



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ATTN: News Editor

**Online Services Initiatives at Intellectual Property Office of
Trinidad and Tobago**

The Intellectual Property Office of Trinidad and Tobago (TTIPO), a department of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, announces its online services initiatives. As the world's technology continues to progress at a rapid pace, the Intellectual Property Office of Trinidad and Tobago will keep apace by launching several online services throughout the course of 2018.

In collaboration with the Swiss based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), TTIPO hosted an Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS) Mission in Port of Spain on April 19th and 20th, 2018. This mission is instrumental in plotting the course forward towards a more modern intellectual property office. During the mission, there will be a stakeholder meeting where TTIPO, along with Mr. Adel Baccouche, Project Manager, IP Office Business Solutions Division, WIPO, will present the online services initiatives for the upcoming year. Key areas that will be discussed are electronic communications, electronic publications and online filing.

The first phase of the process will be to establish electronic communications for outgoing correspondence for intellectual property matters. Office documents that are currently mailed or collected at TTIPO will soon be distributed via e-mail. This is a significant step towards TTIPO's long term goal of achieving a paperless office.

WIPO has a tremendous role to play in TTIPO's goal of a modern intellectual property office. IPAS, the system used by TTIPO to receive and process all incoming intellectual property applications and corresponding documents, is provided by WIPO. They have also developed several tools to work simultaneously with IPAS. Some of these tools are WIPO Publish, which facilitates electronic publication and WIPO File, which allows for online filing for local agents. TTIPO will continue its collaborative effort with WIPO in deploying these new tools in the upcoming year.

TTIPO will also be working towards the decentralization of its intellectual property services in the near future. This will be achieved through collaboration with the National Information and Communication Technology Company Limited (iGovTT) through its TTConnect unit and the use of its various channels including its seven service centers through Trinidad and Tobago. A Memorandum of Understanding, documenting the operational details of the relationship between the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs and iGovTT will soon be finalized by both parties.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.ipo.gov.tt>

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Pictured above (L-R): Mr. Richard Aching, Manager Technical Examination, Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs; Mr. Regan Asgarali, Controller, Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs; Mr. Adel Baccouche, Project Manager, IP Office Business Solutions Division, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Mr. Zafir Ali, Information Systems Specialist, Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs

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Dated: April 20th 2018