Concept Note
Tech-Essay writing Competition

19th June 2023

| Kampala, Uganda |

Technology transfer from Multinational Corporations (MNC's) to developing countries:
Intellectual Capital and Innovation Capabilities.

1.0 Background:

Over the past decade, the pace of technological progress has accelerated in Uganda. It has resulted in the introduction of new business models to make processes more efficient and to better address the needs of customers/consumers, key technological advances like sharing economy, Big Data analytics, Block-chain/Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), Cloud computing are currently revolutionizing the financial sector around the world.

Specifically, Uganda has seen a steady economic growth of about 7% per annum in the last 10 years. This is heavily linked to emergency of many new startups, reliance and quick adaptation of new systems of money transfers by the majority population and trading enabled by the revolutionizing technology in third world countries.

However with the development of technology, there has been a visible knowledge gap between the majority of the MNC's clients and adaptation on Technology by the masses.

The Centre for Technology Disputes Resolution-Uganda (CTDR-U) is a Ugandan legal policy think tank providing cutting-edge insight and perspective into legal and regulatory solutions of the next generation technologies and their impact on the developing world. CTDR-U is located at The Innovation Village (TIV) in Ntinda.

CTDRU seeks to achieve "bridging the knowledge gap in Uganda" through a series of activities bringing key stake holders/partners/key players in the innovation space closer to the key users /consumers at the grass root level. ***The activities will be kick-started with an essay writing competition, followed by a moot court competition and finally a panel discussion of key stake holders in the Innovation-space.***

Through the Essay writings, the partners and stakeholders whose contributions are instrumental to Knowledge transfer and access will get an opportunity to meet and continue to engage the grassroots users through the already established Tech-Law Clubs. We aspire to see the legal innovation and technology community come together to champion, develop and refine this vision with us.

2.0 Justification of the Essay Competition:

The essay writing competition is intended to establish a foundation for education and literacy about new developments, particularly in the field of legal technology and make an attempt to bridge the knowledge gap. In the last few years, several innovations, startups, laws that govern the technology industry—more especially fin-techs, which includes payment systems (National Payments (Consumer Protection) Regulations have been laid down Judgments have been laid down and these have come with their challenges.

Despite the fact that law schools do not often have guest lectures from Tech fields, many of these technologies and legal applications, avoid the students and go unknown yet they are the leading consumers in the country.

The Essay theme tries to cover all of the varied aspects of technology laws and their regulatory applications. Most issues related to technology law also affect customers, thus consumer protection and privacy concerns will likely come up and how to help bridge that gap matters.

3.0 Participants:

The Essay competition will have students from all institutions of higher learning in Uganda.

4.0 Essay Topics:

1. **Regulatory and Policy Frameworks:** Discussing the role of regulatory and policy frameworks in fostering technology transfer and knowledge dissemination. This topic focuses on creating an enabling environment through policies that promote investment, innovation, and fair competition.

2. **Entrepreneurship and Start-up Ecosystems:** Exploring the role of entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystems in leveraging technology for economic development. This topic covers initiatives such as incubators, accelerators, and venture capital investments that support local innovation and the growth of technology-driven enterprises.

3. **Digital Infrastructure Development:** Exploring strategies to enhance digital infrastructure in developing countries, such as improving internet connectivity, expanding mobile network coverage, and establishing data centers. This topic addresses the foundational aspects necessary to support the transfer of technology and knowledge.

4. **Access to Affordable Technologies:** Highlighting the importance of making technology more accessible and affordable for individuals and businesses in developing countries. This could involve exploring innovative business models, reducing import tariffs and taxes, and fostering local production of technology.

5. **Localization and Adaptation of Technologies:** Examining strategies to adapt and localize technologies to suit the specific needs and conditions of developing countries. This could include tailoring software, hardware, and other technological solutions to address local challenges and maximize their impact.

4.0 Venue and Date:

The Essay Competition is expected to run from 19th June to 31st July 2023 and would be concluded by an indoor award ceremony with major stake holders launching the now annual Technology Moot Court Competition.

5.0 Instructions:

i. The Competition is open to all undergraduate students from Ugandan Institutions of higher learning.

ii. Essays must be typed, properly references, structured, and a bibliography provided. Sources should be cited using footnotes and applying the Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities ("OSCOLA"). Guidelines for citing international sources using OSCOLA are available at:
https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_2006_citing_international_law.p df.
Teams should ensure that all referenced sources are duly cited, in order to avoid disqualification on the grounds of plagiarism.

iii.   Essays must not exceed 4500 words (Including the footnotes but excluding the bibliography). Written essays should be submitted in one Microsoft Word or PDF document.

iv.   Any essay found to have been plagiarized will be disqualified from the competition.

v.   In the interest of accessibility, there are no formatting requirements for written essays, such as font style or size.

vi.   The student's identification number, institution of learning, course of study, and personal information (Name, phone number, email) must be clearly visible on the essay cover page.

vii.   Essays must be submitted to CTDR-U office through the official email of hello@ctdrug.org not later than **31st July 2023**.

viii.   Late entries will not be accepted.

Assessment Guide:
Participants will be assessed on their logical arguments, the depth to which they develop their answers, structure, and, demonstrated knowledge of the subject matter. Each of the criteria will be awarded points as below:

Knowledge of the subject matter	Critical thinking and Analysis	Structure, referencing, and evidence of research	Total
40	30	30	100

6.0 Proposed Program:

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Moderator: Twinomujuni Henry (Center for Technology Disputes Resolution-Uganda)

Duration	Item	Responsibility	Location
19th June – 31st July 2023	Essay writing and submission	Essay Participants	Online and physical.
31st July - 7th August	Marking and grading Essays	Essay Grading Committee	N/A
18th August 2023	**Indoor award ceremony and Launching of the Moot Court Competition.**	**Key invited stakeholders**	**To be communicated.**

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