

Transfer of Technology

between the climate change and trade regimes

- **Policy issues**
- **Recent developments**
- **Shared frustrations and the impetus for action**

Climate Change, Technology Transfer and IPRs :

What does current research tell us?

- Transfer of technology (ToT) is a complex and multidimensional process.
- ToT relates to processes enabling technological knowledge moving from one entity - legal or natural persons - to another. Knowledge is embodied not only in IPRs such as patents but also in goods and services, codified in blueprints, designs, know-how and technical documents.
- By offering protection against a loss of control of information in technology-related transactions, IPRs are an instrument aimed at facilitating the transfer of technology
- On other hand, the existence of IP protection does not guarantee or suffice for effective transfer of technology. In addition, IPRs have an impact on cost of technology acquisition, transaction costs and rate of technology diffusion
- In the case of clean technology diffusion, Barton^[1] finds that

At the moment, there seems unlikely to be significant IP barriers to developing nation access to solar, biofuel and wind technologies. Further, research is needed. IP may become a more significant obstacle in accordance with the evolution of market structure. The wind sector is of particular concern.

[1] John H. Barton, *Intellectual Property and Access to Clean Energy Technologies in Developing Countries An Analysis of Solar Photovoltaic, Biofuel and Wind Technologies*, , George E. Osborne Professor Emeritus Stanford Law School, Issue Paper 2, ICTSD, Trade and Sustainable Energy series, December 2007.

Climate Change, Technology Transfer and IPRs

What are the directions for future research and action?

- Need for more evidenced based research on transfer of technology, IPRs and climate change (patent landscapes).
- Development of indicators of eco-innovation based on patent data (OECD, 2008).
- Better understanding of licensing of climate change technologies require further enquiries. The number of patents in the area might not be the key issue but rather the licensing practices.
- Making the dissemination of climate change technology more effective:
 - role of PPPs
 - publicly funded R&D
 - absorptive capacities
 - innovation models