

CURRENT STATE OF IPR TEACHING AND LEARNING IN SINGAPORE

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Overview

- **Backdrop**
- **Intellectual Property Education in the Singapore Universities**
- **Factors to Consider in Teaching Intellectual Property in the Universities**

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Backdrop

- Importance of Intellectual Property
- The InfoComm21 Masterplan & E-Government initiatives
- Aspirations to develop into an info-comm and biotechnology hub *par excellence*

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Intellectual Property Education in the Singapore Universities

- Courses offered by the Nanyang Technological University
- Courses offered by the National University of Singapore

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Courses offered by the Nanyang Technological University

- Undergraduate Courses
- Postgraduate Courses
- Professional Courses

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Undergraduate Courses

- Law of Information & Technology
- Business Law
- Principles of Law
- Law & International Business

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Law of Information & Technology

- New elective course offered in early 2002
- Strong intellectual property bent
- Fluid course syllabus
- Lecture and seminar format:
  - Assessment based on projects and written assignments, class participation and an open-book examination
- Completion of a basic law course (such as Business Law or Principles of Law is a pre-requisite)

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Law of Information & Technology: Course Description

- "The knowledge-based economy is underpinned by laws which protect information assets, shapes transactions and provides security for the various interests of parties to electronic transactions. Critical concerns include: protection of intellectual property (inventions, trade secrets, designs, copyright creations, etc), validation and protection of electronic contracts and payments, data security and personal privacy, cyber-crimes, etc. In turn, technologies can challenge and undermine legal rights as well as be used to uphold them. An appreciation of the relationship between law and technology, then, is essential to understanding how businesses work in the knowledge-based economy. The approaches to the subject will be both practical and critical. It will have three major parts: (1) Intellectual Property & the Knowledge Based Economy; (2) Critical Issues in Technology; and (3) Legal Issues for E-businesses."

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Law of Information & Technology: List of Topics

- Please see Appendix A

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Other undergraduate courses

- Business Law
- Principles of Law
- Law and International Business

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Postgraduate Courses

- Management of Intellectual Property Rights (Nanyang MBA Program)
- E-Business: Law, Policy & Strategy (Nanyang MBA Program)

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Management of IP Rights: Course Description

- "Ideas, inventions, information, and the assurances generated by business goodwill and reputation are the critical assets in the modern knowledge-based economy. The law of intellectual property rights determines how, and if, these may be projected and controlled and used. This course is intended to introduce participants to the main principles and features of the key types of intellectual property rights which are internationally protected – patents and trade secrets, copyright and design protection and trademarks and passing off – drawing on international conventions like TRIPs and examples from jurisdictions like the US, EU and others. Although some selected issues will be pursued in depth, the focus is not detailed legal rules but rather the broad principles and their implications for business strategies and social policy. The seminars will be designed to be highly flexible and participatory; and the assessment will be based partly on participation and coursework as well as an open book examination."

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Management of IP Rights: List of Topics

- Please see Appendix B

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E-Business: Law, Policy & Strategy: Course Description

- "This course is designed to prepare the participant to know how to strategically manage an online business in response to the growing body of new domestic, regional and global legal principles and public policies and their impact on online businesses. Each participant will be required to adopt a specific e-organisation and industry which will be the base on for all the research, presentation and project writing to be carried out. By being organisationally specific, participants will discover the practical issues and difficulties as well as also learn how to make informed decisions on the strategic choices to balance their business objectives with the inherent online risks that are not adequately regulated. The course will also investigate how national and international Internet infrastructures can benefit as well as affect existing business models. The curriculum includes the germane issues of strategy, law and policy raised by the fast changing technologies. Some examples of the legal issues covered will include problems of jurisdiction, online liability, electronic contracting, intellectual property protection, privacy issues, crime and content control."

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E-Business: Law, Policy & Strategy: List of Topics

- Please see Appendix C

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Professional Courses

- Mostly on an ad hoc basis
- Attendees are primarily for practitioners, government officials, researchers and businessmen
- Done via the university's Centre for Continuing Education or through private consultancy firms or conference and course organizers

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Courses offered by the National University of Singapore

- Law of Intellectual Property
- Biotechnology Law
- Series of Information Technology Law courses:
  - Information Technology 1: IP Issues in Technology
  - Information Technology 2: Legal Issues in Electronic Commerce
  - Information Technology 3: Internet Law, Policy & Technology
- Graduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law

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Factors to Consider in Teaching IP in the Universities

- Intellectual Property Teaching Programs
- Selecting Intellectual Property Courses
- Choosing Teaching Materials and Writing a Syllabus
- Teaching Methods and Educational Strategies
- Role of Professors in the Legislative Process
- Research Institutes for Intellectual Property Law

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Intellectual Property Teaching Programs

- Types of Intellectual Property Programs
- Intellectual Property Faculty
- The Teaching of Intellectual Property in Developing Countries

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Selecting Intellectual Property Courses

- Survey Courses
- Specialized Courses
- Advanced Seminars
- Practical Courses

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Choosing Teaching Materials and Writing a Syllabus

- General Comments
- Choosing Materials for Particular Courses
- Teaching Materials in Developing Countries

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Teaching Methods and Educational Strategies

- Methods of Teaching
- Encouraging Student Involvement

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Role of Professors in the Legislative Process

- Lack of expertise in relevant government bodies in many developing countries
- Need for law professors and legal practitioners to prepare and review legislation
- Need to widen circle and undertake comparative studies
- WIPO's efforts

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Research Institutes for Intellectual Property Law

- Need for such centres
- Some notable examples:
  - International Intellectual Property Training Institute (IIPTI) in Daeduk, South Korea
  - Law Center at the University of the Philippines
  - Intellectual Property Center in China
  - Max-Planck Institute for Foreign and International Patent, Copyright and Competition Law
  - Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute
  - Franklin Pierce Law Center
  - Center for Intellectual Property Law at the John Marshall Law School
  - Canadian Intellectual Property Institute
  - Center for Intellectual Property Law in Belgium
  - IP Academy, Singapore

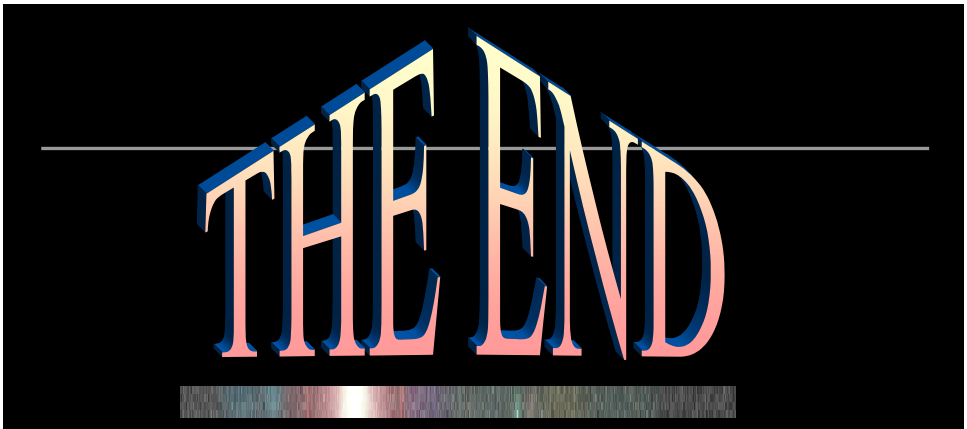
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Conclusion

- Need for support to universities, institutions and research centers that seek to promote, disseminate information and further research in the field of intellectual property
- Collaborative effort required and countries should continue to avail themselves of the broad range of materials WIPO makes available and its expertise in IP education and training
- THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

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