

Organization (WHO), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Labor Organization (ILO). WIPO works closely with other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) as well as with international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), some 250 of which are accredited to attend WIPO meetings as observers.

WIPO's Coordination Offices, based in Brussels, New York, Singapore, and Tokyo, help to manage the network of relationships with international, regional and national partner organizations.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION TO IMPROVE LIFE

In South Africa, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) aims to foster research and technological innovation, through the private and public sector, in order to improve the quality of life for those in need.

MineBurner. Developed with CSIR and Department of Trade and Industry funding, the MineBurner aims to slash the costs of de-mining operations and reduce the number of deaths caused by landmines. Using patented pressure technology, the device burns up the explosive compound in the mine, rather than exploding it, making it safe to use in built-up areas. The cost of removing a landmine with the MineBurner is estimated at 20 cents, compared to US\$300 – US\$1,000 using traditional methods.

PlayPumps. Each turn of the PlayPump merry-go-round powers a pump forty meters below ground. As the children play, water is pumped effortlessly to a 2,500-liter storage tank, supplying the needs of an entire community. To date, 700 PlayPump™ systems installed in rural villages across South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland have transformed the lives of over a million people. Clean water means better sanitation and less disease. Freed from the daily toil of fetching water, girls can attend school, and women have time to start small businesses.



Courtesy: PlayPumps International