

Asia-Pacific Economy Cooperation (APEC) IPEG and Biotechnology

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APEC IPEG

Given the importance of Intellectual Property Rights(IPRs) to the realization of the APEC goals, the Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group(IPEG) was established in 1996 to handle IPR issues in the APEC region. Our primary objectives are i) to deepen the dialogue on intellectual property policy, ii) to conduct surveys and exchange information on the current status of IPR protection and administrative systems, utilization of IP, iii) to study measures for the effective enforcement of IPRs, iv) to fully implement the *WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property*, and v) to facilitate technical cooperation on intellectual property issues. Since our establishment, we have conducted work programs to achieve planned collective actions and we have enhanced APEC-wide cooperation in several areas. We seek views from various sectors such as education, government, business and IP professional, about APEC's priorities and IPR programs. Our IPR programs are delivered through a range of measures including a web site, www.apecipeg.org. One example of our previous outcomes is "Intellectual and Biotechnology, A training Handbook", published in 2002. This handbook is designed to provide a practical introduction to the nature and management of IPR in relation to the biotechnology. It covers IP laws and gives an overview of the key concepts and the legal framework. Importance of Bio-patent has been recognized in R/D and Commercialization since early 1980's. In addition, the completion of Human Genome Project has accelerated the world-wide study related to the patentability of Biotechnology, including genetic invention. Brief introduction of the patentability of Bio-invention will be presented.