

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 85

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News

1. Important topics

Qatar: Joins the Madrid Protocol for International Trademark Registration¹

Qatar has officially joined the Madrid System for International Trademark Registration by submitting its accession instrument to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on May 3, 2024. This event took place during a meeting between HE Director General of WIPO, Daren Tang, and HE Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN Office in Geneva, Dr. Hind Abdulrahman Al Muftah.

The Madrid Protocol offers a streamlined process for securing international legal protection for trademarks through a single application filed in one country. This accession marks a pivotal step for Qatari companies and entrepreneurs, enabling them to expand the protection of their trademarks and other intellectual property globally.

This move aligns with Qatar's ongoing initiatives under the Qatar National Vision 2030, aimed at strengthening the frameworks for intellectual property rights protection. By joining the Madrid Protocol, Qatar seeks to build an attractive economy for foreign investments and bolster the international presence of Qatari businesses.

Saudi Arabia: SAIP and OMPIC Launch PPH Pilot Program²

On April 24, 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). This initiative aims to streamline the patent application process between the two offices, allowing each to utilize examination results from the other, significantly accelerating the patent grant phase. This collaboration not only reduces the backlog of patent applications but also fosters a shared understanding and efficiency in patent processing.

SAIP and OMPIC have agreed to exchange information on the latest developments in their respective countries and share best practices for IP management. Additionally, the collaboration will explore new areas such as artificial intelligence (AI) and information and communication technology (ICT).

The PPH between SAIP and OMPIC is the latest in a series of partnerships that Saudi Arabia has established under the pilot program. This initiative aims to strengthen SAIP's existing PPH partnerships with other patent offices, including those in the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Patent applicants filing in Saudi Arabia who are interested in filing in any of these partnering countries can now benefit from the streamlined PPH programs, provided they meet the eligibility requirements.

UAE: One Million Dirhams in Counterfeit Seizures in Ras Al Khaimah³

The Department of Economic Development in Ras Al Khaimah has intensified its efforts to combat counterfeit products, leading to significant seizures and enforcement actions in the first quarter of this year. In total, 5,212 counterfeit items valued at approximately AED 14,947,380 (approximately USD 4,035,793) were confiscated following 14 complaints related to international brands.

¹ <https://mofa.gov.qa/en/qatar/latest-articles/latest-news/details/2024/05/04/qatar-joins-madrid-protocol-for-international-trademark-registration>

² <https://www.assahifa.com/english/morocco/morocco-and-saudi-arabia-sign-deal-to-fast-track-patent-approvals/>

³ <https://enews.alwast.net/arabnews/uae-reports-one-million-dirhams-in>

The crackdown targeted a wide array of counterfeit goods, including accessories, shoes, bags, watches, wallets, women's headscarves, and mobile phone accessories. This comprehensive approach underscores the department's commitment to protecting consumers and maintaining the integrity of brands.

Faisal Aliyoun, Director of the Commercial Control and Protection Department, highlighted the department's proactive measures to ensure market integrity. The supervisory team conducts regular market monitoring, educational campaigns, and responds promptly to complaints from merchants, consumers, and trademark owners. These efforts aim to educate consumers on distinguishing between genuine and counterfeit products, thereby safeguarding their interests.

By eliminating counterfeit goods from the market, the department supports legitimate businesses that invest in quality and innovation. The presence of counterfeit products can significantly harm brand reputation and economic stability. The department's actions help create a level playing field, ensuring fair competition, and encouraging business growth.

This initiative is part of a broader strategy to enhance the economic security of Ras Al Khaimah. Through decisive action and ongoing vigilance, the Department of Economic Development aims to foster a secure economic environment, bolster consumer confidence, and support sustainable economic growth.

UAE: UAE and USA Sign Agreement to Strengthen Intellectual Property Cooperation⁴

and The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States of America (USA) have reinforced their commitment to enhancing cooperation in the realm of intellectual property rights through the signing of a new memorandum of understanding (MoU). This agreement aims to establish a robust framework for collaboration, promoting the exploration and advancement of creative and innovative activities and the development of new intellectual property policies and systems. This partnership is expected to significantly contribute to the economic growth and sustainability of both nations.

The MoU was formalized in a ceremony attended by key officials from both countries. Representing the UAE were Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, the Minister of Economy, and Dr. Abdul Rahman Hassan Al-Muaini, Assistant Undersecretary for the Intellectual Property Sector at the Ministry of Economy. The United States was represented by Catherine K. Vidal, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the US Patent and Trademark Office.

A key component of this agreement is the launch of a five-year cooperation program. This program will facilitate American inventors and innovators with US patents to obtain equivalent patents in the UAE, provided they meet the necessary criteria and standards. This initiative highlights the dedication of both nations to creating an environment that nurtures innovation and creativity while safeguarding intellectual property rights.

Through collaborative efforts like this MoU, the UAE aims to position itself as a leading hub for innovation and entrepreneurship, driving economic growth and prosperity in the region and beyond.

Jordan: Remarkable Surge in Trademark and Patent Registrations in 2023⁵

In 2023, Jordan witnessed a notable increase in trademark and patent registrations, demonstrating the country's dedication to fostering innovation and safeguarding intellectual property (IP) rights. Data from the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply reveals a 69% rise in trademark registrations, totaling 8,521 new trademarks. Similarly, patent registrations soared from 54 in 2022 to 157 in 2023, marking an impressive 191% growth.

⁴ <https://www.uae-embassy.org/news/uae-ministry-economy-and-us-patent-and-trademark-office-deepen-cooperation-ip-policy-systems>

⁵ <https://jordantimes.com/news/local/trade-ministry-says-trademark-registration-increases-69-2023>

This growth underscores Jordan's commitment to creating a robust IP framework. The Ministry processed 130 applications for industrial designs and models—100 domestic and 30 foreign—indicating a 6% increase from the previous year. Additionally, 66 registration certificates for industrial designs or models were issued, reflecting the country's focus on IP development.

Renewals and transactions related to IP also showed significant activity. By the end of 2023, there were 6,568 trademark renewals and 613 patent renewals. The Ministry handled 2,000 transactions related to trademark ownership transfers or mergers, along with 1,410 legal modifications on trademarks, highlighting the dynamic nature of IP management in Jordan.

The Ministry's push towards digitalization resulted in a substantial increase in electronic transactions. In 2023, they received 28,885 e-transactions, an 86% increase compared to the previous year. Efforts to promote IP rights among women, particularly through the Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship project, led to positive outcomes, including the registration of a collective mark under the Petra Development Authority.

These initiatives align with Jordan's broader strategy to enhance its IP framework and support small and medium-sized enterprises, as outlined in the Economic Modernization Vision (2023-2025). The Ministry's proactive approach in raising IP awareness and facilitating access to IP data reflects its dedication to nurturing a culture of innovation and excellence in Jordan.

Türkiye: TÜRKPATENT Updates Official Fees and Introduces New Fees⁶

The Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (TÜRKPATENT) has revised its official fees for patents, utility models, trademarks, and designs, effective from April 24, 2024. These changes are detailed in the "Notification Regarding the Schedule of Fees to be Applied in 2024 by the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office," published in the Official Gazette on the same date. According to the Notification, all official fees have been increased by varying percentages, including those that were not affected by the January 2024 increase.

Some of the revised fees are as follows:

- Patent Application Fee: TRY 360 (approx. USD 12)
- Utility Model Application Fee: TRY 360 (approx. USD 12)
- 1-Class Trademark Application Fee: TRY 1,630 (approx. USD 51)
- Trademark Registration Fee: TRY 4,020 (approx. USD 125)
- Design Registration Application Fee: TRY 1,200 (approx. USD 38)
- Trademark Appeal Fee: TRY 1,510 (approx. USD 47)

Additionally, TÜRKPATENT has, for the first time, established the official fee for procedures related to the administrative cancellation of trademarks. This procedure, which came into force on January 10, 2024, had been accepting preliminary applications, but the official fees had not been determined until now, causing challenges in cost planning for the involved parties and their representatives.

With the official fee for the administrative cancellation process now determined, it is anticipated that the process will gain momentum. The enforcement of the relevant regulation and the resolution of pending questions are expected to make the process fully operational in the near future.

⁶ <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2024/04/20240424-4.htm>

2. Additional topics

Bahrain:

Bahraini Trader Acquitted Of Selling Counterfeit Goods

<https://www.gulf-insider.com/bahraini-trader-acquitted-of-selling-counterfeit-goods/> (2024.05.10)

GCC:

The Patent Office of the General Secretariat receives a delegation from the United States Patent and Trademark Office

<https://www.gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1391> (2024.05.07)

The Patent Office, in cooperation with the US Patent and Trademark Office, organizes a training program for patent examiners in the GCC countries

<https://www.gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1392> (2024.05.08)

Iran:

Iran's Female Inventor Rate Above World Average

<https://kayhan.ir/en/news/127512/iran%E2%80%99s-female-inventor-rate-above-world-average> (2024.05.19)

Jordan:

"Industry and Commerce" achieves important and multiple achievements in the field of protecting industrial property rights and promoting leadership and innovation

<https://www.mit.gov.jo/Ar/NewsDetails/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%82%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%87%D9%85%D8%A9%D9%88%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%AF%D8%A9%D9%81%D9%8A%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%88%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%84%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A9%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A9%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B2%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%AA%D9%83%D8%A7%D8%B1> (2024.05.01)

Kuwait:

New Measures Introduced in Kuwait to Protect Consumers from Trademark Fraud

<https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/new-measures-introduced-in-kuwait-to-protect-consumers-from-trademark-fraud/> (2024.05.22)

Kuwait adopts historic intellectual property treaty <https://kuwaittimes.com/article/14742/kuwait/other-news/kuwait-adopts-historic-intellectual-property-treaty/> (2024.05.25)

Oman:

Omani Students Secure Indian Patent For Revolutionary Sustainable Building Solutions

<https://www.onearabia.me/education/omani-students-indian-patent-sustainable-building-solutions-011-032025.html> (2024.05.12)

Oman takes part in Intellectual Property Conference <https://www.fm.gov.om/oman-takes-part-in-intellectual-property-conference/> (2024.05.14)

Pakistan:

Effective protection of intellectual property rights mandatory for attracting FDI

<https://pakobserver.net/effective-protection-of-intellectual-property-rights-mandatory-for-attracting-fdi/> (2024.05.02)

Illicit trade costs Pakistan over PKR 700 bn annually: Report <https://theprint.in/world/illicit-trade-costs-pakistan-over-pkr-700-bn-annually-report/2075469/> (2024.05.08)

IPO Stresses For Intellectual Property Rights To Boost Country's Economy

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/business/ipo-stresses-for-intellectual-property-rights-1827985.html>
(2024.05.23)

Qatar:

Qatar Joins Madrid Protocol for International Trademark Registration

<https://mofa.gov.qa/en/qatar/latest-articles/latest-news/details/2024/05/04/qatar-joins-madrid-protocol-for-international-trademark-registration> (2024.05.04)
<https://menafn.com/1108175678/Qatar-Joins-Madrid-Protocol-For-International-Trademark-Registration> (2024.05.05)

Qatar affirms paying great attention to intellectual property issues <https://www.gulf-times.com/article/682436/qatar/qatar-affirms-paying-great-attention-to-intellectual-property-issues>
(2024.05.13)

PH, Qatar eye finalizing ratification of IPPA this year <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1224752>
(2024.05.15)

Saudi Arabia:

EU to launch first chamber of commerce in Riyadh to boost trade relations

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/642641/SAUDI-ARABIA/EU-to-launch-first-chamber-of-commerce-in-Riyadh-to-boost-trade-relations> (2024.05.05)

Türkiye:

Trademark Infringements Through Dilution Of Trademarks <https://kilinlaw.com.tr/en/trademark-infringements-through-dilution-of-trademarks/> (2024.04.30)

President of TÜRKPATENT Prof. Dr. M. Zeki Durak participated in the "Current Developments in Intellectual Property Law - II International Symposium" hosted by Balıkesir University on 3-4 May 2024.
<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/international-symposium-on-current-developments-in-intellectual-property-law> (2024.05.03)

Turkey: Standard-Essential Patents And Frand Terms <https://www.mondaq.com/Article/1460508>
(2024.05.07)

Turkey: IP Quarterly Newsletter - Issue 5 <https://www.mondaq.com/Article/1460974> (2024.05.08)

European Patent Network 18. Annual Meeting <https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/haberler/avrupa-patent-agi-18-yillik-toplantisi> (2024.05.09)

Workshop on Mediation of Intellectual Property (IP) Disputes

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/workshop-on-mediation-of-intellectual-property-ip-disputes>
(2024.05.09)

How Turkey tackles trademark applications infringing upon copyrighted works

<https://www.managingip.com/article/2d8v08kr8v43lr7t73z7k/sponsored-content/how-turkey-tackles-trademark-applications-infringing-upon-copyrighted-works> (2024.05.17)

Türkiye, US to work toward stopping counterfeit goods' flow

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/economy/turkiye-us-to-work-toward-stopping-counterfeit-goods-flow> (2024.05.22)

Latest Developments On Administrative Revocation Of Trademarks!

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/trademark/1469328/latest-developments-on-administrative-revocation-of-trademarks> (2024.05.23)

UAE:

UAE reiterates support for GCC's joint efforts to enhance intra-trade prospects, facilitate investment flows & establish unified legislative framework for e-commerce <https://www.moec.gov.ae/en/-/uae-reiterates-support-for-gcc-s-joint-efforts-to-enhance-intra-trade-prospects-facilitate-investment-flows-establish-unified-legislative-framework-for-e-commerce> (2024.05.01)

Deputy Commander-General of Ajman Police praises the awareness efforts of the Anti-Drug Department and Al Hamidiya Comprehensive Police Station <https://www.ajmanpolice.gov.ae/portal/Front/post/news/5106> (2024.05.01)

Over four million counterfeit goods seized by UAE authorities in 2024 <https://www.arnnewscentre.ae/en/news/uae/over-4-million-counterfeit-goods-seized-by-uae-authorities-in-2024/> (2024.05.01)

UAE and Iran hold first session of Joint Economic Committee to promote cooperation in new economy sectors, tourism, transport, entrepreneurship & renewable energy <https://www.moec.gov.ae/en/-/uae-and-iran-hold-first-session-of-joint-economic-committee-to-promote-cooperation-in-new-economy-sectors-tourism-transport-entrepreneurship-renewable-energy> (2024.05.01)

UAE participates in third Arab Economy and Cooperation Forum with Central Asian States & Azerbaijan to explore promising economic opportunities <https://www.moec.gov.ae/en/-/uae-participates-in-third-arab-economy-and-cooperation-forum-with-central-asian-states-azerbaijan-to-explore-promising-economic-opportunities> (2024.05.01)

Protecting brands from bad faith registrations <https://tribune.net.ph/2024/05/06/protecting-brands-from-bad-faith-registrations> (2024.05.06)

UAE and Iran agree to bolster economic ties and trade co-operation <https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/2024/05/02/uae-and-iran-agree-to-bolster-economic-ties-and-trade-co-operation/> (2024.05.06)

UAE University publishes 813 research papers and registers 29 patents during Q1 2024 <https://www.mediaoffice.abudhabi/en/education/uae-university-publishes-813-research-papers-and-registers-29-patents-during-q1-2024/> (2024.05.11)

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