



## WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY

26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017



<http://www.wipo.int/ip-outreach/en/ipday/>

### **The theme for this year's World Intellectual Property Day is "INNOVATION – IMPROVING LIVES".**

To celebrate World Intellectual Property Day on Wednesday 26 April 2017, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour (MCIL) in collaboration with the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS), have invited entries from all secondary school students around Samoa to take part in a competition comprised of the following categories:

1. Year 9 and 10: Essay Writing
2. Year 11 and 12: Science Exhibition
3. Year 13: Science Fair

This is the first time MCIL will be celebrating World Intellectual Property Day with a competition targeting secondary school students. We are looking forward to seeing inventions, reading essays and viewing exhibitions which will be displayed on the day. The prize giving for the competition will occur on 26 April 2017, with the Science Exhibition and Science Fair being held on that same day. The participating students have an opportunity to win great prizes, but the greatest prize of all is the knowledge that through innovation we will see a breakthrough of inventions that can help improve the lives, of our people and for the betterment of our future.

The drive behind this year's theme is to promote and develop the innovative thinking of young people to encourage the creation of inventions that can improve lives in terms of health, safety and comfort, and to assist in combatting problems occurring in our natural environment. The idea of targeting secondary schools is a way of encouraging our young people to be the innovators that they were destined to be.

Lest we forget yesterday's innovators who through their ideas and creations we are able to live comfortably, people like:

- The Wright Brother who created the first successful airplane;
- Alexander Graham Bell who invented the metal detector;
- Bill Gates the creator of Microsoft; and
- Thomas Edison who created the first light bulb.

On World Intellectual Property Day this year, young people of Samoa, think about what your future could hold: computer programmer, creator of the next best software, creator of a social media application, or creator of a new breed of taro.

And with that, we leave you with a few words from the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Francis Gurry: *“This year’s campaign is an opportunity for us all to think about what it actually takes to invent something and the challenges associated with that process. It is also a chance for us to consider how we can make innovation really work for the benefit of the whole of society. I wish you all a very happy, fruitful and innovative World Intellectual Property Day.”*

Sources to be acknowledged:

[www.wipo.int/ip-outreach/en/ipday/](http://www.wipo.int/ip-outreach/en/ipday/)

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