

UPDATE ON OPERATIONS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE (IPTTO), UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR MARY PASCHAL IWUNDU AT COORDINATOR'S FORUM FOR COORDINATORS FROM THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY ON FEBURARY 04, 2022 AT UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA.

PREAMBLE

The University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT), Rivers State, is located in the South-South zone of Nigeria. The Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), University of Port Harcourt was commissioned on August 12, 2010 by National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), a Parastatal under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, to encourage and promote indigenous technologies.

The University of Port Harcourt acts as the coordinator of NOTAP in the South-South for the actualization of the mandates of the agency in terms of refocusing Research and Development (R&D) results in Universities, Institutions of Higher Learning and Research Institutes in order to meet the entrepreneurial needs of the people. UNIPORT is also expected to facilitate the promotion of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), link R&D results to industry, create opportunity for the establishment of technology based Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) from start-up and boost innovation, creativity and research activities through the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO) in the University.

VISION AND MISSION

In the University of Port Harcourt, Our vision is for the IPTTO here to be among the best in Nigeria in the stimulation of excitement and interest in original research directed at promoting innovations capable of linking research activities in the university to industries, ultimately for the material benefits of the researcher, the university and the general public through job and wealth creations. Consequently, our mission is to make original research activities attractive at the University of Port Harcourt through sensitization, facilitation of patent acquisition and commercialization of products of original research, linkage of research activities to industries and formulation and review of mutually rewarding Intellectual Property Policy for the University.

CORE VALUES

We are ethical and care about originality. We embrace opportunities to secure, safeguard, patent and advance indigenous initiatives and inventions on products and services thus promoting intellectual property and technology transfer.

OFFICE LOCATION

Rooms 8 and 9, Ground floor, Right wing, Basic Studies Building
University Park (Abuja Campus)

CURRENT DIRECTOR

Prof. Mary Paschal Iwundu
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Faculty of Science
University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.
Email: mary.iwundu@uniport.edu.ng

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dr. Akuro Big-Alabo
Department of Mechanical Engineering
Faculty of Engineering
University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.
Email: akuro.alabo@uniport.edu.ng

OTHER STAFF MEMBERSHIP

Six Senior Staff and one cleaner

OUR SIGNATURE

Protecting and Managing Research Results.

ACTIVITIES OF IPTTO, UNIPORT

We have tried to understand the functions of IPTTOs through the mandate of NOTAP which include:

- Coordination of Nigeria's initiatives in technology transfer.
- Evaluation and registration of technology transfer agreements.
- Promotion of innovation, patenting & intellectual property.
- Technology advisory and support services.
- Commercialization of Research and Development (R&D) results.
- Research-Industry linkage.
- Production of compendium management information system.
- Publication of project profiles on R&D results.
- Promotion and popularization of Science and Technology (S&T) training and capacity building in schools and tertiary Institutions.

- Promoting industry driven R&D's in tertiary institutions and research institutions, etc.

At IPTTO, Uniport, we sensitize and create awareness about opportunities that exist in original research and facilitate patent rights acquisition through linkage with NOTAP and assisting colleagues in processing applications of patent rights. Between August 12, 2010 and January 24, 2012, the Office received a total of 22 applications for patent rights, out of which one had been cleared by NOTAP and passed on the Patent Registry for Patent Right, while the rest were at various stages of processing.

Number of patent applications received from 2015 till date are summarized as follows;

| Year | Number of Patent Applications |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2015 | 2 |
| 2016 | 1 |
| 2017 | 3 |
| 2018 | 6 |
| 2019 | 14 |
| 2020 | 4 |
| 2021 | 7 |
| Total | 37 |

On Wednesday, January 29, 2020, the Chairman of Senate, broke the cheering news that researchers in the University of Port Harcourt had obtained five new patents which, according to him, placed Uniport first amongst Higher Institutions that then received patents from the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) in Abuja.

We have a memorandum with the Vice-Chancellor seeking for approval to undertake a compilation of findings from MSc dissertations and PhD thesis from the Faculties of Science and Engineering in the University of Port Harcourt for the purpose of determining possible innovations/inventions to be derived from them for translation to industrial goods.

CHALLENGES

1. One major challenge of the IPTTO, Uniport is lack of feedback from NOTAP on patent requests.
2. Delay in processing submitted patent requests.
3. Setting in of discouragement among members of staff whose patent requests received no attention of NOTAP. This has made interested members of staff to seek out individuals who may in a short time frame successfully process their patent requests.
4. Lack of sensitization workshop to the University Community.

5. Lack of funds to run the office.
6. Lack of trained personnel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- For effective execution of the duties and mandates of IPTTO, there is need for strong synergy between the IPTTOs and NOTAP.
- There is need to train and retrain IPTTO personnel.
- Furthermore, there is need to carry out enlightenment/sensitization programmes to the University Community.

It is confidently hoped that by these the desire to evolve a strong economy based on Science and Technology will be actualized and the link between the research community and industry will be sustained thus creating a strong anchor for stimulating commercialization and national development.

CONCLUSION

The University of Port Harcourt is committed to research as an integral part of its mission and vision and thus understands the importance of creations, discoveries, innovations and inventions that positively impact the society and economy around the world. Hence the IPTTO, University of Port Harcourt holds it dear that our research results and findings should be protected within Intellectual Property (IP) rights.

APPENDIX

CORRESPONDENCES THAT RECEIVED NO FEEDBACK FROM NOTAP

CORRESPONDENCE 1

18th May, 2018

Director General
National Office for Technology
Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
Abuja.

REQUEST FOR THE GRANT OF PATENT RIGHT

I hereby forward to you as attached 4 hard copies and a soft copy of application for patent on **DESIGN AND FABRICATION OF UNIPOINT HYDRATE FLOW LOOP** by:

1. ODUTOLA TOYIN OLABISI
2. AJIENKA JOSEPH ATUBOKIKI
3. ONYEKONWU MIKE OBI
4. IKIENSIKIMAMA SUNDAY SUNDAY

It is my request that they be registered under the provision of intellectual property law of Nigeria.

Yours sincerely

Dr Roland Uhunmwangho

Act. Director
(08033410950)

CORRESPONDENCE 2

18th July, 2018

Director General
National Office for Technology
Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
Abuja.

REQUEST FOR THE GRANT OF PATENT RIGHT

I hereby forward to you as attached 4 hard copies and two soft copies of 111 application for patent on **MUSHROOM FLAKES FROM LOCAL GRAINS AND MUSHROOM** by:

1. OLUTAYO MODUPEOLA ADEDOKUN
2. ODODOBARI JIKE –WAI

It is my request that they be registered under the provision of intellectual property law of Nigeria.

Yours sincerely

Dr Roland Uhunmwangho

Act. Director

(08033410950)

CORRESPONDENCE 3

7th September, 2018

Director General
National Office for Technology
Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
Abuja.

STATUS OF PATENT APPLICATION

We wish to write to confirm the status of application for patent on

FAITH BIRTHING CHAIR TO FACILITATE DELIVERY IN UPRIGHT POSITION.

This application was sent to you since 2016, till date, no response has been received from NOTAP

The inventors name is **FAITH CHINAEMEREM DIORGU**.

A copy of her application is attached for your perusal and action.

Thank you.

Dr Roland Uhunmwangho

Ag. Director
(08033410950)

CORRESPONDENCE 4

7th September, 2018

Director General
National Office for Technology
Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
Abuja.

STATUS OF PATENT APPLICATION

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FAITH BIRTHING CHAIR TO FACILITATE DELIVERY IN UPRIGHT POSITION.

This application was sent to you since 2016, till date, no response has been received from NOTAP

The inventors name is **FAITH CHINAEMEREM DIORGU**. A copy of her application is attached for your perusal and action.

Thank you.

Dr Roland Uhunmwangho

Act. Director

(08033410950)

CORRESPONDENCE 5

8TH OCTOBER, 2018

Director General
National Office for Technology
Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
Abuja.

REQUEST FOR THE GRANT OF PATENT RIGHT

I hereby forward to you as attached three hard copies and two soft copies of application for patent on

POTASH EXTRACTS FROM AGRO WASTES AS AN ADDITIVE IN DEMULSIFICATION OF WATER IN CRUDE OIL EMULSION by

1. **DURU R.U**
2. **OSUJI L.C**
3. **ABAYE O.J**
4. **AJIENKA J.A**
5. **OJINNAKA C.M**

It is my request that they be registered under the provision of intellectual property law of Nigeria.
Yours sincerely

Dr Roland Uhunmwangho
Ag. Director
(08033410950)

CORRESPONDENCE 6

8TH OCTOBER, 2018

Director General
National Office for Technology
Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
Abuja.

REQUEST FOR THE GRANT OF PATENT RIGHT

I hereby forward to you as attached two hard copies and two soft copies of application for patent on

OYSTER (PLEUROTUS SPECIES) MUSHROOM POWDER AND TEA

by **DR OLUTAYO M. ADEDOKUN**

It is my request that she be registered under the provision of intellectual property law of Nigeria.

Yours sincerely

Dr Roland Uhunmwangho
Ag. Director
(08033410950)

CORRESPONDENCE 7

5TH NOVEMBER, 2018

Director General
National Office for Technology
Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
Abuja.

REQUEST FOR THE GRANT OF PATENT RIGHT

I hereby forward to you as attached two hard copies and two soft copies of application for patent on

DESIGN AND FABRICATION OF LABOLATORY HYDRATE LOOP

by

- **ODUTOLA TOYIN OLABISI**
- **AJIENKA JOSEPH ATUBOKIKI**
- **ONYEKONWU MIKE OBI**
- **IKIENSIKIMAMA SUNDAY SUNDAY**

It is my request that they be registered under the provision of intellectual property law of Nigeria.

Yours sincerely

Dr Roland Uhunmwangho
Ag. Director
(08033410950)

CORRESPONDENCE 8

25TH APRIL, 2019

Director General
National Office for Technology
Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
Abuja.

RE: PATENT PROTECTION REGISTRATION – AN UPDATE

With reference to your memo dated 12th March, 2019 (NOTAP/IPR/233R/18) on the status of patent application on “Birthing chair for Facilitation of Delivery in Upright Position”, you stated that Acceptance Notification is being awaited from patent registry.

However our office received your reply on the status of same application in your memo dated 2nd October, 2018 that “Applicants documents have been evaluated to meet the basic requirements for patentability”.

You may wish to update us with the current status of applicant’s certificate as she needs it urgently for her promotion.

Yours sincerely

Dr Roland Uhunmwangho
Ag. Director
(08033410950)

CORRESPONDENCE 9

18th July, 2019

Director General
National Office for Technology
Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
Abuja.

RE: REQUEST FOR THE GRANT OF PATENT RIGHT

With reference to your memo dated 3rd of July 2019 requesting that patent application titled

“REMOVAL OF PHENOL FROM REFINERY WASTE WATER”

be reviewed to be in line with your observations, and be re-titled

“METHOD FOR THE REMOVAL OF PHENOL FROM REFINERY WASTE WATER”

I hereby forward to you a corrected copy of the application in three hard copies and two soft copies as attached.

It is my request that he be registered under the provision of intellectual property law of Nigeria.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Roland Uhunmwangho
Ag. Director
(08033410950)

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE

IPTTO STAFF AND LEGAL ADVISER

| S/N | NAME | SPECIALTY | PHONE NUMBER |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Prof. Mary Paschal Iwundu | Science | 08037059610 |
| 2 | Dr. Akuro Big-Alabo | Engineering | 08164683549 |
| 3 | Mrs. Nmekele Lilian Wanayo-Nmecha | Administration | 08033026698 |
| 4 | Mrs. Patience Niabari Leton | Administration | 08038853505 |
| 5 | Mrs. Rita Chidinma Orlu | Personal Secretary | 09057217789 |
| 6 | Mr. Ogolima Onu Batubo | System Programmer/ Data Management Officer | 08067639258 |
| 7 | Ms. Stella Uloma Agbakwuru | Higher Executive Officer | 08064167274 |
| 8 | Mrs. Leesi Deebari Deeyor | Clerical Officer | 08075414592 |

LEGAL ADVISER:

DR. EMEKA POLYCARP AMECHI.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND HOD,
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL LAW,
FACULTY OF LAW,
UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT.

PREPARED BY:

PROF. MARY P. IWUNDU

DIRECTOR, IPTTO

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE

INTER-FACULTY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) COMMITTEE

| S/N | NAME | DEPARTMENT | FACULTY | PHONE NUMBER |
|------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Prof. Richard Echem | Surgery | Clinical Sciences | 08037062322 |
| 2 | Prof. Innocent George | Pediatrics & Child Health | Clinical Sciences | 08033309766 |
| 3 | Dr. Francis I. Okoronkwo | Fine Art & Design | Humanities | 08037082266 |
| 4 | Dr. Ngozi C. Aja | Philosophy | Humanities | 08035439733 |
| 5 | Prof. Stanley E. Ukwueze | Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry | Pharmaceutical Sciences | 07031044254 |
| 6 | Dr. Ozadheoghene E. Afieroho | Pharmacognosy & Phytotherapy | Pharmaceutical Sciences | 08063432417 |
| 7 | Prof. Joab-Sofiri Peterside | Coordinator | Social Science | 08033401408 |
| 8 | Dr. E. Wonah | PAS | Social Science | 08037490928 |
| 9 | Dr. O. Lawal | GEM | Social Science | 09097347063 |
| 10 | Dr. D. Badey | Sociology | Social Science | 08033425732 |
| 11 | Dr. A. Nteegah | Economics | Social Science | 08069284958 |
| 12 | Dr. P. Emejuru | Social Works | Social Science | 08033404555 |
| 13 | Dr. M. Ogoro | GEM | Social Science | 07059177111 |
| 14 | Dr. Nelson Okene | Public Admin | Social Science | 08036771974 |
| 15 | Dr. I. O. Okonko | Microbiology | Science | 07069697309 08035380891 |
| 16 | Dr. T. Dagogo | Physics | Science | 08037523810 |
| 17 | Dr. Helen N. Henry-Unaeze | Food, Nutrition and Home Science | Agriculture | 08063548581 |
| 18 | Dr. Opuda A. Ekin | Animal Science | Agriculture | 08033421942 |
| 19 | Prof. M. O. Oduola | Chemical Engineering | Engineering | 08038910889 |
| 20 | Dr. T. O. Odutola | Petroleum and Gas Engineering | Engineering | 08061113971 |
| 21 | Dr. Daniel Aikhuele | Mechanical Engineering | Engineering | 07065928444 |
| 22 | Dr. Eke Bartholomew | Computer Science | Computing | 08037049586 |
| 23 | Dr. Okengwu Ugochi | Computer Science | Computing | 08037239319 |
| 24 | Dr. E. A. Aikins | Dentistry | Dentistry | 08033131969 |
| 25 | Dr. K. S. Yarhere | Dentistry | Dentistry | 08063387314 |

Terms of reference for the Inter-Faculty Intellectual Property Committee include;

1. To create awareness of the Intellectual Property Policy of the University to both students and staff of the faculty.
2. To encourage original research among faculty members and identify works of global novelty and usefulness for Intellectual Property Rights.

3. To document all R&D results and forward same to the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO) for necessary IP assessment.
4. To interface with the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO) on all IP matters.

PREPARED BY:

PROF. MARY P. IWUNDU

DIRECTOR, IPTTO

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT