

IPO sets up Facilitation desk for Lahore Businessmen

Intellectual Property Facilitation Desk has been set up at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) to facilitate business community for registration of their Trademarks, Patents, Copyright and other related IP rights. Chairman Intellectual Property Organisation (IPO) Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi, LCCI President Irfan Qaiser Sheikh and Director General IPO Sajjad Ahmed Bhutta jointly inaugurated the Facilitation Desk on Thursday besides a one-day training seminar on “Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights. LCCI Senior Vice President Kashif Younis Meher & former President Senator Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry and Chairman SDC Rehmatullah Javed also spoke on the occasion. Speaking at the seminar, the Chairman underlined the need for training and capacity building activities for the stakeholders especially for partners of enforcement agencies so that they could be able to implement the relevant laws and procedures accordingly. He said socio-economic development is directly linked with the opening of economic avenues and we can attract local as well as foreign investment by giving protection of IP rights in the country. Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi informed the participants that a special emphasis was being laid on expansion of training facilities and with the cooperation of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) special foreign training programmes for stakeholders are also being implemented. Similarly, the automation of IP Registries is also in progress and land mark of digitize publication of Trademark Journal has been achieved which helped to accelerate the process of Trade Marks registration. The Chairman said that besides in-house capacity building and infrastructure development IP facilitation desks are also being set up in the offices of partner organizations. He said that IPO-Pakistan has start awareness programmes with public private partnership to motivate the owners of Trademarks and Patents to get their intellectual rights registered and avail the benefits of legal business ownerships. He asked the business community to join hands with IPO-Pakistan for making efforts to flourish legal business practices in Pakistan and expanding employment opportunities. Speaking on the occasion, the LCCI President Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said that there can be no second opinion to this fact that the Intellectual Property (IP) is critical for competitive economy in the backdrop of ongoing globalization. The new concept of IP based nation is gaining ground because it is Intellectual Property which enables technology creation and technology transfer by providing the necessary enabling environment.

He said that better knowledge and clear understanding of these concepts can lead us to that stage where we can develop genuine businesses in the country which are fully competitive in international market. Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry firmly believes in developing and strengthening public private partnership and hope that by means of collaboration between LCCI and IPO Pakistan, the Facilitation Desk will greatly contribute to serve the main purpose of motivating the business community towards these modern practices. The LCCI Senior Vice President Kashif Younis Meher said that the Intellectual Property Organisation (IPO) was doing a great national service by strengthening the hands of genuine businessmen. He said that country needs to have more and more brands to get due space at the international market and the IPO role to this regard is very

critical. The Director General IPO-Pakistan Sajjad Ahmad Bhutta briefed about various projects started in all the offices of the IPO and said that close coordination would be maintained with the stakeholders for promotion of Intellectual Property rights in the country.

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