



Dissemination of Information-Technical Cooperation Activities July 2011 General Distribution

Dear [ECONMED](#) participants:

On this occasion we are glad to share a short summary and the recording the virtual training session on *Patents and access to information tools, instruments and strategies from a public health perspective* held last June 21st.

After a brief introduction on the impact of patents on areas of public health closely related to the promotion of access to health technologies such as procurement and innovation, it was highlighted those elements of the [Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property](#) (implemented in the Americas through the [Regional Perspective](#)) that called upon States, international organizations and other stakeholders to facilitate a closer cooperation in order to ensure greater access to health technologies and stimulate medical innovation driven by the needs of the majorities. Upon this demand, recent examples of trilateral cooperation between the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), the World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)) and the World Intellectual Property Organization ([WIPO](#)) were identified, specifically two joint technical seminars held on July 2010, [Access to Medicines: Prices and procurement practices](#) and February 2011, [Access to medicines: patent information and freedom to operate](#)

We appreciate the participation of the various speakers who contributed:

- Claudia Chamas from [FIOCRUZ](#) who, as co-chair of the Consultative Group of Experts on Financing for Development ([CEWG](#)) explained the formation of the group and the tasks that have been proposed for its second meeting to be held these days in Geneva, following the submission of a number of [additional proposals](#).
- Esteban Barrone at the [Medicines Patent Pool](#) who offered a detailed account of both the origin of the patent pool as its subsequent evolution and operational consolidation (an analysis of the process by Dr Ellen`T Hoen available [here](#)). He illustrated through practical demonstration the use and possibilities of the [patents Locator](#) launched by the organization since April this year.
- Amir Tahir responsible of [I-MAK](#) developed his talk on three axes: the importance of transparency in the approval / extension of patents, the notion patent quality in connection with the work that his organization develops in oppositions/ appeals to grant / extension of patents, concluding with a set of suggestions about how to improve both elements for the promotion of public health (a more detailed presentation by Mr.Tahir is available [here](#)). It is worthy to highlight the publication [How to Conduct patent searches for medicines A step-by-step guide](#) developed by [I-MAK](#) for [WHO](#) South East Asia ([SEARO](#)) and Western Pacific ([WPRO](#)) regional offices.

Link to access the recording of the session:

<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/launch/play.jnlp?sid=1110&psid=2011-06-21.0728.M.399298597B8EFF0C2D865FF2DC2BE1.vcr>

ECONMED counts on the contribution (through requests of information, sharing of best practices, dissemination materials of interest ...) of its participants to keep building up collaborative spaces of work between public health professionals in the Americas. You can submit your communications on any topic related to the legal and economic regulation of pharmaceutical products for approval to econmed@listserv.paho.org



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