IP 2018

8th International Conference on
"Managing Intellectual Property Rights in Universities"

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National Experience: Palestinian Universities' Intellectual Property Policies

National Experience: Palestinian Universities

History of Palestinian Universities

- Most Palestinian Universities are public universities.
- Most Palestinian Universities were established by Charitable Societies to provide higher education to Palestinians under Israeli occupation.
- Before Palestinian Authority was established in 1994, the Council for Higher Education supervised these universities.
- Nowadays the Ministry of Education and Higher Education is responsible for these universities and issues laws and regulations that govern these universities.

National Experience: Palestinian Universities

History of Intellectual Property Laws in Palestine

- IP laws in Palestine started at the end of the Ottoman era, going through British Mandate, Egyptian Administration, Jordanian Rule until the Palestinian Authority assumed responsibilities in certain parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Until now, the Jordanian law is applied in West Bank.

  Law of Trademarks No. 33 of 1952

  Law of Privileges of invention No. (22) for the year 1953

National Experience: Palestinian Universities

Improving Awareness of Intellectual Property in Palestine

In Palestinian Universities, there has been an increasing interest in Intellectual Property to improve awareness of this important issue. This is clear in the following:

1- Academic Programs: A graduate program, at the Master's Level, in Intellectual Property and Innovation Management is currently being offered at Al-Najah University.

2 – Courses: Some Palestinian universities offer courses in Intellectual Property

3- Projects: An Erasmus+ funded project, entitled "Promoting Intellectual Property Law Studies in the Mediterranean Region IP-MED"

4- Workshops: The workshops aimed to enhance students' awareness in IP field and to encourage them on having their own ideas protected.

5- IP Conferences.

Intellectual Property Policies in Palestinian Universities

Are there any policies?

- There are no documented intellectual property policies in most Palestinian Universities.
- Instead, some universities have some regulations that govern some issues related to intellectual property.
- Some regulations are developed as needed by certain small-scale Research and Development endeavors.
- Most of the time, intellectual property is discussed on a case by case situations.

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Intellectual Property Policies Needed for Palestinian Universities

Well-Documented and Clear Intellectual Property Policies are badly needed for Palestinian Universities to promote:

- Research activities in general and applied research in particular, which is highly needed in a developing country, like Palestine, to:

  (1) allow our universities to commercialize the results of applied research projects to local industry.

  (2) To bridge the gap between universities and industry and to strengthen collaboration between them.

- Teaching activities that generate teaching materials (slides, videos, … etc), software, graduation projects, theses …etc.

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Intellectual Property Policies Needed for Palestinian Universities

- **For example, Palestine Polytechnic University has an Innovation and Technology Transfer Center consisting of many units like** Industrial Synergy unit, which is interested in having an intellectual property policy to govern its function (in preparation).
- **Deans of Scientific Research at Palestinian Universities agreed on certain ethical regulations and they included some regulations related to intellectual property.**
- **Another example , the establishment of the Technology and Information Support Center (TISC) Network forms part of the strategy for the promotion of innovation, scientific research and technology transfer , Which is an agreement between the Ministry of National Economy and WIPO.**

Intellectual Property Policies Needed for Palestinian Universities

- **Issues related to IP policies:**

- **Ownership of graduation projects results (scientific results, software, designs, …etc.**
- **Ownership of Thesis research output**
- **Ownership of Teaching Materials generated by faculty members using universities' resources**

Intellectual Property Policies Needed for Palestinian Universities

- Universities need to further develop and build upon previous projects, theses, teaching materials, …etc. and need clear rules for identifying real owners of them:
- Is university the owner?
- Are faculty members the owner?
- Are current students involved in a large and long research project the owner?
- Are all former students involved in a research project?

OR

<u>Are all of them with different percentages the owner?</u>

Intellectual Property Policies in Palestinian Universities/Conclusion

- There are no well-documented Intellectual Property Polices in Palestinian Universities
- Issues related to Intellectual Property are addressed informally as part of funded research projects, funded startups, …etc.
- Mutual agreements prepared by lawyers address Intellectual Property on a a case by case basis.

Thanks for Listening!