



OFFICE FOR HARMONIZATION IN THE INTERNAL MARKET
(TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS)

India takes lead on “traditional knowledge” protection

Representatives from 35 countries have taken part in a conference in Delhi to explore how the success of a landmark project, which protects India’s centuries-old “traditional knowledge” from misappropriation, could be emulated by interested countries.

India’s **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** was developed over a ten year period to document knowledge about traditional medical treatments contained in ancient texts and languages, and make the information available in a searchable database. The information is used to challenge things like erroneous patents.

The Delhi conference was co-organised by WIPO and the Indian authorities. WIPO Director General Francis Gurry praised India’s leadership in taking domestic and international action to combat misappropriation of the wealth of knowledge contained in its traditional medicine systems, such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga.

WIPO press release

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