



# IPR JAGORAN... "TUIPR Cell on its way to IPR Awakening"

## TEZPUR UNIVERSITY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS CELL

Issue 1, January 2014

### Editorial

The Tezpur University IPR Cell [TUIPR Cell] has embarked on a committed path to IP Awakening, i.e. "IPR Jagoran" within the academic system and the community at large through a range of awareness and implementation programmes. "IPR Jagoran" comprehensively documents our endeavours and serves as a communication platform between the TUIPR Cell and the community in and around the University. The Cell has grown from strength to strength over the last four years. "IPR Jagoran" is planned as an annual publication of TUIPR Cell. This first issue covers the pursuits of the TUIPR Cell during the period March 2009 to December 2013.

We have immensely gained from the guidance and advice of our Hon. Vice Chancellor, Professor M.K. Chaudhuri, the dynamic leadership of Professor Prabuddha Ganguli, MHRD IPR Chair Professor at Tezpur University, and Dr Pritam Deb, Coordinator, TUIPR Cell. The wide range of activities would not have been possible without the cooperation of the University Administration and the various departments. The funds and support received from the MHRD, Government of India are gratefully acknowledged.

### TUIPR Cell at a Glance

Tezpur University Intellectual Property Rights Cell (TUIPR Cell) was created in 2009 with a vision to develop human resource in the management of Intellectual Property Rights as an integral part of the innovation process and the innovation value chain in the university. Several patent and copyright applications have been filed based on the innovations done in Tezpur University. The TUIPR Cell has been involved in several IPR Awareness and Implementation Programmes in the University Campus and in the North East Region. The Cell is gradually building IPR consciousness in the Region, not only within the institutions but also among the grass root innovators.



The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India awarded the prestigious MHRD IPR Chair to Tezpur University. This was a result of the continuous efforts of our Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof M.K. Chaudhuri.

The MHRD IPR Chair has been set up to initiate and execute IPR capability development programmes in the North East Region. A key objective of the Chair is to integrate IPR with the education process to enhance the quality of thinking, propagate a culture of regard and respect for IPR, ensure speedy and accurate identification and protection of innovations arising out of the research work carried out in the university, facilitate transfer of knowledge and technology from the university to industry and enhance the scope of their commercialization. The TUIPR Cell also aims to offer assistance to grassroots innovators in the North East Region to realize the commercial benefits of their innovations. As the TUIPR Cell gains experience, it would also act as a think tank on policy matters related to IPR in India with special emphasis on issues relevant to the North East Region.

### Highlights

Editorial	01
Vice Chancellor's Desk	02
MHRD IPR Chair Professor's Corner	02
Coordinator's Perspective	03
The IPR Policy of Tezpur University	04
Looking Back...	05
The Dynamic Present	06
The Way Forward	10
Breaking News	11
Tit Bits	12





### Best wishes

I am really pleased to know that the maiden issue of "IPR Jagoran" is ready for publication. I am confident that we shall sustain this creative and useful publication.

My understanding about IPR is that it is one of the most basic rights of an intellectual to claim ownership to one's own creations and derive benefits from such ownership. However, awareness about the importance of IPR has been dismal in the academic community in our country wherein publication of the research outcomes takes the centre stage. While publications are certainly important, protection of one's innovations and inventions are equally important, if not more. Unfortunately, this has not rooted deep in academia especially in universities and other academic institutions, unlike in the research labs of CSIR, DST, DBT and DRDO.

This lack of awareness must have led to loss of several of our intellectual properties and thereby our competitiveness in the global scene.

It is with this in mind, some institutions, such as Tezpur University, have taken special initiatives to inculcate IPR culture in academia which over the years has started bearing fruits. We expect this to gain strong momentum, rather sooner than later. It may be noted that several universities in the developed countries have been generating enormous resources through the IPR which they have gained over decades.

"IPR Jagoran" Newsletter, I am hopeful, will help in enhancing IPR awareness and their implementation among the students, members of faculty and the technical staff of academic institutions.

I wish this endeavour of my colleagues of the TUIPR Cell a sustained success.

Mihir. K. Chaudhuri

## MHRD IPR Chair Professor's Corner

My association with Tezpur University started in May 2012. The ambitious vision and drive of Professor Mihir Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University of building a centre of academic excellence in the North East Region fuelled my excitement to pool-in with my knowledge, experience and skill sets to facilitate a sustainable ecosystem for creativity, innovation, knowledge transfer and commercialisation, interwoven with the ethics and social responsibility. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is a field that interfaces with all aspects of human endeavour as it deals with the framework that encourages the acknowledgement and legitimate use of contributions made by generations while establishing and enforcing proprietorship of the new creations in the global knowledge space. We have mandated ourselves to the task of:

- Building a knowledgeable resource group in the field of IPR such as the Tezpur University IPR Cell (TUIPR) to hand-hold the process of identification of innovations based on the work done in the university and arrange for their protection using the various tools of IP, transfer of technology and commercialisation.
- Formulating institutional IPR Policy for Tezpur University and assisting other academic institutions in the North East Region to develop and implement their institutional IPR

Policies and in due course establish a group to act as IPR Think Tank to advise policy makers in the region.

- Developing and offering interdisciplinary IPR courses as part of the university curricula.
- Designing and conducting targeted outreach programmes in collaboration with diverse institutions in the North East Region to create IPR awareness.
- Creating effective Interfaces with the grassroots innovators of the Region to facilitate IP protection and enhance value creation for them in the market place.
- Establish distance learning programmes in IPR management using the National Knowledge Network and other ICT options.



The overwhelming support and encouragement of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, the University Administration and the various departments in the University have instilled a sense of purpose and confidence in the TUIPR Team to become the torch bearers of IPR in the North East Region and achieve the mandated goals in the set time frame.

We look forward to a promising future with a clear sense of purpose and determination.

Prabuddha Ganguli



The first newsletter, "IPR Jagoran", of TUIPR Cell places a lens over past, present and future activities. We have had a very active and fruitful year in 2012-13.

I invite you to read "IPR Jagoran" to get a sense of the path taken by the TUIPR Cell in its outreach programmes and IPR capability development activities. We are strived hard to benchmark ourselves with respect to the best in class.

Our world is changing rapidly due to unprecedented technological advances and is beginning to alter the global economic, environmental and socio-political climate. Such a dynamic system makes it imperative to tune institutional processes to meet the needs, interests, expectations and aspirations of individuals and communities.

Universities are important engines of innovation and sources of pioneering technologies. University researchers love to pursue wild ideas and to artfully perform difficult experiments, develop theories and explanations to nature's behaviour with the goal to author high-profile publications paper and seeking peer group recognition. Some critics argue that a university's mission should be to create and freely disseminate knowledge and therefore academicians should just publish their findings without expectation of and

benefits from them. Others profess that one should first claim the legitimate intellectual property rights to the findings and then decide on the mode of making them available to the society under



terms and conditions in a context as appropriate. I believe that the return on investment for universities' intellectual property is enormous and should be encouraged. Universities ought to claim ownership to the innovations made in their campuses and continuously explore ways and means of transferring them to partners who have the potential to make them available to the society with fair benefit sharing arrangement. I do believe that publications by the academics are not hampered if the process is systematically managed.

The TUIPR Cell and its members understand education as an ongoing, interactive process which does not take place only within departments and universities, but also in community. We look forward to working closely with our students, faculty and members of our university including the communities outside the university in facilitating a vibrant innovation culture and integrating IPR with our educational system.

**Pritam Deb**

### Recent Publications from TUIPR Cell

- "Nanobiotechnology in India....Have we traversed beyond a myth?", Prabuddha Ganguli, BioSpectrum, October 2013, pages 56-57 (2013). [<http://www.biospectrumindia.com/biospecindia/features/199566/nanobiotechnology-india-have-traversed-myth>]
- "Intellectual Property Licensing in Nanotechnology", Raj S. Davé, Neil S. Davey, Sonya S. Davey, Prabuddha Ganguli, Jeffrey J. Hohenshell, Robert O. Lindefeld, Brendan B. Murphy, Naren Thappeta, Donald A. Tomalia and Philip S. Warden, chapter published in the book "Licensing Update 2013", Aspen Publishers, (USA) April 2013.
- Manual on Critical Issues in Nanotechnology R&D Management: "An Asia Pacific Perspective", Asia-Pacific Centre for Technology Transfer (APCTT, 2013). Chapter Titles by Prabuddha Ganguli : "Best Practices on Commercialisation of R&D Results" and "Protection and Valuation of Nanotechnologies". [<http://nanotech.apctt.org/contents.php?id=33>]
- A column titled "A molecule called India" by Prabuddha Ganguli was published in The Financial Express on October 4th, 2012. [<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/column-a-molecule-called-india/1011457>]

### Our Team



Prof. M.K. Chaudhuri  
Chairman, TUIPR Cell



Prof. P. Ganguli  
MHRD IPR Chair Professor



Dr. P. Deb  
Coordinator, TUIPR Cell



Dr. S. Goswami  
Research Officer, TUIPR Cell



Ms. J. Borbora Saikia  
Research Officer, TUIPR Cell



Educational institutions perform their pivotal role in development of human resource as centres of learning, scholarship, and use of knowledge in diverse domains for the continual enrichment of society. In addition to tangible assets that an institution sets up and acquires over time, the inexhaustible and resourceful human mind constantly explores pathways to innovate processes, systems, and products, creates a variety of expressions, investigates societal dynamic and applies them in as many ways as one can contemplate, with the hope of establishing a vibrant, interactive and responsive knowledge ecosystem for a better tomorrow. Such activities lead to the creation of intangible assets of an organization by way of inventions, creative expressions, know-hows, designs, etc.

The challenge lies in the infusion and transfer of such knowledge assets of an educational institution into the arteries and veins of the societal value chain without unduly impinging on creativity and academic freedom. It is in this context, issues of knowledge ownership and knowledge transfer...with or without revenue sharing confront an institution. Keeping such challenges in mind, Tezpur University (hereafter mentioned as university), a central university of India established by an Act of Parliament in 1994, has formulated its IPR policy for conducive and systematic intra and inter institutional knowledge governance.

This draft IPR Policy will shortly be shared with the Tezpur University community for inputs, then finalised and placed before the appropriate university authority for its endorsement and issuance as the Tezpur University IPR Policy.

The key features of the Tezpur University IPR Policy are:

- Creating a University IPR Management Committee with defined role and responsibilities for overall management of IPR in Tezpur University
- Setting up an interactive framework and process for identification, documentation and assessment of innovations resulting from activities in the university and protecting them with appropriate tools of IPR. This will also include systems and processes for the determination of ownership, rights / responsibilities and modes of benefit sharing with the innovators on earnings from commercialisation of their innovations and IPR
- Establishing a system and process for transfer of technology and commercialization of innovations from the ownership of innovations and IPR in the university, and also implementing systems to ensure that Tezpur University does not knowingly infringe IPR of others
- Formalising material transfer agreements between the university and other organisations, technology transfer processes and agreements including agreements on collaborative projects, IPR issues related to acceptance of grants from various organisations, government and non-government bodies including industries
- Addressing IPR issues related to short / long term assignments taken up by Tezpur University Personnel including similar assignments taken up by persons from other organisations with Tezpur University
- Crafting guidelines on conflict of interests, resolution of conflicts related to non-compliance to the University IPR Policy
- Managing ownership and IPR related to publications(including development of courses/course materials, books, thesis, papers, kits, etc) based on work done in the university
- Facilitating innovations, their effective IPR Protection, utilization and commercialisation of grassroots innovations



The TUIPR Cell, since its inception, had set up fairly ambitious objectives. The main aim was to create a pack of Human Resource in the field of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the University Campus and in general in the North East Region. The vision was that the cell would provide the leadership and direction to integrate IPR with the educational system to foster creative minds, enhance the quality of research and set up a policy oriented process for early identification of innovations, ensure their timely protection and promote their appropriate commercialisation. The University then was awarded the prestigious MHRD IPR Chair. This Chair became functional by the end of 2010 with a MHRD IPR Chair Professor, two Research Officers and two office staff.

### Building IPR Resource in the University

Professor D. C. Baruah, then Coordinator TUIPR Cell together with Dr. T. K. Gogoi and Dr. P. Dutta attended a training programme, IPR and WTO Issues, conducted by PFC, TIFAC, DST, in New Delhi during 6-10 September, 2010. Dr. Tapas Medhi and Dr. Manab Mandal, faculty members from the Dept of MBBT, attended a one-day training-cum-awareness programme on March 5, 2011 on Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right, organized jointly by B N College of Agriculture, Assam Agriculture University (AAU), and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, AAU, Napaam.

### Interdisciplinary Course on IPR for Post Graduates

TUIPR Cell designed an Inter disciplinary course in IPR for the PG students in the University in 2011 in Autumn Semester. Since then a significant number of students have shown interest for the course. This course has been repeated with several novel and innovative features in 2012 and 2013. Feedback from students has been very positive.

### Official from TUIPR Cell invited for National Seminar

Dr. Suchibrata Goswami, Research Officer, TUIPR Cell presented an invited paper entitled "Indigenous Knowledge System in Bio-resource Management and IPR Issues" in a National Seminar on Biochemical and Biotechnological Research Approaches for Bio-resource management of North East India Towards Sustainable Rural Development organized by B N College of Agriculture, Biswanath Chariali, Sonitpur, Assam during 11-12 November, 2011. The paper was jointly authored by Prof. D.C. Baruah, Dr. S. Goswami and Ms. J. B. Saikia, Research Officer, TUIPR Cell.

### IPR Awareness Workshop in June 2011

A one day IPR awareness workshop sponsored by the MHDR IPR Chair was held in Tezpur University on June 3, 2011. It was attended by the college faculty of nearby districts besides Sonitpur. Mr R. Saha, who was the MHRD IPR Chair Professor in Tezpur University for a brief period, introduced IPR to the participants and Dr. R.K. Barman, Head, Science & Technology Division, ASTEC & Nodal Officer, Patent Information Centre, Guwahati, outlined the activities related to innovations in the state of Assam.

### World IP Day Celebration on April 2011

World Intellectual Property Day was celebrated in the campus on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 to create awareness among the TU fraternity regarding global IP scenario. 50 participants from various departments participated in the sensitization programme. A quiz programme was also conducted for the students, staff and the faculty members on the eve of the World IP Day.



Photo: (1<sup>st</sup> row from left) Mr. S. Majumdar, Patent attorney, Ms. Sangeeta Nagar, Scientist-D, PFC-TIFAC, Prof. R. Saha, then MHRD IPR Chair Professor and Prof. A. J. Choudhory, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University during IPR Sensitisation Workshop on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2010

### IPR Sensitisation Workshop in December 2010

During 2010-11 the Cell organised a few awareness programmes. The first IPR sensitization workshop sponsored by Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), DST, Government of India was held in the University on 23 December, 2010. One hundred and twenty seven participants from various institutions in North East India attended the workshop. Ms. Sangeeta Nagar, Scientist-D, PFC-TIFAC, New-Delhi, and Sri. S. Majumdar, patent attorney, were other faculty members for this workshop.



### **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) IPR Chair Professor in Tezpur University**

Dr. Prabuddha Ganguli, the renowned IPR Expert, joined as MHRD IPR Chair Professor, on 16 May, 2012. As CEO of his consultancy firm "VISION-IPR", he has been offering services in management of Intellectual Property Rights, Information Security and Knowledge Management including designing of innovation processes, strategising technology transfers and conducting IP due diligence for JVs, mergers & acquisitions. He is also a registered Patent Agent at the Indian Patent Office. He took the responsibility to lead the IPR Activities in the University and charted a long term plan for immediate implementation with the introduction of the Interdisciplinary Post Graduate Course in IPR in the university, designing of structured IPR awareness activities for the academia in the university and outreach programmes in the North East Region.

### **Dr. Pritam Deb takes on as Coordinator TUIPR Cell**

On 10 October, 2012, Dr. Pritam Deb, Associate Professor, Department of Physics took over charge as Coordinator of TUIPR Cell.

### **MoU with Patent Attorney**

Tezpur University signed its first IPR MoU with Mr Anjan Sen of M/s Anjan Sen & Associates, Attorney Firm, Kolkata. The University has formally handed over the Patent and Copyright applications to him for further processing.

### **Assistance to Grassroot Innovators**

The TUIPR Cell has so far assisted 3 innovations from grassroots innovators in matters related to Patent filing. One innovation is awaiting examination in the Indian Patent Office Kolkata.

A unique workshop on protection of traditional knowledge for Grassroots Innovators will be conducted in February 2014 in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Studies of Tezpur University.

### **Training on IPR for TUIPR Cell Officers**

In June 2013 Dr Suchibrata Goswami and Ms Juri Borbora Saikia, Research Officers in the TUIPR Cell were deputed for three weeks of training on IPR as interns with the leading IPR attorney firm S. Majumdar & Company in Kolkata. This

training was specially designed to get them to speed in matters related to IPR so that they are able to provide appropriate support to the IPR activities in the University and to facilitate the identification of the innovations in the university for their timely protection using various tools of IPR such as Patents, Trademarks, Copyright, Industrial Designs Registration and Geographical Indications.

### **IPR Filings**

The Cell has been providing assistance to the research fraternity on matters related to Patents since 2009. Eleven patent applications have been filed during 2010-11 based on work done in the University.

During the year 2011-12, six patent applications were processed by the TUIPR Cell. These new applications have been forwarded to DST, TIFAC for further processing. In 2012-13, two patent applications have been sent to BPC, DBT for processing. Several other innovations are currently being evaluated for patentability by the MHRD IPR Chair Professor assisted by the TUIPR Cell members.

The TUIPR Cell has also come up with a comprehensive innovation disclosure form to help the researchers to systematically disclose their innovations for evaluation of their content for appropriate IPR protection.

### **New CBCT course in IPR introduced for PhD students**

A special IPR course for the PhD students was designed and offered in the autumn semester of 2013. This has opened a new dimension in our university system to facilitate a process for seamless integration, internalisation of IPR and good practices as the PhD students get initiated to their respective research topics. The students are being trained to conduct prior art searches, prepare patent landscapes and study patent documents so that they are able to better define their research problem and develop proper approaches to solving them "without rediscovering the wheel".

### **CBCT IPR course for Undergraduate students**

Encouraged by the positive responses received from the post graduate students in last two years, a CBCT IPR course is being introduced at the undergraduate level as an interdisciplinary course. This course will facilitate the young minds to appreciate IPR and its impact on innovation, trade, commerce and societal dynamics.





Photo: Students in Tezpur University attending a live video lecturing session by Professor Ganguli from Mumbai over the National Knowledge Network

### Use of National Knowledge Network

TUIPR Cell conducted special classes for the Post Graduate and the PhD students of the inter-disciplinary course on IPR through remote lecturing mode using National Knowledge Network in the newly installed State-of-the-Art Video-Conferencing facility of the University. The classes were conducted with the technical support from the Computer Centre.

The inventors of the University have also immensely benefited as our MHRD IPR Chair Professor (Dr Ganguli) conducted several interactive sessions with them from remote locations to help them identify the nuances of their research work and draft their patent applications for filings from Tezpur University.

### Outreach Programme at Silchar

A regional workshop on "Role of IPR on Innovation in Electronics, Communication, Computing Devices" was organised at Silchar on 27 and 28, November, 2013. The outreach programme, aimed at spreading IPR consciousness among the working professionals and students in the field of Electronics and Communication, was conducted by TUIPR Cell, in collaboration with Institution of Engineers, Local Centre, Silchar and DietY, GOI. The programme was inaugurated by the President of Institutions of Engineers, General Manager of BSNL, Silchar, Director, NIT, Silchar and Additional Director, DietY, GOI and Professor Prabuddha Ganguli.

Resource persons from leading IPR attorney firms from Delhi and Kolkata made presentations on Patents, Trademarks, Copyright, and Trade-Secrets including IPR litigations in the

field of ICT. Professor Ganguli conducted sessions on management of IPR and patent search and analysis. Dr. A.K. Garg, Additional Director, DietY made a presentation on the IPR initiatives by DietY. Dr. P. Deb, the Coordinator, TUIPR Cell, shared his experience on how IPR was being managed in Tezpur University. The workshop ended with an active discussion on the way forward in IPR in institutions in and around Silchar.

### Short term project on GI

A project on Geographical Indications (GI) has been initiated in collaboration with DST-TIFAC and ASTEC to study the socio-economic impact of GI status of Muga Silk. Two post graduate students who had taken the IPR course in Tezpur University have been recruited as interns to work on this project. The results of this project will pave the way to a long term research project in the field of GI, protection of traditional knowledge and promotion of grassroot innovations in the North East Region.



Photo: Dr. P. Deb, Coordinator, TUIPR Cell during one of the sessions in the IPR workshop at Dibrugarh University

### Outreach programme at Dibrugarh University

TUIPR Cell in collaboration with IPR Cell, Dibrugarh University conducted a one day workshop entitled "Role of IPR in Enhancing Creativity, Innovation and Commercialisation" at Dibrugarh University on 9th of May, 2013. Professor Ganguli, Dr Suchibrata Goswami, Ms Juri B. Saikia and Dr Pritam Deb participated as resource persons and presented various aspects of IPR with illustrative examples on how IPR promotes innovations and their commercialisation. A special presentation on Institutional IPR Policy was made with the aim of helping



**Upcoming Events:**

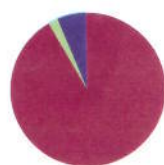
- Workshop in collaboration with Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University, on Traditional Knowledge and IPR on Feb 10-11, 2014.
- Workshop in collaboration with Department of Physics, Tezpur University, on "Contemporary Physics & the Role of Intellectual Property Rights", 2014



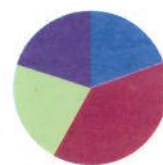
Post-graduate students of CBCT course on IPR for autumn semester, 2013



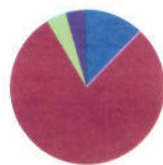
Ph.D students of CBCT course on IPR for autumn semester, 2013

**Autumn semester, 2011(PG-49)**

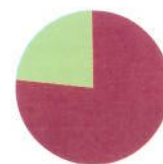
- Humanities
- Science
- Engg.
- Management

**Autumn semester, 2012 (PG-94)**

- Humanities
- Science
- Engg.
- Management

**Autumn semester, 2013 (PG-47)**

- Humanities
- Science
- Engg.
- Management

**Autumn semester, 2013 (Ph.D-26)**

- Humanities
- Science
- Engg.
- Management

**Public Lectures delivered by Prof. P.Ganguli:**

- "The Patent InfoGenie...at Beck and Call". Keynote address at the Society of Information Science, Conference on Patent informatics for Corporate Planning and Business Development December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Pune, India.
- "Seeding Ideas to Harvesting Marketables..... Creating Institutional Ecosystems, Invited talk at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congress of TTO Network in Monterrey, Mexico, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
- "Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).....Steering the future of today", keynote address at the 1<sup>st</sup> KSOL National Conference on IPR KIIT University, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
- Prabuddha Ganguli delivered several lectures at Conferences on various topics in IPR. Was also a lead speaker at the BIO India International Partnering Conference: Biopharmaceutical Regulatory and Policy Roundtable, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 in Mumbai organised by ABLE, CII and BIO (USA).

**" IPR Jagoran" Team:****Advisors:**

Prof. M. K. Chaudhuri, VC, Tezpur University  
 Prof. P. Ganguli, MHRD IPR Chair Professor, Tezpur University  
 Dr. P. Deb, Coordinator, TUIPR Cell

**Editors:**

Dr. S. Goswami  
 Ms. J. Borbora Saikia