



■ Closing the Gender Gap – Current WIPO Projects for Supporting Women in IP

Geneva
2019

Development Agenda Project

- The CDIP approved in 2018 a project on Increasing the **Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women In Developing Countries to Use The IP System** proposed by USA, Mexico and Canada.
- The Project is a four year project and started in January 2019 and is focused on four pilot countries; Mexico, Oman, Pakistan and Uganda.
- Its objective is to support women inventors and innovators to broaden their awareness, knowledge and use of the IP system through better support programs, access to mentorships and opportunities to network

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



9 INNOVATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE



WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION



Development Agenda (DA) Project *Continued ...*

- Development of a general base line
 - prepare a literature review
 - collect best practices and stories and
 - develop a guide on the IP issues in taking a product to market.
- Development of a national base line
 - Determine challenges faced by women inventors in using the IP system
 - Identify existing programs and initiatives to support women inventors
 - Identify support systems such as mentors, legal support, women's networks etc
 - Identify women's associations and institutions and
 - Determine where and how a Women Inventor Resource Center (WIRC) could be located and developed.

Development Agenda Project Continued ...

- Develop institutional capacity of WIRC to provide IP related support to women inventors
 - Develop training materials
 - Implement capacity building programs
 - Organize networking events
- Develop a tool kit for conducting a similar project in other countries

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



9 INNOVATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE



Korean Women Inventors Association

- An annual workshop since 2008 in collaboration with KWIA for women inventors on IP management issues.
- The participants are women inventors sponsored by their countries or by KWIA for the women inventors fair. WIPO contributes by sponsoring experts on IP and one women inventor representative from each region to tell their story and inspire other women inventors.
- This is the only program of its kind in WIPO where a program is conducted exclusively for women and for the most part by women

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



9 INNOVATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE



WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

WIPO and Funds-in-Trust (FIT) Australia Program on Women and IP Commercialization

- This project was jointly launched in the context of the commitment of WIPO / FIT Australia to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women to use the IP system particularly to address the absence of women in the process of IP commercialization of their research results
- Country reports were prepared on Sri Lanka and the Philippines and a meeting took place in the Philippines to discuss. Further reports will be prepared and a meeting to discuss the reports will take place in 2019

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



9 INNOVATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE



WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

Root Causes Identified

- Inadequate access to finance and available start-up capital for women
- Socio-cultural norms and perceptions that prevent the acceptance of women as entrepreneurs
- Inadequate incentives to research commercialisation
- Lack of inventor-friendly organisations or innovations hubs to boost women-led innovations
- Lack of central framework in universities and research and development (R&D) institutions for research commercialisation

- Lack of linkages between universities and industry
- Lack of support and incentives from government to commercialise research
- Legal barriers and complicated business start-up processes
- Lack of understanding of technology transfer and licensing
- Fear of commercialising
- Lack of technical and business knowledge/experience