

PIUG 2014 Annual Conference Workshop

IP in Africa - Shedding Light on the "Dark Continent"

Time and location

Saturday, April 26: 8:00am – noon in Garden 4 meeting room

Abstract

In economic terms, Africa is coming awake. Despite political difficulties, the continent has the potential to grow enormously in the next decade, fuelled by reserves of oil, gold and strategic minerals, as well as being a major supplier of agricultural commodities. The IP regimes in Africa are largely TRIPS-compliant on paper, and are beginning to develop in order to better serve local industry as well as international applicants. This workshop will attempt to review the patenting procedures for African countries, the current state of coverage of patent information from the 54 sovereign states on the continent, and provide a survey as to what patent offices themselves are starting to make available to the general public.

Presenter

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Stephen Adams completed a B.Sc. degree in Chemistry at the University of Bristol, UK, followed by an M.Sc. in Information Science from The City University, London, UK. For a number of years, he worked as a technical information searcher in the field of food science at the UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. Following a period as editor of "International Packaging Abstracts" at Pira International, he moved to ICI Agrochemicals (later Zeneca Agrochemicals) to become their principal patent searcher in 1988. He founded Magister Limited in 1997.

Stephen served as the first non-US "Director at Large" for the Patent Information Users Group (PIUG Inc) between 2002 and 2006. He received a Special Recognition Award from the PIUG in May 2008. The citation recorded that this was in Recognition of:

- Stephen's Tireless Service to PIUG,
- Ten Years of Excellent Patent Searching Workshops,
- Membership of the PIUG Board of Directors 2002 to 2006,
- Having been voted Favorite Speaker Countless Times

Stephen is a member of the Association of Independent Information Professionals ([AIIP](#)) and is on the editorial board of [World Patent Information](#), The International Journal for Industrial Property Documentation, Information, Classification and Statistics.