

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 90

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### News

#### 1. Important topics

##### **Bahrain: New Guidelines for Authorized Distributors<sup>1</sup>**

The Bahrain Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) has issued Ministerial Decision No. 29 of 2024, which outlines updated regulations for authorized distribution in Bahrain. This decision sets forth specific conditions and controls, enhancing transparency and competitiveness for distributors of trademarked products in Bahrain. Below are some of the notable updates:

- **Regulations for Authorized Distributors**  
Ministerial Decision No. 29 requires that authorized distributors maintain at least 51% Bahraini ownership and have a registered headquarters in Bahrain. This criterion promotes local participation in distribution networks. Any exceptions to this rule require formal MOIC approval, balancing flexibility with the protection of Bahraini commercial interests.
- **Allowance for Multiple Distributors**  
Under the new guidelines, trademark owners can appoint multiple distributors, provided each meets the regulatory conditions. This addition is expected to encourage competition, raising service standards and improving product distribution across the market.
- **Required Elements in Distribution Agreements**  
Distribution agreements must include specific details, such as the names of the distributor and trademark owner, the goods and services involved, the responsibilities of both parties, the area of operation, contract duration, and a list of relevant trademarks or commercial names. These requirements enhance clarity and provide legal certainty for all involved.
- **Timeline for Compliance**  
Businesses involved in authorized distribution must comply by October 18, 2024. Compliance includes updating commercial registrations to reflect the authorized distribution activity (ISIC No. 4699) and registering all relevant agreements in the Authorized Distributor Registry on Bahrain's Sijilat platform. A grace period provided by the MOIC underscores the importance of timely compliance.
- **Advantages of Compliance**  
Adhering to Ministerial Decision No. 29 brings several benefits, including legal protection, enhanced market reputation, and stronger client relationships. Businesses are encouraged to thoroughly review the guidelines or contact the MOIC for further clarification.

##### **UAE: Dubai Launches New IP Hub to Empower Innovators and Boost Business Landscape<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> [https://raeesandco.com/thoughts/new-ministerial-decision-for-authorized-distributors-in-bahrain/?utm\\_source=mondag&utm\\_medium=syndication&utm\\_content=articleoriginal&utm\\_campaign=article](https://raeesandco.com/thoughts/new-ministerial-decision-for-authorized-distributors-in-bahrain/?utm_source=mondag&utm_medium=syndication&utm_content=articleoriginal&utm_campaign=article)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b5gpyzl-dubai-launches-new-hub-empower-innovators>

The Dubai Future Foundation (DFF) and the UAE Ministry of Economy have introduced the Dubai Intellectual Property Hub (DIPH), marking the UAE's first centralized IP and intangible assets hub. This innovative platform aims to support a wide range of professionals—including entrepreneurs, artists, academics, and startups—by providing resources to protect and commercialize their intellectual property.

- **Launch and Key Supporters**

The DIPH was unveiled at the “IP2024: Glimpse on the Future of IP” event, held at the Museum of the Future, where a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Economy and DFF. Key figures at the event included Abdullah Bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy; Alia Abdulla Al Mazrouei, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship; Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Muaini, Assistant Undersecretary for the Intellectual Property Rights Sector at the Ministry of Economy, and Khalfan Belhoul, CEO of DFF.

- **Enhanced IP Framework**

The DIPH integrates the Ministry of Economy's intellectual asset registration feature, reinforcing Dubai's commitment to becoming a global hub for technology and innovation. By offering centralized support, DIPH will assist innovators, creatives, and researchers in sectors such as sustainability, health, education, and law. This effort aligns with the UAE's "We the UAE 2031" vision, aiming to position the nation as a leading destination for talent and creativity.

- **Government Perspectives**

Highlighting the UAE's dedication to fostering innovation, Abdullah Bin Touq Al Marri emphasized the comprehensive legislative and institutional framework in place to protect intellectual property across all sectors. This integrated system reflects international best practices and is designed to stimulate creativity and support the growth of businesses in the new economy.

- **Four Pillars of Support**

Built around four main pillars, the DIPH will offer a seamless digital experience for IP registration, guidance on IP protection, and tools for strategic development and commercial exploitation of intellectual property. Its user-friendly digital interface centralizes access to essential information, resources, and guidelines, making it an invaluable resource for those navigating the IP landscape in Dubai.

### **Türkiye: New Regulation on Registration of Plant Varieties Enters into Force<sup>3</sup>**

The Regulation on Registration of Plant Varieties (“Regulation”) came into effect on September 17, 2024, following its publication in the Official Gazette No. 32665, replacing the previous regulation. Key updates include a shift toward electronic application processes, detailed guidelines on documentation requirements, and clarification on registration procedures for various types of plant varieties.

- **Application Process and Documentation Requirements**

Under the new regulation, applicants can now submit applications electronically, further building on previous digitalization efforts from 2021. The regulation clarifies that if the registration committee determines application deficiencies are remediable, applicants may reapply upon addressing the required changes. However, this option is unavailable if the committee decides otherwise.

For applications involving free varieties, an authorization certificate is required from the breeder. If unavailable, a supply certificate from the breeder or a representative is needed. Additionally, if free varieties lack a Variety Characteristic Certificate, a technical questionnaire must be submitted by the breeder or representative during the application.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/patent/1523242/new-regulation-on-registration-of-plant-varieties-enters-into-force>

- **DUS Testing and Registration Standards**

Plant varieties registered in UPOV member countries may require Diversity, Uniformity, and Stability (DUS) testing within Türkiye. Field and vegetable species undergo testing over one vegetation period, while fruit and grapevine species testing continues until observations are complete, with extensions in case of unfavorable conditions.

Applications for maize and sunflower parental lines registered in UPOV countries, which have undergone DUS testing per UPOV rules, will be processed without further testing by the Field Crops Registration Committee. Similarly, varieties registered solely through DUS tests under bilateral agreements with UPOV members may also be approved based on existing DUS certifications, provided a valid variety characteristic certificate is submitted to Türkiye's Seed Registration and Certification Center (TTSM).

- **Additional Responsibilities for Applicants**

Applicants must confirm the accuracy of information provided, supply necessary seed materials for registration trials, and disclose any environmental or health risks associated with the seed material. They must also affirm that the seed material is non-GMO and has not undergone modifications affecting variety characteristics. Should the variety later be found to be genetically modified, applicants bear full responsibility.

- **Committee Membership and Commercial Restrictions**

Under the new regulation, individuals with commercial ties to companies in seed production are barred from serving on committees for crop, vegetable, and fruit variety registration, ensuring impartiality in the registration process.

- **Variety Transfer and Transition Provisions**

Registered breeders may transfer their varieties post-authorization period or register them in their own name by terminating previous authorization. Applications submitted before September 17, 2024, will follow the previous regulation's terms, while existing agricultural research organizations have until September 17, 2025, to meet the new criteria.

The regulation provides a robust framework for plant variety registration, enhancing transparency and aligning with international standards to strengthen Türkiye's position in agricultural research and development.

#### **Oman: Launch of Intellectual Property, Research, and Innovation Forum<sup>4</sup>**

The Intellectual Property, Research, and Innovation Forum has kicked off at Sohar University in North Al Batinah Governorate on October 2, 2024. Organized by the university in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the forum will run over two days.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, who emphasized the importance of human creativity and innovation as key drivers of the global economy. She noted that when properly harnessed, creativity and innovation can serve as powerful resources for both national and international priorities.

#### **Saudi Arabia: Launch of the Summer School Program in Collaboration with the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, and WIPO<sup>5</sup>**

As part of Saudi Arabia's initiative to strengthen intellectual property awareness and capabilities, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) has launched its first Summer School program in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and King Abdullah University of Science and

<sup>4</sup> <https://omannews.gov.om/topics/ar/120/show/439691/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2717/>

Technology (KAUST). The program brings together 40 participants from 22 countries, running from October 13-24, 2024, with an intensive curriculum covering essential IP topics.

Participants will benefit from over 130 hours of in-person training across 32 subjects, guided by 12 leading international and local IP experts. The sessions address core areas such as patents, trademarks, designs, technology transfer, and IP management.

Designed to cultivate expertise, the program combines lectures, hands-on applications, and interactive activities, offering a unique platform for participants to deepen their knowledge of intellectual property. This initiative reflects Saudi Arabia's dedication to fostering an environment where IP rights are understood and upheld, encouraging a culture of innovation and creativity across sectors.

### **GCC: New WIPO Publishing System Transforms Patent Application Access Across the Region<sup>6</sup>**

The Patent Office, under the Secretariat General for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), has recently launched the WIPO Publish System, a significant advancement in the electronic publishing of patent applications. This initiative is a result of a Memorandum of Understanding between the GCC Patent Office and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

From October 1 to 5, 2023, a delegation of WIPO experts visited the Patent Office to collaborate with local specialists on various procedures and technical updates. This partnership has culminated in the successful implementation of the WIPO Publish System, which aligns with international standards set by WIPO and incorporates the ST. 36 standard, widely adopted by advanced patent offices worldwide.

The new system serves multiple objectives, notably streamlining the exchange of published patent data and documents among GCC states and globally. It facilitates access to applications filed with the International Bureau (IB) of WIPO under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). Furthermore, the WIPO Publish System enhances the ability to search international patent applications and retrieve bibliographic data in both Arabic and English.

## **2. Additional topics**

### **Bahrain:**

WIPO Director General receives UN Permanent Representative of Bahrain

<https://libyanewsgazette.com/wipo-director-general-receives-un-permanent-representative-of-bahrain/>  
(2024.10.15)

### **GCC:**

The Patent Office participates in the annual event on intellectual property organized by the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA)

<https://www.gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1412> (2024.10.02)

GCC Trademark Announces New Digital Partnership with Promark to Strengthen IP Services

<https://theblunttimes.in/gcc-trademark-announces-new-digital-partnership-with-promark-to-strengthen-ip-services/44429/> (2024.10.21)

The Patent Office of the General Secretariat receives the delegation of the American Chamber of Commerce

<https://www.gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1414>  
(2024.10.24)

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<sup>6</sup> <https://gccpo.org/AboutUsEn/ShowNews?id=70>

The Patent Office of the General Secretariat receives the Japanese Intellectual Property Attaché in the Middle East and North Africa

<https://www.gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1413>

(2024.10.24)

**Lebanon:**

Update: Extension of Deadlines by the Lebanese Intellectual Property Office

<https://alyafi-ip.com/lebanon-ip-office-deadlines-update-2024/#:~:text=Lebanon%3A%20Notice%20of%20Extension%20of%20Deadlines%20Due%20to,originally%20set%20to%20expire%20during%20the%20closure%20period.>

(2024.10.31)

**Oman:**

Understanding Intellectual Property Protection in Oman

<https://mgz.com.tw/2024/10/06/understanding-intellectual-property-protection-in-oman/> (2024.10.06)

**Pakistan:**

'Awareness of IP rights key to economic growth'

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1234211-awareness-of-ip-rights-key-to-economic-growth>

(2024.09.27)

IIPO Pakistan, UMDC Join Hands To Foster Awareness Among Future Medical Leaders

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/iipo-pakistan-umdc-join-hands-to-foster-aware-1868008.html>

(2024.10.01)

How to Handle a Rejected Trademark Application in Pakistan

<https://articles.abilogic.com/697919/how-handle-rejected-trademark-application.html> (2024.10.20)

UVAS Holds Seminar On Intellectual Property Rights

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/education/uvas-holds-seminar-on-intellectual-property-r-1874198.html>

(2024.10.21)

UET Launches Innovative Patent Wall To Foster Culture Of Invention

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/u-et-launches-innovative-patent-wall-to-foster-1874206.html>

(2024.10.21)

IPO Pakistan Chairperson Calls on new LCCI President to Strengthen Collaboration on Intellectual Property Initiatives

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2961> (2024.10.22)

Pakistan Announces New Crackdown on Illicit Trade

<https://tobaccoreporter.com/2024/10/28/pakistan-announces-new-crackdown-on-illicit-trade/>

(2024.10.28)

Consultative Session on Patent and IP Protection and Technology Transfer at DoST, Peshawar

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2970> (2024.10.25)

**Qatar:**

Qatar moves up 21 places on Global Innovation Index since 2020

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/29/09/2024/qatar-moves-up-21-places-on-global-innovation-index-since-2020> (2024.09.29)

QRDI Council, ASTP debut Mumaken IP and Technology Transfer Training Programme

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/02/10/2024/qrdi-council-astp-debut-mumaken-ip-and-technology-transfer-training-programme> (2024.10.02)

Intellectual Property Champions Community launched

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/08/10/2024/intellectual-property-champions-community-launched> (2024.10.08)

In Special Remarks to QNA...WIPO Director-General Affirms Strength of Partnership with Qatar

<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-10/08/0079-in-special-remarks-to-qnawipo-director-general-affirms-strength-of-partnership-with-qatar> (2024.10.08)

Permanent Representative to Geneva: Qatar's Accession to Madrid Protocol Enhances Its Participation in Global System for Intellectual Property Protection

<https://mofa.gov.qa/en/qatar/latest-articles/latest-news/details/2024/10/08/permanent-representative-to-geneva--qatar%27s-accession-to-madrid-protocol-enhances-its-participation-in-global-system-for-intellectual-property-protection> (2024.10.08)

Qatar-WIPO partnership brings significant progress

<https://www.gulf-times.com/article/692278/opinion/qatar-wipo-partnership-brings-significant-progress> (2024.10.10)

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry Organizes Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights

<https://www.moci.gov.qa/en/moci-news/single-news/?id=176> (2024.10.27)

Qatar outstanding annuities for patent applications now payable

<https://asiaiplaw.com/article/qatar-outstanding-annuities-for-patent-applications-now-payable> (2024.10.24)

#### **Saudi Arabia:**

Saudi Trade Name Law prohibits religious, military and political trade names

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/646017/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-Trade-Name-Law-prohibits-religious-military-and-political-trade-names> (2024.10.05)

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

<https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2716/> (2024.10.13)

Saudi Arabia: New Commercial Registration Law and Trade Name Law

<https://www.agip.com/News/en/news/22253> (2024.10.17)

EPO and Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property meet

<https://www.epo.org/en/news-events/news/epo-and-saudi-authority-intellectual-property-meet> (2024.10.03)

DPMA President meets CEO of the Saudi Arabian Intellectual Property Authority

[https://www.dpma.de/english/our\\_office/publications/guestsatdpma/saipinmunich/index.html](https://www.dpma.de/english/our_office/publications/guestsatdpma/saipinmunich/index.html) (2024.10.04)

#### **Saudi Arabia & UAE:**

How Law Firms Are Cashing In on the IP Boom in Saudi and the UAE

<https://www.law.com/international-edition/2024/09/29/how-law-firms-are-cashing-in-on-the-ip-boom-in-saudi-and-the-uae/> (2024.09.29)

**Türkiye:**

Infringement dispute underscores importance of determination of evidence in Turkey's patent regime  
<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=8bfbccc6-6cf3-4201-86d9-5cd35e45d7c8> (2024.09.25)

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<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/haberler/kuresel-yenilik-endeksi-2024-raporu-yayimlandi> (2024.09.27)

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<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/global-innovation-index-2024-report-has-been-published>  
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<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/haberler/yoresel-urunler-fuari> (2024.10.11)

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UAE highlights its efforts to enhance legislative framework for IP rights protection at 3rd Belt and Road High-Level Conference on Intellectual Property in Beijing  
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UAE-Beijing Economic Forum explores opportunities to develop strategic partnership between the two countries in technology & new economy  
<https://www.moec.gov.ae/en/-/uae-beijing-economic-forum-explores-opportunities-to-develop-strategic-partnership-between-the-two-countries-in-technology-new-economy> (2024.09.25)

UAE leads North Africa, Western Asia in WIPO Global Innovation Index 2024  
<https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b5dqssj-uae-leads-north-africa-western-asia-wipo-global> (2024.09.26)

**UAE, Qatar, Oman:**

Las Vegas Sphere Registers Trademarks in UAE, Qatar, and Oman  
<https://skift.com/2024/10/11/las-vegas-sphere-registers-trademarks-in-uae-qatar-and-oman/>  
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