

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 91

**Index**

**1. Important topics**

- Oman:** New Submission Requirements for Trademark Filings  
National Intellectual Property Strategy Unveiled at Key Expo
- Saudi Arabia:** Riyadh Treaty on Design Law Adopted at Landmark Conference  
SAIP Launches Major Crackdown on Intellectual Property Infringement
- Yemen:** Trademark Renewals Resumed for U.S. and Swedish Companies
- Iran:** New IP Law Brings Fee Adjustments and Expanded Protection
- UAE:** Surge in Intellectual Property Registrations

**2. Additional topics:**

- GCC:** GCC and New Zealand Sign Landmark Free Trade Agreement
- Iran** WIPO 2024 releases Iran's ranking based on GII report  
Women hold over 24% share of inventions in Iran
- Kuwait:** Customs and Commerce step up to combat fake goods in Kuwait  
Kuwait marks milestone with 26,520 trademark registrations
- Oman:** National Intellectual Property Exhibition to open tomorrow in Muscat
- Pakistan** Chairman IPO-Pakistan emphasizes centrality of IP in Pakistan's progress  
Intellectual Property & Patent Filing  
Pakistan consults UN agency to shape National Intellectual Property Strategy  
Seminar on WIPO Treaty on Genetic Resources, Associated Traditional Knowledge (GRATK) at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam
- Qatar:** Al Majd Law Firm holds workshop on combating counterfeit auto parts  
Intellectual Property Law in Qatar: Protecting Your Business Ideas  
Qatar Elected as Member of Drafting Committee for Diplomatic Conference to Adopt a Design Law Treaty  
The International Trademark and the New Members of the Madrid Protocol
- Saudi Arabia:** First In-person WIPO-Saudi Arabia Summer School on Intellectual Property  
SDAIA Report: Saudi Arabia Leads the Way in Global AI Innovation

**Türkiye:** Academic Inventions Turn Into Commercial Value

**UAE:** Economic Integration Committee explores potential amendments to economic laws to promote ease of doing business in the country

Protection of Copyright in UAE Law

## News

### 1. Important topics

#### **Oman: New Submission Requirements for Trademark Filings<sup>1</sup>**

Oman's Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion has introduced updated submission requirements for trademark filings. An official notice reminds trademark agents of the necessity to provide the original legal power of attorney (POA) when submitting applications for opposition cases, appeals, changes in name or address, assignment and license records, agent-of-service changes, applicant detail amendments, patents, and industrial designs. These requirements align with Articles 4, 24, and 31 of the Executive Regulations of the Unified GCC Trademark Law, established by Royal Decree No. (33/2017).

While it remains permissible to file trademark applications, renewals, and other recordals without complete documentation, the missing documents must be submitted within 60 days from the filing date without incurring additional charges. Failure to comply within this period will result in a penalty fee of \$55, applicable indefinitely until submission.

For power of attorney documents, Apostille certification is required if the applicant's country is a member of the Hague Convention. Otherwise, the POA must be legalized up to an Omani consulate abroad.

These measures aim to streamline procedures and ensure compliance with Oman's trademark regulations.

#### **Oman: National Intellectual Property Strategy Unveiled at Key Expo<sup>2</sup>**

Oman's Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) unveiled its National Intellectual Property (IP) Strategy during the National Intellectual Property Exhibition held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre on November 25-26, 2024. The event showcased Oman's dedication to fostering innovation, supporting economic diversification, and advancing sustainable development.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim al-Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, alongside Qais bin Mohammed al-Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion. Senior officials, business leaders, and intellectual property experts attended the event.

The exhibition featured 30 national inventions, 20 trademarks, and creative works such as literature, sculptures, and photography. Workshops and lectures by local and international experts provided practical insights into intellectual property management and its role in economic growth.

#### ***National IP Strategy Highlights***

Eng. Khalid bin Hamoud al-Hinai, Director of the National IP Office, detailed Oman's National IP Strategy, which includes 14 initiatives aimed at driving innovation and economic growth. Key initiatives include:

- Establishing Oman as an international patent examination authority.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.asiaiplaw.com/article/oman-enforces-new-submission-requirements-for-trademark-filings>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1162558/oman/oman-unveils-national-ip-strategy-at-key-expo>

- Launching an advanced digital IP platform.

These initiatives align with Oman Vision 2040, emphasizing the transition to a knowledge-based economy. Recent data highlights a surge in IP activity, with 90 national patent applications filed in Q3 2024, nearing the 100 filed in all of 2023, and 541 international patent filings.

### ***Supporting Local Innovation***

The Frankincense Producers Empowerment Project was among the key initiatives spotlighted during the event. By leveraging geographical indications and trademarks, the project aims to enhance the global reach of Omani frankincense, boost local producers' sales, and promote Oman's reputation for high-quality products.

Nasra bint Sultan al-Habsi, Director General of Commerce at MoCIIP, emphasized that intellectual property protection is a cornerstone of Oman's economic diversification. "Protecting innovators' rights fosters creativity, attracts investment, and drives the development of high-value products and services," she said.

### ***Educational Initiatives***

MoCIIP also launched the Omani edition of the DL101 IP Basics Course in partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Tailored to Oman's legal and cultural context, the course offers foundational training on IP principles, furthering public awareness and expertise.

The National IP Exhibition demonstrated Oman's strategic commitment to leveraging intellectual property as a catalyst for innovation and economic growth, positioning the country as a global hub for creativity and competitiveness.

### **Saudi Arabia: Riyadh Treaty on Design Law Adopted at Landmark Conference<sup>3</sup>**

In a historic move to support global creativity, the Riyadh Treaty on Design Law was formally adopted during the Diplomatic Conference on Design Law Treaty. Hosted by Saudi Arabia at the King Abdulaziz International Conference Center from November 11 to 22, 2024, the event brought together representatives from the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) 193 member states.

The Riyadh Treaty establishes a unified legal framework to enhance designers' rights and protect their creative works, marking a significant milestone in international intellectual property cooperation. The treaty aims to simplify and harmonize global design registration procedures, providing a robust environment for fostering innovation and creativity across sectors.

Dr. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al-Suwailem, CEO of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP), emphasized the significance of this achievement: "The Riyadh Treaty reflects Saudi Arabia's pivotal role as a cultural bridge and a supporter of global initiatives. This historic milestone underscores Saudi Arabia's commitment to advancing the international intellectual property framework, benefiting designers and boosting innovation worldwide."

The adoption of the Riyadh Treaty underscores Saudi Arabia's leadership in promoting a sustainable creative ecosystem that safeguards designers' rights and supports the growth of global creative industries. The conference also highlighted Saudi Arabia's vision to position itself as a hub for innovation and creativity, aligning with Vision 2030 goals.

### **Saudi Arabia: SAIP Launches Major Crackdown on Intellectual Property Infringement<sup>4</sup>**

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) has intensified its efforts to combat counterfeit goods across the Kingdom. Collaborating with agencies such as the Saudi Food and Drug Authority, SAIP targeted

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2735>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2199530>

61 businesses in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam, leading to the seizure of over 23,000 fake cosmetics, perfumes, and fashion items.

In addition to these coordinated efforts, SAIP carried out independent inspections, confiscating more than 45,000 counterfeit products from 162 businesses. Expanding its operations to the digital sphere, SAIP blocked over 4,175 websites and removed 14,000 online listings promoting counterfeit goods.

SAIP's proactive measures are guided by data collected from over 6,000 "mystery shopper" visits. This information enables the identification of high-risk sectors, allowing the authority to prioritize inspections in industries such as cosmetics, perfumes, sportswear, clothing, footwear, and accessories.

### **Yemen: Trademark Renewals Resumed for U.S. and Swedish Companies<sup>5</sup>**

The Ministry of Industry and Trade in Yemen has issued Ministerial Decision No. 56 of 2024, allowing the renewal of trademark registrations for U.S. and Swedish companies. This move addresses lapsed registrations that occurred during the previous sanction period.

The Registrar has emphasized the importance of submitting renewal applications promptly to ensure timely processing under the updated framework.

This decision reflects Yemen's efforts to strengthen intellectual property protection and provide clearer pathways for maintaining trademark rights for international companies.

### **Iran: New IP Law Brings Fee Adjustments and Expanded Protection<sup>6</sup>**

Iran has enacted a new intellectual property (IP) law introducing significant changes to fee structures and expanding the scope of protection. While the registration and protection processes for trademarks, patents, and industrial designs remain largely unchanged, the law introduces updates aimed at enhancing the country's IP framework.

#### **Key Changes Under the New IP Law**

1. The law now mandates that official fees for foreign applicants be paid in Iranian rials through online channels, replacing the previous euro-based payment system. This shift has generally reduced costs for foreign applicants due to the devaluation of the rial against the euro.
2. The law broadens the IP framework to include utility models, trade secrets, and certification marks, which were not covered under the previous law. This expansion strengthens protections for a wider range of intellectual assets.
3. Official fees have been revised, with significant increases in certain cases. Notable changes include:
  - **Trademark Application Filing (Legal Entities, One Class):** Increased from 400,000 rials (around USD 9.50) to 10 million rials (around USD 237.60).
  - **Registration Fee (Legal Entities, One Class):** Increased from 2.4 million rials (around USD 57.02) to 30 million rials (around USD 712.80).
  - **Appeal Fee (One Class):** Increased from 750,000 rials (USD 17.82) to 25 million rials (USD 594).

While foreign applicants benefit from lower overall costs due to currency adjustments, local applicants face higher fees as they continue to pay in rials.

#### **Considerations for Businesses**

The fluctuating nature of the Iranian rial poses challenges for budgeting IP-related costs, particularly for long-term projects. Businesses are encouraged to adopt strategic planning, prioritize filings, and monitor currency volatility to manage expenses effectively.

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://ip-shell.com/yemen-sanaa-resumes-ip-services-for-u-s-and-swedish-companies/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://asiaiplaw.com/article/iran-enacts-new-ip-law-and-fee-increase>

## **Looking Ahead**

Procedural adjustments by the Iranian Intellectual Property Office (IIPO) are expected, pending approval of the executive by-law under the new legislation. Staying informed about these developments will be essential for ensuring compliance and optimizing IP strategies.

This new law represents a step forward in modernizing Iran's IP framework, offering both opportunities and challenges for stakeholders navigating the evolving landscape.

## **UAE: Surge in Intellectual Property Registrations<sup>7</sup>**

The United Arab Emirates has witnessed substantial growth in intellectual property (IP) registrations in 2024, underscoring its commitment to fostering an innovation-driven economy and attracting global talent.

### **Key Developments in IP Registrations**

- **Trademark Registrations Surge:** Over 20,000 new trademarks were registered in the UAE between January and October, with 1,866 registered in October alone. This marks a 39% increase compared to the same period in 2023, bringing the total number of active trademarks to 358,300.
- **Expansion Across Sectors:** The growth spans various industries, including real estate development, food, technology, electronics, banking, insurance, and commodity sectors like automobiles, clothing, and cosmetics. Service industries such as tourism, education, healthcare, and recycling also contributed significantly to the surge.
- **Patents and Industrial Designs:** Registrations for patents, utility certificates, and industrial designs increased by 8%, reaching a total of 15,051 by September 2024.
- **Increase in Applications and Violation Reports:** The Ministry of Economy received 1,946 applications for IP registration, reflecting a 53% rise compared to the previous year. Additionally, 153 IP violation reports were filed, with 209 applications processed for registering importers and distributors of IP rights.

### **Strategic Focus and Vision**

The UAE's Ministry of Economy has implemented initiatives aimed at enhancing IP legislation and competitiveness, reinforcing the nation's position as a global hub for knowledge and creativity. These efforts align with the goals of the "We the UAE 2031" vision, which aspires to position the UAE among the world's top 10 destinations for talent and innovation.

The remarkable growth in IP registrations demonstrates the UAE's ongoing efforts to strengthen its IP ecosystem, support entrepreneurship, and drive economic diversification across key industries.

## **2. Additional topics**

### **GCC:**

GCC, New Zealand sign free-trade agreement

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/646706/BUSINESS/GCC-New-Zealand-sign-free-trade-agreement>  
(2024-11-01)

### **Iran:**

WIPO 2024 releases Iran's ranking based on GII report

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/506332/WIPO-2024-releases-Iran-s-ranking-based-on-GII-report>  
(2024-11-16)

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/culture-society/uae-intellectual-property-registrations-up-over-34-with-massive-increase-in-trademarks>  
<https://menafn.com/1108919329/UAE-sees-registration-of-over-20000-new-trademarks-in-January-October-period>

Women hold over 24% share of inventions in Iran

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/506431/Women-hold-over-24-share-of-inventions-in-Iran> (2024-11-18)

**Kuwait:**

Customs and Commerce step up to combat fake goods in Kuwait

<https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/customs-and-commerce-step-up-to-combat-fake-goods-in-kuwait/> (2024-11-18)

Kuwait marks milestone with 26,520 trademark registrations

<https://timeskuwait.com/kuwait-marks-milestone-with-26520-trademark-registrations/> (2024-11-12)

**Oman:**

National Intellectual Property Exhibition to open tomorrow in Muscat

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2024/11/24/national-intellectual-property-exhibition-to-open-tomorrow-in-muscat/> (2024-11-24)

**Pakistan:**

Chairman IPO-Pakistan emphasizes centrality of IP in Pakistan's progress

<https://www.radio.gov.pk/17-11-2024/chairman-ipo-pakistan-emphasizes-centrality-of-ip-in-pakistans-progress> (2024-11-17)

Intellectual Property & Patent Filing

[https://punjabhec.gov.pk/event\\_detail/intellectual-property-patent-filing-uet-lahore/](https://punjabhec.gov.pk/event_detail/intellectual-property-patent-filing-uet-lahore/) (2024-11-11)

Pakistan consults UN agency to shape National Intellectual Property Strategy

<https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2580307/pakistan> (2024-11-22)

Seminar on WIPO Treaty on Genetic Resources, Associated Traditional Knowledge (GRATK) at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2988> (2024-11-14)

**Qatar:**

Al Majd Law Firm holds workshop on combating counterfeit auto parts

<https://www.gulf-times.com/article/694453/qatar/al-majd-law-firm-holds-workshop-on-combating-counterfeit-auto-parts> (2024-11-13)

Intellectual Property Law in Qatar: Protecting Your Business Ideas

<https://medium.com/@noonlaw9/intellectual-property-law-in-qatar-protecting-your-business-ideas-bf57a8265f46> (2024-11-03)

Qatar Elected as Member of Drafting Committee for Diplomatic Conference to Adopt a Design Law Treaty

<https://www.moci.gov.qa/en/moci-news/single-news/?id=184> (2024-11-19)

The International Trademark and the New Members of the Madrid Protocol

<https://www.dreyfus.fr/en/2024/11/20/the-international-trademark-and-the-new-members-of-the-madrid-protocol/> (2024-11-20)

**Saudi Arabia:**

First In-person WIPO-Saudi Arabia Summer School on Intellectual Property

<https://www.wipo.int/web/wipo-academy/w/news/2024/first-in-person-wipo-saudi-arabia-summer-school-on-intellectual-property> (2024-10-29)

SDAIA Report: Saudi Arabia Leads the Way in Global AI Innovation

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2201971> (2024-10-16)

**Türkiye:**

Academic Inventions Turn Into Commercial Value

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/haberler/akademik-buluslar-ticari-degere-donusuyor> (2024-11-06)

**UAE:**

Economic Integration Committee explores potential amendments to economic laws to promote ease of doing business in the country

<https://www.moec.gov.ae/en/-/economic-integration-committee-explores-potential-amendments-to-economic-laws-to-promote-ease-of-doing-business-in-the-country> (2024-10-31)

Protection of Copyright in UAE Law

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/protection-copyright-uae-law-al-dhaheri-international-advocates-udwnc> (2024-11-01)

[Commissioned by JPO]  
Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 91

[Author]  
Saba Intellectual Property

**SABA**  
INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY

[Published by]  
Japan External Trade Organization Dubai Office

**JETRO**  
JAPAN EXTERNAL TRADE ORGANIZATION

Published in December 2024  
All Rights Reserved

This newsletter was written by Saba Intellectual Property and reviewed by JETRO Dubai. In addition, this newsletter is based on information available at the time of creation and may change due to subsequent revisions to laws. The information and comments posted are at the discretion of the author and our office, but we do not guarantee that the general information is correct. Unauthorized reprinting, redistribution, or posting on other websites of the content of this newsletter is prohibited.

Furthermore, JETRO strives to make the information provided as accurate as possible, but it is the reader's responsibility and judgment to confirm the accuracy of the information provided, etc.

JETRO is not responsible for any disadvantages caused by using the information supplied through this document.