

German – Arab Chamber of Commerce
Workshop

Protection of Intellectual Property as a Stimulus for Economic
Cooperation and Growth

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“Protection of Intellectual Property is a Necessity for
Industry to Grow.”

By

Dr.-Eng. Nader Riad

- Vice President: The Egyptian Association for Industrial Rights Protection
- Board Member: Chamber of Engineering Industries – Federation of Egyptian Industries

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure and honor for me to be invited to participate to this outstanding workshop and address this esteemed gathering.

I avail myself of the opportunity to welcome you all on behalf of the Chamber of Engineering Industries of the Federation of Egyptian Industries and also on behalf of the Egyptian Association for Protection of Industrial Property.

It is a fact that the comprehensive economic reform and restructuring program Egypt is conducting has successfully went beyond the economic crises of the eighties and is apt to prepare Egypt for where we are today- and more importantly for the 21st Century.

The macro-economic indicators were not only corrected but made sustainable.

- Inflation was brought down to 5.7%.
- The General Budget Deficit continued getting down to 1% against 1.6% in 1995.
- The Exchange rate has been maintained stable since 1990 at the rate of 3.38 – 3.4 Egyptian Pound for One US\$ at a time all forms of exchange control were removed.
- The country's reserves of foreign currency exceeded 20 Billion US\$.
- The rate of GDP increase reached 5% during 1997 from a 3.9% rate at 1996 and is expected to reach 8% by the year 2000.

I can recite more indicators of the Government's success in putting its house in order.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt's strategy of gradualism towards liberalization and reform with a strong social safety net in place has proven to be the correct course and evidence supports it. Recognition in published reports by world renowned institutes such as Merrill Lynch, HSBC, and Flemings favor the process.

But even with all this, we cannot rest the case. More achievements have to be done to prepare Egypt for the 21st century and its challenges.

- Egypt has to successfully complete its privatization mass program and move towards including utilities to cover water, telecommunication, ports, roads and power.
- Egypt's capital market needs strengthening to ensure its continued growth.
- Another challenge is legislative reform including creation of institutes that facilitate the transition and enhance it.
- Preparing Egypt's educational system for the 21st century is a challenge of remarkable proportion.
- Magnifying Egypt's competitiveness advantage in information, technology and industry.

The growing Egyptian economy of over 70% privately driven and monitored with its rapidly developing industrial activities has given a special care and attention to the problems and challenges in intellectual property protection.

We still recall the recently held AIPPI International Symposium in Cairo in October 1997 organized by the Egyptian Association for Industrial Property Protection whereby the Industrial community has expressed their:

Recognition of the eminent role of the Intellectual property rights in producing new generations of creators.

Belief in the necessity in recruiting all tangible and human resources to serve the technology-transfer and human development purposes within a balanced relationship between both providers and recipients.

Pursuit of supportive means and tools to enable the administrative departments in charge of the Intellectual Property Rights to simplify the procedures with the objective of decreasing the conflict and cases of disputes that come subject to courts.

Assurance in the consolidated link between development and innovation in all activities.

Conviction of the prime and vital role of the Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in the development of Intellectual Property Rights awareness.

Therefore, the following recommendations were reached:

First: Implementation of Intellectual Property Protection Rights

TRIPS Agreement on Trade related Aspects of
Intellectual Property Rights.

- 1- Revision of judicial and border measures in force in Egypt and Arab Countries to be in conformity with the Trips Agreement.
- 2- Continuous training and up-grading of Police and Customs bodies.
- 3- Periodical review of the necessary measures to be adopted by the judicial and customs authorities, and promotion of the exchange of information and visits of local and international expertise.

Second: Settlement of Intellectual Property Disputes

- 1-Constant development of the administrative complaint committees to decrease volume of disputes coming to court.
- 2-Establishment of specialized courts to handle disputes related to Intellectual Property.
- 3-Expansion of professional training programs provided to junior judges and judicial staff acting in the field of Intellectual Property.
- 4-Organizing more training programs in the field of arbitration as a means of disputes settlement.

Third: Problems related to Intellectual Property Disputes in the field of Pharmaceutical industries in Developing Countries.

- 1-Abiding to a time oriented plan in order to make use of the drugs situation constantly placed under the public domain.
- 2-Promoting a mandatory medical insurance and health plan.

Fourth: Intellectual Property Rights Acquirement: Challenges and Development

- 1-Careful study of the various uses and applications of vital technology that would serve scientific research at no conflict with ethical and religious principles.
- 2-Abiding to scientific research ethics in biotechnology development in case of humans and animals.
- 3-Revision and up-grading of applicable legal provisions in order to cover future applications of informatics and communications.

Fifth: Transfer of Intellectual Property Rights as a means for Development.

- 1- Careful legal revision of the standard and common forms of licensing contracts in pharmaceutical fields in order to protect technology recipients from eventual abusive provisions.
- 2- Publications of informative booklets and periodicals indicating the restricted provisions (black provisions) and those which may trigger either damage or benefit (gray provisions) in order to avail developing countries making use of the advanced technology without negatively influencing a fair return to the technology provider.
- 3- Accessing constant information to negotiators of licensing contractors which would provide support to negotiators and awareness to recipients.

Sixth: Role of the NGO's in the implementation of Intellectual Property Protection Rights.

- 1- Total support to the vital role of the NGO's to create awareness of the intellectual property rights and their application.
- 2- Encourage NGO's to undertake constant training and scientific programs in cooperation with judicial and administrative authorities concerned with Intellectual Property Rights.
- 3- Encouragement of the cooperation between NGO's and their counterparts in other countries in order to update information and data in the field of implementing Intellectual Property Rights in view of the comparative law.

With a universal recognition of the clear success of these reforms, and challenges, President Mubarak in his message to the world in Cairo Economic Forum in February 1997, leaves no doubt where Egypt is heading.

The message is “ Egypt has joined the Global Economy and competes. Moreover, it shall play by its rules and share in the prosperity of the new world.

To conclude, I would like to bring forward that Egypt is now more open than ever before for E U partnership rather than E U- aid programs.

The main characteristics performance is now featuring commitment, regional cooperation, hard-work and engagement in globalization and international integration.

Thank You.