UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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Intellectual Property

Refers to creations of the mind such as inventions; literary and artistic works; for which exclusive rights are granted.

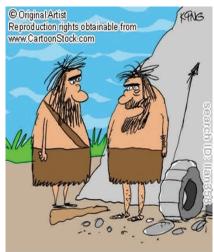
The two broad categories of intellectual property are industrial property and copyrights.

Industrial Property

This comprise of patents, utility models, industrial designs, trademarks, trade secrets, geographical indications of source, etc.

Intellectual Property Rights

Refers to the right of ownership of an intellectual property.



"Yeah, Org invented the wheel, but I invented the patent."

Types Of Intellectual Property Rights

Patent: An exclusive right granted for an invention (a process or product) that offers a new way of doing something or is a new technical solution to a problem. The period of protection is twenty years.

Utility Model: This is similar to a patent and offers protection for a relatively shorter term for an invention. Protection spans seven years in the case of Ghana.

Trademark: A sign or a combination of signs used to distinguish goods and services created by different manufacturers or service providers. The period of protection is usually ten years.

Trade Secrets: Refers to any commercial information of economic value which provides an institution or researcher with a competitive advantage over his peers that do not have that information. Examples include a formula, a device or a compilation of information.

Copyrights: It offers protection to authors for their literary and artistic works. Literary works include novels, poems and plays. Artistic works include drawings, paintings, photographs and sculptures. In Ghana, a copyright offers protection for the life of the author in addition to seventy years after his or her death.

Related Rights: These are rights related to copyrights. They offer protection to performers (actors, dancers, singers), producers of sound recordings and broadcasting organisations in their television and radio programmes.

Geographic Indication of Source: A sign used on goods to indicate that the good emanates from a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation due to its place of origin.

Industrial Design: Refers to the aesthetic or ornamental aspect of an article. The design may comprise of two- dimensional features; such as lines, patterns or colour or three-dimensional features; such as the surface or shape or of an article.

New Plant Variety (Plant Breeder's Right): Offers protection to the breeder of a new plant variety. The breeder has exclusive control over the propagating material (such as seed, cuttings) as well as the harvested material (such as fruit, cut flowers) of a new variety for a number of years.

Benefits of The Intellectual Property System

- * Create<mark>s an enabling environment for innovation .</mark>
- Facilitates the dissemination of research findings.
- Promotes the transfer of technology from research and development institutions to industry.
- * Commercialization of technology by industry.
- Provides monetary and reputational benefits to the inventor or author.
- * Promotes improved social well-being.
- * Promotes economic growth and development.

FAST FACTS

WORLD INTELLECTUAL

PROPERTY **

ORGANISATION (WIPO)

- * Established in 1967.
- * Promotes innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries through a balanced and effective international intellectual property system.
- * Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.