

African Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Bootcamp
on
Securing, Managing and Benefiting from Your Intellectual Assets
15-17 April 2024 (Virtual – Cairo, Egypt)

The Africa Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Forum is requested to organize a bootcamp as a pre-event. Since 2020, the Forum has organized four bootcamps that have focused on different subjects and sectors, such as emerging energy, water and digital technologies and entrepreneurial skills, to meet the needs of different stakeholders that include youths, students and researchers.

The 2024 Bootcamp of the STI Forum will focus on offering participants practical and hands-on skills needed to secure, manage and build a portfolio of intellectual assets and how to benefit from such resources in growing your business. These will include intellectual property rights, confidential information, branding and brand management as well as standards and safety which are critical in survival and growing of a business in a competitive environment. One small mishap can kill a thriving business.

Target audience

This call targets spin-offs, nascent and startup firms in incubators and hubs, those that have such facilities and services, and those that are already in the market with actual products (i.e. goods and services) and paying clients/customers. This call is **NOT** for business ideas and research products yet to be commercialized. However, innovators and emerging entrepreneurial with products (goods and services) are welcome too.

As such, all startup firms or spinoffs – commercial and social enterprises - founded or conducting business in Africa are eligible to participate. Businesses from all sectors are welcome and those from universities are encouraged. However, your business should be at least three (3) years old – be it formal or informal. All startups and newer small firms are encouraged to apply, especially those run or founded by women and youths.

What is in it for you?

You will have access to some of the best mentors and coaches you may not afford to hire; get business, technical and funding opportunities and suggestions; and be connected to other doers with whom you may exchange experiences, collaborate, partner and/or trade. It may also bring additional exposure to your business for free.

Programme of Work

15 April, 2024

	Registration	Group work
09:00-09:30	Welcome remarks	
9:30-10:00	Keynote address: Evolution of Intellectual Property	
10:00-10:30	Session 1: Overview of Intellectual Property Rights, technology transfer and innovation	
10:30-11:00	Health break	
11:00-13:00 (2-hrs)	Patents This session will look at patents in details; what can be patented and what cannot; when and when not to patents; ensuring inventions are adequately covered in patent.	Each group will be assigned an existing product as a basis of drafting patent claims using official documents
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
2 hours	Other IP rights Trademarks and trade names Industrial designs or design patents Copyrights Geographical indications Trade secrets (confidential information)	Each group will be assigned an existing product as a basis of drafting IP claims using official documents
16:00-16:30	Health break	
16:30-18:00	Group work with coaches and mentors	

16 April, 2024

09:00-09:30	Welcome remarks	
9:30-10:00	Recap Presentations by teams	
10:30-11:00	Health break	
11:00-13:00 (2-hrs)	Understanding and managing confidential information This session will among other look at NDAs, managing confidential information in employee/worker contracts; invention disclosures, among others, and their enforcement.	Each group will be assigned an existing business as a basis of drafting NDAs and worker contracts
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-16:00 (2 hours)	Managing contracts and licensing agreement R&D contracts IP management in commercial contracts Licensing: protection, royalties, and related fee payments IP and competition laws	Each group will be assigned an existing firms as a basis of drafting contracts and licensing agreements
16:00-16:30	Health break	
16:30-18:00	Group work with coaches and mentors	

17 April, 2024

09:00-09:30	Welcome remarks	
9:30-10:00	Recap <i>Presentations by teams</i>	
10:30-11:00	Health break	
11:00-13:00 (2-hrs)	Standards and quality This session will among other look at the various standards, the role they play in regulation, growing your market and in providing confidence to consumers. These may range from global (e.g. ISO) to national (KEBS; ZABS; Swiss Made;)	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-16:00 (2 hours)	Investing in and protecting your brand At the heart of a business is its reputation of the quality, reliability and dependability of its products (goods and services). This session will look at how you can build a good brand, manage the brand and protect it as well as how you can determine the value of your brand.	
16:00-16:30	Health break	
16:30-18:00	Closing session	