



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

Department of Policy and Business Practices

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Intellectual property related activities in chambers of commerce

Organisation	: Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Country	: Mauritius
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1. General comments

Aware of the growing importance of intellectual property in trade and industry, the Chamber has begun early a sensitisation campaign on the importance of enforcing IP rights, targeting the business community and the public at large.

2. Communication Tools

What kind of communication tools concerning IP do you offer? Please elaborate.

a) On-line e.g. website

www.mcci.org

b) Hard copy publications (e.g. guides, newsletters)

Weekly newsletter, the "Chamber News"; bi-annual magazine, the "CCI Info";

c) Others

No

3. Training

Do you offer any training programs in the IP field? Please elaborate.

a) Seminars/ workshops

Training is offered mainly in the form of seminars and workshops.

A workshop in September 2005 focused on the dangers of counterfeiting and the means of dealing with this modern plague which costs the global business community around 2 to 3 billions Euros every year. The workshop was co-organised with the Economic Mission of the French Embassy in Mauritius. It was conducted by high-level experts of the Industrial Property Office and the French and Mauritian Customs Authorities, as well as representatives of famous trademarks such as Louis Vuitton and Lacoste.

The objective of the workshop was to sensitise and to convince the business community that it can reap tangible benefits from the proper management of its intellectual property.

This first workshop marked the beginning of other information sharing and awareness raising initiatives, namely through the organisation of, as well as participation in, other IP related seminars. The Chamber is also now doing the preliminary work for the setting up of a working group representing the rights of Mauritian trademark and IP rights owners.

Other workshops were held on specific themes such as branding and franchising.

b) On-line tutorials

No

c) Others

No

4. Consultancy/ Advisory Services

Do you offer any IP-consultancy services? This could include a helpline, legal/ financial/ commercial/consulting services etc. Are intellectual property aspects included in general commercial/business advice provided by your chamber?

The Chamber offers first hand information and advisory services on the subject of IP.

We process queries of all kinds on the subject, from how to register a trademark in Mauritius, to what the law provides for a case of IP infringement and how Customs can help.

5. Information gathering/ awareness raising

Do you conduct surveys or gather information about IP activities in any other way? Do you carry out any awareness raising activities? Please elaborate.

No

6. SME case studies

Do you publish case studies of SMEs who have actively used IP in their businesses? Can you provide us with any such case studies?

No

7. Facilitation of IP business opportunities

Do you provide any services to help businesses trade in IP eg IP business matchmaking, marketplaces etc?

In general, the facilitation of business matchmaking opportunities forms part of the functions of the Chamber, whether for IP or for other sectors.

8. Policy advocacy

Do you engage in policy advocacy in the IP field? Please provide details.

Through providing our comments and recommendations on draft IP laws, through articles, in consultations with government authorities and public-private sector committees.

9. Encouragement of innovation and IP asset development

Do you have any initiatives to encourage innovation or the development of IP assets e.g. awards, competitions, technology showcases etc?

The Chamber worked with the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council on its first edition of the Innovators Mauritius Award, a competition aimed at increasing IP awareness and innovation among the Mauritian business community and the public at large, which began in 2004.

10. Others

No

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We consent to the above information being posted on the ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) website.

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