

ACCESS TO MEDICINES, TRIPS AND PATENTS

Organised by
Third World Network & IUCIPRS, CUSAT

**DURATION: 5 WEEKS (STARTING 10TH MARCH
2022)**

**TIMING: EVENING HOURS OF EVERY THURSDAY
& FRIDAY**

PLATFORM: ZOOM (VIRTUAL)

MEDIUM: ENGLISH



REGISTRATION OPEN

APPLY NOW: <https://forms.gle/JicFDzipCjra6nfA8>

LAST DATE TO APPLY: 4th March 2022



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE :

This course is meant for medical professionals, legal professionals, researchers, students, academics, civil society and health rights activists working in the field of public health, access to medicines and patients perspectives. However, this course is open for participation to anyone who may be interested. Participation is restricted to participants in India.

SELECTION PROCESS:

Interested participants are requested to send in the completed application (google form) on or before 4th March 2022. Participants will be selected on the basis of their application and relevant work experience and will be informed of their selection by email only. Applicants, once selected for the course, are required to attend all the sessions and also participate in all activities in the course.



OBJECTIVES:

This course aims to equip participants to understand the legal and policy issues around access to affordable medicine and patent rights, increase knowledge around the use of the flexibilities provided by international trade agreements. Further, the course aims to enhance their capacity to make effective law and policy interventions.

BROAD AREAS COVERED IN THE COURSE

- Right to Health and Access to Medicines
- Political Economy of Pharmaceutical Industry
- Medicines From Lab to Pharmacy
- Regulation of Medicines – Clinical Trials
- Regulation of Medicines – Pricing
- International Patent Regime
- TRIPS Flexibilities and Access to Medicines
- TRIPS Plus and Free Trade Agreements
- Competition Law and Access to Medicines
- Alternate Incentive Models of R&D

The course will also have panel discussions by practitioners and experts on various topics such as Compulsory Licensing in India, Voluntary Licenses, Patent Oppositions, Drug Promotion & Access to Medicines, Lack of Innovations in Rare Diseases, Access to Free Medicines etc.

BACKGROUND:

Ensuring universal access to medicines is one of the core obligations of the State for fulfilling the right to health guaranteed under Article 12 of the ICESCR. It is the responsibility of the State to protect the public and also adopt appropriate measures to promote and ensure access to affordable quality drugs and medicines for all. The United Nations and the World Health Organisation has now made access to safe, effective and quality medicines and vaccines one of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite these goals and obligations, there are teeming millions in India who are unable to access medicines. What is more paradoxical, is the fact that there is a flourishing domestic pharmaceutical industry that produces medicines at a low cost not just for India but also the developing world, yet millions in India are pushed into poverty due to the high cost of medicines.

While there are many factors that affect the cost of medicines, one of the key factors is the monopoly granted by the intellectual property (IP) right—patent. In 1994, India signed the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The WTO makes it mandatory for its Member Countries to comply with Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Post-2005, India to comply with TRIPS had to change its laws and policies. TRIPS and related laws and policies play a decisive role in determining the availability of medicines in a country. Currently, most of the new medicines for cancer, cardiovascular problems, diabetes, respiratory problems and arthritis are highly expensive and patented. In this wake, it is important to understand the international trade rules governing intellectual property, its consequences, flexibilities and ways to make medicines affordable and accessible to all. Since the conclusion of the Marrakesh Agreement, the impact of patents on access to medicine is widely discussed by the different sections of society such as academia, policymakers and activists.

It is in this background, Third World Network (TWN) and the Inter-University Centre For Intellectual Property Rights Studies (IUCIPRS), Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) is jointly organizing a five-week online course on "Access to Medicines, TRIPS and Patents". Participants would be exposed to the relevant developments at the national and international level with regard to the right to health, patents, and access to medicines. The course consists of ten modules. These modules deal with all important aspects of patent, right to health and access to medicines. Further, during the course, the students are expected to undertake book /article reviews, practical exercises and engage in discussions.



For Further Information & Queries Contact Us
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TWN
Third World Network