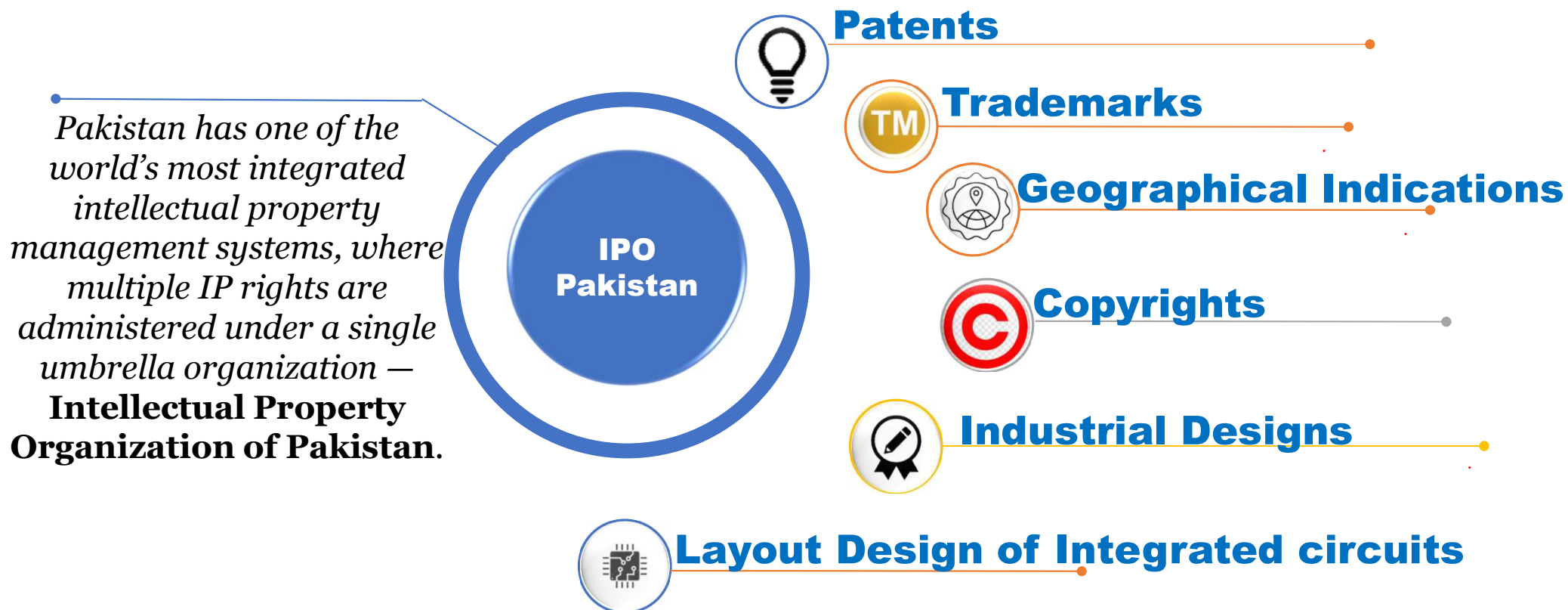




Women Participation in Intellectual Property System *(Initiatives and Experience of Pakistan)*

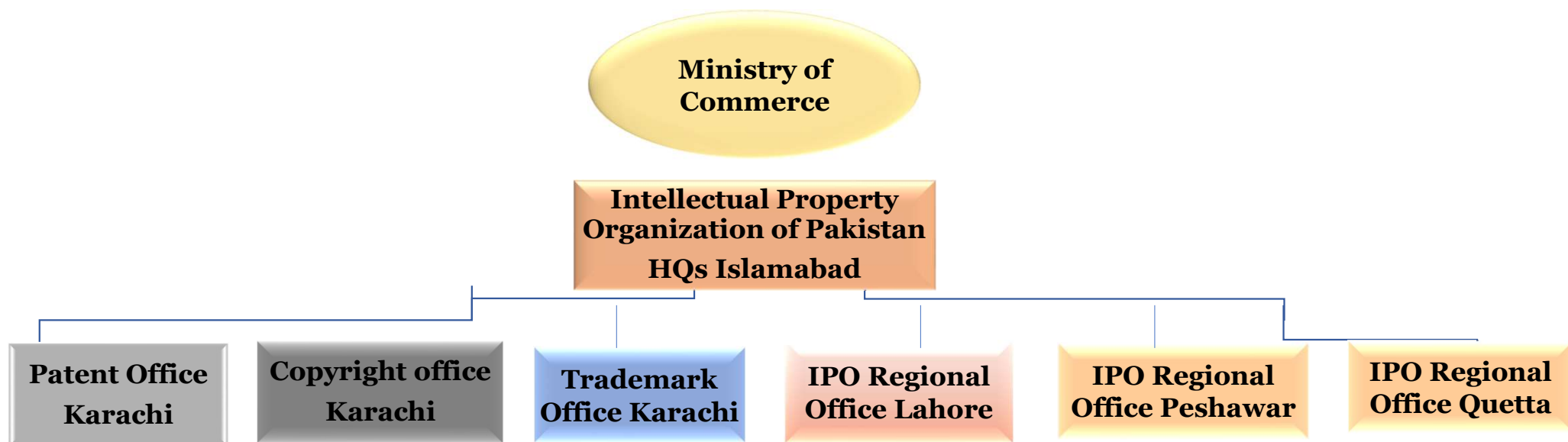
Saima Kanwal
Senior Patent Examiner
IPO Pakistan
Ministry of Commerce

Intellectual Property Rights Management in Pakistan - Overview



Intellectual Property Rights Management in Pakistan – Overview

Administrative Infrastructure



Intellectual Property Rights Management in Pakistan – Overview

International treaties joined by Pakistan

- ▶ Bern Convention (1948)
- ▶ WIPO Convention (1977)
- ▶ WTO-TRIPS (1995)
- ▶ Paris Convention (2004)
- ▶ Madrid Protocol (2021)
- ▶ Marrakesh Treaty (2024)



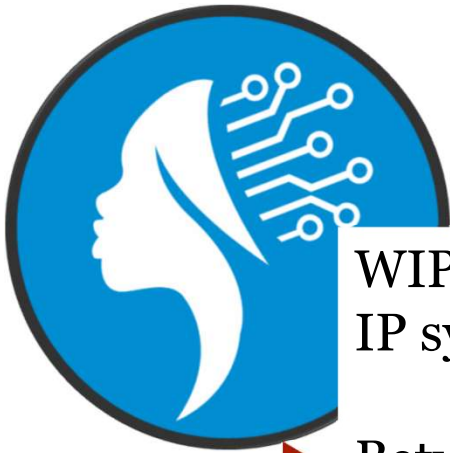
Women Representation in Higher Education & Research in Pakistan

- ▶ Women represent **49%** of university enrollments in 2024-25. Women constitute approximately **43%** of total enrollment in STEM disciplines.
- ▶ **45%** of PhD enrolment at national universities from 2022–2025 comprised women.



- ▶ **38.6%** of faculty members in Higher Education Institutes are women as of 2025.
- ▶ **16** women-only universities operate in Pakistan alongside coeducational institutions nationwide.

Women Participation in National Patent System (2005-2018)



WIPO Study (2019) to assess the participation of women in national IP system found that:

- ▶ Between 2005–2018, Local applicants filed 2,021 patent applications of which **28%** of the applications included women as sole or joint inventor.
- ▶ During same time, patent grant ratio between male to female was **2:1**



Patent Statistics and National Trends

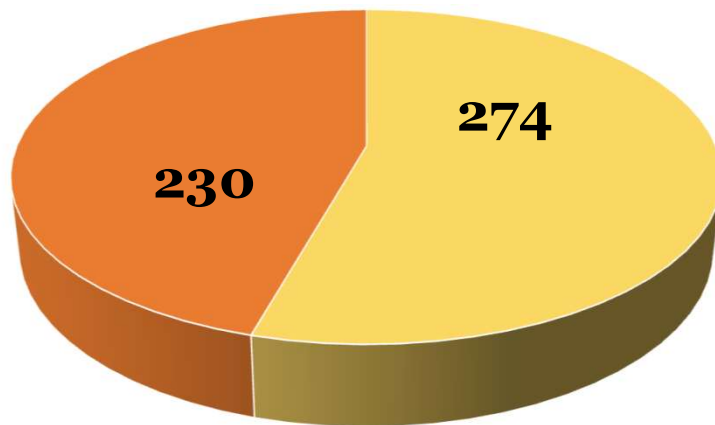
Patent Filing Trends in Pakistan

Calendar year	Total applications	Application filed by Residents	Applications by non residents
2020	900	338	562
2021	992	423	569
2022	908	372	536
2023	963	460	503
2024	979	480	499
2025	1036	504	532

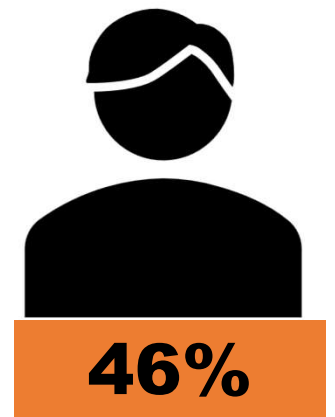
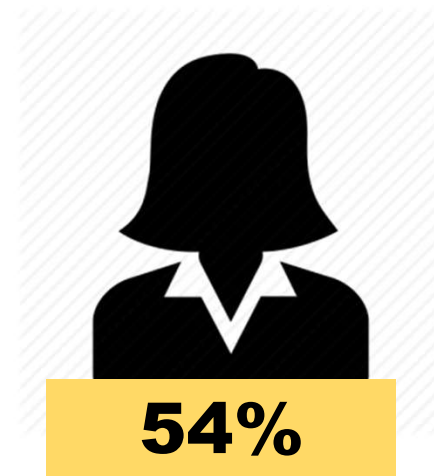
Patent Filing Trends in Pakistan

(Share of Pakistani women inventors in patent filing during 2025)

Patent Applications filed by local applicants in
2025

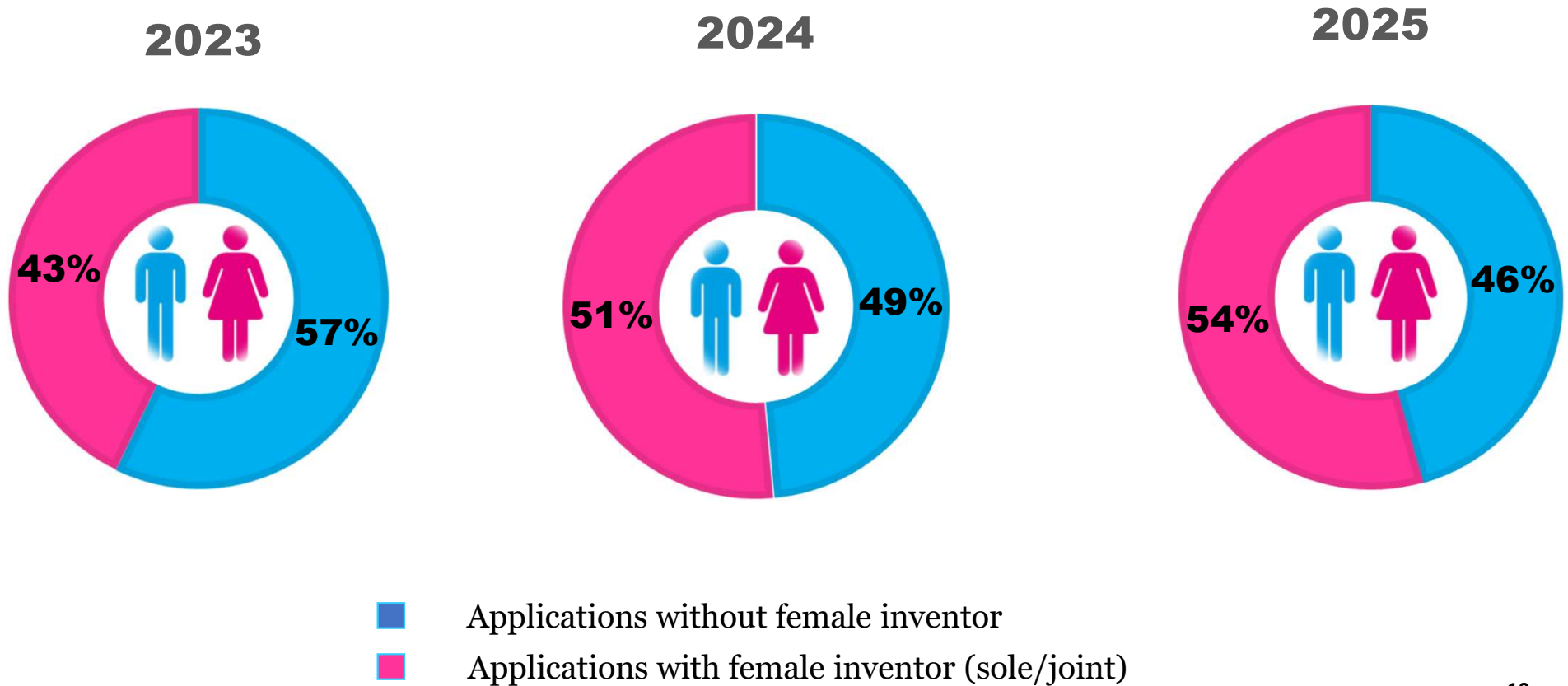


- Applications with woman inventor
- Applications without women inventor



Patent Filing Trends in Pakistan

(Share of Pakistani women inventors in patent filing is increasing-----)



Challenges to Women Participation in IP System in Pakistan

- ▶ Limited awareness and knowledge of national IP system.
- ▶ Lack of access to legal and financial support for registration of IP rights, especially drafting patent claims.
- ▶ Lack of networking and mentoring opportunities related to IP.
- ▶ Limited access to funding and commercialization opportunities reduces incentives for women to protect and commercialize their inventions.



National Initiatives to Enhance the women participation in the IP system





IP awareness & Out reach

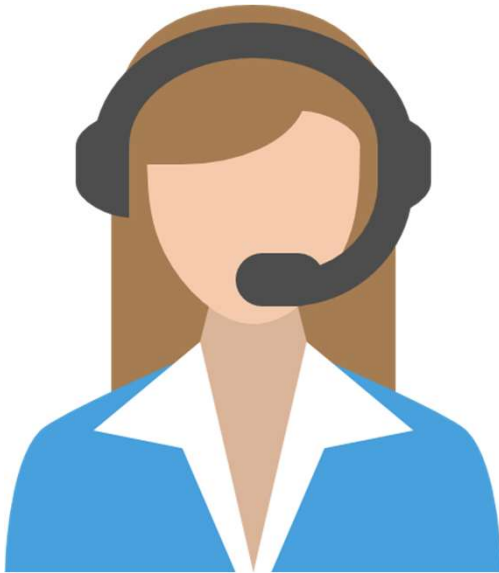
During 2025, IPO Pakistan and its field offices conducted more than **50** IP awareness sessions (online/onsite) for inventors, Entrepreneurs, Startups and SMEs, in the country.

Inventor Assistance Program



- The program connects inventors and startups with volunteer attorneys who provide pro bono legal assistance to under-resourced innovators and entrepreneurs to protect their invention nationally and internationally.
- Pakistan joined This WIPO program in 2025
- **25** Pakistani Patent attorneys/agents have consented to provide techno-legal assistance under this program
- In the first round, legal assistance has provided to one male and one female inventor to file their patent application in Pakistan in 2025

Women IP Helpline



- ▶ Mentoring to women inventors and entrepreneurs on registration of Patents, copyrights, Trademarks and Industrial Designs
- ▶ An average of 15-20 queries are addressed each month through helpline via email and phone support.



Women.ip@ipo.gov.pk

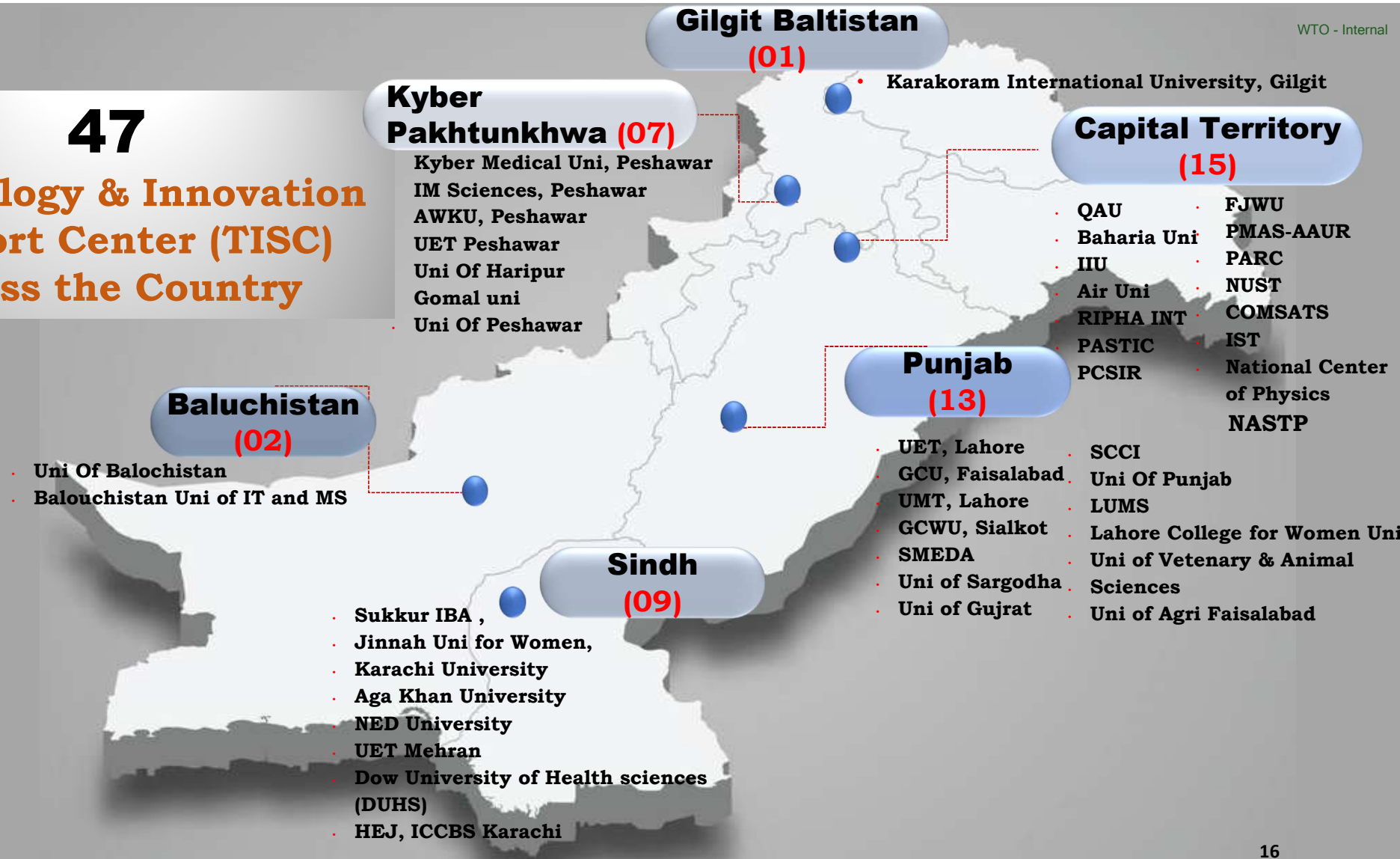


+92 (21) 99230505

https://www.ipo.gov.pk/women_ip_helpline

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Technology & Innovation Support Center (TISC) across the Country





WIPO assisted project to Enhance Women Participation in National IP System



Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System

(Jan-Dec 2021)

WIPO Assisted Project

Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the IP System

WTO - Internal

Project Outcomes

- ▶ A roster of legal experts was developed who consented to provide pro bono legal assistance to women inventors. These legal attorneys/agents are providing assistance as a part of WIPO inventor assistance program.
- ▶ Ten (10) women inventors were nominated by IPO Pakistan to participate in WIPO mentorship program. It was a remote opportunity where nominees participated as “mentee” and worked with national/international mentors to discuss the IP potential of their inventions.
- ▶ Three (03) IP training sessions/webinars were organized for women inventors/entrepreneurs
- ▶ A dedicated helpline was established for Women at IPO Pakistan

<https://www.wipo.int/en/web/women-inventors>

<https://www.facebook.com/IPOIslamabad/posts/wipo-ipo-pakistan-agree-to-encourage-women-inventors-in-pakistanislamabad-sep-30/2466439996982373/>

https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en//doc_details.jsp?doc_id=600731

Intellectual Property & Women: Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in Embroidery and Related Crafts Business Through IP, Branding and Commercialization Strategies (Jan-Dec, 2023)

WIPO assisted Project



Project Outcomes

- ▶ Fifty (50) women entrepreneurs from the embroidery sector received training on IP tools and branding strategies for business growth.
- ▶ Two (02) in-person training sessions were conducted in Pakistan by national and international experts for women entrepreneurs.
- ▶ A group of (25) Selected women entrepreneurs received one-on-one mentoring on Trademark registration and marketing strategies.
- ▶ Over (25) trademark applications and two (02) design applications were filed by the selected women entrepreneurs.
- ▶ IPO Pakistan organized an exhibition to showcase products developed by the participating women entrepreneurs.



<https://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/stories/pakistan-project-2023.html>

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/hasankleib_wipo-pakistan-intellectualproperty-activity-7139199502988537856-HtkA/

Future Perspectives

- ▶ Finalize and implement Pakistan's National IP Strategy to strengthen the country's innovation and intellectual property ecosystem;
- ▶ Accession to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) to facilitate international patent filing opportunities for Pakistani innovators.
- ▶ Enhance institutional capacity for efficient IP registration, examination, and enforcement mechanisms.
- ▶ Expand nationwide awareness and outreach programs on IP protection, commercialization, and innovation in collaboration with national and international partners.

Thanks For Your Attention

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