

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 78

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1. Important topics

Saudi Arabia: Recent developments in trademark registration rules for surnames¹²

Pursuant to their statutory authority and in accordance with the provisions specified in paragraph (2) of Article 5 of the regulations of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, as initially outlined in Council of Ministers decision No. (496) dated 14/9/1439 and subsequently amended by Council of Ministers' decision No. (621) dated 20/10/1442, the Board of Directors of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property issues the update. In response to the resolution adopted during the Board of Directors meeting No. (02/12/1442) on 11/1/1442, which pertains to the registration of surnames as trademarks, and after careful consideration of the recommendation put forth by the executive committee during the Board of Directors meeting No. (03/03/2023) on 9/11/1444, as well as a thorough review of the proceedings from the Board of Directors meeting No. (26/2023) on 26/11/1444, and in pursuit of the broader public interest, the following amendments have been decided upon:

Revisions to guidelines and conditions for registering surnames as Trademarks:

- ✚ The surname intended for trademark registration must align with an existing entry in a commercial register.
- ✚ Trademark registration will only be approved for products and/or services connected to the applicant's recognized reputation.
- ✚ In the event that the surname carries recognition in another country, the applicant must provide the registration certificate from that particular nation.
- ✚ This decision excludes the registration of names linked to extensive tribes and clans.
- ✚ These updated regulations and criteria are equally applicable to trademark transfer applications involving family names.

Yemen: Yemen adopts the 10th Edition of the Nice Classification for trademarks

The General Administration for the Protection of Intellectual Property at Yemen's Ministry of Industry and Trade in Sana'a has officially adopted the 10th edition of the International Classification of Goods and Services (10th edition). The said Administration has announced that the 10th edition of the International Classification of Goods and Services has been adopted, however, the formal notifications are yet to be received.

This adoption aims to facilitate the registration of trademarks as per the provisions of the Nice Agreement. It's important to highlight that this recent development aligns with the re-endorsement of the Trademarks Office for the online electronic filing system for trademarks.

Pakistan: Pakistan gears up to become a member of the Lisbon Agreement for global Geographical Indication protection³

¹ <https://www.argaam.com/ar/article/articledetail/id/1665252> (2023.8.19)

² <https://www.economy-today.com/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84-%D8%B6%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%B7-%D9%88%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%8A%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%B3%D8%AC%D9%8A%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84/> (2023.8.20)

³ <https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2583> (2023.8.11)

An Inter-Ministerial Meeting took place at the headquarters of the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan) on the 11th of August 2023, to gather input from Federal Ministries, Departments, and Provincial Departments regarding Pakistan's potential accession to the Lisbon Agreement (Geneva Act) of 2015⁴.

Ms. Shazia Adnan, the Director General of IPO-Pakistan informed the attendees about Pakistan's Geographical Indication System, the currently registered Geographical Indications, and the importance of Pakistan considering membership in the Lisbon Agreement (Geneva Act) of 2015. She also discussed IPO-Pakistan's ambitions to secure international registration for Pakistan's GIs, particularly highlighting the case of Basmati Rice⁵. The Director of IPO-Pakistan provided a comprehensive presentation on the Lisbon Agreement (Geneva Act) of 2015, detailing how Pakistan could optimize its resources by utilizing a single set of applications and fees through the Agreement for the international registration of its GIs.

By joining the Lisbon Agreement, Pakistan will gain the ability to safeguard its Geographical Indications in over 80 countries through a single application submitted to WIPO. This streamlined process will greatly enhance the business environment.

This move opens doors for Pakistani products like Basmati Rice, Pink Salt, Hunza Apricot, Chaunsa Mango, Sindh Ajrak, Ziarat Cherry, Peshawari Chapal, Kinnow (citrus), and more, enabling them to be introduced as recognized national brands in the global market.

Egypt: The Inception of the Egyptian Authority for Intellectual Property⁶

The Arab Republic of Egypt has enacted Law No. 163 of 2023, establishing the Egyptian Authority for Intellectual Property (EAIP). The primary objective of the EAIP is to enhance Egypt's intellectual property system, aligning it with the nation's sustainable development goals and international commitments.

The EAIP is entrusted with the responsibility of regulating and safeguarding Intellectual Property Rights in Egypt, taking over the functions previously held by Intellectual Property Offices and relevant Ministries. This transition encompasses roles defined in Law No. (23) of 1951 concerning Patent Agents' Practices, Law No. (82) of 2002 concerning the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights, and Law No. (94) of 2012 concerning the Determination of Cost for Search and Annuity Fees by the Patent Cooperation Treaty, serves as the key IP Office for the registration of trademarks, designs, patents, and copyrights. Following the issuance of this Law, employees from offices and departments dedicated to intellectual property administration under the aforementioned ministries and agencies will be transferred to the EAIP.

The EAIP will be established within one year from the date of this Law's issuance by August 7, 2024, with the possibility of a six-month extension, subject to approval by the Prime Minister.

The EAIP's functions, aimed at achieving its mission of regulating and safeguarding IPRs, encompass the following:

- ✚ Formulating and updating the national intellectual property strategy.
- ✚ Managing the registration, filing, and issuance of documents for IPR protection.

⁴ https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_239.pdf (2015.5.20)

⁵ [Rice brochure \(tdap.gov.pk\)](https://www.tdap.gov.pk)

⁶ <https://www.docdroid.net/RsTBit4/kanon-rkm-163-lsn-2023-basdar-kanon-anshaaa-alghaz-almstry-llmlky-alfkry-pdf#page=8> (2023.8.6)

- ✦ Creating comprehensive databases on IPRs to enhance the intellectual property system's accessibility.
- ✦ Encouraging researchers, investors, start-ups, and SME owners to register their innovations, creations, and other IPRs to secure protection and maximize benefits.
- ✦ Formulating policies for assessing and utilizing state-owned intellectual property assets and providing training to the private sector on leveraging these assets for economic gain.
- ✦ Establishing registers for patent and trademark owners.
- ✦ Promoting awareness of the significance of intellectual property.
- ✦ Collaborating with international and regional organizations responsible for IPR protection.
- ✦ Providing input on draft laws about IPR protection.

The EAIP will manage the registration of IP Agents and IP Experts, as well as the allocation of experts to IP-related cases and disputes. Additionally, it will provide legal guidance in the creation of new laws and regulations related to intellectual property protection and enforcement.

The EAIP will assume a leadership role in all matters related to intellectual property and will oversee the strategy, development, and collaboration with relevant ministries in this domain.

2. Additional topics

UAE:

Dubai Customs held awareness programs for children to enhance their comprehension of Intellectual Property and the safeguarding of creative concepts (2023.8.2)

<https://twitter.com/DubaiCustoms/status/1686696722745958400>

DEWA's R&D Center filed patents for innovations related to 3D printing, chemical liquids, and battery solutions (2023.8.14, 2023.8.21, 2023.8.30)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303186362>

<https://www.gccbusinessnews.com/dewa-files-patent-for-chemical-liquid/>

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303189592>

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303191148>

The United Arab Emirates University becomes a member of the National Academy of Inventors in the US (2023.8.22)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303188573>

The International Government Communication Forum (IGCF) addresses the challenges posed to intellectual property rights in the context of AI (2023.8.31)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303191571>

Saudi Arabia:

The MOU was signed to establish a collaborative partnership between SAIP and the Intellectual Property Office in the United Kingdom (2023.8.1)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1686400117606072320>

The General Presidency of the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice joins the National Network of Intellectual Property Support Centers (2023.8.9)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1689193564045983744>

Turkey:

On July 10, 2023, TURKPATENT and WIPO signed an MOU for industrial property dispute solutions (2023.7.18)

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/cooperation-between-turkpatent-and-wipo-in-the-field-of-alternative-dispute-resolution>

Turkey's ongoing endeavors and outcomes of the Global Geographical Indication Campaign (2023.8.18)

<https://twitter.com/CemilBASPINAR/status/1692435064557023571>

<https://twitter.com/CemilBASPINAR/status/1692435066926854400>

<https://twitter.com/CemilBASPINAR/status/1692435076829548724>

<https://twitter.com/mfatihkacir/status/1692223830419255558>

<https://twitter.com/TCSanayi/status/1690698830587514880>

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/eu-registration-for-three-turkish-products>

Pakistan:

The second consultative session for a discussion on the International Legal Instrument of WIPO on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, and Associated Traditional Knowledge (GR&ATK) (2023.8.2)

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2581>

IPO Pakistan visits Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) in Lahore (2023.8.28)

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2593>

Oman:

Oman attracts diverse product categories for local consumption and export through the utilization of Intellectual Property (2023.8.5)

<https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1141070/opinion/oman-establishes-own-brands-by-emulating-countries-in-exploitation-of-matured-and-expired-ips>

The Royal Navy of Oman secured a patent for an underwater ship hull maintenance and repair robot (2023.8.7)

<https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1141159/oman/rno-officer-gets-patent-of-robotic-device>

<https://timesofoman.com/article/134507-young-omani-obtains-patent-for-submersible-cleaning-robot>

The ministry has issued two patents to bolster the national workforce system (2023.8.12)

<https://timesofoman.com/article/134718-ministry-grants-two-patents-to-support-the-national-workforce-system>

<https://www.thearabianstories.com/2023/08/13/omans-ministry-grants-patent-to-fishing-boat-tracking-device/>

<https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1141350/business/patent-granted-for-fishing-boat-tracking-invention>

Commercial establishments were found selling counterfeit filters marketed as genuine ones (2023.8.16)

<https://pacp.gov.om/ar/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=11922>

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