



Government of Nepal  
**Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies**

## **Concept Note**

### **WTO NATIONAL SEMINAR ON AGREEMENT ON TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (TRIPS) AND CONTEMPORARY POLICY ISSUES**

#### **1. Introduction**

The WTO National Seminar will focus on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and its implications for policy development, particularly for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and those approaching LDC graduation. The TRIPS Agreement sets international standards for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs), covering patents, copyrights, trademarks, and other IP areas. It aims to balance the rights of IP holders with the need for access to essential goods and technologies.

For LDCs, the TRIPS Agreement presents both opportunities and challenges. While it provides a framework for improving IP protection and fostering innovation, it also imposes obligations that may strain the resources and capacities of these countries. The transition from LDC status to a developing country status involves increased compliance with TRIPS provisions, which can impact national policies on public health, technology transfer, and industrial development. The seminar will address these dynamics, exploring how LDCs can navigate the challenges of TRIPS obligations and leverage them for sustainable development, particularly in areas such as climate change adaptation technologies. The workshop will feature expert lectures, interactive discussions, and case studies to help officials better understand and implement TRIPS in the context of their specific national challenges and opportunities.

#### **2. Objectives**

The major objectives of the National Seminar are listed below:

1. To improve government officials' capacity to analyze policy choices related to TRIPS.
2. To address multidisciplinary issues and foster effective domestic coordination in implementing TRIPS.
3. To enhance understanding of policy issues concerning public health and technology transfer.
4. To examine challenges and lessons learned from technology transfer, including climate change and adaptation technologies.
5. To provide a platform for interactive discussions and knowledge sharing among participants.

#### **3. Expected Outcomes**

- i. Enhanced ability of government officials to implement and navigate the TRIPS Agreement.
- ii. Improved understanding of the intersection between TRIPS and policy areas such as public health and technology transfer.

- iii. Greater insight into challenges and best practices related to technology transfer and adaptation technologies.
- iv. Strengthened coordination and policy analysis capacities among officials involved in IPR-related issues.

#### **4. Audience**

The seminar will include approximately 25 officials from key government entities, including:

- Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies (MoICS)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD)
- Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)
- Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MOCTCA)
- Department of Industry (DOI)
- Department of Customs (DOC)
- Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre (PQPMC)
- Nepal Copyright Registrar's Office (NCRO)
- Nepal Police

#### **5. Key Output**

The expected results of the National Seminar are as follows:

- i. Enhanced implementation of WTO Agreements by government officials.
- ii. Improved understanding of members' rights and obligations under the TRIPS Agreements.

#### **6. Date and Venue**

The National Seminar (Three Days) will be organized by Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies with the support of World Trade Organization and EU Nepal Trade and Investment Programme on last week of November, 2024. The venue of the programme will be inside Kathmandu Valley to be determined later.

## 7. Proposed Programme Schedule

Day 1	
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Registration of Participants and Administrative Briefing</i>
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Opening Session led by MoICS and WTO</b> <i>Key remarks: TBC</i>
10:00 - 10:30	Introduction of Participants & Ice breaker
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Group Photo and Coffee Break</i>
11:00 – 11:45	<b>Technical Refresher: Basic principles of the TRIPS Agreement</b> <i>Speaker: TBC, WTO</i>
11:45 – 12:00	Discussion
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:45	<b>Patents, undisclosed information and Trade Secrets under TRIPS agreement</b> <i>Speaker: TBC, WTO</i> <i>TBC</i>
14:45- 15:00	Discussion
15:00– 16:00	<b>Trademark and Design under TRIPS agreement</b> <i>Speaker: TBC, WTO</i>
16:00-16:10	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:10 – 17:00	<b>Traditional Knowledge, plant variety under TRIPS agreement</b> <i>Speaker: TBC, WTO</i> <i>Speaker: TBC, MoICS</i>
17:00 – 17:15	Recap led by participants

## Day 2

09:00 – 10:15	<b>Geographical Indication (G.I) and relevance for Nepal</b> <i>Speaker: TBC</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Discussion
10:30 – 11:30	<b>Group work exercise on prospects and best practices in G.I</b> <i>TBC, WTO</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Discussion
11:45- 12:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
12:00 – 1:30	<b>TRIPS and Notification provisions including exercise</b> <i>Speakers: WTO</i>
1:30 – 2:00	Discussion and Q&A
2:00 – 3:00	<i>Lunch</i>

## Day 3

09:00 – 10:00	<b>Technology Transfer- sharing of <i>country experiences</i></b>
10:00 – 10:15	Discussion
10:15 – 11:30	<b>Copyrights and related rights under TRIPS agreement</b> <i>Speaker: TBC, WTO</i>
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45 – 12:30	<b>TRIPS and Post LDC graduation</b> <i>Speaker: TBC, WTO</i>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>

14:00 – 14:45	<i>Speaker: TBC, WTO</i>
14:45 – 15:00	<i>Discussion</i>
15:00 – 15:45	<b>Evaluation and Lessons Learnt from the Workshop</b> <i>Speakers: TBC, WTO</i>
15:45 – 17:00	<b>Closing of Workshop</b>

*Note: The content and timing of the programme is subject to change under the discretion of MoICS in consultation with WTO/ITTC*

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