

IP, Innovation and Development

On day 2 of the [2012 Global Congress on Intellectual Property and the Public Interest](#), Open AIR's Dr. Tobias Schonwetter and [ICTSD's](#) Ahmed Abdel Latif co-chaired a session on IP, Innovation and Development. The [Open AIR project](#) was used as the starting point for the first part of the discussions. Among other things, Open AIR researchers shared and discussed some of their preliminary case study findings. While the Open AIR project already speaks to a large variety of [topical IP-related issues](#), it became evident that some issues could be explored more closely in the future. The IP, Innovation and Development session identified the following priority research areas and forums:

Priority Research and Analysis Needs:

1. the use of geographical indication (GI) protection in Africa;
2. implications of Bayh-Dole like legislation, such as the recent IPR from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act in South Africa;
3. evaluation of WIPO's development-agenda work; and
4. food security and plant variety protection laws.

The participants of the IP, Innovation and Development track felt, however, that the following needs to be taken into account when doing the aforementioned research:

- While global questions need to be asked, regional answers or debates are required, and a greater reflection on and representation of issues of the Global South are necessary.
- Research should be inter-disciplinary as IP law and policy is only one element of the innovation system.
- Researchers from LDCs should be involved when doing research on the Global South – most research in developing countries is still carried out by researchers in countries such as India, Brazil and South Africa.
- Research should be linked to capacity building activities and should take into account sustainability considerations.

Priority forums:

- WIPO and the WTO
- African IP institutions (ARIPO & OAPI)

Participants of the IP, Innovation and Development track of the Global Congress 2012 committed to the following activities for the upcoming year:

- be involved in organising the Global Congress in 2013 in Cape Town, South Africa;
- based on Open AIR findings:
 - publish working papers;
 - develop Policy and Business Briefs;
 - conduct Outreach Seminars to engage with stakeholders; and
- improve the sharing of our research and data.