Workshop on Innovation and Economic Development in India and China

Investigating Limits to Innovation and Peer Production in India's Mobile apps economy

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Researching IP environment for low-cost mobile technologies in India and China

Research Questions

What is the relationship between the production/deployment of pervasive technologies (hardware, software and content layers) and IP, and what are the policy levers that may be employed to protect access to these technologies?

What lessons does this hold for the future of both IPR and A2K? Do these technologies have a future under Indian and Chinese IPR laws?
Research Outputs
List of Chapters

Patent Landscaping for the Indian Mobile Device Market

IP in Mobile App development in India

Competition Law and SEP regulation in India

Music on Mobile: Copyright Management
Factors influencing the Mobile apps ecosystem

- Decreasing cost of smartphones
- Increasing Internet Penetration
- Failure of Mobile Value Added Services (VAS)
- Rapidly growing talent pool
IP in Mobile App Development in India

Key Exercises

> Survey of 267 Indian developers in 2013

> Interviews with 40+ Indian developers

> Submissions to the government's policy for Computer-Related Inventions resulted in
  the adoption of a stiff legal standard designed to restrict software patenting and
  protect innovation in the Indian software industry
Key Findings
Stages of Innovation

1. Concept / Market research
2. Development / Design
3. Testing / Demo
4. Market Distribution
5. Evolution / Scaling up
Nature of Innovation

> Nascent
> Highly networked and interdependent
> Occurring within lean organisations
> A tale of two business models: Development services and Mobile app products
> Concentrated in Bangalore
> Target market for majority firms is India
> Majority firms prefer creating apps for Android OS
Practices in Innovation

> Dichotomy of services and product based business models
> Bootstrapping v. Venture Capital funding
> Knowledge sharing v. Proprietary / secretive approach
> **Peer production**
> Licensing practices of tech and content
> Presence of limiting contractual arrangements in developer-client relationships
> Revenue generation mechanism
Implications on Open innovation

- Sub-par presence of peer-production
- Cultivating critical IP through internal and external means – Low focus on securing legal protection
- Dominant practice of transferring product ownership and knowledge to the client – IP Management
- Active participation of VCs and high labor mobility
Thank you very much.

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