

Africa Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 94

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Legal guide to navigate the tech startup scene in Nigeria

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ANC vs MK Party logo dispute: Ruling party says judge 'erred' as it appeals 'whole order'

Pakistani national arrested on allegations of bribery as police seize R3 million in counterfeit goods in Midrand

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News

1. Important topics

Africa: Various states participate at the Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in Geneva^{1 2 3}

Various delegates from African countries participated at the Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in Geneva, Switzerland from 13-24 May 2024. This conference was held to protect the rights of indigenous communities and promote fairness, equity, and sustainability in their global utilization. The aim of the conference was to establish a treaty for the protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

Africa: WIPO Member States Adopt Historic New Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge⁴

On 24 May 2024, the WIPO member states approved a new treaty relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge. Once the treaty enters into force with 15 contracting parties, it will establish a new disclosure requirement for patent applicants whose inventions are based on genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge.

Ghana: Ghana joins TMClass⁵

Effective from 13 May 2024, the Registrar General's Department of Ghana will use and accept the terms of the harmonized database of goods and service (HDB) in TMClass. There are now 34 IP Office outside of the European Union using and accepting the terms of this database. The total number of participating national and regional offices now stands at 93.

Morocco: The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property and the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office Launch PPH Pilot Program⁶

On 24 April 2024, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property ("SAIP") and the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office ("OMPIC") jointly announced the launch of a pilot program for the Patent Prosecution Highway ("PPH"). The PPH allows examination results from partnering offices to be utilized thereby streamlining the patent applications process between the respective offices thereby accelerating the grant of patents.

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/share/dD8vB2xycJkUGQjY/>

² <https://www.facebook.com/100066711241602/posts/780811977485837/?rclid=VJ5QkxwARA98gVEF>
<https://www.facebook.com/100064680825984/posts/883837263782293/?rclid=3m3nEDbUIIQn2LWh>

⁴ https://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2024/article_0007.html

⁵ <https://afripi.org/en/news/ghana-joins-tmclass>

⁶ <https://www.tamimi.com/news/the-saudi-authority-for-intellectual-property-and-moroccan-industrial-and-commercial-property-office-launches-pph-pilot-program/>

OAPI: E-Filing Process to Commence From 3 June 2024⁷

Implementation of the OAPI e-filing system will commence on 3 June 2024. The e-filing system will be implemented for trade mark matters including registrability searches, filing of applications, renewals, Recordals and oppositions. Patent matters will not be part of the initial stage, but company name registrations and objects will also be managed by the e-filing system soon.

Sudan: Counterfeit and Expired Medicines Sold on Sudan Markets⁸

In early May 2024, a warning was issued by the Sudan's National Council for Drugs and Toxins regarding unknown packaging of Amidol 500mg tablets used as a painkiller. This warning refocused the attention on the nearly complete cessation of the local pharmaceutical industry and the problem of smuggled and counterfeit medicines in war-torn Sudan.

Tunisia: MPs start considering bill on Tunisia's accession to amended protocol to WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights⁹

On 29 May 2024, members of Parliament started a plenary discussion session to consider the organic bill 2023/51 which approves the accession to the amended protocol to WTO TRIPS agreement. More particularly, the bill provides for the approval of the amendment on the provisions of the protocol on patents.

2. Additional topics

Africa:

Unveiling Africa's Gems: The Power of Geographical Indications

<https://africa-gi.com/en/pan-african-gi/news/unveiling-africas-gems-power-geographical-indications>
(2024.04.25)

Algeria:

Industrial Protection: 1,470 innovation patents registered

<https://algeriainvest.com/news/protection-industrielle-1-470-brevets-dinnovation-enregistres-1>
(2024.05.04)

Launch of Management and marketing in Intellectual Property

<https://www.facebook.com/100064871767413/posts/857115166460868/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v> (2024.05.05)

⁷ <https://www.mondaq.com/southafrica/trademark/1471856/oapi-e-filing-process-to-commence-from-3-june-2024>

⁸ <https://allafrica.com/stories/202405130172.html>

⁹ <https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Economy/17516836-mps-start>

ARIPO:

The ARIPO Director General leading a delegation on a two-day high-level mission in Banjul

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=856001316563355&id=100064604834858&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=S0SvWM8kZLX814nA (2024.05.06)

The Director General, Mr. Bemanya Twebaze and his delegation were well received by His Excellency Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of The Gambia, during #ARIPO's high-level mission to the country

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/VfsF9BUZ7yq6LuLj/?mibextid=qi2Omg> (2024.05.08)

High-Level Dialogue Between ARIPO Director General and President of The Gambia

<https://www.aripo.org/public/news/High-Level+Dialogue+Between+ARIPO+Director+General+and+President+of+The+Gambia-1715611157>
(2024.05.09)

Encouraging collaboration and licensing

<https://www.facebook.com/share/Uc6w7xRDu2W8xv1Z/> (2024.05.13)

WIPO Diplomatic Conference in IP, Genetic Resources & Associated Traditional Knowledge

<https://www.facebook.com/share/UPAVCCqnUg7fx8Di/> (2024.05.14)

Traditional Knowledge in IP

<https://www.facebook.com/share/gfiFc5MtPXm4AT4V/> (2024.05.15)

Egypt:

Transfer pricing considerations for start-ups in Egypt

<https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/2d6dkjyzuz1bfo90xnfkn/sponsored/transfer-pricing-considerations-for-start-ups-in-egypt> (2024.05.01)

Ethiopia:

Statement by EIPA DG -Diplomatic Conference on GRTK in Geneva, May 2024

<https://eipa.gov.et/statement-by-eipa-dg-diplomatic-conference-on-grtk-in-geneva-may-2024/>
(2024.05.14)

Capacity building training for branch office bearers and professionals for three consecutive days

<https://www.facebook.com/share/WLtRUApdpRFUQb3P/> (2024.05.17)

Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority with stakeholders from Tigray Temporary Administration on the Patent Draft Proclamation May 12, 2016 E.C. M held a meeting in Mekele city

<https://www.facebook.com/share/3aphSMDXDVqDihVU/> (2024.05.20)

Gambia:

President Adama Barrow held talks with the delegation of the Africa Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) at the State House in Banjul

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Ghana:

United States supports Ghanaian partners to protect Intellectual Property

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The enforcement of Intellectual Property rights in the technological era

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/The-enforcement-of-Intellectual-Property-rights-in-the-technological-era-1929561> (2024.05.07)

Unravelling the puzzle of ownership in the era of AI

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Unravelling-the-puzzle-of-ownership-in-the-era-of-AI-1929810> (2024.05.08)

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Spearheading the Future of Intellectual Property in Kenya: A CEO Consultative Meeting on the Proposed National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/502-spearheading-the-future-of-intellectual-property-in-kenya> (2024.04.30)

Vice Chancellor Calls for Responsible Use of Patents to solve Societal Challenges

<https://ouk.ac.ke/vice-chancellor-calls-responsible-use-patents-solve-societal-challenges> (2024.05.02)

Innovation Week: Equipping Youth with Knowledge

<https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/innovation-week-equipping-youth-with-knowledge/> (2024.05.03)

Anti-Counterfeit Authority hosts Nairobi Small Business Traders' Leaders in a move aimed at strengthening Collaboration Mechanism

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/504-meeting-with-nairobi-small-business-leaders> (2024.05.07)

Copyright battle: Nyashinski in hot water, fails to produce Tecno contract and is unreachable

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Intellectual Property Seminar for Academic and Research Institutions in Kenya

<https://www.kipi.go.ke/index.php/intellectual-property-seminar-academic-and-research-institutions-kenya> (2024.05.20)

Training on IPR enforcement for ARIPO Member States

<https://afripi.org/en/activities/training-ipr-enforcement-aripo-member-states> (2024.05.23)

Morocco:

OMPIC: The Industrial and Commercial Property activity shows a positive balance sheet

<http://www.ompic.ma/fr/actualites/ompic-lactivite-de-propriete-industrielle-et-commerciale-affiche-un-bilan-positif> (2024.04.08)

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<http://www.ompic.ma/sites/default/files/Note%20d%27information-CPI%202024.pdf> (2024.05.02)

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<http://www.ompic.ma/fr/actualites/publication-de-la-liste-des-conseillers-en-propriete-industrielle>
(2024.05.03)

Mozambique:

Mozambique | Gala 20th anniversary of the Industrial Property Institute (IPI, IP) relating to the list of industrial property advisors

<https://inventa.com/en/news/article/989/mozambique-gala-20th-anniversary-of-the-industrial-property-institute-ipi-ip> (2024.04.30)

AfriPI team having productive meeting with Mozambican SMEs at the EU delegation in Mozambique

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AfriPI celebrates innovation in Mozambique: Boosting IP for a sustainable future

<https://afripi.org/en/news/afripi-celebrates-innovation-mozambique-boosting-ip-sustainable-future>

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Upcoming activities - 31 May 2024 -Support the registration at EU level of the GI for Kilichi du Niger

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Join hands in tackling copyright infringements, NCC urges journalists

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Legal guide to navigate the tech startup scene in Nigeria

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NCC participates in 23rd Nigeria International Book Fair

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OAPI industrial design examiners visit EUIPO to strengthen capacity in regional IP systems

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Optimizing Intellectual Property issues to boost the African economy

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How the study tour of EUIPO had an impact on the industrial design examiners of OAPI

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OAPI trademark examiners build capability on substantive examination procedures on Intellectual Property

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South Africa:

IAP Powers Renewable Energy Innovations in South Africa

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ANC vs MK Party logo dispute: Ruling party says judge 'erred' as it appeals 'whole order'

<https://www.news24.com/news24/politics/anc-vs-mk-party-logo-dispute-ruling-party-says-judge-erred-as-it-appeals-whole-order-20240515> (2024.05.15)

Pakistani national arrested on allegations of bribery as police seize R3 million in counterfeit goods in Midrand

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URSB to support innovators of sustainable technologies

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