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## South Asian Intellectual Property Knowledge Network



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## ARTICLE INFO

Article history:  
Available online 7 July 2014

Keywords:  
Intellectual property  
SAARC  
SAIPKN  
E-learning  
India

## ABSTRACT

The Patent Informatics Division project “Information Driven Innovation in South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Countries for Knowledge Development and Capacity Building” has a dual role of providing patent informatics services and capacity building in SAARC countries by offering short term training programs. Under the purview of the project the website “South Asian Intellectual Property Knowledge Network” (SAIPKN) has been started to act as a platform to provide patent informatics services, and to promote capacity building by offering e-learning opportunities on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The informatics services offered through the website are prior art search services and patent landscape analysis. Through the e-learning module of the website users can access study materials on IPR.

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## 1. Introduction

South Asian Intellectual Property Knowledge Network (SAIPKN) is an intellectual property e-learning platform developed specifically for scientists, inventors, policymakers and students from SAARC countries. The e-learning platform has been developed by the Patent Informatics Division (PID) of the CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), New Delhi, under the purview of a project sponsored by SAARC Documentation Centre (SDC).

World Wide Web (www) as the name suggests has developed its roots in every sphere of life. We have moved on from days of blackboard to virtual classroom, from book reading to e-learning. World Wide Web not only provides us with seamless knowledge but it also connects individuals from many nations irrespective of boundaries. SAIPKN has been developed by using this attribute of the web. It is a web based knowledge network portal. The portal has been developed to provide a common platform for knowledge sharing and impart knowledge services on patents and other kinds of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among the SAARC member nations. It is a platform where scientists, researchers, technologists of SAARC nations can get virtual training and refined course material in the field of IPR.

## 2. Background

NISCAIR has been serving scholarly information to S & T community of the nation since 1952 [1]. Presently, NISCAIR has accesses to more than 5000 journals that include all PCT minimum journals and patent databases like Derwent Innovation Index, Thomson Innovation Index and Questel Orbit. With its rich, old and new collections, core competence, NISCAIR established National Prior Art Search Services Facility (NPASF) in 2009, specifically to facilitate Indian innovators. Through NPASF, NISCAIR provided prior art search and short term training to inventors, R & D professionals and science planners in India. PID was established on the foundations set by the NPASF. Since its establishment PID evolved to offer high-end knowledge intensive services (like development of value added patent databases and patent landscape reports) and training to inventors, researchers and science planners in potential areas of patent interest (prior art search and patent informatics).

To create and extend its existing services to SAARC countries, PID started the project “Information Driven Innovation in SAARC Countries for Knowledge Development and Capacity Building” with financial support from SAARC Documentation Centre, New Delhi.

## 3. Overview of SAIPKN

The portal is user friendly and proper navigation is provided throughout the portal keeping in mind the ease of user. SAIPKN is developed using MOODLE (Modular Object Oriented Dynamic

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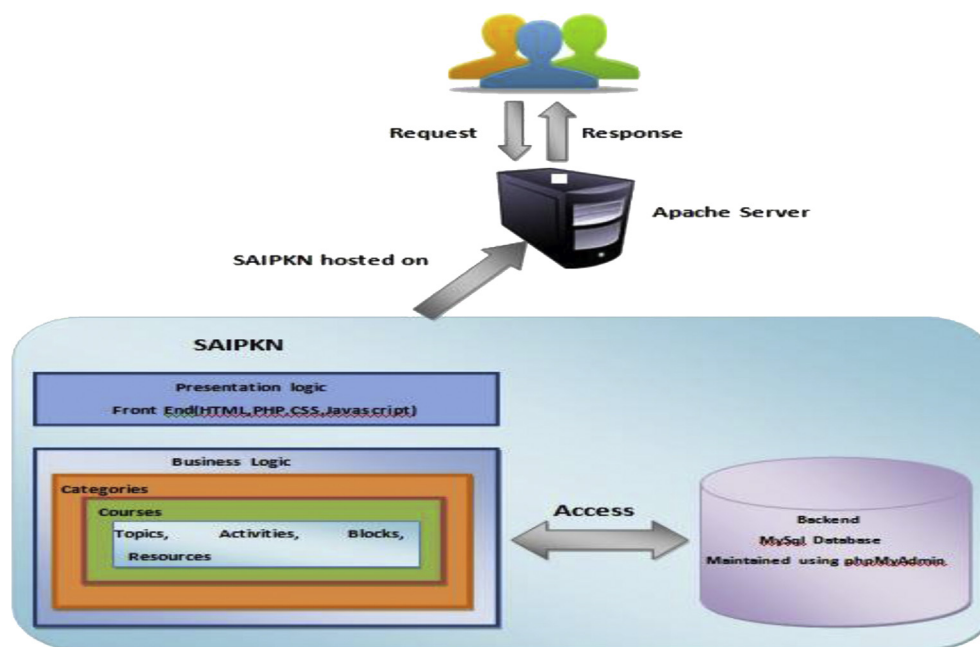


Fig. 1. SAIPKN structure.

Learning Environment) and the theme being used is Essential which is a three column Responsive theme based on Bootstrap designed to provide a more professional and clean website focused look and feel. It provides an image slider and marketing spots on the homepage to guide users where they need to. The theme also makes strong use of Font Awesome to provide icons throughout the design. The front end is designed using HTML, CSS, JQuery, AJAX, JavaScript, Font Awesome, Google Font and Bootstrap base. The Business logic is built using PHP and the database used is MySQL maintained using phpMyAdmin (Fig. 1).

#### 4. SAIPKN e-learning platform

The e-learning platform has been designed to provide easy access to intellectual property (IP) courses (Fig. 2). The platform will also provide communication facilities through feedback, discussion forum, blog and email. The content of the IP e-learning platform can be divided into 3 modules.

##### 4.1. Administration module

This module is designed to facilitate the maintenance of the platform and also to offer registration facilities for the users. SAIPKN will be entirely managed by the Admin. Admin will be responsible for uploading of courses, quizzes, audios and videos related to the modules and managing databases, blogs and forums. Registered users can access the features like courses, discussions forums, blogs, quizzes, feedback. Self enrollment to the course is available.

The homepage of SAIPKN can be accessed via [picb.niscair.res.in/saipkn](http://picb.niscair.res.in/saipkn) (Fig. 3). New users can register at SAIPKN through the login interface, which provides in detail all the requirements for new registration. It is an e-mail based self registration process so the user must have a working e-mail id. After successful login, user can view his/her homepage which give the personal details of the user like profile picture, name, e-mail id, messages, courses enrolled etc. Through this page the user can edit his/her profile details, password etc. This page can be customized by users as per their requirements.



Fig. 2. How SAIPKN works.

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