

PATENT SPECIAL REPORT



On Monday 3 September, a joint launch of the Innovation Fund's special report 2007 entitled "The state of patenting in South Africa" and the MIHR and PIPRA's IP Handbook was held in Melrose Arch in Johannesburg.

McLean Sibanda of the Innovation Fund launched the special report and commented on the patenting landscape over the last 15 years in South Africa with a special emphasis on publicly funded science and technology research institutions.

The conclusions of this report are that there is a low patenting rate in South Africa in general and especially among publicly funded institutions. Private companies lead by example in that they have a portfolio approach to intellectual property protection.

The full report is available at

<http://www.innovationfund.ac.za/patentsite/news/IF%20Patent%20Book.pdf>

The keynote address was delivered by Professor Anatole Krattiger who was also in South Africa to promote the IP Handbook. The book was published as a non-profit initiative under the auspices of MIHR (Centre for the Management of Intellectual Property in Health Research and Development, Oxford Centre for Innovation) and PIPRA (The Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture, University of California).

The IP Handbook deals with current IP management issues including marketing and licensing and is aimed at industry role players including policy makers, technology transfer professionals, licensing executives, and scientists. Four of the authors of the IP Handbook are South African scientists and there are also various South Africans involved on the editorial board.

More information as well as a free download of the book may be found at <http://www.iphandbook.org/>

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