



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: BALLB/BBALLB/LLB

SEMESTER SUBJECT:

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

SUBJECT CODE:

BALLB808/BBALLB808/LLB 604

NAME OF FACULTY: PANKHURI SRIVASTAVA

Lecture-9



LECTURE 9: INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS: WIPO

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), international organization designed to promote the worldwide protection of both industrial property (inventions, trademarks, and designs) and copyrighted materials (literary, musical, photographic, and other artistic works). The organization, established by a convention signed in Stockholm in 1967, began operations in 1970 and became a specialized agency of the United Nations in December 1974. It is headquartered in Geneva.

The origins of WIPO can be traced to 1883, when 14 countries signed the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, which created intellectual-property protections for inventions, trademarks, and industrial designs. The convention helped inventors gain protection for their works outside their native countries. In 1886 the Berne Convention required member countries to provide automatic protection for works that were produced in other member countries. The two organizations, which had established separate secretariats to enforce their respective treaties, merged in 1893 to become the United International Bureau for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIRPI), which was based in Bern, Switzerland. In 1960 BIRPI moved its headquarters to Geneva. The aims of WIPO are twofold. First, through international cooperation, WIPO promotes the protection of intellectual property. The organization now administers more than 20 intellectual-property treaties. Second, WIPO supervises administrative cooperation between the Paris, Berne, and other intellectual unions regarding agreements on trademarks, patents, and the protection of artistic and literary works. WIPO's role in enforcing intellectual-property protections increased in the mid 1990s, when it signed a cooperation agreement with the World Trade Organization. As electronic commerce grew through the development of the Internet, WIPO was charged with helping to resolve disputes over the use of Internet domain names.

WIPO's membership consists of more than 180 countries. Its main policy-making body is the General Assembly, which convenes every two years. WIPO also holds a biennial conference, which determines the organization's budget and programs. More than 170 nongovernmental organizations maintain observer status.