

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 75

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**Bahrain: The industry and Commerce Minister received the Chairperson of Bahrain Intellectual Property Society on the occasion of World Intellectual Property Day**

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## News

### **1. Important topics**

#### **UAE: Dubai wins the bid to host the International Trademark Association (INTA) Annual Meeting in 2026**

Dubai has been nominated for the hosting rights for the prestigious International Trademark Association (INTA) Annual Meeting in 2026<sup>1</sup>. This historic decision was announced during the opening ceremony of the 2023 INTA Annual Meeting in Singapore on May 17th, making Dubai the first city in the Middle East to host this esteemed gathering of trademark and intellectual property experts.

The successful bid was the result of a remarkable collaboration between the Emirates Intellectual Property Association (EIPA)<sup>2</sup>, the UAE Ministry of Economy, Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism, the Dubai Chambers, and the Dubai Police. Dubai's selection as the host city reflects its emergence as a leading global destination for international events.

The ecosystem in Dubai is specifically designed to foster innovation, boasting a vibrant community of start-up incubators, accelerators, and regulatory sandbox schemes for the development and testing of new tech business models. Trademarks and intellectual property hold immense importance for businesses, and Dubai eagerly anticipates supporting this significant event to empower both local and global business communities.

Hosting the INTA Annual Meeting aligns with the UAE Leadership's 2071 Centennial Plan<sup>34</sup>, which prioritizes the establishment of a diversified knowledge economy. This includes investing in scientific research, emerging sectors, innovation, entrepreneurship, and advanced industries. Enhanced protection of intellectual property, encouragement of innovation through increased confidence in R&D investments, and providing incentives for commercialization are vital aspects of this plan.

The country's deep commitment led to this achievement to recognize the vital role of intellectual property and demonstrate its dedication to creating a thriving business and investment environment supported by robust intellectual property rights protection. The UAE's focus on international cooperation and strategic partnerships in the fields of economy, trade, and innovation is further reinforced by this decision. Dubai is committed to ensuring the event's success and leaving a lasting legacy not only for the city and the UAE but also for the wider region.

#### **UAE: The Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) announced 300,000 websites registered in .ae in 2023**

The UAE's national domain, .ae, experienced significant growth in 2022 with over 46,000 new domain name registrations. This brings the total number of registered domain names to 300,000 as of the first quarter of 2023, marking a growth rate of almost 20%. The .ae domain has become the most popular national domain in the UAE and is among the fastest-growing domains in the Arab region. This achievement highlights the UAE's economic importance as a major hub in the Middle East.<sup>5</sup>

The surge in registrations of the .ae national domain indicates the increasing interest of government entities, individuals, and companies in leveraging its advantages. These advantages include enhancing credibility, safeguarding intellectual and commercial property rights, and offering a superior user experience. The .ae domain offers the availability of distinguished names and abbreviations that align with official websites, trademarks, emails, etc. in a straightforward process.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303159093> (2023.5.17)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=6120215668033850&set=pcb.6120215768033840> (2023.5.17)

<sup>3</sup> [UAE Centennial 2071 - The Official Portal of the UAE Government](#)

<sup>4</sup> [News \(uaecabinet.ae\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> <https://tdra.gov.ae/en/media/press-release/2023/tdra-300-000-websites-registered-in-ae-in-2023> (2023.5.24)

The domain plays a crucial role in building customer and partner confidence in the organization, a streamlined registration process and tracking of registrants, contributing to enhanced security measures. The Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) recognizes the importance of protecting trademark owners and has implemented a fair dispute policy and to ensure unbiased judgments, TDRA collaborates with the World Intellectual Property Organization.

It is worth noting that the UAE launched the .ae website incorporating ChatGPT technology to enhance the development of the national domain. It provides fast performance and the ability to suggest unique names based on users' descriptions of their commercial activities. Furthermore, ChatGPT supports search functionality in Arabic and English.<sup>6</sup> TDRA continues to work on developing the portal and aligning it with the higher national directions, mainly 'We the UAE 2031' vision<sup>7</sup> with its four pillars related to government, society, economy and international relations.

### **Saudi Arabia: SAIP and the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC) sign a memorandum of cooperation in the field of intellectual property<sup>8</sup>**

On May 29, 2023, during the Joint Commission on Industrial Property proceedings in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Mr. Abdelaziz Babqiqi, Director General of the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office (OMPIC), and Mr. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al-Swailem, Executive Chairman of the Saudi Intellectual Property Authority (SAIP), officially entered into a memorandum of understanding.<sup>9</sup>

The purpose of the MoU is to facilitate collaboration in various aspects of intellectual property systems, policies, and strategies, including the registration and development processes for geographical indications<sup>10</sup>.

Additionally, the said MoU aims to enhance cooperation in managing intellectual property information and exchanging data, while also promoting best practices for intellectual property transactions.

The meeting occurred during the General Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization held in July last year in Geneva. It provided an opportunity for both parties to discuss the latest advancements in industrial property in Morocco and Saudi Arabia, as well as explore joint projects and prospects for future cooperation between the two institutions.

### **Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia unveils their first local car**

A carbon fibre prototype vehicle, the KSU Gazal-1 was built by the King Saud University (KSU)<sup>11</sup>.

The vehicle is designed for the desert climate of Gulf countries, Dr. Khalid Alsaleh, who registered patents for the vehicle, mentioned that environment specific tests such as camel collision tolerance were conducted.

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<sup>6</sup> [English Out Apr 23.pdf \(2023 April\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> ['We the UAE 2031' vision - The Official Portal of the UAE Government](#)

<sup>8</sup> <https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1663147619084795905> (2023.5.29)

<sup>9</sup> [Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between OMPIC and SAIP | Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property](#) (2023.5.31)

<sup>10</sup> [Morocco's OMPIC, Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property Sign Cooperation Memorandum | Maroc.ma](#) (2023.5.31)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/saudi-arabia-unveils-ghazal-first-local-car> (2023.5.15)

The KSU Gazal-1 was designed by Studiotorino<sup>12</sup> the automotive parts are produced by Magna Steyr in Austria.

Saudi Arabia seeks to develop local industry, particularly by training its own managers and experts, and by technology transfer.

### **Qatar: Qatari inventor wins award for world's first smart prayer rug**

Qatari inventor Abdulrahman Saleh Khamis has achieved a significant accomplishment by winning a gold medal at the 48<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva.<sup>13</sup> His invention, the Sajdah smart prayer rug, has garnered recognition for its innovative design and educational capabilities. The Sajdah rug utilizes cutting-edge technology to guide new Muslims and children in performing prayers correctly.

This smart prayer rug offers an immersive prayer experience with an LED screen that allows users to select Quran chapters prior to beginning their prayers. It incorporates advanced features to detect and correct errors made during prayers, ensuring an improved and error-free prayer experience.<sup>14</sup>

This invention marks a significant advancement in Islamic education, revolutionizing how people learn and practice their faith. Such accomplishment underscores the significance of fostering research and R&D in Qatar and the wider Middle East region.

### **Pakistan: A civil case was filed by a renowned jewelry retailer for operating a jewelry store illegally using the name of the brand in Islamabad<sup>15</sup>**

Malabar Gold & Diamonds<sup>16</sup>, the sixth-largest global jewelry retailer, has emerged victorious in a legal dispute in Islamabad, Pakistan, concerning brand impersonation. With an extensive presence of over 300 retail outlets in the Middle East, Far East, USA, and India, the company took legal action against a Pakistani individual who illicitly operated a jewelry store using the brand name and other trademarks associated with Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

The accused party, who engaged in this infringement, asked for an amicable settlement and agreed to the brand's stipulations. These conditions include the withdrawal of the accused's trademark application for 'Malabar Gold & Diamonds' registered under their name and the public confession and declaration in both English and Urdu newspapers. The infringer complied with these requirements, bringing the matter to a conclusion.

## **2. Additional topics**

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<sup>12</sup> [https://www.studiotorino.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=187:gazal-2&catid=14:cars&lang=en&Itemid=166](https://www.studiotorino.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=187:gazal-2&catid=14:cars&lang=en&Itemid=166)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/tech/qatari-inventor-wins-award-for-worlds-first-smart-prayer-rug-heres-how-it-works> (2023.5.23)

<sup>14</sup> <https://getsajdah.com/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/fake-malabar-gold-diamonds-showroom-in-pakistan-shut-down> (2023.6.1)

<sup>16</sup> [Malabar Gold & Diamonds UAE | Buy Gold, Diamond & Gemstone Jewellery \(malabargoldanddiamonds.com\)](https://www.malabargoldanddiamonds.com/)

**UAE:**

Exclusive distributor, Al-Masood Automobiles supports Nissan in combating counterfeit products (2023.4.30)

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2295416/corporate-news>

<https://www.masood.com/en/our-business/automotive/al-masood-automobiles/>

A man targeted by a counterfeit currency scheme sets up a trap to catch the fraudster, but mistakenly apprehends an innocent man (2023.5.3)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/crime/dubai-victim-of-fake-currency-scheme-sets-trap-for-fraudster-but-captures-innocent-man-instead>

The 'Journal of Judiciary and Law' contributes to the discussion surrounding AI-Based Systems and the Metaverse in the field of law (2023.5.4)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303153999>

The UAE-India partnership is a driver for economic growth (2023.5.4)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303154118>

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303162186>

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-engage/a-catalyst-for-india-uae-relations>

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/uae-india-part-of-7-growth-club-al-marri>

The Mohammed bin Rashid Solar Park strengthens the UAE's position as a trailblazer in renewable energy (2023.5.4)

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395303154185>

Green Entrepreneurship was highlighted at the Annual Investment Meeting's Entrepreneurs Investment Summit (2023.5.9)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303156135>

<https://www.aimcongress.com/>

The UAE's outstanding performance across five labor market competitiveness indices solidifies its position as a global leader (2023.5.12)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303157345>

A groundbreaking system for protecting intellectual property and knowledge assets was developed by an innovator at Dubai Customs (2023.5.15)

<https://www.dubaicustoms.gov.ae/en/NewsCenter/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsId=1916>



Sharjah Ruler issues Emiri Decree to reorganize Sharjah Book Authority (2023.5.15)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303158228>

The Department of Economic Development, in collaboration with the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, launched a service to verify the authenticity of new acquisitions (2023.5.17)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/is-your-mobile-genuine-or-fake>

The Ministry of Economy captured over 1,000 counterfeit watch dealers (2023.5.17)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/more-than-1000-fake-watch-dealers-busted>

The Department of Economic Development is spreading awareness of IP rights and plays a key role in supporting comprehensive development (2023.5.17)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/a-three-pronged-approach-for-consumer-protection>

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/zero-tolerance-for-piracy-in-dubai>

World Bank expects UAE's non-oil economy to grow by 4.8% in 2023 (2023.5.17)

<https://www.gulftoday.ae/business/2023/05/17/world-bank-expects-uae-non-oil-economy-to-grow-by-4-8-in-2023>

UAE and Italy strengthen economic partnerships and explore investment exchanges in renewable energy, tourism, and FinTech (2023.5.18)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303159564>

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/uae-italy-strengthen-economic-partnership>

UAE and France have a history of strong partnerships across multiple sectors (2023.5.22)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303156888>

The Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre opens registration for the 2023 'Spotlight on Rights' grant program (2023.5.23)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303161033>

The American University of Sharjah researchers secure a patent for a miniature digitized radar system (2023.5.23)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303161057>

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303161370>

Philippines's Angel's Burger works with UAE authorities to address the "violation of intellectual property rights" (2023.5.24)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/lifestyle/food/dubai-philippines-angels-burger-says-no-affiliation-with-new-branch-in-uae>

The UAE's Falcon 40B AI model is now available for commercial and research use without any royalties (2023.5.31)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303164058>

Abu Dhabi police warned UAE residents about increased fraudulent calls and counterfeit websites (2023.5.31)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/uae-scam-alert-police-warn-residents-against-fraudsters-posing-as-government-officials>

#### **Saudi Arabia:**

Saudi's progress and achievements of an inspiring vision toward creating a vibrant economy with future opportunities and innovations (2023.4.29)

<https://twitter.com/SaudiVision2030/status/1650910320578248732>

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1652376359799341062>

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2294676/saudi-vision-2030-seven-years-dream-comes-true>

SAIP's most prominent indicators for April of 2023 (2023.5.4)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1654165367839653895>

SAIP holds a meeting with the Indian Business Council in Delhi to assess intellectual property advancements in the Kingdom (2023.5.16)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1658522043694866432>

SAIP participated in the INTA Annual Meetings in Singapore (2023.5.18, 2023.5.21)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1659174191629737985>

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1660216905754374147>

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1659167260932440069>

Public Investment Fund establishes Badael Company to support domestic manufacturing, knowledge transfer, and development of intellectual property, etc. (2023.5.25)

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2310431/saudi-arabia>

King Abdulaziz University granted two patents in electrical energy protection, control systems (2023.6.2)

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/energy/saudi-king-abdulaziz-university-granted-2-patents-in-electrical-energy-protection-control-systems-jtln3ab>

**Turkey:**

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<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1652271685762940930>

<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1652263939953106944>

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<https://twitter.com/CemilBASPINAR/status/1653302539813629955>

Mobile patent and design research application development has been launched on the Play Store (2023.5.12)

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<https://twitter.com/CemilBASPINAR/status/1656591827636568064>

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Reduction in Trademark, Design, and Patent official fees (2023.5.21)

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The Directorate General of Consumer Protection seized a shop that sells vehicle oil filters and counterfeit and adulterated spark plugs packaged in boxes bearing an original brand (2023.5.31)

<https://pacp.gov.om/ar/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=11881>

**Qatar:**

Qatar University has developed an innovation that has the potential to eradicate smoke emissions from diesel engines (2023.4.30)

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/30/04/2023/qatar-university-invention-poised-to-eliminate-emissions-from-diesel-engines>

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry celebrated World Intellectual Property Day, themed “Women & IP: Boosting Innovation and Creativity” (2023.5.17)

[https://www.moci.gov.qa/en/mec\\_news/ministry-of-commerce-and-industry-celebrates-world-intellectual-property-day-2/](https://www.moci.gov.qa/en/mec_news/ministry-of-commerce-and-industry-celebrates-world-intellectual-property-day-2/)

<https://twitter.com/MOCIQatar/status/1658819897978224640>

Oxy Water Tank Cooler: Solar-powered water-cooling technology offers an eco-friendly alternative (2023.5.18)

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/18/05/2023/solar-powered-water-cooling-technology-offers-eco-friendly-alternative>

#### **Bahrain:**

The industry and Commerce Minister received the Chairperson of Bahrain Intellectual Property Society on the occasion of World Intellectual Property Day (2023.4.30)

<https://www.moic.gov.bh/EN/MEDIACENTER/NEWS>

#### **Kuwait:**

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<https://twitter.com/mociq8/status/1655497002078162944>

#### **Syria:**

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[https://www.wipo.int/edocs/madrdocs/en/2023/madrid\\_2023\\_13.pdf?utm\\_source=WIPO+Newsletters&utm\\_campaign=2f9aeefbcc-DIS\\_MADRID\\_NEWS\\_EN\\_100523&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_-0c57c891bc-%5BLIST\\_EMAIL\\_ID%5D](https://www.wipo.int/edocs/madrdocs/en/2023/madrid_2023_13.pdf?utm_source=WIPO+Newsletters&utm_campaign=2f9aeefbcc-DIS_MADRID_NEWS_EN_100523&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-0c57c891bc-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

#### **Iran:**

The Iranian delegation conducted a visit to Uzbekistan for the potential involvement in renewable energy projects (2023.5.10)

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/484572/Iran-Uzbekistan-to-expand-ties-in-renewables>

#### **Iraq:**

The Prime Minister engaged in a meeting with a diverse group of scientists, innovators, and patent holders representing academic disciplines at the Iraqi Inventors Forum (2023.5.10)

<https://www.iraq-businessnews.com/2023/05/10/govt-to-set-up-iraqi-inventors-forum/>

#### **Palestine:**

Recent IP registration in the Ministry of National Economy (2023.4.29)

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=599441078883057&set=a.286793916814443>

**GCC:**

Inventors from the GCC countries were nominated for the Malaysia International Exhibition of Inventions (ITEX22) (2023.5.3, 2023.5.11, 2023.5.13)

<https://twitter.com/GCCSG/status/1653723697251774465>

<https://www.gcc-sg.org/ar-sa/MediaCenter/NewsCooperation/News/Pages/news2023-5-11-16.aspx>

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The GCC Patent Office issued issue 74 (May 2023) of the Patent Bulletin (2023.5.10)

<https://www.gccpo.org/Doc/PatentGazette/Gazette/Gazette-E/74.pdf>

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The ceremony of the 42nd founding anniversary of the Cooperation Council was held for the Arab States of the Gulf (2023.5.24)

<https://twitter.com/GCCSG/status/1661313973919137792>

<https://timesofoman.com/article/131286-gcc-42nd-anniversary-a-moment-to-ponder-past-achievements-contemplate-future-ones>

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**Middle East:**

Huawei MEA makes a strong comeback by introducing cutting-edge flagship smartphones to the market (2023.5.18)

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2305846/corporate-news>

Free Trade Agreements play a crucial role in fostering economic prosperity (2023.5.21)

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2307556>

Panasonic expedites its growth strategy for the Middle East and Africa region in 2023 (2023.5.25)

[https://www.tradearabia.com/news/IT\\_409768.html](https://www.tradearabia.com/news/IT_409768.html)

**Worldwide:**

The joint event by WTO and FIFA emphasized the significance of football in trade and empowering women (2023.5.1)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303152767>

WIPO Global Awards 2023 Finalists from the Middle East region (2023.5.30)

[https://www.wipo.int/global-awards/en/news/2023/news\\_0002.html](https://www.wipo.int/global-awards/en/news/2023/news_0002.html)

<https://www.wipo.int/global-awards/en/2023/>

The conference under the theme 'Thinking about industrial property, sustainability and the future of the planet' was held by INPI, WIPO, EPO, and EUIPO (2023.5.30)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303163658>

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