



# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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## WIPO/WTO 2018 ADVANCED COURSE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

GENEVA, 12-23 MARCH 2018

### INVITATION TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES

Your Government is invited to nominate candidates for possible selection as participants in the 2018 session of the WIPO/WTO Advanced Course on Intellectual Property for Government Officials. Jointly organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Advanced Course will take place in Geneva from 12-23 March 2018.

#### Background on the Advanced Course

The Advanced Course is multidisciplinary in character, and is open to capital-based officials currently working on legal and policy issues touching on intellectual property (IP).

The main objective of the course is to update government officials in developing Members and Observers and countries with economies in transition on the activities and instruments of WIPO and the WTO, and to provide a forum for them to exchange information and ideas with the two Secretariats and with a range of policymakers and organizations based in Geneva. This course forms part of an overall strategy to build self-sufficient capacity of governments within developing Members and Observers and countries with economies in transition to assess and analyse their policy options and to strengthen national expertise in relation to intellectual property. The emphasis will be on recent developments and policy issues, including those currently under debate in the two Organizations and in other international organizations.

As an Advanced Course, it is designed for officials who already have a strong background in IP matters, including the international legal and policy dimensions. This programme is not suitable as an introductory course for those who do not already have a strong background in IP law and policy, and nominees without the requisite background in IP cannot be considered.

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Suitably qualified candidates selected for the course from developing Members and Observers and countries with economies in transition are fully funded. The course is also open to a limited number of capital-based officials from developed countries who participate at their own expense.

..... A copy of the draft programme is attached (Attachment A). The working language will be English.

**Eligibility and selection**

Thirty (30) places are available for allocation to a selection of applicants from developing Members and Observers and countries with economies in transition.

To be considered for possible selection, applicants must:

- be a senior government official responsible for intellectual property and related policy issues in his/her country;
- have completed the WTO on-line e-Training TRIPS course or possess proven commensurate knowledge or professional experience;
- demonstrate an extensive practical background in intellectual property law, policy and practice; and
- possess an excellent knowledge of English.

For past sessions of this course, many more eligible applications have been received than there are places available. Applicants should be aware that participation is necessarily highly selective and that only candidates who meet the above criteria will be considered for possible selection. Incomplete or late applications, applications for candidates who lack these qualifications, and applications that are not nominated by the supporting government, will not be considered at all.

**Application process**

Applicants for this course must be nominated by a Government, and should be sent through the WTO contact point for your country/customs territory (usually the Permanent Mission to the WTO or Embassy)

Only full applications can be considered. A full application comprises both

- .....
- an application form, providing full details of the applicant (Attachment B), and
- .....
- a nomination form, confirming that the applicant is an official with a relevant background whose participation is supported by the Government (Attachment C)

Please forward both forms through your national WTO contact point, preferably to the email address [logistics.unit@wto.org](mailto:logistics.unit@wto.org), or if necessary by fax to +41 22 739 5724

**Applications must be received before 30 November 2017**

Successful applicants will receive confirmation directly before 15 January 2018.

**Logistics and support**

The organizers will provide selected participants from developing Members and Observers and countries in transition with a return economy class ticket, hotel accommodation, a lump sum of CHF 100 per night for meals and a lump sum of CHF 142 for out-of-pocket expenses. An additional five places will be available for applicants from developed countries, who participate at their own expense (the course itself is free of charge). All participants should obtain entry and transit visas, as required, and satisfy all other applicable formalities prior to commencing their travel.

The WTO and WIPO Secretariats reserve the right to postpone or cancel this activity in the event of force majeure or other reasons that render the execution of the activity impracticable for the organizers.

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