad:	Visit to PIDU at new ECLAC location; Taping of television interview.
June 24, Georgetown, Guyana:	Seminar presentation.
June 25, Georgetown, Guyana:	Tour of IAST research facilities.
June 27, St George's, Grenada:	Seminar presentation.
June 29, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad:	Seminar presentation.
July 1, Castries, St Lucia:	Seminar presentation.

SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS: A general format was followed for each seminar, an example of which is shown in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 includes the type of notice (Aide-memoire) that had been circulated to participants in advance explaining the topics to be discussed and the purpose of the meetings. Overhead slides were used along with the video "Why re-invent the wheel". Some variation in detail of coverage was made to reflect the amount of time available in each case and to accommodate particular local interests. In Guyana for instance, a full day was set aside for the seminar and subsequent round table discussion in the afternoon. In Trinidad and St Lucia the sessions ended in the early afternoon after a break for lunch; and in Grenada the participants elected to carry through in a single session until after lunch time.

ROLES OF PIDU, CPO: The respective roles of the CPO and PIDU in this project were explained to the participants. The search facilities and the expertise available at the CPO were emphasized on the one hand, with examples of how patent information services were being offered to SMB users in Canada through our PIE program. The role of PIDU as a patent documentation centre for the Caribbean was then discussed, showing how PIDU is acting in effect as an intermediary for access to the CPO services described (see Appendix 3 for sample PIDU documentation).

TIS SERVICES TO PARTICIPANTS: Technology Information Service (TIS) search request forms were given out to interested participants at each session. In all cases there was considerable interest in the potential offered by the CPO/PIDU TIS program, once it became clear what kind of information could be obtained through patent state-of-the-art searches. The CPO should expect, as a result, to receive a significant number of TIS requests from parties in these four countries in the weeks ahead. It was emphasized in all cases that such requests were to be made through J. Archer of PIDU for forwarding to the CPO. It is important that technology requests from these countries be properly scrutinized at the PIDU office so that any necessary additional background information can be included for clarification before they are sent on to Hull. This helps ensure that the subject matter is properly defined and that the search results will accordingly be of maximum benefit. The PIDU office will also maintain a duplicate file of completed TIS searches in order to build up a collection of patent documents dealing with technologies appropriate to the Caribbean area.

BRIEF NOTES ON COUNTRIES VISITED:

GUYANA:

Host organization: Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST)
Contact person: Dr Birbal, IAST
Number of attendees: 29
Sectors represented: Government agencies: standards, registry (patents), planning, economic cooperation;
University of Guyana; library; pharmaceutical, natural resources, agricultural processing (sugar), telecommunications, metal foundry, electricity
Notable persons: Dr U.A.D. Trotz, Director IAST; Local CIDA representative

Comments: On the day of our arrival we were invited to a reception given in honour of a team of visiting scientists from Venezuela. This provided an opportunity to meet a significant number of local representatives from various government departments and from the university and research communities. The opening remarks for the seminar session were given by Dr Trotz of IAST. He enthusiastically endorsed the objectives of the Caribbean patent information project and proposed that there be regular follow-up sessions on this theme to promote a greater awareness among the scientific and business community of the benefits of using patent and other technical information sources. His prominent position in the Institute and his evident awareness of the technical needs of business and industry in Guyana make him an important contact for this type of projet.

The seminar was well attended and the discussion period extended to the end of the afternoon. As she did also for the other countries visited in this series, J. Archer had been able to identify a sampling of the patents registered locally in Guyana to illustrate on a practical level the kinds of patent technology already available in the region. Discussion centered on how to identify through patent files in other countries suitable technologies that could be adapted to specific requirements of the region. Licensing agreements and the need for proper background documentation before getting into agreements on technology transfer were covered. It was most

encouraging to note the great interest in these fundamental questions shown by the participants, who constitute some major decision makers in their particular fields in Guyana. Written comments were solicited after the seminar; they were very favorable and also quite thought-provoking.

Over the past few years Guyana has been facing some of the most acute economic problems of the whole Caribbean region. It was interesting therefore to be able to demonstrate to some of the key technical people in the country how they can get a rapid and useful access to the new technical information that they need through this project.

GRENADA:

Host organization: Ministry of Finance, Industry, Trade and Planning
Contact person: Mr. Vaughan Renwick, Director
Number of attendees: 11
Sectors represented: Government: Trade & Industry, Science & Technology, National Dev't Foundation; small business council, Chamber of Industry and Commerce; private manufacturers.

Notable persons:

Comments: The seminar and video presentations were followed with considerable interest and there was a good discussion period. Some practical points were raised by two businesspeople present, as well as by the other attendees. Mr. Renwick was quite impressed by this project and was preparing a follow-up communique for distribution to the various media and all government and private sector organizations in Grenada.

TRINIDAD:

Host organization: Ministry of Planning and Mobilization
Contact person: -
Number of attendees: 29
Sectors represented: research (CARIRI), government agencies for planning, energy, food; SMB and manufacturing.

Notable persons: Hon Winston Bookaran, Minister of Planning and Mobilisation;
Clyde Applewhite, Director ECLAC Subregional Headquarters

Comments: Mr Applewhite, director of ECLAC subregional headquarters in POS introduced the seminar participants and spoke of ECLAC and PIDU. The opening remarks were made by the minister of Planning and Mobilisation, Mr. Bookeran, who was aware of the importance of technical information as a means of promoting economic development. I was asked to respond to the minister's remarks, and was able to outline the respective roles of the CPO and PIDU in this joint project sponsored by IDRC. I stressed how useful our PIE program had become in Canada and how helpful patent information can be to small enterprises and government bodies.

The seminar presentations and subsequent discussion were lively, with questions again on licensing and how to avoid being overly-exploited by outside interests. This in fact was a recurring theme encountered throughout the seminar series. We stressed with examples the ideal nature of patent literature as a means for becoming more technically aware in a particular field and therefore better negotiators of technology transfer agreements. The representative from the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) in Port-of-Spain, Mrs. Nirupa Oudit, who visited the CPO in Hull last year, confirmed to the other participants the value of the TIS search service based on searches the CPO has done for CARIRI.

The turn-out for this seminar was good, and would have been even better had there not been an emergency meeting called for the same morning by the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA) to discuss the imposition of a new government levy on raw material imports.

ST LUCIA:

Host organization:	Ministry of Planning
Contact person:	Mr. Argus Philogene, Advisor
Number of attendees:	16
Sectors represented:	Ministries of Trade, Education, agriculture; Chamber of Commerce, community colleges, library, registry (patents)
Notable persons:	Mr. Bartholemy, Senior official, Ministry of Planning

Comments: The reception was warm, as it was elsewhere, with participants following closely in spite of somewhat less than ideal conditions. (There was a high noise level from pile-drivers at a bridge reconstruction project located next door to the seminar facilities, it rained heavily outside at times, with windows open to get some relief from the heat and high humidity due to lack of air conditioning.) The session was opened by Mr. Bartholemy who reiterated his support and appreciation for the initiatives being taken by PIDU, the CPO and IDRC. Discussion was lively, and during a lunch break the possibility of using patent search information as an educational tool for student science projects at a nearby community college was discussed.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The usefulness of this patent information project to the economic development of Caribbean countries can not be over-estimated. In many cases significant resources: human, material and even financial, are available that can be used effectively with the proper information and know-how. Adapting outside technologies to local conditions and material availability is frequently a major need. Patents are a most appropriate source for the technical information required.
2. The cost of access to technical information is a major preoccupation of users in this area. Telecommunications facilities vary from good to excellent in most areas visited. Communications and computer online costs are high however, and discourage the knowledgeable technically-trained people who would otherwise use such sources more often. This project which makes the search expertise of the CPO readily available to users in the countries visited fulfills a great need at the present time.
3. Possible means for assuring the continuity of this Caribbean Project are already being examined. Considerable awareness and interest on the part of users in the region is being created by such visits and by the ongoing efforts of the local PIDU representative. Considering that the project funding is already midway through its initial cycle, it would seem worthwhile to know that the services now in place will not be sharply curtailed at the end of the current phase. The ongoing freeze in effect at all UN agencies further complicates this situation.

4. The question of recovering a portion or all of the costs of providing such TIS searches by billing the users was raised during discussions with Mr. Applewhite and others (as indeed it has been raised before in Canada). This may eventually provide a partial solution to funding, though not a complete one.
5. The central role played by PIDU in such a project must be noted. The patent training (in the USPTO and the CPO) and the practical experience gained by the PIDU representative are a great asset to this program. The credibility of the Canadian participation (IDRC and the CPO), which is already good in the area from numerous accounts heard during the trip, is further enhanced by the contribution made by the regional PIDU/ECLAC office and by the capabilities of its local representative.
6. The ability to demonstrate convincingly to potential users that the patent system generally, and patent information in particular, hold a great potential for the Caribbean region, is basic to a project of this type. The seminar presentations provided a unique opportunity to show that a system being used effectively in Canada and other countries, could also be very beneficial under current conditions in this region. Based on the favorable feedback received after the seminars, this goal was achieved.
7. The Caribbean Project is focussed, quite properly, on the information aspect of patent files. The approach used in these seminars was to explain patents and intellectual property (IP) generally, before discussing the information aspect in greater detail. Considering that IP laws are being revised in some of these countries, it is appropriate to make users aware of the advantages in updating and harmonizing IP legislation during these presentations.
8. The need for public education on patents and information access is being recognized in the Caribbean, as it has been for some time in Canada. It was mentioned several times that certain "outreach programs" already exist for business and industrial users in some countries, and that a patent segment could be added to enhance these programs. Supporting documentation and other aids will be needed for this purpose, and could be provided by the CPO based on its PEP program experience in Canada.
9. Similar seminar presentations should be made in those countries not already covered: Barbados, Jamaica, St Vincent, among others. Letters expressing interest on the part of research and business people have been received at the CPO from these countries, and a good reception to this project can be anticipated there as well.

APPENDIX 1

PATENTS AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

OBJECTIVES:

1. TO INFORM PARTICIPANTS ON THE FOUR AREAS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WITH EMPHASIS ON PATENTS.
2. IT IS EXPECTED THAT PARTICIPANTS WILL UNDERSTAND BETTER PATENTS AND THEIR USE AS A RESEARCH TOOL TO SOLVE THEIR TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS PROBLEMS.
3. THAT THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF PIDU AND HOW THEY CAN ACCESS THIS INFORMATION FROM THEIR REGION.

BASIC OUTLINE OF SEMINAR:

CPO REPRESENTATIVE:

1. INTRODUCTION ON FOUR AREAS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
2. PATENTS: AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION
 - CRITERIA TO OBTAIN A PATENT
 - STRUCTURE OF PATENT DOCUMENTATION
 - CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS
 - PATENT DATABASES
3. CANADIAN PATENT OFFICE DOCUMENTATION UNIT
 - MAGNITUDE
 - AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN PATENT OFFICES

4. CLIENTS OF PATENT OFFICE

- PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM
- ENQUIRIES
- NETWORK OF INTERMEDIARIES

5. SERVICES AVAILABLE

- GRANTING OF PATENTS
- REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS, COPYRIGHTS AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS
- TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION SEARCH SERVICE
- TECHNOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND FORECAST SERVICE
- PURCHASE OF PATENTS IN VARIOUS FORMS

6. TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION SEARCH SERVICE(TIS)

- WHO USES IT?
- FOR WHAT?

PIDU REPRESENTATIVE:

7. ACCESS TO TIS SERVICE FROM THE CARIBBEANS

- ROLE OF PATENT INFORMATION DOCUMENTATION UNIT (PIDU)
- MECHANISMS IN PLACE TO MAKE TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION SEARCH REQUESTS

APPENDIX 2

Aide Memoire

An ECLAC sponsored meeting, organized with the government of Trinidad and Tobago, and the technical assistance of the Canadian Patent Office (CPO), is being held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

Subject : Seminar on Patents and Technology Transfer for the business sector, researchers and governmental agencies

Venue : 20th Floor, Financial Complex, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

Date : 29th June 1988

Time : 9.00 a.m.

Objectives: To promote and sensitize the public and private sectors to the need for and use of technological information from patents.

To introduce the Patent Information Service available through the Patent Information and Documentation Unit of the Caribbean Documentation Centre, ECLAC, Port-of-Spain.

To describe and explain a patent information exploitation program and how it will benefit the business sector.

The Seminar is an output activity of an International Development Research Centre (IDRC) financed project entitled "Patents: Technological Information - Caribbean", executed by ECLAC with technical co-operation from the Canadian Patent Office, Ottawa, Canada.

Patent Adviser, Mr. William MacDougall of the Canadian Patent Office and Patent Information Specialist, Mrs. Jacqueline Archer of the Patent Information and Documentation Unit, ECLAC will be the main lecturers.



PATENT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION UNIT

(PIDU)

INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FROM PIDU

PIDU is a special information unit geared to assisting users of patent information.

PIDU maintains a Caribbean Patent Information Network (CARPIN) and a computerized data base of CARIBBEAN PATENTS (CARPAT).

PIDU provides specific information on locating patents on a given subject and provides state-of-the-art searches on patent documents on request.

PIDU search services provide technological information from patents according to the specific needs of various users. These may include:

- Researchers – who need patent information to avoid duplication of research efforts, by identifying the information already available in patent documents.
- Business entrepreneurs – will save valuable time and money by solving technical problems through technical information identified in patent documents.
- Decision Makers – will be provided with up-to-date information on new technologies and their owners.
- Product Development departments – will have the edge with up-to-date information on new products and processes.
- Policy Makers – will be able to determine whether Proposed technology is at the forefront of development or it duplicates existing technology.

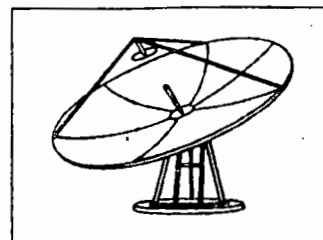
PIDU receives technical assistance from the Canadian Patent Office, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) of Geneva, and funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

For further information, please contact:

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PATENT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION UNIT

(PIDU)

INFORMATION

GAIN THE INFORMATION EDGE THROUGH PATENTS

Patent documents are a unique source of technological information. It is primarily an untapped and under-utilized information resource in the Caribbean Region.

However, with the new thrust for industrial development and the growing competitiveness in the business sector, technological information from patent documents is becoming increasingly useful to those who understand its importance.

What should you know about Patents?

- That a patent document gives full disclosure: that is, full technical details of an invention, in exchange for monopoly rights granted to the inventor or proprietor by a Patent Office.
- That the most comprehensive source of technological information comes from over 30 million patent documents, which is growing everyday, and covers a time span from over the early 19th century to present day. It also covers the full range of technological advancements.
- That patent documents are the first published documents of an invention and therefore information derived from these documents can be used as a tool for monitoring new technologies and who owns these technologies.
- That technological information from patents can help you solve technical problems and therefore saves time and money.

Where to find information about Patents?

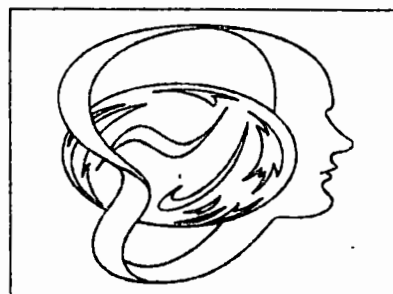
A specialized technical information service from patents is available *NOW*, to *YOU*, *FREE OF CHARGE*.

This information service is managed by the Patent Information and Documentation Unit (PIDU), with technical assistance from the Canadian Patent Office, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) of Geneva, and funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

For further information, please contact:

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