



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

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Intellectual property rights have become a crucial business issue from the perspective of attaining a competitive edge over rivals and preserving an important source of royalty earnings. It is not an overstatement to say that in today's global economy, the survival of a business will depend on its intellectual property or knowledge assets. Its protection, therefore, is of utmost importance if industries and others are to be encouraged to create more. Infringement of such rights can be very costly, as seen in a number of high-profile patent dispute settlements.

In many developing countries, however, the concept of intellectual property rights is not well understood and the mechanisms for registration and marketing are weak. Some major issues involved include the filing of patent applications on R&D results; negotiations for licensing agreements; treatment of exclusive and nonexclusive licensing; and avenues for commercial exploitation. Government has a key role in providing the infrastructure, platform, and environment for the creation, protection, and commercialization of intellectual property.

In response to the growing importance of intellectual property to achieving competitiveness and higher productivity, the APO organized a symposium on "Intellectual Property Rights" in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2003. This e-book is an outcome of the meeting. It consists of a summary report of the symposium and the complete text of the following resources papers:

- Measures to Promote Technology Transfer through Tripartite Linkages, by Dr. Kunio Yoshida, Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo, Japan;
- Intellectual Property Rights: Japan's Policies and Strategies and Global Trends and Issues, by Kouzo Oikawa, Senior Executive Director, Development Bank of Japan;
- Infrastructure, Platform, and Environment for the Creation, Protection, and Exploitation of Intellectual Property, by Dr. L.C. Lee, Deputy Executive Director (Research), Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology; and
- Protection of Intellectual Property Rights for Small and Medium Enterprises, by Dr. Leah Lo, Director, Technology Transfer Office, National Health Research Institute, Republic of China.

This publication is a useful resource for anyone interested in intellectual property and its protection and utilization for higher productivity and competitiveness.

The APO has uploaded a number of e-books to its Web site (www.apo-tokyo.org). Some are also available in hard copy, while others, including *Intellectual Property Rights*, are available only in e-edition.

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