

Jamaica's International IP Treaty Obligations

Under WIPO:

- the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works
- the Brussels Convention Relating to Satellite Signals
- the Geneva Convention for the Protection of Phonograms
- the Nairobi Treaty on the Olympic Symbol
- the Nice Agreement concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services
- the Paris Convention on the Protection of Industrial Property
- the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations
- the Vienna Agreement on Figurative Elements of Marks
- the WIPO Copyright Treaty
- the WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty

Under WTO

- Agreement on Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)

Visit our website

www.jipo.gov.jm

The Jamaica Intellectual Property Office



an Agency of the
Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce

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**PAVING THE WAY TO GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE
PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Establishment of the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office - the history

The Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) was established in January 2001 by virtue of the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office Act, 2001. JIPO acquired its status as a statutory body on February 1, 2002 and is an agency of the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce.

As the national IP office, JIPO provides a central focal point for the administration of Intellectual Property (IP) in Jamaica and has the mandate of administering in Jamaica, the following intellectual property systems –

- Copyright and Related Rights
- Trade Marks
- Geographical Indications
- Industrial Designs
- Patents
- Layout-Designs (Topographies)
- Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions

Prior to January 2001, different Government ministries and agencies carried out the administration of Jamaica's Intellectual Property (IP) Laws.

- ◆ The Copyright portfolio originated in the Ministry of Information and Culture and was later established as a Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister.

- ◆ Patent applications were received by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, reviewed by the Attorney General's Chambers, examined by the Bureau of Standards and/or the Government Chemist and recorded at the Office of Registrar of Companies.

- ◆ The Registrar of Companies registered Trade Marks and Industrial Designs.

The then Ministry of Industry Commerce & Technology (MICT) was established in 1998 and assumed the portfolio for all Intellectual Property matters.

The MICT took the opportunity to streamline the administration of IP under one dedicated office by setting up the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) as a Unit within the MICT in January 2001 which led to the establishment of the full office as a statutory body in 2002.

Responsibilities & Objectives of JIPO

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) include:

- 1 administering laws relating to Intellectual Property Rights, in particular
 - Trademarks
 - Geographic Indications
 - Industrial Designs
 - Copyright and Related Rights
 - Patents
 - Lay-out Designs
2. To advise the Minister with portfolio responsibility for IP on matters relating to the administration of such laws.
2. To promote the progressive development of IPRs in Jamaica.

Objectives

- To contribute to national economic growth and development through the proper protection, administration and enforcement of IPRs.
- To provide Jamaican creators, inventors and commercial enterprises, as well as foreign rights holders with modern and comprehensive procedures and facilities for the protection of their IPRS.
- To facilitate an international level of IP protection for Jamaican rights holders.
- To heighten public awareness of the importance and economic value of IPRs and the need for the protection of these rights.
- To facilitate the improvement of the IP system in light of new technologies and globalization of trade, through the modernization of the laws and the accession to relevant international treaties and agreements.

Strategic Focus of JIPO

In light of JIPO 's responsibility to promote the progressive development of IPRs in Jamaica, the Office has a developmental focus in addition to an administrative one.

The services offered by JIPO are geared towards individual creators and innovators, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), corporations and institutions to enhance their capacity for wealth creation through the acquisition and maintenance of IPRs.

JIPO carries out an ongoing Public Education Programme working in collaboration with public and private sector interest groups.

The office also plays a pivotal role in IP policy development and implementation by making recommendations to the Government on technical aspects of IPRs and cross-sector issues relating to IP such as; International Trade, E-Commerce, Bio-diversity, Science & Technology and Environmental Management.

JIPO also provides representation on IP at local, regional and international levels for and on behalf of the Government.

In conjunction with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) JIPO facilitates training, human resource development and institutional strengthening in various aspects of IPRs and develops sector-specific programmes and projects in conjunction with other agencies and private sector entities.

International Affiliations

Jamaica is a member of WIPO, the specialized agency of the United Nations, dedicated to promoting the protection, use and commercialization of IP throughout the world for the benefit of all, and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which is the only international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

Jamaica also has a Bilateral Agreement with the USA on the Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights.

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