

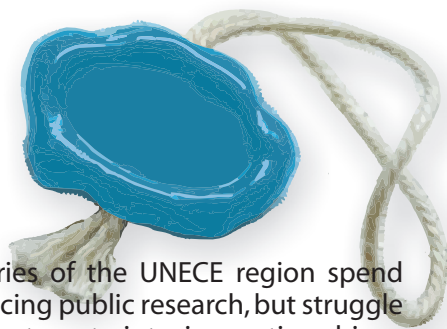


United Nations

# UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 383 — 26-30 July 2010



## **THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IS KEY FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Every year, the countries of the UNECE region spend billions of dollars financing public research, but struggle to translate these investments into innovation-driven economic growth, in part because universities and businesses don't always understand how to protect and exploit the intellectual property generated through public research.

Every year, counterfeit and pirated goods cause billions of dollars worth of damage to UNECE economies, in part because consumers and law enforcement agencies see intellectual property theft as a minor problem.

It is therefore important to raise awareness about the key role which intellectual property rights can play in driving innovation and about how wide-spread intellectual property theft can undermine this process.

This is one of the key messages sent by some 70 international experts who gathered in Geneva on 8-9 July for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property. Over two days, representatives of 25 countries, the business community, academics and international organizations discussed problems of international cooperation in promoting

intellectual property for innovation and intellectual property enforcement.

In his keynote speech, Mark Anderson of Dolby Laboratories remarked that his company often refrained from commercializing technologies resulting from university research because the researchers fail to protect the underlying intellectual property properly. "In every sort of engagement with a university or with a small company we take some risk that the knowledge transfer was not done appropriately," he said.

Speaking on the need to curb intellectual property theft, Hansueli Stamm of the Swiss Institute for Intellectual Property explained that "measures should not only address the supply-side of the problem. It is crucial that we educate consumers to refrain from buying fakes in the first place."

In addition to awareness raising, the meeting also discussed problems of enlisting shipping companies in the fight against counterfeits, how to deal with counterfeits in transit, and intellectual property management in cross-border research and development cooperation. □

*For more information, please visit:*  
[http://www.unece.org/ceci/ppt\\_presentations/2010/ip/presentationip10.html](http://www.unece.org/ceci/ppt_presentations/2010/ip/presentationip10.html)  
*or contact Ralph Heinrich at:*  
[ralph.heinrich@unece.org](mailto:ralph.heinrich@unece.org).

## **INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON RENEWABLE ENERGY PROSPECTS IN CIS MINSK, 22-23 JULY**

Representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) gathered in Minsk, Belarus, on 22-23 July to share their experience in the use of renewable energy sources and discuss prospects for interregional cooperation. The workshop was organized by





UNECE, in cooperation with the Energy Effectiveness Department of the State Standardization Committee and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Minsk.

Currently, renewable energy sources make up only a small percentage of primary energy consumption in this region, because of the availability of cheaper fossil fuels, regulatory uncertainty and artificially low electric power and heat tariffs.

However, promoting renewable energy sources would increase energy security, widen the population's access to electricity and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As the countries in the region face similar obstacles to the realization of these goals, participants discussed a joint strategy for the development of the renewable energy sector in the Russian Federation and CIS countries.

The workshop also included visits to a hydropower plant in Minsk's district Chizhovka, a wood-fired boiler house in the town of Borovlyany, and a renewable energy sources area of the A.D. Sakharov International State Ecological University in the town of Volma. □

*For more information please contact Adam Sek at: [adam.sek@unece.org](mailto:adam.sek@unece.org).*

## **UNECE STAFF VISIT HYDRO-POWER INSTALLATION IN VALAIS**



Members of the UNECE secretariat visited the hydro-power installation of Hydro-Soi SA in Val d'Illeiez (Valais) on 10 July 2010 to learn about a local application of a renewable energy technology.

Mr. Hubert Perrin of Hydro-Soi SA described the history and technical features of the project, which includes an old concession for a small hydro-turbine on the Torrent de Soi. The plant produces 2 to 2.5 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year; enough for 600 households.

Mr. Perrin summarized the steps Hydro-Soi SA took to make the initial water flow measurements, identify the technology for the project, determine the site for the turbine, connect it to the power grid, respond to environmental concerns, seek permits and approvals and maintain the power station in operation. The project is a good example of how clean energy technologies can be applied in line with Swiss Federal and Cantonal energy policy.

Mr. Frederic Romig, Director of the Sustainable Energy Division, outlined UNECE's work to promote the formation of a market for clean energy technologies in the Russian Federation and the Confederation of Independent States. He noted the value of understanding how lessons learned from local solutions in one country could be applied to similar problems in others. □

