

ICTSD'S INITIATIVE ON CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE



GLOBAL PLATFORM
ON CLIMATE CHANGE, TRADE
& SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



ICTSD'S INITIATIVE ON CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE

Effectively addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation calls for the scaling up of innovation, diffusion, and transfer of pertinent technologies. Responding to the impact of climate change and enabling a transition to a low-carbon economy demands an exhaustive exploration of all possible mechanisms and legal and business models concerned, as well as a solid understanding of enabling regulatory frameworks, including those for intellectual property. So far, much of the discussion has lacked a solid empirical basis and an informed policy perspective. This is precisely the gap on which the Global Platform on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainable Energy (the Global Platform) of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) focuses in the field of technology.



An informal mechanism, ICTSD's Initiative on Climate Technology and Trade assembles prominent experts and policy makers to develop a research agenda and identify gaps and priorities through the following activities:

- the examination of relevant mechanisms of transfer of technology;
- the identification of enabling obstacles and potential points of intervention;
- the articulation of measures that could be considered in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change context.



The initiative strives to generate solutions-focused and policy-oriented outcomes. To this end, the United Nations Environment Programme, the European Patent Office, and ICTSD joined forces to deliver by the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen a patent landscape in the area of energy generation, a survey of licensing practices in the same area, and, ultimately, a database containing patent information on green technologies. Post-Copenhagen, the group will pursue a similar undertaking with respect to other sectors (i.e.: buildings and construction and transport).

Contact:

Ahmed Abdel Latif, Programme Manager, Intellectual Property & Technology, ICTSD,
aabdellatif@ictsd.ch

Marie Chamay Peyramayou, Manager, Global Platform, ICTSD, mchamay@ictsd.ch



Research and Analysis

Technologies for Climate Change and Intellectual Property: Issues for Small Developing Countries, Information Note No. 12, October 2009.

This information note aims to provide an initial review of the links between transfer of technology, intellectual property and climate change from the perspective of LDCs and outline some of the relevant measures that could be developed in support of a post-Kyoto climate regime.



Access to Climate Change Technology by Developing Countries: A Practical Strategy, by Cynthia Cannady, ICTSD Programme on Intellectual Property Rights and Sustainable Development, Issue Paper No. 25, September 2009.

This paper examines various approaches that have been suggested for facilitating access to climate change technology by developing countries, including compulsory licensing, patent pools, patent databases and structured voluntary licensing “mechanisms”. It details the practical problems facing these approaches and argues for a two-pronged strategy based on a climate change technology innovation strategy (CCTIS), and on “win-win” development collaboration agreements for climate change technology between developed and developing countries.



Innovation and Technology Transfer to Address Climate Change: Lessons from the Global Debate on Intellectual Property and Public Health, by Frederick M. Abbott, ICTSD Programme on Intellectual Property Rights and Sustainable Development, Issue Paper No. 24, June 2009.

This paper examines different categories of IPRs and the ways they may have different effects and implications for climate EGS as compared with pharmaceutical technologies. It also points to a number of lessons that can be drawn from the public health-related negotiations, at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other forums, which may be useful to negotiators and policy makers in addressing climate change, transfer of technology and IPRs.

Technology Transfer in the TRIPS Age: The Need for New Types of Partnerships between the Least Developed and Most Advanced Economies, by Dominique Foray, ICTSD Programme on Intellectual Property Rights and Sustainable Development, Issue Paper No. 23, May 2009.

The paper advances the need for greater use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a mechanism for ensuring the effectiveness of the technology transfer, particularly for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), where foreign direct investment (FDI) and trade remain at a low level and their limited absorptive capacities make it unlikely that the few foreign technologies that are transferred will disseminate throughout the economy. The paper makes mention of the Cleaner Production Centers as a successful example of technology platform.

Intellectual Property and Access to Clean Energy Technologies in Developing Countries: An Analysis of Solar Photovoltaic, Biofuel and Wind Technologies, by John Barton, ICTSD Programme on Trade and Environment, Issue Paper No. 2, December 2007.

The paper explores whether or not there are intellectual property barriers to access clean technologies and know-how in developing countries in three clean energy sectors: solar photo-voltaic (PV), bio-mass for fuel and wind energy technologies. The paper concentrates on technologically advanced Brazil, China and India. According to the paper, there seems to be insignificant IP barriers to developing nation access. However, because of the global concentration in some of the industries, all countries should be alert to the risks of cartel behavior.

UNEP-EPO-ICTSD Study on Patents and Environmentally Sound Technologies: Some Preliminary Findings (forthcoming, December 2009).

Intellectual Property Rights and International Technology Transfer to Address Climate Change: Foundations, Problems and Potential Solutions, by Keith E. Maskus and Ruth L. Okediji (forthcoming, December 2009).



Expert Group Under the ICTSD Climate Technology and Trade Initiative

Matthew Bateson, Managing Director Energy & Climate Focus Area, World Business Council on Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland

John H. Barton (posthumous), Professor of Law, Emeritus, Stanford Law School

Cynthia Cannady, Principal Attorney and Founder, IP*SEVA, California, United States



Zhou Dadi, Founding Director, Beijing Energy Efficiency Center (BECon), Director, China Energy Research Institute, PR China

Dominique Foray, Director of the Chair of Economics and Management of Innovation and Dean of the College of Management of Technology at EPFL, Lausanne University, Switzerland

Taka Hiraishi, Co-Chair, IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Japan

Keith Maskus, Faculty Research Associate, Political and Economic Change Program, Colorado University, United States



Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD, Colombia

Lynn Krieger Mytelka, Distinguished Research Professor at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

Maria Nolan, Chief Officer, Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

Ruth Okediji, William L. Prosser Professor of Law and Solly Robins Distinguished Research Fellow, University of Minnesota Law School, United States

Pedro Roffe, Senior Fellow, ICTSD, Chile

Padmashree Gehl Sampath, Researcher, Knowledge and industrial dynamics research group, UNU-MERIT, India

Dalindyebo Shabalala, Managing Attorney of CIEL's Geneva office, and Director of CIEL's Intellectual Property and Sustainable Development Project

Participants in the initiative are involved in a personal capacity and not as representatives of an institution or government.

Ad hoc members of the initiative to facilitate mutually supportive interaction with other technology related processes undertaken in the UNFCCC:

Jukka Uosukainen, Director General, Finland Ministry of Environment, Chair of the EGTT

William Kojo Agyemang-bonsu, National Climate Change Coordinator, Environment Protection Agency, Ghana, Member of the EGTT

Contact: Ahmed Abdel Latif, Programme Manager, Intellectual Property & Technology, ICTSD, aabdellatif@ictsd.ch

For further information about ICTSD's initiative on Climate Technology and Trade, please visit <http://ictsd.org/climate-change/climate-technology-and-trade/>.

ABOUT ICTSD

Founded in 1996, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) is an independent non-profit and non-governmental organization based in Geneva. By empowering stakeholders in trade policy through information, networking, dialogue, well-targeted research and capacity building, the Centre aims to influence the international trade system such that it advances the goal of sustainable development.

The Global Platform is an initiative supported by DANIDA (Denmark); the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland; the Department for International Development (U.K.); the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway; Oxfam Novib and ICTSD's institutional partners and project supporters such as the Netherlands Directorate-General of Development Cooperation (DGIS), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); the Commonwealth Secretariat; the Inter American Development Bank (IADB) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

For further information about the Global Platform, please visit <http://ictsd.org/climate-change/>.

