

MASTER'S DEGREE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (MIP) 2024



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Offered jointly by:

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO),
The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO),
and Africa University, with Financial Assistance from the
Government of Japan



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS OF THE MIP PROGRAMME

The MIP programme is jointly organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), and Africa University, with financial assistance from the Government of Japan.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the global forum for intellectual property policy, services, information and cooperation. WIPO is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 193 Member States. Its mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all. WIPO's mandate, governing bodies and procedures are set out in the WIPO Convention, which established WIPO in 1967.

The WIPO Academy is a division of WIPO established in 1998. The WIPO Academy is the center of excellence for intellectual property (IP) education and training for WIPO Member States, in particular developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and countries in transition. The Academy works to help build human capacity in IP, which is essential for innovation. Its four programs cover a rich portfolio of both general and specialized courses on IP, and cater to different target audiences. Courses combine face-to-face and distance learning methodologies, and are taught by IP experts. The aim of the Academic Institutions program is to support access to IP higher education, especially to participants from developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition. One of the main means of achieving this aim is through the Joint Master's Programs on IP, offered in cooperation with selected academic institutions.

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is an intergovernmental organization established by the Lusaka Agreement in 1976. The main objective for establishing ARIPO is to pool resources of the member states together, for the promotion, development, and use of intellectual property (IP) for economic development. Currently, ARIPO has 22 member states with its headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Article III of the Lusaka Agreement mandates ARIPO to establish schemes for the training of staff in the administration of Intellectual Property laws, organize training seminars and other meetings on Intellectual Property matters and promote the exchange of ideas and experience as well as conduct research studies in the field of IP. Through the ARIPO Academy, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization provides capacity-building activities for the development of Africa as a whole.

Africa University

Africa University is a Pan-African University that recruits staff and students from over 30 countries. The University is also a United Methodist Related Institution. The University prides itself in regional and international partnerships that help promote its reach and sustainability.

Africa University has four colleges and one school namely: (i) College of Business, Peace, Leadership and Governance, (ii) College of Health, Agriculture and Natural Sciences, (iii) College of Social Sciences, Theology, Humanities and Education and (iv) College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the School of Law. While over 2000 students are enrolled as full-time students every year, close to 1000 students are enrolled as part-time students.

Africa University's mission is to provide quality, creative, and international education within a Pan-African context where students acquire knowledge and skills, grow in spiritual maturity, develop sound moral values, ethics and leadership qualities. The University offers over 50 undergraduate and post-graduate degree programmes, inclusive of PhD qualifications.

ALUMNI PROFILES

SHEILA CANDA (MOZAMBIQUE) DIRECTOR GENERAL, INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE (IPI)



My name is Sheila Canda, I used to be a legal adviser in the Industrial Property Institute (IPI). My key responsibilities included registration and maintenance of industrial property rights, as well as participation in workshops organized by WIPO and ARIPO. This ignited an interest in deepening and consolidating my knowledge about intellectual property and this led me to apply for the Masters in Intellectual Property program. A few years after completing the program, I was appointed as Director General of the Industrial Property Institute (IPI), in May 2023 to be precise, a position I hold to date.

I must say that the MIP program greatly improved my knowledge and capacity in IP and provided me with great opportunities to interact with colleagues from different nations. This has enhanced my capacity to direct the institution entrusted to me by the Government of Mozambique. I have encouraged my colleagues at the office to join the master's program. I consider continuous learning to be relevant, and I am interested in applying for a PhD administered by my beloved university AU in the near future

JOHN OMITI (KENYA) SENIOR PATENT EXAMINER - ARIPO



I was a Senior Patent Examiner with 14 years of experience at the Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI) when I got admitted to the MIP Programme at Africa University and therefore an opportunity to en-

hance expertise in Intellectual Property.

Following my successful training and completion of the MIP programme in 2010, my improved capabilities were identified and I got assigned to play key roles in Inter-Departmental task forces set up by the Kenya government that worked to mainstream the use of IP to grow Kenyan Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) through different projects. I am an active member of the ARIPO team and I say without fear that my abilities to perform duties at ARIPO is a direct result of my graduate studies through the MIP programme.

**DAVID JENG -THE GAMBIA,
Managing director of Chapman Xpress Financial Services**



I am David Jeng, an Innovation and Entrepreneurship Expert, Founder of Bliss Executives a management consulting company and Managing Director of Chapman Xpress Financial Service a fintech company offering financial services to the unbanked. I joined the MIP program due to my hunger for economic development in Africa. I have a conviction that IP is the foundation of every innovation and a catalyst to equip me with the knowledge and skills in Innovation. After the MIP Program, I have served as a consultant for WIPO to train innovators on IP, innovation and Business and have trained and mentored over 150 SMEs mostly women on in different sectors on IP and help them use the IP system to grow their business.

I am the first young person to be elected as a Board Director of The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I am a member of The Gambia Intellectual Property Council and has been part of the team that drafted the Intellectual Property Act of the Gambia and equally part of the team that work with the government of the Gambia to accede to the Banjul Protocol on Marks. Furthermore, I am part of the AFCFTA Negotiations on IP for the Gambia. I am a fellow at the Chartered Institute of Management and Leadership and has been awarded Young Leader of the Year 2022 by the West Africa Leadership and Empowerment Centre

The MIP programme has been a life transformational journey filled with persistent, impact and uncommon knowledge with world class lecturers.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE MIP PROGRAMME

OBJECTIVES OF THE MIP PROGRAMME

In July 2006, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) held a Colloquium at the ARIPO Headquarters on Intellectual Property (IP) education, training and research. During the Colloquium, the participants called for an emergency action plan to address the critical shortage of intellectual property professionals and experts in Africa. They requested the WIPO Academy and ARIPO in cooperation with Universities in Africa to establish an academic programme at the level of a Master in Intellectual Property (MIP) Degree, in one of the Universities in the member states of ARIPO. It was felt that this approach would provide a pragmatic response to the need for enhancement of the human resources development in IP in Africa.

Africa University, a Pan-African institution based in Mutare, Zimbabwe, was identified as a suitable partner to run the programme due to its Pan-African orientation, serene environment and adequate learning facilities among other qualities. Consequently, WIPO, ARIPO and Africa University established the MIP Programme in 2008.

So far, almost 400 students have been graduated from the program hailing from countries across Africa: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MIP PROGRAMME

The MIP Programme's main objectives are to:

- .Create IP expertise in Africa.
- .Support IP teaching in institutions of Higher Learning.
- .Promote the IP systems in Africa.

The MIP curriculum aims to provide an in-depth examination of all fields of intellectual property and is taught by leading academics, legal practitioners, and intellectual property experts drawn from various universities and other IP institutions in Africa, Japan and beyond. The MIP programme is designed to equip young professionals with the necessary skills to enable them to play a leading role in promoting the teaching, use, and protection of intellectual property.

DURATION OF THE MIP PROGRAMME

The duration of the programme is 12 months, (inclusive of distance learning courses provided by the WIPO Academy; residential learning at Africa University; skills development training at ARIPO and a research dissertation). Upon satisfactory completion of the programme, students are awarded the degree of Master of Intellectual Property by Africa University.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The language of instruction for the MIP programme is English. Proof of English proficiency is required. The MIP programme is designed for young professionals who wish to acquire the skills required to play a leading role through exposure to an international and comparative approach to national and regional IP systems. The MIP programme targets applicants from academic or Research and Development institutions, other IP related institutions, governments and industries who upon graduating desire to return to their respective countries or institutions in Africa and play a leading role in the field of IP.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. A minimum of Bachelor's degree or its equivalent, with a second lower class, in any field from a recognized academic institution.
2. A minimum of two years working experience after graduating with a first degree.
3. Proof of English proficiency
4. A pass in WIPO DL 101 (General Course in Intellectual Property)

SCHOLARSHIPS

With a view to contributing to the development of human resources in the field of IP in developing countries, WIPO, ARIPO, and the Government of Japan provide scholarships to highly motivated persons from Africa to participate in this programme. Each scholarship covers travel, board and lodging during the Residential Learning Phase, tuition, registration fees and medical insurance.

STRUCTURE OF THE MIP PROGRAMME

Part I: Distance Learning Phase

Students take three WIPO Distance Learning (DL) Courses offered via the internet from May to July. At the end of the DL courses, students are examined.

Part II: Residential Learning Phase

During this phase, students take residential courses at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe from August to December where they have face-to-face instruction with Professors/ Lecturers and IP Experts. Class teaching is complemented by case studies, tutorials, research work and study visits. Students also take examinations on every module that is covered. During the last week of the Residential Learning Phase, students go through skills development training and participate in an IP Conference at ARIPO in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Part III: Dissertation

From January to April, students write dissertation projects on selected and approved topics. Every student works intensively under the guidance of two supervisors who are assigned during the Residential Learning Phase.

DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES: May 1, 2024 to July 20, 2024

COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE
DL - 320	Patent Drafting
DL - 301	Patents
DL - 302	Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications

RESIDENTIAL PHASE COURSE: August 1, 2024 to December 6, 2024

MODULE	DESCRIPTION
Module 1	Patents and Utility Models
Module 2	Industrial Designs
Module 3	Branding (Trademarks)
Module 4	Branding (Geographical Indications and Unfair Competition)
Module 5	Copyright and Related Rights
Module 6	IP and Public Health, Food Security and Biotechnology
Module 7	Traditional Knowledge, Folklore and Genetic Resources
Module 8	IP, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and IP management
Module 9	IP asset management, Strategic Planning, Technology transfer, Licencing and Artificial Intelligence
Module 10	Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Module 11	Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights
Module 12	Practical Training at ARIPO

DISSERTATION: December 7, 2024 to April 30, 2025



MIP STEERING COMMITTEE

Africa University:

Prof. Peter Mageto – Vice Chancellor
Prof. Pamela Machakanja – Interim Deputy Vice Chancellor
Prof. Stanley Murairwa – Interim Dean, CBPLG
Mr. George Mandewo – MIP Coordinator

WIPO:

Mr. Sherif Saadallah, Executive Director of the WIPO Academy
Ms. Martha Chikowore, Acting Head, Academic Institutions and Executive Programme, WIPO Academy

ARIPO:

Mr. Twebaze Bemanya, Director General, ARIPO
Dr. Rapuleng Outule, Head, ARIPO Academy

Business Community

Mrs. Brenda Kahari, B.W. Kahari Legal Practitioners
Mr Kwirirai Chigerwe, Tanganda Tea Company

SUPPORTING PARTNER



JAPAN

Official Development Assistance

Government of Japan

Japan is supporting the MIP programme through scholarships to students, IP experts to teach in the programme and donation of IP textbooks.

MENTORING PARTNERS



CONTACT DETAILS

Further information regarding the MIP program can be obtained from the organizing institutions using their respective details below:

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