

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 87

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News

1. Important topics

Qatar: Ministry of Commerce and Industry Announces Key Updates to IP Fees and POA Validation¹

Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) has implemented substantial fee reductions for various intellectual property (IP) services, aiming to enhance the business environment and promote innovation. Effective July 11, 2024, these changes are part of the broader Ministerial Decision No. 60 for 2024, targeting improvements in efficiency and investment attractiveness. Additionally, the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) has announced updates to the validation process for power of attorney (POA) documents.

Updates to Power of Attorney Validation:

- **Validity Period:** POAs are now valid for only three years.
- **Legalization:** POAs issued outside of Qatar must be legalized up to the Qatari Consulate in the country of issuance and then authenticated by the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Qatar. This super legalization ensures the documents meet necessary legal standards.
- **Sworn Translation:** A sworn translation must be provided along with the POA from an accredited translation office.

These updates aim to ensure that all POA documents meet the necessary legal standards and streamline the process for both national and foreign entities.

Key IP Fee Adjustments:

Service	Previous Fee (QR)	New Fee (QR)	Previous Fee (USD)	New Fee (USD)
Patent Services for Individuals				
Technical Search Request	500	200	137	55
Patent Registration and Technical Examination	3,500	2,500	962	687
Patent Grant and Publication	1,200	800	330	220
Registration Complaint	2,000	500	550	137
Patent Services for Companies, Institutions, and Research Bodies				
Technical Search Request	2,000	400	550	110

¹ <https://www.iloveqatar.net/news/business/ministry-of-commerce-and-industry-fee-reductions-services>
<https://x.com/mociqatar/status/1805944896202612877?s=48&t=G7UFws-Qtv9xEsQavQ3-kw>

Patent Registration and Technical Examination	700	5,000	192	1,373
Patent Grant and Publication	2,400	1,600	660	440
Registration Complaint	4,000	1,000	1,100	275
Design and Industrial Model Services				
Registration and Technical Examination	3,000	2,500	824	687
Objection After Publication	3,000	2,000	824	550
Renewal (First Time)	5,000	2,000	1,373	550
Renewal (Second Time)	7,000	2,000	1,923	550

These fee adjustments reflect Qatar's ongoing commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment that encourages innovation and streamlines IP protection processes.

Qatar: Third GCC Patent Committee Meeting²

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) in Qatar hosted the third meeting of the Patent Committee for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. This meeting focused on advancing patent-related initiatives to support innovation and economic growth while protecting intellectual property rights in the region. Participants from GCC member states discussed adopting a unified approach to patent systems and strategies for intellectual property development. The meeting aimed to enhance collaboration among the member countries and build a knowledge-based economy driven by innovation.

This initiative follows the establishment of the Patent Committee, a decision made during the extraordinary meeting of the Trade Cooperation Committee in January 2021, which includes officials from each GCC member state's intellectual property authorities.

UAE: Ministry of Economy Introduces New Law to Combat Commercial Fraud³

The UAE's Ministry of Economy has enacted Federal Decree-Law No. 42 of 2023, aimed at enhancing consumer protection and combating commercial fraud. This law introduces comprehensive mechanisms to prevent the trade of counterfeit, adulterated, and corrupt products, ensuring fair competition and bolstering the UAE's global competitiveness.

The new law establishes mechanisms to prevent counterfeit, adulterated, and corrupt products, significantly enhancing consumer protection. It also introduces administrative penalties for violations, promoting compliance and ensuring product integrity. In addition, the law supports intellectual property by aligning with federal laws on consumer protection, trademarks, and commercial agencies to foster innovation.

The Ministry of Economy has emphasized that the law strengthens cooperation between federal and local authorities to combat commercial fraud. This collaborative effort marks a major step forward in creating a competitive business environment, protecting trademark owners, and ensuring the integrity of products in the UAE.

Bahrain: Patent Prosecution Highway Agreement Signed with USPTO⁴

² <https://menafn.com/1108402441/Qatar-holds-GCC-nations-3rd-Patent-Committee-meeting>

³ <https://www.moec.gov.ae/en/-/ministry-of-economy-new-law-on-combating-commercial-fraud-bolsters-uae-s-legislation-and-protects-consumers-in-line-with-best-global-standards>

⁴ <https://www.moic.gov.bh/en/node/5536>

Bahrain's Industry and Commerce Ministry has signed a significant cooperation agreement with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to implement a fast-track system for the technical examination of patents. The agreement was signed in the presence of H.E. Mr. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, representing Bahrain, and H.E. Kathy Vidal, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the Patent and Trademark Office, representing the United States. This agreement, known as the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH), aims to accelerate the patent application process in Bahrain by leveraging examination reports from major international patent offices.

The agreement is expected to enhance Bahrain's patents and intellectual property sector, contributing to increased investment flows into the Kingdom. By speeding up the patent grant procedures, Bahrain aims to bolster its position as a hub for intellectual property and innovation.

The PPH agreement will facilitate better cooperation with the US Patent Office and other international patent offices, enabling the exchange of expertise and the latest findings on patent applications. This collaborative effort will also help in raising the quality of examination reports issued by the Bahraini National Office, ensuring consistency with international standards.

Saudi Arabia: Cooperation Agreement Signed with Indonesia to Develop Intellectual Property Ecosystem⁵

Saudi Arabia and Indonesia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on developing their intellectual property (IP) ecosystems. The agreement was signed by Min Usihen, the head of Indonesia's Directorate General of Intellectual Property, and Dr. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al-Swailem, CEO of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, on the sidelines of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) meeting in Geneva.

The cooperation framework aims to create synergy and mutual benefits in managing and developing IP systems in both countries. The two nations will exchange expertise on challenges related to the development of IP systems and the utilization of IP networks. This collaboration includes sharing strategies and best practices, particularly in leveraging the latest technologies such as artificial intelligence in IP management.

Additionally, the agreement covers information management, training, and development of human resources, as well as regulations and policies related to intellectual property. Both countries will also work together to promote and raise awareness of the importance of IP rights.

This MoU highlights the commitment of Saudi Arabia and Indonesia to continue innovating and adapting to the latest international IP regulations and technologies, aiming to bring significant benefits to both countries in developing and protecting their intellectual properties.

2. Additional topics

GCC:

His Excellency the Director General of the Patent Office meets His Excellency the Director General of International Relations at the Korean Intellectual Property Office

<https://www.gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1401> (2024.07.12)

The Gulf Patent Grievance Committee holds its ninety-second meeting at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh

<https://www.gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1404> (2024.07.24)

Oman:

Oman participates in meeting of WIPO member states' associations

⁵ <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2547821/world>

<https://cdn-1.timesofoman.com/article/147648-oman-participates-in-meeting-of-wipo-member-states-associations> (2024.07.10)

MOCIIP announces Oman's first Intellectual Property Exhibition

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2024/07/22/mociip-announces-omans-first-intellectual-property-exhibition/> (2024.07.22)

Pakistan:

WIPO launches mentorship program to strengthen copyright

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1204485/wipo-launches-mentorship-programme-to-strengthen-copyright/> (2024.06.28)

We're working with Pakistani officials to detect and seize counterfeit medications that can harm consumers' health and safety.

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/uspto_were-working-with-pakistani-officials-to-activity-7212485056232091648-n4a0/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop (2024.06.30)

Global Innovation Index: Pakistan's Intellectual Property ranking improved from 119 to 88

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1207486-global-innovation-index-pakistan-s-intellectual-property-ranking-improved-from-119-to-88> (2024.07.08)

Qatar:

Qatar Stresses Intellectual Property Has Become Significant Tool for Economic Growth

<https://menafocus.qa/qatar-stresses-intellectual-property-has-become-significant-tool-for-economic-growth/> (2024.06.04)

Saudi Arabia:

Saudi Arabia Issues Regulations for Using Names of Holy Cities in Trademarks

<https://www.gulf-insider.com/saudi-arabia-issues-regulations-for-using-names-of-holy-cities-in-trademarks/> (2024.07.12)

UAE:

Dubai Customs' Key Role in Elevating UAE's Intellectual Property Protection to Global Standard

<https://www.globaltrademag.com/dubai-customs-key-role-in-elevating-uaes-intellectual-property-protection-to-global-standard/> (2024.05.28)

Maximum IP Potential in Free Zones Due to 0% Tax

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/maximum-ip-potential-in-free-zones-due-to-0-tax> (2024.07.01)

UAE Participates in 65th Session of WIPO

<https://www.moec.gov.ae/en/-/uae-participates-in-65th-session-of-wipo-reviewing-its-efforts-in-building-a-competitive-intellectual-property-protection-system> (2024.07.10)

Self-adaptive Wind Turbine Patent Granted to UAEU Inventors

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/future/2024/07/09/self-adaptive-wind-turbine-patent-granted-to-uae-u-inventors/> (2024.07.09)

Dubai Customs Launches Blockchain Platform for Enhanced Commercial Efficiency and Transparency

<https://mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2024/july/08-07/dubai-customs-launches-blockchain-platform-for#:~:text=Dubai%20Customs%20launches%20blockchain%20platform%20for%20enhanced%20commercial%20efficiency%20and%20transparency,->

[12%20hours%20ago&text=Dubai%20Customs%20has%20announced%20the,within%20Dubai%20and%20across%20borders.](#) (2024.07.08)

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<https://wam.ae/en/article/b47h0l8-dubai-customs-commences-intellectual-property> (2024.07.17)

The National Institute of Industrial Property of France (INPI France) Met with the Ministry of Economy of UAE

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/service-conomique-r-gional-d-abu-dhabi_the-national-institute-of-industrial-property-activity-7218589434248601600-YPGL/ (2024.07.18)

Advancing IP Rights Protection in the Digital Realm

<https://www.mondaq.com/copyright/1496452/advancing-ip-rights-protection-in-the-digital-realm>
(2024.07.24)

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