

**Knowledge Sharing Session with Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO)  
on India's Patent Examination Practices and the Role of TKDL**

Date: 30th June 2025

Venue: Intellectual Property Office, Dwarka

**Introduction**

On 30th June 2025, a Knowledge Sharing Session was held at the Intellectual Property Office, Dwarka, between representatives of the Indian Intellectual Property Office and a visiting delegation from the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO). The session focused on India's patent examination practices and the role of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) in safeguarding and utilizing India's traditional knowledge (TK) for defensive protection in the IP system.

Indian delegation:

- 1) Prof. (Dr.) Unnat P. Pandit, Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (CGPDTM)
- 2) Ms. Anita Jadav (Deputy Controller of Patents and Designs),
- 3) Dr. Sunil Kumar (Assistant Controller of Patents and Designs),
- 4) Ms. Shally Choudhary (Examiner of Patents and Designs),
- 5) Ms. Suchetana Bhattacharyya (Examiner of Patents and Designs),
- 6) Ms. Mehak (Examiner of Patents and Designs).

Malaysian delegation:

- 1) Mr. Mohd Sukri Bin Mohd Nor, Head of the Phytochemistry and Traditional Knowledge Unit, MyIPO.
- 2) Ms. Suraya Binti Mohamad @ Ahmad, Director of the Patent Science and Traditional Knowledge Division, MyIPO.

**Opening and Welcome Remarks**

The session commenced with Prof. (Dr.) Unnat P. Pandit warmly welcoming the Malaysian delegation and felicitating the two distinguished representatives from MyIPO. The interaction set the tone for a collaborative and enriching discussion on India's experience in integrating traditional knowledge with modern IP practices.



**Background and Evolution of the TKDL**

Speaker: Ms. Anita Jadav, Deputy Controller of Patents and Designs

Ms. Anita Jadav initiated the session by presenting the background and evolution of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL). She highlighted the diverse forms of Traditional

Knowledge in India, including medicinal practices, agricultural knowledge, yoga, and more. India recognized the urgent need to document and protect its traditional knowledge in the wake of biopiracy instances, such as:

- Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) – Wound healing patent granted in the US and later revoked.
- Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) – Bio-pesticide patent case (1995–2006).
- Basmati Rice (*Oryza sativa*) – Controversial geographical indication and patenting disputes.

These cases underscored the vulnerability of undocumented traditional knowledge and prompted the conceptualization of the TKDL. The TKDL was developed to overcome linguistic and format barriers by systematically translating ancient knowledge into patent-compatible formats. Ms. Jadav elaborated on the aim of TKDL: to prevent the misappropriation of traditional knowledge by ensuring that patent examiners worldwide have access to prior art information contained in ancient texts. The TKDL's multilingual platform and structured format make it an effective defensive tool.

### **Key Features of the TKDL with Case Examples**

Speaker: Dr. Sunil Kumar, Assistant Controller of Patents and Designs

Dr. Sunil Kumar explained the Traditional Knowledge Resource Classification (TKRC) system, a structured taxonomy modeled on the International Patent Classification (IPC) system. He provided a detailed overview of:

- The structure of TKRC
- Coding system used for different traditional practices
- Mapping of traditional formulations with relevant IPC codes

He further explained TKDL's functionality, such as Keyword Help, IPC Help, Disease Help, and Advanced Search, which help patent examiners locate relevant prior art efficiently. Case examples were provided to demonstrate how the TKDL had been used successfully to oppose patents based on traditional knowledge, ensuring that illegitimate claims were either withdrawn or rejected during the examination stage.



## **Accessing TKDL and Real-Time Case Studies**

Speaker: Ms. Shally Choudhary, Examiner of Patents and Designs

Ms. Shally Choudhary gave a live demonstration of the TKDL search functionalities and interface. Using real-time case studies, she showcased how examiners can utilize TKDL to identify prior art relevant to traditional formulations and treatments.

Through these examples, the Malaysian delegation gained insights into:

- How TKDL bridges the gap between traditional knowledge and modern patent examination systems.
- The role of examiners in utilizing TKDL to prevent the grant of patents on prior-known knowledge.
- The user-friendliness and accessibility of the TKDL platform for international stakeholders

## **Conclusion and Way Forward**

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, where the Malaysian delegation expressed appreciation for India's pioneering work in documenting and protecting traditional knowledge. They acknowledged the importance of incorporating similar initiatives within their national IP systems to combat bio piracy and promote the fair use of indigenous knowledge.

Both sides agreed on the value of continued collaboration and capacity-building exercises in the domain of traditional knowledge and patent examination practices.



[End of the Document]