

University of Nairobi hosts Intellectual Property Audit Workshop for the Management

Date and time: Wed, 2018-02-07 16:19

Location / Venue:
Central Catering Unit

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University of Nairobi Intellectual Property Management Office together with Kenya Intellectual Property Institute (KIPI) held a one day sensitization workshop on Intellectual Property Audit at the Central Catering Unit on February, 7, 2018.

It was revealed that the University of Nairobi sits on a gold mine that when tapped can be a big source of revenue to the University. To date, the University has 15 registered trademarks and several patents but has the potential to generate more given the high number of publications from its 34,000 plus Masters and PhD dissertations and 400 plus Memorandum of Understanding.

Speaking during the launch of the IP Audit workshop, the University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, observed the need to commercialize projects and create intellectual property awareness among the University staff and students. It was suggested that students should have a common course on Intellectual Property to create awareness. The Vice-Chancellor was represented by Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs.

The meeting was attended by among others: University staff, Intellectual Property staff from other institutions and members of staff from Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI). KIPI has been very

essential in helping the University to access funding from World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) towards the IP Audit.

Going forward it was agreed that screening for thesis and dissertations will be an ongoing project and is to be done on a yearly basis. This will go a long way in helping the University increase the number of registered trademarks. Other established universities in America and Europe have been able to benefit greatly from harnessing the power of their trademarks, patents and intellectual property in general. IP awareness and implementation plan will be developed as well to create awareness among university research community. The creation of Intellectual Property Fund, was also proposed, that will go a long way in not only rewarding contributors, but also in training of researchers on intellectual property issues. Lastly, researchers will be aided to commercialize their projects / ideas.

University researchers were urged to be quick in commercialization of their products as time taken to launch the product in the marketplace matters a lot. The first product to hit the market makes the most money.

Lead Consultants during the IP Audit workshop, Prof. Julius Mwangi and Prof. Ogada explained in detail how various companies across the globe have benefited greatly from patents, key among them being Apple, Samsung. Locally, examples of East Africa Breweries and Castle Breweries were floated. Israel, as a country leads globally in harnessing the power of its Intellectual Property.

The University of Nairobi is bound to benefit greatly from harnessing its IP assets mainly because its greatest resource are students who are at the peak of their intellectual capacity.

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