

# Intellectual Property Challenges and Opportunities in the Arab World

Pierre El Khoury  
PhD, LL.M, DEA

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة

ESCWA

# Introduction

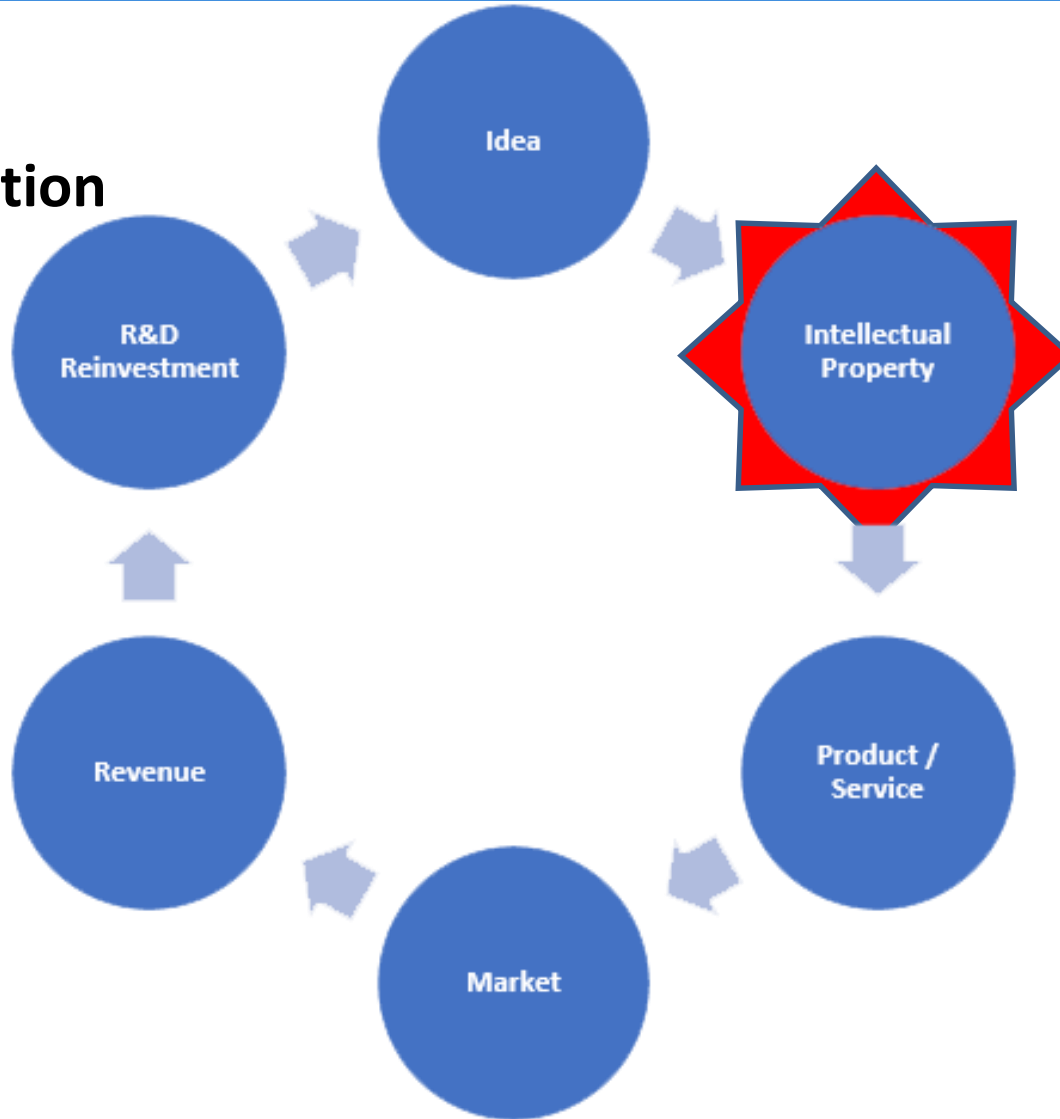
---

**IP is not just about law**

**It is also about business and innovation**

# Cycle of Innovation

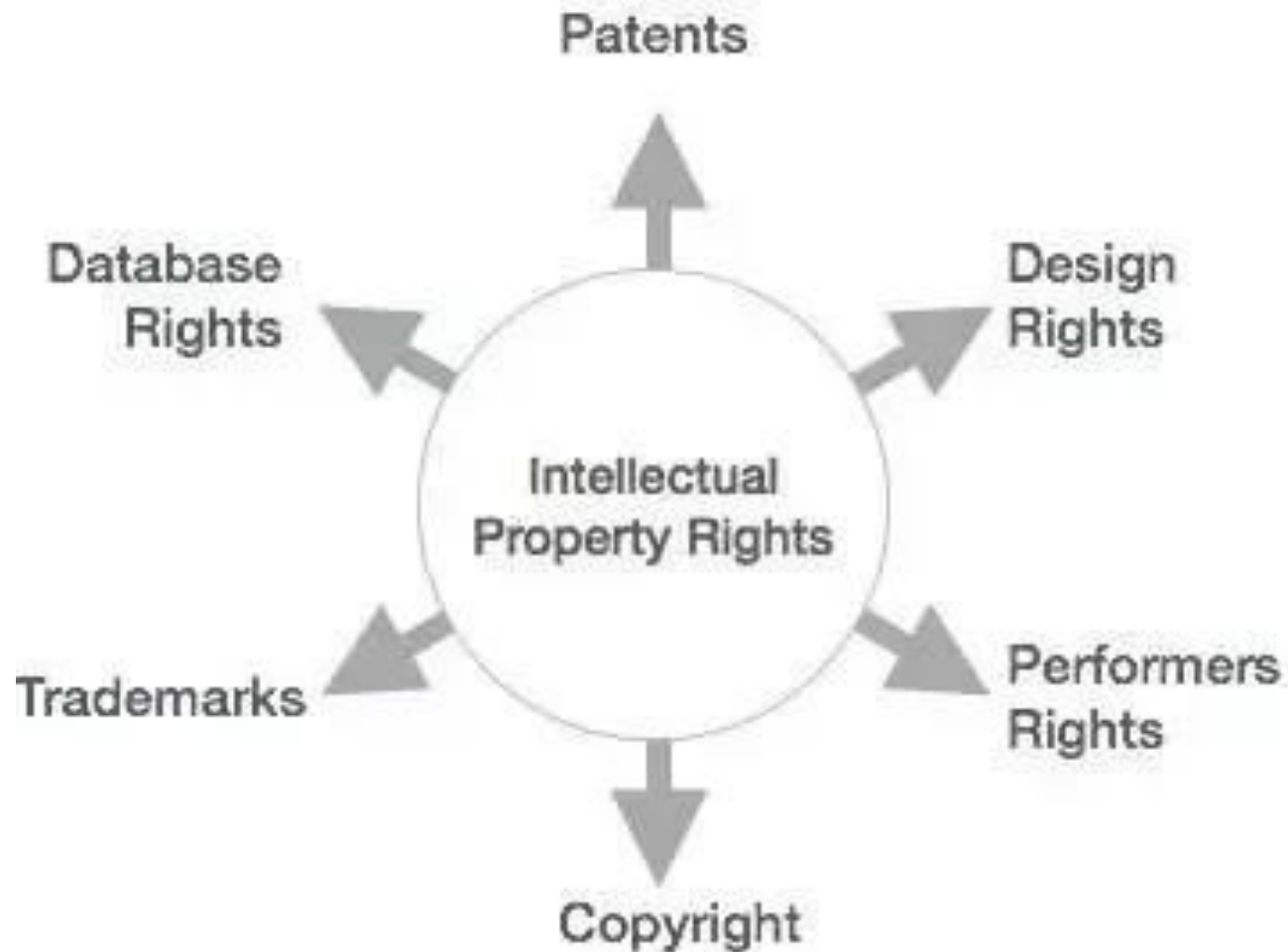
**Discovery**  
**Development**  
**Commercialization**  
**Reinvesting**



# IPRs Implications in the Innovation Process

---

## IPRs during the innovation cycle



---

**Reinvest  
revenues  
from sales  
and  
licenses**



# Patent System Advantages



# IPRs = Efficient Innovation Cycle

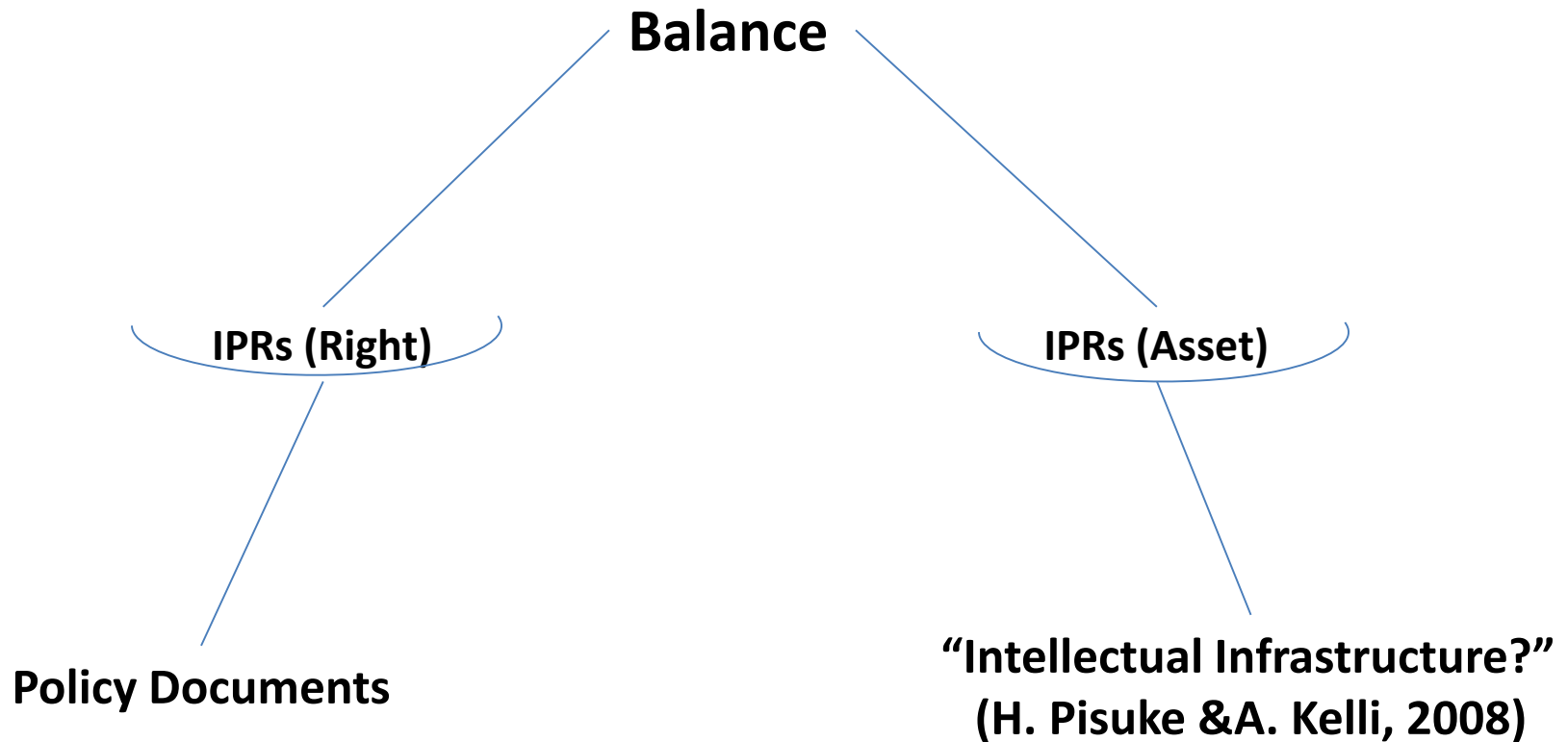
---

**Marketing**



# Innovation-based economy

---



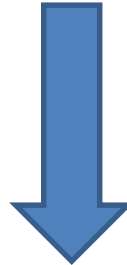


# Intellectual Infrastructure

---

**Public Awareness**

**Transferring Knowledge**



**Effective Protection**

**Appropriate/Enforce**

# The Challenges

---

Potential for growth and improvement

IP in the Arab world is under exploited

---

Gap in IPRs creation, protection and enforcement

Lagging behind other countries

---

Few have in place an IP National Strategy

Some are “pushed” to implement TRIPS-Plus  
provisions

---

Not all of them have acceded to international conventions

Internal political discords delay the enactment of new laws

---

Absence of harmonization

No unified texts and priorities divergence

---

## The brain drain of Arab inventors

The low number of inventions and of IPRs registrations

---

## The role, functions and structure of the IPOs

Lack of: financial resources  
human resources  
modern infrastructure  
linkages with stakeholders  
linkages with other IPOs



---

Weaknesses in the patent drafting, choosing TM,  
competitive intelligence

No IP registration professions: attorneys and agents

---

Absence of IP tribunals to judge on IP-related issues

# The Opportunities

---

Invest in human and knowledge capital

Make it accessible to the business world

---

Identify the goals and draw up strategies

To achieve the SDGs

---

Solid legal framework – PPP

Link local and international agendas

---

Linked with the commercialization outcome

knowledge transformed into capital = innovation

---

# IP National Strategy & Innovation National Strategy

Acquiring

Protecting

Exploiting

Foster growth

Sustainable development

## Generation of IP:

---

- Teaching / awareness
- IP policy
- STI policy
- R&D
- IP information services
- Fiscal incentives



## Securing and Enforcing IPRs:

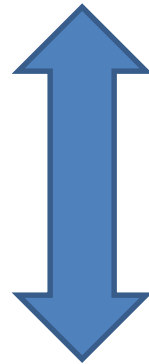
---

- Modern IPOs
- Updated IP laws
- IP-specialized courts

## Exploiting IPRs:

---

Market-Industry



Entrepreneurs/Academia/R&D/MSMEs

collaboration policy

# Thank you

**Pierre El Khoury**  
PhD, LL.M, DEA

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة

ESCWA

# Copyright notice

**Pictures used in these slides are under copyright. Their sources/authors are available online at the following addresses:**

- <https://www.ipos.gov.sg/images/default-source/Understanding-Innovation-IP/innovation-cycle.png?sfvrsn=2>
- [http://www.buffalo.edu/content/www/research/research-services/commercialization/process/\\_jcr\\_content/par/image.img.447.auto.png/1494602072899.png](http://www.buffalo.edu/content/www/research/research-services/commercialization/process/_jcr_content/par/image.img.447.auto.png/1494602072899.png)
- <https://qph.fs.quoracdn.net/main-qimg-b154d45ac90f3bfd44e5d893b6cf75fe.webp>
- <https://www.ipos.gov.sg/images/default-source/Understanding-Innovation-IP/innovation-cycle.png?sfvrsn=2>
- <https://www.irena.org/-/media/Images/IRENA/Inspire/patentinnovation.PNG?la=en&hash=54AAFF2DBA3582FE208C3B1C54A4ED8B7CADDE33>
- [http://www.simoninternational.com/images/sample\\_heading\\_images/CompetitiveIntelligence.png](http://www.simoninternational.com/images/sample_heading_images/CompetitiveIntelligence.png)
- [https://pbs.twimg.com/profile\\_images/954116002257743874/RzbBtpez\\_400x400.jpg](https://pbs.twimg.com/profile_images/954116002257743874/RzbBtpez_400x400.jpg)