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Q1: Respondent details

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Q2: Country or Customs territory

AUSTRALIA

Q3: Organization

Public sector

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Q4: Title of case story

Australia -World Intellectual Property Organisation Funds in Trust (FiT) Program

Q5: Case story focus

Trade Facilitation.

Q6: Case story abstract

Improving the regulatory environment for trade is one of the key objectives of the Strategy for Australia's Aid for Trade Investments. Australia is partnering with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to help developing countries in the Indo-Pacific region to strengthen their intellectual property systems to create an enabling environment for increased domestic innovation, inward investment and technology transfer. Global IP related health and disability issues are also addressed through the program.

Q7: Who provided funding?

Bilateral donor

Q8: Project/Programme type

Multi-country

Q9: Your text case story

Improving the regulatory environment for trade is one of the key objectives of the Strategy for Australia's Aid for Trade Investments. Australia is partnering with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) through phase 2 of the WIPO-Australia Funds in Trust (FIT) Program to deliver activities to partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region under four key themes:

- 1) Development and implementation of National IP Strategies, including assisting accession to WIPO and implementation of WIPO-administered treaties. (Kiribati, Niue, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cook Islands, Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)
- 2) Training in IP in technology transfer, commercialisation and technology licensing, including delivery of a 'Technology Transfer Toolbox' to provide partner countries with pro forma documents to assist technology and commercialization efforts. (Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, South Africa)
- 3) WIPO Re:Search program addressing neglected tropical diseases, malaria and tuberculosis (partner countries to be determined); and
- 4) Accessible Books Consortium program to increase access to educational materials for the visually impaired and print disabled. (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal).

Phase 2 of the program builds on a successful initial phase that was completed in June 2016. The initial phase delivered significant and tangible outcomes for beneficiaries from its activities, particularly when considered in proportion to the small scale of investment (\$A2 million). This included:

- The development of national IP strategies for Cambodia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga, with the latter 3 receiving support from partner governments to proceed to the next stage of implementation.
- Placements of five top scientists from developing countries (Cameroon, Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, South Africa) in laboratories in the United States (UCSF and Stanford University), Switzerland (Novartis, two placements) and India (Astra Zeneca). These placements have been successful because of the training received, the research outcomes thus far and technology transfer to the participant countries (both knowledge and equipment). There is also evidence that broader scientific networks have been facilitated by this facet of the program. For example in July 2014, the University of Lagos (Nigeria) and Novartis (Switzerland) announced a collaboration on Malaria research that was a direct result of one of the placements.
- Accession by partner countries to WIPO treaties, including Cambodia's accession to the Madrid Protocol on International Registration of Trademarks.
- Provision of 162 books in accessible formats (braille, audiobooks, audio devices) to visually impaired and print disabled people in Bangladesh; and 1096 books in accessible formats to visually impaired and print disabled people in Sri Lanka. This work occurred through the WIPO Trusted Intermediary Global Accessible Resource project (TIGAR), and received recognition for its innovation and impact at the London Book Awards 2015.

Q10: Lessons learnt**Value for money**

Phase 1 of the Funds in Trust Program has delivered very good results in terms of value for money and efficiency of use of resources. Australia obtains significant value for money by leveraging additional resources from WIPO, NGOs, and the private sector in areas of high technical expertise. For example, Australia does not pay for the salary costs experts from WIPO or IP Australia who deliver training. WIPO also negotiated delivery of training by IP experts from the private sector to be provided at a discount rate. Australian funding for secondees from private sector and academic institutions under the WIPO Re:Search program also mobilises these institutions' investment of resources in the form of access to equipment, laboratories and mentoring support. Novartis, a major pharmaceutical company participating in the Re:search program has estimated that for every A\$1.00 invested by Australia, research institutions contribute an additional \$A3.00-4.00.

Innovation

Though the Funds in Trust partnership, Australia has been the first to support WIPO's TIGAR program and remains the first to support LDC participants in WIPO Re:Search program. Both of these programs stand out as examples of innovation in aid delivery and leveraging WIPO's specific expertise, as well as private sector and civil society involvement, to approach development issues in the complex area of IP and technology transfer. Australia's Funds in Trust have also distinguished themselves by their substantial focus on beneficiaries in the Pacific region and LDCs in SE Asia.