

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 76

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News

1. Important topics

Saudi Arabia: Publication of the Annual Report on Intellectual Property Enforcement of the year 2022¹

Saudi Arabia has made significant progress in the enforcement of intellectual property rights, according to a global index. The country is ranked second in the Middle East and North Africa region and 26th out of 63 countries worldwide. In comparison to 2018, Saudi Arabia has jumped 18 places, marking a remarkable 41% increase in its intellectual property rights indicator for 2022.

This improvement highlights Saudi Arabia's commitment to strengthening intellectual property protection and enforcement.

Most prominent enforcement figures for 2022	
Field visits	13K
Products contrary to IP rights were seized	12K+
Pirated websites were blocked	1.5K+
Removal of pirated content on the Internet	58K+
Decisions against violators	175
Ban on clearing counterfeit brands that violate the trademark system from entering Saudi markets	995
Complaints filed against Copyright and Trademark violators	1.7K+

¹ <https://externalportal-backend-production.saip.gov.sa/sites/default/files/2023-06/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B0.en.pdf>

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) experienced a notable surge in intellectual property-related complaints in 2022. The total number of complaints exceeded 1,700, encompassing copyright and trademark issues across various sectors. This increase represents a significant 47% rise compared to the previous year, highlighting the growing significance of intellectual property rights in Saudi Arabia.

SAIP took proactive measures by conducting over 660 visits to businesses in 42 cities and governorates.² A key element of their enforcement strategy involved mystery shopper visits, which played a crucial role in ensuring effective intellectual property enforcement.³ SAIP's enforcement team diligently monitored commercial and electronic markets, actively investigating instances of abuse and identifying patterns of infringement. These comprehensive efforts aimed to strengthen intellectual property enforcement and combat infringements effectively in the country.

Qatar: Qatar and Korea expanding their Strategic Partnership

The Sixth High-Level Strategic Cooperation Committee between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Korea was held in Seoul on June 15, 2023⁴, with His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim Al-Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and His Excellency Mr. Lee, Chang-Yang, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea, co-chairing the meeting. The committee highlighted the strategic partnership between Qatar and Korea, emphasizing shared interests and the signing of several MOUs between the two countries.

Alongside the committee meeting, several MOUs were signed between Qatar and Korea in the economic, trade, and investment fields. These included an agreement between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Qatar and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO).⁵

Utilizing its expertise in efficient and precise examination services, coupled with the integration of IT tools throughout its operations, KIPO has previously collaborated with other nations in the Middle East, namely Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Having successfully established a cooperative partnership with Qatar, KIPO expressed satisfaction with this significant agreement and expressed eagerness for the forthcoming development of tangible projects through close communication with their Qatari counterparts. Another MOU was signed between the Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (IPAQ)⁶ and the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) to facilitate joint investments. Furthermore, an MOU was signed with the Korean company "NEXTON"⁷ to enhance cooperation in smart agriculture and food security.

The economic relations between the two nations were emphasized, with the Republic of Korea being Qatar's third-largest trading partner, surpassing \$14 billion in bilateral trade in 2022.⁸

² <https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1670753080499924995> (2023.6.19)

³ <https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/1997/> (2023.6.23)

⁴ [During the Sixth High-Level Strategic Cooperation Committee Between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Korea Qatar and Korea explore ways to strengthen their strategic partnership – Ministry of Commerce and Industry \(moci.gov.qa\) \(2023.6.15\)](#)

⁵ [Korean Intellectual Property Office Public Relations > News \(kipo.go.kr\) \(2023.6.27\)](#)

⁶ [\(1\) Invest Qatar on Twitter: "IPA Qatar is pleased to announce that we have entered into a strategic partnership with the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency to promote investment and trade between The State of Qatar and The Republic of Korea. #InvestQatar #Partnership #Investment https://t.co/crVrvJ3l8D" / Twitter \(2023.6.18\)](#)

⁷ [NEXTON](#)

⁸ [Qatar-South Korea bilateral trade surges to \\$15.4bn in first 11 months of 2022 | The Peninsula Qatar \(2023.6.29\)](#)

The committee meeting focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, construction, infrastructure, agriculture, shipping, civil aviation, health, education, high-tech, technology, culture, and sports.

Oman: The Sultanate of Oman considers setting up of National Centre for Intellectual Property⁹¹⁰

From time and again, Oman has been fulfilling its tasks in the best possible manner, in an attempt to provide a better and enhanced business environment to entities while making sure of protecting the rights of the individuals as well.

In its valuable pursuit in line with the "Oman Vision 2040"¹¹, another workshop was held in the country, which stressed on the need to boost the national intellectual property system and ongoing cooperation projects between the Sultanate of Oman and the World Intellectual Property Organization "WIPO".

The two-day workshop started on June 5, 2023 included discussions on the betterment programs and the efforts that have and will be incurred in the pursuit of achieving a better future. This included the mention of the ongoing cooperation projects, including programs of training of diplomats and the commercial officials, considering offering a master's program in intellectual property and other areas of cooperation in higher education. They also discussed the organizing of summer schools in cooperation with the WIPO that would generate employment opportunities too.

Another important discussion in the said workshop included the possibility of establishing a National Training Centre concerning intellectual property affairs, that would ultimately enrich the countries efforts.

Pakistan: Change in the Amounts of the Individual¹²

The Individual fee that is payable when Pakistan is a designated country to an international Madrid application has been changed by the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in line with Rule 35(2)(d) of the Regulations under the Madrid Protocol. The change also applies to the fee in a designation subsequent to an international registration and also in respect of the renewal of an international registration in which Pakistan has been designated.

The fee has been lowered as compared to the previous fees. The change in fees is in effect from July 1, 2023.

⁹ <https://omannews.gov.om/topics/en/80/show/113052/> (2023.6.5)

¹⁰ <https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1139129/opinion/oman/oman-strengthens-intellectual-property-protection-for-economic-growth-and-innovation> (2023.6.22)

¹¹ [Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit \(oman2040.om\)](https://www.oman2040.om/)

¹²

https://www.wipo.int/edocs/madrdocs/en/2023/madrid_2023_14.pdf?utm_source=WIPO+Newsletters&utm_campaign=3d796e7386-DIS_MADRID_NEWS_EN_050623&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0c57c891bc-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D (2023.6.1)

The comparison of the fees is as follows:

Items		Amounts (in Swiss francs)	
		Until June 30, 2023	As from July 1, 2023
Application or Subsequent Designation	- for each class of goods or services	75 Approx. USD 84/JPY 12,002	54 Approx. USD 61/JPY 8,641
Renewal	- for each class of goods or services	66 Approx. USD 74/JPY 11,842	48 Approx. USD 54/JPY 7,681

Pakistan: E-filing system introduced¹³

As a digitalization milestone for the country, in a ceremony held at Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP)¹⁴ on Wednesday, 14th June, the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan) in collaboration with the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), introduced the e-Filing system to receive trademark applications from IP applicants, electronically. The Pakistan IPO provides access to an online Trademark filing system¹⁵ and efforts are being made to digitize applications for Copyright, Patent, Designs, and Geographical Indications in a similar manner.

This is considered a great attainment while considering that IP filings carried out manually, were obviously a time-incurring and cost-incurring procedure. Such an advancement in the IP system will enable less time-incurring procedures that will be of hassle-free convenience. This would also considerably decrease the cost of filing trademark applications in the Country while benefitting the applicants.

It is worth noting that the introduction of online filing had some deficiencies and flaws in the system, as a result, it has not been used widely as yet.

Efforts are also being put in to accept the applications related to Copyright, Patent, Designs, and Geographical Indications electronically on similar lines.

2. Additional topics

UAE:

Indian AI graduate developed a smart solution to detect hateful memes on social media (2023.6.3)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/education/abu-dhabi-this-indian-ai-graduate-developed-a-smart-solution-to-detect-hateful-memes-on-social-medi>

Sweden-UAE partnership in progress (2023.6.6)

<https://gulfnnews.com/uae/sweden-uae-partners-in-progress-1.1686044194030>

¹³ <https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2520> (2023.6.14)

¹⁴ [Arfa Software Technology Park | PITB](#)

¹⁵ [How to Register as IP Attorney for IPO's Online Filing System](#)

¹⁶ [How to Register as SELF \(Individual\) for IPO's Online Filing System](#)

Sharjah Ruler approves Souq Al Jubail logos in Al Dhaid and Kalba (2023.6.6)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303165939>

Dubai Customs engages with New Zealand to foster economic collaboration (2023.6.7)

<https://www.dubaicustoms.gov.ae/en/NewsCenter/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsId=1924>

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303166471>

UAE hosted K-Business Day in Middle East 2023 to matchmake startups in UAE and Korea (2023.6.8)

<https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395303166915>

Dubai-based desert farming and water conservation company supports MOCCA's Climate Responsible Company Pledge (2023.6.13)

<https://www.gulftoday.ae/business/2023/06/13/dubai-firm-supports-uae-moccae--climate-responsible-company-pledge>

<https://gulfnnews.com/business/corporate-news/sustainability-advocate-dake-rechsand-supports-uae-moccaes-climate-responsible-company-pledge-1.1686561506935>

The 2023 Global Startup Ecosystem report was launched by Startup Genome and Hub71 (2023.6.15)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303169494>

The Department of Economic Development in Ajman issued a report on commercial control and consumer protection for the first half of 2023 (2023.6.19)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303170430>

UAE authorities actively combat fraudsters and warn residents to be vigilant against falling victim to scams (2023.6.19, 2023.6.23, 2023.6.28)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/crime/life-savings-vanish-uae-and-middle-east-residents-scammed-in-like-and-earn-scheme>

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/crime/uae-dh23000-electricity-bill-for-villa-alerts-authorities-to-organised-crime-gangs-headquarters>

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/local-plus/uae-new-scam-alert-have-you-received-this-fake-dubai-police-message-asking-you-to-pay-traffic-fines>

Inauguration of the fifth phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park (2023.6.20)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303170673>

15th UAE-France Strategic Dialogue explores expanding cooperation (2023.6.21)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303171508>

Saudi Arabia:

SAIP and Mohammed bin Salman City sign a cooperation agreement in the field of intellectual property (2023.6.5)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1665715608887894018>

SAIP's prominent indicators for May 2023 (2023.6.8)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1666797948494135299/photo/1>

Artificial Intelligence system submits patent applications to SAIP: Key Highlights of Meeting with CEO of Intellectual Property (2023.6.13)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1668669731828641826>

The 10th Edition of the Arab-China Business Conference ends with the Landmark Announcement of the Riyadh Declaration (2023.6.13)

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/f2be5d5ba9v>

SAIP and Marwas Audiovisual Production Company sign a MOC for the visionary production in the field of intellectual property (2023.6.21)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1671521348215095297>

Deloitte launched the Middle East AI Institute during the Experience Analytics event held in Riyadh (2023.6.30)

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2330561/media>

<https://www.deloitte.com/global/en.html>

Turkey:

Turkpatent's BRAND RESEARCH application launched in the Apple Store after the Play Store (2023.6.2)

<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1664533448671784960>

<https://apps.apple.com/tr/app/t%C3%BCrkpatent/id6449761796?l=tr>

Suruç Pomegranate became the 10th and Çağlayançerit Cevizi became the 11th geographical indication of Turkey to be registered in the EU (2023.6.2, 2023.6.14)

<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1664655203092553730>

<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1668893825404661762>

The Information Technologies and Communications Authority has published the Communiqué Amending the Regulation on Internet Domain Names (2023.6.10)

<https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2023/06/20230610-3.htm>

Palestinian-Turkish cooperation in the field of protecting geographical indications (2023.6.12, 2023.6.13)

<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1668207359275966464>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=626025166224648&set=pcb.626026269557871>

The Electronic Communication System allows individuals to obtain information about their industrial property applications from Authority (2023.6.15)

<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1669314278237646848>

PCT Updates in Turkey (2023.6.23)

<https://pctlegal.wipo.int/eGuide/view-doc.xhtml?doc-code=TR&doc->

[lang=en&utm_source=WIPO+Newsletters&utm_campaign=38b23d3b03-](https://pctlegal.wipo.int/eGuide/view-doc.xhtml?doc-code=TR&doc-lang=en&utm_source=WIPO+Newsletters&utm_campaign=38b23d3b03-)

[DIS_PCTGUIDE_EN_230623&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-](https://pctlegal.wipo.int/eGuide/view-doc.xhtml?doc-code=TR&doc-lang=en&utm_source=WIPO+Newsletters&utm_campaign=38b23d3b03-DIS_PCTGUIDE_EN_230623&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-)

[634a534b48-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&ct=t\(DIS_PCTGUIDE_EN_230623\)#NATIONAL%20CHAPTER](https://pctlegal.wipo.int/eGuide/view-doc.xhtml?doc-code=TR&doc-lang=en&utm_source=WIPO+Newsletters&utm_campaign=38b23d3b03-634a534b48-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&ct=t(DIS_PCTGUIDE_EN_230623)#NATIONAL%20CHAPTER)

Oman:

Three stores were caught engaging in substituting counterfeit vehicle engine filters into boxes of a well-known brand, selling them as original products (2023.6.5)

<https://pacp.gov.om/ar/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=11887>

Iran:

Iranian woman wins gold at Teknofest 2023 in Turkey (2023.6.12)

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/485689/Iranian-woman-wins-gold-at-Teknofest-2023>

Iranian center for innovation and technology opened in Tashkent (2023.6.18)

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/485896/Iranian-center-for-innovation-and-technology-opened-in-Tashkent>

Iraq:

US enterprises are encouraged to boost their investments in Iraq (2023.6.20)

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2324911/business-economy>

Forgery and trafficking are afflicting Iraq's valuable contemporary art scene (2023.6.29)

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2330406/middle-east>

Pakistan:

Director General IPO-Pakistan convened a meeting with CEO SMEDA and Secretary Industries, Punjab on the protection of Geographical Indications (2023.6.15)

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2523>

Director General IPO-Pakistan convened a meeting with President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on the issues of mutual cooperation (2023.6.15)

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2522>

The IPR enforcement coordination committee convened on matters related to the online system for IPR Enforcement complaints and the draft IPR Enforcement Rules (2023.6.20)

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2525>

GCC:

The GCC Patent Office received a delegation from King Saud University to enhance joint cooperation in the field of patents and stimulate creativity and innovation (2023.6.5)

<https://twitter.com/GCCPatentOffice/status/1665701240074846208>

The GCC Patent Office issued issue 75 of the Patent Bulletin for June 2023 (2023.6.5)

<https://twitter.com/GCCPatentOffice/status/1665709328962056193>

<https://www.gccpo.org/Doc/PatentGazette/Gazette/Gazette-E/75.pdf>

The GCC Patent Office participated in the Arab Regional Meeting on intellectual property and women entrepreneurs in the Arab world (2023.6.7)

<https://twitter.com/GCCPatentOffice/status/1666437337046450176>

Middle East:

PepsiCo announced the six startups selected for the second cohort of its Greenhouse Accelerator Program (2023.6.17)

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2323361/corporate-news>

The global construction industry could face significant disruptions from blockchain technology (2023.6.21)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/blockchain-in-construction-impactful-technology-or-hype>

Worldwide:

Huawei allocated 5% of its R&D budget towards Cyber Security (2023.6.28)

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/633800/BUSINESS/Huawei-spent-5-of-R-D-budget-on-Cyber-Security-Globally?ref=rss&format=simple&link=link>

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