



# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

A Publication of the Office of Research, Innovation and Development



## 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

**P**atent: 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.

**U**tility 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.

**T**rademark: 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.

**T**rade 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.

**C**opyrights: 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.

**R**elated 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.

**G**eographic 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.

**I**ndustrial 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.

**N**ew 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

- \* Creates an enabling environment for innovation.
- \* 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.