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Green Intellectual Property Project
General public

would like to propose the Green Intellectual Property (GIP) scheme. The GIP scheme would call for unimpeded access to necessary technologies, typically including essential medicines while maintaining enough patent protections and consequently stimulating the incentives of inventors.

The GIP scheme is designed to impose a "premium" in addition to existing official fees on patent applicants/owners to create a trust fund, from which financial assistance would be offered to technology users who have unfavorable or no access to a patented technology due to a lack of capital. In return for the premium, a patentee would obtain an "insurance," guaranteeing that the insured patentee would not only collect early investments but also earn reasonable rewards for developing a new technology when users cannot afford to pay for that technology. In particular, the GIP system would compensate the cost of technology transfer and subsidize the purchase of patented technology when technology users demand price reduction and safeguard measures for that technology.

This financial aid would circumvent inadmissible price collapse and frequent safeguard measures for patented technologies while assuring unimpeded access to those technologies, and the aid would also ensure patent income for patentees. The GIP system would, therefore, increase inventors' incentives to develop new technologies even when users do not have sufficient financial means, primarily including the neglected drugs. These mutual benefits for technology users as well as patentees would convince patent applicants/owners to readily accept the financial burden of contributing to the trust fund in the GIP system. The potential scale of the trust fund has been estimated to reach several tens of billions of US dollars annually, which would substantially accelerate the distribution of various technologies, typically including not only essential medicines, such as AIDS/HIV drugs, but also ecological technologies, e.g., solar power generation.