



## **TIP's *Giving Back* Program**

# **Building Capacity in Innovation Management in Tanzania**

March 2010

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In March 2010, The Innovation Partnership (TIP) held a capacity building initiative in Tanzania, co-sponsored by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), on intellectual property management and technology transfer in the university and institutional research setting.

This program was TIP's second Giving Back initiative, a self-funded program aimed at helping underserved communities around the world improve their understanding, use, and management of intellectual property policies. Our approach to building capacity with respect to intellectual property involves working in partnership with communities, on their terms, and on those subjects that they choose. By educating our partnering communities about the relative advantages and disadvantages of pursuing different strategies we aim to build decision-making capacity in a way that is tailored to meet our partners' particular needs and sensitive to varying economic and cultural realities.

TIP experts Barbara Campbell and Tania Bubela travelled to Tanzania to carry out this initiative. Barbara Campbell, the Associate Director of the Industry Liaison and Innovation Office (ILI) at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS, is an expert in research facilitation and technology transfer. Tania Bubela, a professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the School of Public Health and adjunct professor in the School of Business at the University of Alberta, is an expert in intellectual property and health law. They spent one week in Tanzania, hosted by COSTECH, during which they conducted a two-day interactive workshop with approximately 35 participants from COSTECH, government ministries, and research institutions. The workshop was followed by a presentation on similar issues at the Ikafara Health Institute and a small group session with COSTECH technology transfer professionals.



## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

First, approximately 35 participants from COSTECH, government ministries, and research institutions attended an interactive two-day workshop hosted by COSTECH on intellectual property management and technology transfer in the university and institutional research setting.

The topics covered included a policy overview and policy levers for stimulating innovation and university and institutional technology transfer; fostering a culture of entrepreneurship in research settings; organizational structures for technology transfer; the practical experience of running a technology transfer office with case studies; managing research relationships; an introduction to intellectual property management agreements and contracts; working with template agreements for collaborative research and technology transfer; and specific agreements on access and benefit sharing, global access licensing, and databases.

Second, at the request of one of the workshop participants, a shortened version of the workshop on key issues confronting researchers and database managers was prepared and delivered at the Dar es Salaam offices of the Ikafara Health Institute.

Third, both TIP experts worked one-on-one with technology transfer professionals from COSTECH to provide them with additional support and information on technology transfer practice and policy, and to provide support for continued training sessions conducted by COSTECH staff (“training the trainers”). Future potential collaborations between TIP and COSTECH were also discussed.



## **CONCLUSION**

The response to the workshop was very positive and we were enthusiastic about the support we received from Dr. Hassan Mshinda, the Director General of COSTECH for continued partnership with TIP.

As a follow-up to this initiative TIP is seeking funds, jointly with COSTECH, for a follow-up visit. Our goal is to work with our partners in Tanzania to develop and implement further training sessions on various topics in the field of innovation, including the managing and negotiating of collaborative research and its outputs; to offer assistance in developing and modifying sample agreements used in the research context; to assist in the development of science and technology related policies such as research licensing and permitting policies, institutional overhead policies and intellectual property policies; to continue building the network of technology transfer professionals and research managers in East Africa in conjunction with TIP's experts located in the region; to develop a mentoring program where research managers from Tanzania gain practical experience in a Canadian or established regional technology transfer office; and lastly, to implement an "expert in residence" program where a TIP expert spends some time in Tanzania in order to offer more "issue-specific" training. This program would provide advanced expertise in areas such as technology assessment.

TIP expert, Barbara Campbell (along with other experts as necessary) has committed to a skype session once a month, hosted at COSTECH offices, to address specific issues of interest to research institutes in Tanzania. Such regular contact will ensure that the capacity we are building in the region continues in the long-term.

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