

Summer Academy 2023, July 24-29

Climate Change: International Intellectual Property Protection and Transfer of Technology

Transfer and dissemination of low-carbon technology are essential to achieve mitigation goals agreed upon at COP 26 and 27 of the UNFCCC and the Paris Accord. It is equally essential to address climate change adaptation technologies, particularly in agriculture. Many of these technologies are protected by intellectual property rights. The course discusses the state of play in the transfer of technology, existing obligations and challenges. To this effect, it offers introductory lectures on international intellectual property law and the economics of IP. It discusses commercial and concessionary licencing of technology. It offers an introduction to patent information and patent landscaping in cooperation with the Swiss Intellectual Property Institute (IPI). It develops a number of ideas under the principle of common concern of humankind as to how the transfer of technology can be strengthened and implemented in the context of emission trading, CBAM, investment promotion, export credits and tax reductions. Successful transfer of technology is absolutely essential to decarbonisation, the reduction of dependence on coal and gas also in the global South, and for reaching global goals of limiting warming to 1.5^o or 2^o C. The fact that it is of global benefit irrespective of the location and country of investment is a game changer which calls for new thinking and approaches in international law.

The course is led by Professor Thomas Cottier, WTI, and taught in cooperation with Jayashree Watal, formerly WTO, Professor Andreas Heinemann, University of Zurich, Dr Kamran Housang, IPI, and Dr Zaker Ahmad, University of Göttingen.

The course is of interest to professionals and students interested in, and dealing with, the technology development, dissemination and transfer in climate change and beyond.