

**Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 84**

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**Empowering Pakistan's Future: Leveraging Intellectual Property for Innovation and Development**

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**Our 11 geographical indications, which were registered after the application processes were completed, were published in the "Geographical Indication and Traditional Product Name Bulletin" No. 167.**

**Osmaniye Peanuts are Registered in the European Union Osmaniye Peanuts, whose application has been approved by the EU Commission**

**Our Institution President participated in the "Geographical Indications Seminar from a Food Safety Perspective"**

**Cooperation and Commercialization of Intellectual Property are on the Agenda Signing Ceremony of the Letter of Intent for Cooperation between WIPO and TÜRKPATENT**

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**1. Important topics**

**Saudi Arabia: SAIP Implements New Rejection Procedure for Trademark Applications<sup>1</sup>**

As of April 14, 2024, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) has updated its procedure for handling rejected trademark applications, a change that is pivotal for applicants and their legal representatives. Previously, when a trademark application was denied, the applicant had two choices: either appeal the decision or amend the mark within a 10-day grace period. Under the new policy, this flexibility has been removed; applicants now have only the option to appeal the rejection.

This procedural adjustment necessitates a significant shift in strategy for firms and legal counsel managing intellectual property rights within the kingdom. It underscores the need for precision in the initial trademark application submissions, as the opportunity for amendment post-rejection has been eliminated.

Legal professionals and firms, especially those operating within or in association with Saudi Arabia, must update their client advisories and internal procedures in response to this change. The removal of the 10-day amendment period emphasizes the importance of ensuring that all aspects of a trademark application are fully compliant with SAIP's requirements before submission.

This update aligns with SAIP's ongoing efforts to streamline its operations and enhance the effectiveness of its intellectual property management system. Applicants are encouraged to consult with knowledgeable intellectual property attorneys who can provide guidance tailored to this new regulatory environment, optimizing the chances of successful trademark registration, and protecting intellectual property rights in Saudi Arabia.

**Saudi Arabia: Updated Designs Legislation<sup>2</sup>**

Saudi Arabia has made substantial updates to its intellectual property laws by amending the statutes that cover Patents, Layout-Designs of Integrated Circuits, Plant Varieties, and Industrial Designs. These changes, brought into effect by Royal Decree No. (M/45) on September 25, 2023, and effective from October 3, 2023, mark a significant advancement in the nation's commitment to intellectual property protection, aimed at promoting innovation and design.

***Highlights of the Law Amendments***

- **Conformity with Global Standards:** The revised law now recognizes the Hague Agreement and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), indicating Saudi Arabia's commitment to adhering to international intellectual property standards. This alignment is designed to simplify the process for international registrations, enhancing Saudi Arabia's appeal to worldwide designers and innovators.
- **Increased Protection Duration:** Another major improvement is the increase in the protection duration for industrial design certificates from ten to fifteen years from the date of application. This change provides designers with extended security for their inventions, increasing the commercial value of their intellectual assets.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aippi.org/news/saip-implements-new-rejection-procedure-for-trade-mark-applications/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://rouse.com/insights/news/2024/patent-design-updates-from-saudi-arabia-january-2024>

- **Equality for International Registrations:** A new addition to the law ensures that international applications for industrial designs filed under the Hague Agreement are considered equivalent to national registrations. This assures that designs registered internationally are afforded the same level of protection as those registered in Saudi Arabia.

### ***Impact on Intellectual Property Protection Strategy***

These modifications to Saudi Arabia's intellectual property laws reflect a wider strategic goal to develop an economy driven by innovation, in line with the Vision 2030 objectives. By increasing the duration of protection and aligning with international norms, Saudi Arabia is enhancing its competitiveness as an IP hub in the global arena. For enterprises and IP specialists, these changes call for a reassessment of intellectual property strategies, especially concerning portfolio management, international filings, and annuity financial planning. The increased protection period introduces a new aspect in assessing the lifecycle value of designs, which could influence investment and development decisions.

Additionally, the formal acknowledgment of international agreements like the Hague Agreement emphasizes Saudi Arabia's dedication to minimizing obstacles for global parties interested in securing their intellectual property rights in the kingdom.

### **UAE: Dubai Customs Enhancing IP Protection and Impact on Global Trade<sup>3</sup>**

In Q1 of 2024, Dubai Customs has significantly reinforced its intellectual property protection framework, underscoring its pivotal role in safeguarding the interests of global trade and innovation. The seizure of over 4.36 million counterfeit goods valued at AED 5.43 million exemplifies Dubai's stringent measures against IP infringements, crucial for both consumer safety and the integrity of global business practices.

### ***Intellectual Property Day: A Focus on Sustainable Innovation***

The annual celebration of World Intellectual Property Day hosted by Dubai Customs was themed "Empowering a Sustainable Future through Innovation." This event highlighted the city's commitment to fostering an environment where sustainable practices are encouraged through innovative thinking.

### ***Collaborative Workshops and Community Outreach***

Dubai Customs has been proactive in engaging with the community and stakeholders through workshops and awareness sessions. These programs are designed to combat emerging methods of counterfeiting, crucial for maintaining the sanctity of IP rights across borders. The involvement of over 100 specialists in these sessions demonstrates a robust approach to IP education and enforcement, aligning with global best practices that resonate with international businesses and regulatory bodies.

### ***IP Registrations and Dispute Resolution***

The first quarter of 2024 also saw the registration of 125 trademarks and 49 commercial agencies, signaling a vibrant ecosystem for trade and commerce that respects intellectual property rights. Handling

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wam.ae/it/article/b2x17f0-dubai-customs-seizes-4364-million-counterfeit>

around 62 IP disputes and the resultant enforcement actions reflect Dubai Customs' effectiveness in IP governance.

### **GCC: GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre Updates Arbitrator Standards and Expands Recruitment<sup>4</sup>**

In a significant move towards enhancing its global stature, the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre has recently updated its registration protocols for arbitrators and experts, as well as initiating a fresh recruitment drive for these roles and secretaries. These initiatives underscore the Centre's commitment to aligning with international best practices in commercial arbitration and enhancing its service quality to meet global standards.

#### ***Stringent Registration Protocols***

The Secretary General of the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre, Dr. Kamal Al Hamad, highlighted the implementation of stringent new registration protocols. These include requiring electronic submissions of comprehensive documentation from applicants, such as academic certificates, proof of extensive practical experience (ten years for arbitrators and seven for experts), and successful completion of advanced arbitration training programs. Additionally, arbitrators are now required to have issued at least five institutional arbitration awards, while experts must have prepared a minimum of three expert reports in their field.

This meticulous vetting process aims to ensure that the arbitrators and experts possess not only profound legal knowledge and analytical skills but also the impartiality and proficiency necessary for managing complex dispute resolutions effectively.

#### ***Recruitment Drive for International Talent***

Concurrently, the Centre has launched a new recruitment drive to attract top international talents in the arbitration field. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to position the Centre among the top ten arbitration centers worldwide. The Centre offers significant advantages to its staff, including non-appealable decisions, legal immunity, and a broad jurisdiction scope covering the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. These benefits are designed to foster a conducive working environment that promotes continuous professional development and training.

### **Lebanon: Updates to IP Fee Structure and Trademark Duration<sup>5</sup>**

On February 15, 2024, Lebanon implemented Law No. 324, which alters the cost structure associated with intellectual property rights and reduces the term of trademark protection.

#### ***Principal Adjustments in Law No. 324***

- **Increased Official Fees:** The law introduces higher fees for the filing, registration, renewal, and recordal of intellectual property rights. These changes affect all current and forthcoming applications.

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<https://www.bna.bh/en/GCCArbitrationCentreupgradesregistrationprotocols.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwlzON1%2bDgfcYkRG%2bsEq70knhO%2bGfXQ%3d>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.aippi.org/news/changes-to-ip-fees-and-trademark-protection-period-in-lebanon/>

- **Reduced Trademark Term:** The legislation shortens the protection period for trademarks, cutting it down from 15 to 10 years for new registrations initiated on or after February 15, 2024.

Trademarks that were registered or renewed before the enactment of this law will retain the previous 15-year protection term but will switch to the new 10-year duration upon their next renewal. This adjustment necessitates careful planning for trademark holders to align with the new regulations effectively.

### **Türkiye: Streamlines Trademark Cancellation Procedure<sup>6</sup>**

Türkiye has enacted a significant amendment to its trademark law, effective January 10, 2024, which transfers the responsibility for trademark cancellation proceedings from judicial courts to the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (TPTO). This modification is designed to simplify and expedite the cancellation process, especially in cases such as non-use, genericness, misleading trademarks, or non-compliance with technical standards. The shift is expected to lead to a faster and less expensive administrative process, potentially increasing the frequency of cancellation actions, particularly for trademarks not actively used.

Trademark proprietors are encouraged to actively utilize their marks and consider filing new applications to safeguard their rights. For those intending to contest a trademark, the TPTO will now serve as the primary authority for submitting cancellation applications.

This legal reform aims to make the cancellation process more efficient, requiring stakeholders to remain updated and adapt their strategies as needed. With the TPTO taking over, the specifics of the examination and decision-making processes are still to be clarified, representing a notable departure from the traditional court-handled evaluations that involved expert committees and field inspections.

### **Pakistan: Bolstering IP Enforcement through Collaboration with Kyrgyzstan<sup>7</sup>**

Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan have agreed to enhance Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) enforcement through increased bilateral cooperation.

The discussions emphasized the shared interest in setting up Intellectual Property offices in key strategic areas such as Gilgit-Baltistan and Sialkot, which are crucial for boosting economic connections and regional development. The establishment of localized IP management is expected to spur economic growth and safeguard innovations.

A major development from the talks between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan is the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU is designed to establish a formal partnership framework for the effective management and protection of intellectual property, representing a significant move towards structured IP collaboration between the two countries.

The conversations also highlighted the importance of cooperation with Central Asia to leverage IPR in enhancing Pakistan's trade and tourism industries. Stronger IP rights are anticipated to bring considerable economic advantages and strengthen diplomatic relations, supporting a vision for a thriving, innovation-oriented regional economy.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://s3.amazonaws.com/documents.lexology.com/b39fcb51-317b-46e8-b5c8-d4c8d2915c52.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAVYILUYJ754JTDY6T&Expires=1715065583&Signature=BTcU%2BLadiLzXpIFQyPVwdP8EAA%3D>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.radio.gov.pk/05-04-2024/pakistan-kyrgyzstan-agree-to-enhancing-intellectual-property-rights-enforcement>



This agreement marks a juncture in the relationship between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, with a focus on intellectual property rights as a cornerstone for future economic and cultural partnerships.

## **2. Additional topics**

### **GCC:**

Visit of the Director General of the Patent Office at the GCC General Secretariat to Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity in the State of Kuwait

<https://www.gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1385> (2024.02.07)

Visit of the Director General of the Patent Office of the General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to the Intellectual Property Training Center

<https://www.gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1383> (2024.02.05)

The General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council, represented by the Patent Office, participates in the fourteenth International Exhibition of Inventions in the Middle East in the State of Kuwait

<https://gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1381> (2024.02.05)

The Patent Office of the General Secretariat receives a delegation from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

<https://gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1389> (2024.03.07)

The Regional Patent Collection of the Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf is Now Available in PATENTSCOPE

[https://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/news/pctdb/2024/news\\_0002.html](https://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/news/pctdb/2024/news_0002.html) (2024.04.23)

### **Saudi Arabia:**

The Public Prosecution Council approves the establishment of the Intellectual Property Prosecution.

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1757767132555759791> (2024.02.14)

The Steering Committee of the Diplomatic Conference held a meeting in the presence of the Chief Executive Officer and the Assistant Director General of WIPO

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1755603050570670570> (2024.02.08)

The Council holds its twenty-first meeting in the presence of a number of publishing and distribution houses at the regional and national levels (meeting)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1757452022238916835> (2024.02.13)

IP has supported the creations of the sons and daughters of the nation to be preserved.

<https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2323/> (2024.02.22)

The Board of Directors of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property holds its meeting (Twenty-ninth)

<https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2322/> (2024.02.19)

The Chief Executive Officer of Intellectual Property, Dr. Abdulaziz bin Muhammad Al-Swailem, speaks at the session "Media Regulation in the Era of Artificial Intelligence" and its relationship with intellectual property

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1759977396608929817> (2024.02.20)

General / The Attorney General meets the CEO of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/N2055454> (2024.02.27)

The National Transformation Program Achievements Report 2023 was announced

<https://www.vision2030.gov.sa/media/x20ac0s4/arabic-ntp-anuual-report-2023.pdf> (2024.02.26)

With the aim of capacity building and empowering national entities. The National Center for Environmental Control joins the IP support centers.

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1762049216375898339> (2024.02.26)

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SAIP's 22nd IP Respect Council

<https://www.facebook.com/Saipksa/posts/pfbid027aTfntmTdKacBTg6ByDCZ22j4fhZwo5gAQiko2sFa2p4tDLLUEmpYuxieBSdd2Zel> (2024.03.06)

SAIP held a seminar entitled "Alternative Solutions for the Settlement of Intellectual Property Disputes: Future Trends and Opportunities"

<https://www.facebook.com/Saipksa/posts/pfbid0ib1FkKTGEfB2S3kKps9YsxyY6iBXR181bPH8jxy5Q2YSdXmiDWTMUQyxG6SgWKRqI> (2024.03.06)

Enhanced IP Landscape with New Designs Law

<https://www.sabaip.com/saudi-arabia-enhanced-ip-landscape-with-new-designs-law/> (2024.03.19)

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**UAE:**

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Over 100 personalities of leading AI companies meet with government leaders at WGS

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UAE launches host-nation website for WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference

<https://wam.ae/en/article/13ra3wd-uae-launches-host-nation-website-for-wto%E2%80%99s-13th>

(2024.02.09)

Ministry of Economy launches its new intellectual property system

<https://wam.ae/en/article/b1jm8a0-ministry-economy-launches-its-new-intellectual> (2024.02.07)

Mohammed bin Rashid chairs Cabinet meeting; reviews National Legislative Plan

<https://wam.ae/en/article/b1lfd8a-mohammed-bin-rashid-chairs-cabinet-meeting-reviews> (2024.02.05)

Dubai Customs, UK's counterpart unite in dynamic cooperation

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You can register sound, scent, holograms as trademarks

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<https://twitter.com/DubaiCustoms/status/1759961543863632203>

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UAE to welcome 175 ministers, senior officials for WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference

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ADDED, Hub71 partner to drive innovation in Abu Dhabi

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Ajman Intensifies Drive against Fake Products

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Abu Dhabi Session of Parliamentary Conference on WTO issues final document

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MBZUAI celebrates UAE Innovation Month

<https://wam.ae/en/article/b1viw7i-mbzuai-celebrates-uae-innovation-month> (2024.02.27)

Ministry of Economy introduces new mechanism to strengthen the protection of IP rights for creative works in collaboration with TDRA

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UAE's Trademark Listing Surge Signals Rising Investor Trust

<https://menafn.com/1108124593/UAEs-Trademark-Listing-Surge-Signals-Rising-Investor-Trust>  
(2024.04.22)

### **Pakistan:**

UNDP Representative in Pakistan calls on Chair IPO

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2760> (2024.02.12)

Chair IPO highlights importance of IPRs during visit to TMUC

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2756> (2024.02.02)

Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights Critical for Economic Development

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2789> (2024.03.01)

Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights Critical to Protect Genuine Businesses

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Empowering Pakistan's Future: Leveraging Intellectual Property for Innovation and Development

<https://dailyausaf.com/en/opinion/empowering-pakistans-future-leveraging-intellectual-property-for-innovation-and-development/> (2024.04.26)

**Türkiye:**

Opening Ceremony for the Ankara University Intellectual Property Law Master's Program

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<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/bursa-seftalisi-being-registered-in-the-eu>

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Osmaniye Peanuts are Registered in the European Union Osmaniye Peanuts, whose application has been approved by the EU Commission

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Cooperation and Commercialization of Intellectual Property are on the Agenda

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/wipo-delegation-visited-turkpatent> (2024.02.29)

Signing Ceremony of the Letter of Intent for Cooperation between WIPO and TÜRKPATENT

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(2024.03.12)

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<https://cpa.gov.om/en/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=12075> (2024.03.04)

**Qatar:**

Establishment of New Patent Grievance Committee

<https://www.jahcoip.com/news/re-jah-jurisdictional-update-sudan-and-qatar/> (2024.02.12)

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