

WIPO-UPOV SYMPOSIUM ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

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Francis Gurry, a national of Australia, is Assistant Director General and the Legal Counsel of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva. He is responsible for WIPO's activities in the area of patents, which include patent policy questions and the administration of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), under which over 114,000 international patent applications were filed in 2002; biotechnology and genetic resource policy questions; traditional knowledge; and the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, which administered nearly 3,000 disputes over Internet domain names in 2002.

Dr. Gurry holds law degrees from the University of Melbourne and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. He is a Vice President of the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI).

Before joining WIPO in 1985, he practiced as an attorney in Melbourne and Sydney and also taught law at the University of Melbourne. He is the author of a textbook on the law of trade secrets and confidential information, entitled *Breach of Confidence*, published by Oxford University Press in the United Kingdom in 1984 and re-printed in 1990, and co-author, with Frederick Abbott and Thomas Cottier, of *The International Intellectual Property System: Commentary and Materials*, published by Kluwer in July 1999.

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