

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 93

**Index**

**1. Important topics**

- Saudi Arabia:** Accession to the Hague System for Industrial Design Protection
- GCC:** Surge in Patent Filings Signals Growing Innovation
- Jordan:** Over 5,600 Trademarks Registered in 2024
- Yemen:** Sanaa IPO Removes Limit on Goods and Services in Trademark Applications
- Türkiye:** Joins Belt and Road Patent Examination Pilot Project
- Bahrain:** Korea-Bahrain Patent Prosecution Highway to Expedite Patent Processing

**2. Additional topics:**

- Bahrain:** Bahraini businessman was caught in a fake trademark registration scam
- Bahrain Raises Consular Fees, Allows Payment in Local Currency
- Bahrain/Oman:** Oman, Bahrain ink 25 agreements across several sectors
- Egypt:** African science map redrawn as Egypt dominates R&D spending
- The thorny path of Egyptian patents
- GCC:** A Legal Perspective on Perfume Fragrances and Registration in GCC Countries: Can Scents Be Trademarked?
- How to Obtain Legal Protection for Your Trademark in GCC Markets
- Iran:** New Act on Protection of Industrial Property Enacted in Iran
- Iraq:** Iraq sees surge in patents as innovation thrives across key sectors
- Jordan:** Trademark registrations at 5,678 last year in Jordan, says trade ministry
- Morocco:** Morocco's Growing Role in Global Intellectual Property Landscape
- Morocco ranks 5th worldwide in industrial designs
- Pakistan:** New partnership aims to drive agri-tech innovation, entrepreneurship
- IPO-Pakistan, NCA Collaborate For Intellectual Property Rights Awareness
- Training Workshop at NIGAB, PARC
- Saudi Arabia:** Royal Approval for the Formation of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property

**Reconstituted Saudi IP Authority's board of Directors Approved**

**Enhancing Collaboration Between "SAIP" and "ZATCA" to Protect Creativity**

**Türkiye:** Turkish envoy, IPO-Pakistan officials discuss importance of intellectual property

**Historical Record in Domestic Patent Applications: 10 thousand 186 applications**

**Towards Harmonization: TÜRKPATENT's Changing Stance on Acquired Trademark Rights**

**Türkiye receives 151,765 trademark applications in 2024**

**UAE:** UAE's Patent Hive initiative to reduce patent registration time to only 6 months

**How Slogans Be Trademarked in UAE?**

**Navigating Trademark Assignment Challenges in the UAE**

**UAE: Trademark Seizures and recognition of IP as valuable assets**

**Understanding the New Competition Law in the UAE**

## **News**

### **1. Important topics**

#### **Saudi Arabia: Accession to the Hague System for Industrial Design Protection<sup>1</sup>**

Saudi Arabia has officially joined the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, becoming its 99th member. The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) announced that this move streamlines the process for protecting industrial designs across multiple jurisdictions.

The Hague System, administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), allows designers to secure rights in multiple countries through a single application. This development aligns with Saudi Arabia's broader efforts to foster innovation and support creative industries as key drivers of economic growth.

H.E Dr. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al-Swailem, SAIP's CEO, highlighted that the membership in the Hague System simplifies design registration, providing creators with a more efficient pathway to market their designs internationally while ensuring strong legal protection.

Saudi Arabia has deposited its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement, with the system set to take effect in the Kingdom on April 7, 2025. The country has been a member of WIPO since 1982, further demonstrating its commitment to advancing intellectual property rights on a global scale.

#### **GCC: Surge in Patent Filings Signals Growing Innovation<sup>2</sup>**

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2247503>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.agbi.com/analysis/entrepreneurs/2025/01/pace-of-patent-filings-shows-a-leap-in-gcc-innovation/>

Patent applications in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have risen sharply, with Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the UAE leading the trend..T

Saudi Arabia saw resident-filed patent applications more than double from 3,213 in 2016 to 6,510 in 2023, reaching 86.3 applications per million people. Oman recorded the most significant jump, increasing from 12 applications in 2016 to 437 in 2023. The UAE also saw a rise, with filings growing from 622 to 1,005 over the same period, according to World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) data.

Patent activity in the GCC remains modest, with the U.S. recording 824 applications per million in 2023 and the U.K. 255. Experts see the rise as a sign of a maturing innovation ecosystem. Saudi applicants favor international offices, while limited filings with SAIP highlight the need for local IP reforms. The UAE is modernizing its IP system, and Oman has launched a national strategy to boost innovation.

Though trailing global leaders, the GCC's growing patent filings signal a stronger commitment to intellectual property and economic growth.

### **Jordan: Over 5,600 Trademarks Registered in 2024<sup>3</sup>**

Jordan recorded 5,678 trademark registrations in 2024, reflecting continued engagement in intellectual property protection, according to data from the Industrial Property Protection Directorate at the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply.

A total of 8,057 trademark transactions were submitted, with 4,016 local and 4,041 foreign applications. In 2023, 8,409 transactions were recorded, comprising 3,932 local and 4,477 foreign applications.

The approval process remained active, with 5,211 registrations receiving initial approval in 2024. Meanwhile, the number of declined requests dropped significantly, from 868 in 2023 to 225 last year, indicating a more streamlined and efficient trademark review process.

### **Yemen: Sanaa IPO Removes Limit on Goods and Services in Trademark Applications<sup>4</sup>**

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) in Sanaa has lifted the previous cap of 10 goods or services per trademark application, allowing applicants to designate an unlimited number of items. This policy change, introduced under Ministerial Decision No. 52/2024, aligns with global efforts to streamline and modernize trademark registration.

While the limit has been removed, additional publication fees apply for listings beyond the first 10 goods or services. Each extra item incurs a 5% surcharge, YER 6,100 (around JPY 3,746.13 or USD 24.52), on the standard publication fee, ensuring that expanded filings contribute to administrative costs.

Yemen operates two separate IPOs—one in Sanaa and another in Aden—each following distinct procedures. Both offices recently adopted the 12th edition of the Nice Classification and apply a single-class protection system. While Aden maintains the 10-item limit introduced in October 2024, Sanaa has now eliminated it entirely.

In a broader push for modernization, the Sanaa IPO launched an online platform on October 7, 2024, offering digital access to trademark services such as filings, amendments, objections, and responses. The platform also automates deadline calculations and publishes the Official Trademark Gazette exclusively in digital format, reducing administrative complexity.

---

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=67163&lang=en&name=en\\_news](https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=67163&lang=en&name=en_news)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/yemen-ipo-in-sanaa-removes-limitation-to-number-of-goods-and-services-khp2evue>

This reform is expected to enhance efficiency and provide greater flexibility for applicants navigating Yemen's trademark system.

#### **Türkiye: Joins Belt and Road Patent Examination Pilot Project<sup>5</sup>**

Türkiye has become the first country to participate in the Belt and Road Accelerated Patent Examination Pilot Project, an initiative designed to fast-track patent applications from Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries in China. The project, led by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), will launch on January 20, 2025, and run for two years until January 19, 2027.

Following the launch, eligible applicants from participating countries can submit requests for accelerated patent examination through CNIPA under a structured process designed to speed up approvals. The initiative was first announced at the Third Belt and Road High-Level Intellectual Property Conference in September 2024 as part of broader efforts to strengthen IP cooperation among BRI nations.

Türkiye's inclusion in the program was formalized through a Letter of Intent for Cooperation signed between CNIPA and the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office. By participating, Türkiye aims to facilitate faster patent processing for its innovators seeking protection in China, enhancing cross-border intellectual property collaboration.

CNIPA has indicated plans to expand the project by bringing in additional patent offices from other Belt and Road countries, reinforcing intellectual property cooperation to support economic and technological development.

#### **Bahrain: Korea-Bahrain Patent Prosecution Highway to Expedite Patent Processing<sup>6</sup>**

Bahrain and South Korea have launched a three-year Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program, effective January 15, 2025, aimed at accelerating patent examinations between the two countries. The initiative, introduced at the request of Bahrain's Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) and implemented in partnership with the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), is designed to streamline the substantive examination process and reduce patent approval times.

Under the PPH, when a patent application has been assessed and approved by an "Office of Earlier Examination (OEE)," the "Office of Later Examination (OLE)" will expedite its review of the same application. This cooperation minimizes redundancy, speeds up processing, and enhances examination quality by leveraging prior findings.

Currently, Bahrain's patent acquisition process takes approximately 36 to 48 months, while in South Korea, it averages 20.1 months (as of 2023). Through the Korea-Bahrain PPH, applicants who have secured a patent in South Korea can benefit from a faster review process in Bahrain, potentially reducing the time required for approval. Similar programs, such as the Korea-Mexico PPH, have significantly shortened patent acquisition times, with some cases dropping from 48 months to just 4.9 months.

## **2. Additional topics**

**Bahrain:**

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.kusakveyol.org/en/turkey-joins-the-belt-and-road-patent-examination-pilot-project/>

<sup>6</sup>

[https://www.kipo.go.kr/en/engBultnDetail.do?c=1003&board\\_id=kiponews&catmenu=ek06\\_01\\_01&seq=1776#:~:text=The%20Korean%20Intellectual%20Property%20Office%20%28KIPO%29%2C%20led%20by,Patent%20Prosecution%20Highway%20%28PPH%29%2C%20effective%20January%2015%2C%202025.](https://www.kipo.go.kr/en/engBultnDetail.do?c=1003&board_id=kiponews&catmenu=ek06_01_01&seq=1776#:~:text=The%20Korean%20Intellectual%20Property%20Office%20%28KIPO%29%2C%20led%20by,Patent%20Prosecution%20Highway%20%28PPH%29%2C%20effective%20January%2015%2C%202025.)

Bahraini businessman was caught in a fake trademark registration scam.

[https://www.instagram.com/newsofbahrain\\_/p/DEmmw81PXt6/?locale=pl](https://www.instagram.com/newsofbahrain_/p/DEmmw81PXt6/?locale=pl) (09-01-2025)

Bahrain Raises Consular Fees, Allows Payment in Local Currency.

<https://www.newsofbahrain.com/business/106720.html> (30-12-2025)

#### **Bahrain/Oman:**

Oman, Bahrain ink 25 agreements across several sectors.

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2025/01/15/oman-bahrain-ink-25-agreements-across-several-sectors/> (15-01-2025)

#### **Egypt:**

African science map redrawn as Egypt dominates R&D spending.

<https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-news-africa-pan-african-2025-1-african-science-map-redrawn-as-egypt-dominates-r-d-spending/> (16-01-2025)

The thorny path of Egyptian patents.

<https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/50/1209/539413/AIAhram-Weekly/Focus/The-thorny-path-of-Egyptian-patents.aspx> (28-01-2025)

#### **GCC:**

A Legal Perspective on Perfume Fragrances and Registration in GCC Countries: Can Scents Be Trademarked?. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=54b77668-d6be-4de1-a30a-9132f42e3c40> (09-01-2025)

How to Obtain Legal Protection for Your Trademark in GCC Markets. <https://www.hg.org/legal-articles/how-to-obtain-legal-protection-for-your-trademark-in-gcc-markets-68798> (29-01-2025)

#### **Iran:**

New Act on Protection of Industrial Property Enacted in Iran.

<https://www.legal500.com/developments/press-releases/new-act-on-protection-of-industrial-property-enacted-in-iran/> (27-01-2025)

#### **Iraq:**

Iraq sees surge in patents as innovation thrives across key sectors. <https://shafaq.com/en/Iraq/Iraq-sees-surge-in-patents-as-innovation-thrives-across-key-sectors> (24-01-2025)

#### **Morocco:**

Morocco's Growing Role in Global Intellectual Property Landscape.

[https://en.walaw.press/articles/morocco\\_s\\_growing\\_role\\_in\\_global\\_intellectual\\_property\\_landscape/GMFGPWGSGXSM](https://en.walaw.press/articles/morocco_s_growing_role_in_global_intellectual_property_landscape/GMFGPWGSGXSM) (01-01-2025)

Morocco ranks 5th worldwide in industrial designs. <https://euro.dayfr.com/local/2560989.html> (01-01-2025)

#### **Pakistan:**

New partnership aims to drive agri-tech innovation, entrepreneurship.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1882377> (01-01-2025)

IPO-Pakistan, NCA Collaborate For Intellectual Property Rights Awareness.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/business/ipo-pakistan-nca-collaborate-for-intellectua-1911609.html> (24-01-2025)

Training Workshop at NIGAB, PARC. <https://ipo.gov.pk/node/3020> (24-12-2024)

#### **Saudi Arabia:**

Adoption of international Design Law Treaty held in Saudi Arabia.

<https://www.dailynews.lk/2025/01/03/local/698367/adoption-of-international-design-law-treaty-held-in-saudi-arabia/> (03-01-2025)

Royal Approval for the Formation of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property.

<https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2754/> (25-12-2024)

Reconstituted Saudi IP authority's board of directors approved.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2584311/saudi-arabia> (26-12-2024)

Enhancing Collaboration Between "SAIP" and "ZATCA" to Protect Creativity.

<https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2790/> (29-12-2024)

#### **Türkiye:**

Turkish envoy, IPO-Pakistan officials discuss importance of intellectual property.

<https://ppinewsagency.com/turkish-envoy-ipo-pakistan-officials-discuss-importance-of-intellectual-property/> (03-01-2025)

Historical Record in Domestic Patent Applications: 10 thousand 186 applications.

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/haberler/yerli-patent-basvurularinda-tarihi-rekor-10-bin-186-basvuru> (04-01-2025)

Towards Harmonization: TÜRKPATENT's Changing Stance on Acquired Trademark Rights.

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=1122395d-e410-4230-bb1e-a0bdfa0c7c63> (09-01-2025)

Türkiye receives 151,765 trademark applications in 2024. <https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkiye-receives-151765-trademark-applications-in-2024-3697717>

(27-01-2025)

#### **UAE:**

UAE's Patent Hive initiative to reduce patent registration time to only 6 months.

<https://economymiddleeast.com/news/uae-launches-patent-hive-initiative/> (07-01-2025)

How Slogans Be Trademarked in UAE?. <https://aws-legalgroup.com/slogans-trademark/> (08-01-2025)

Navigating Trademark Assignment Challenges In The UAE.

<https://www.mondaq.com/trademark/1566798/navigating-trade-mark-assignment-challenges-in-the-uae> (10-01-2025)

UAE: Trademark Seizures and recognition of IP as valuable assets.

<https://rouse.com/insights/news/2025/uae-trade-mark-seizures-and-recognition-of-ip-as-valuable-assets> (14-01-2025)

Understanding the New Competition Law in the UAE.

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=e1e12ab7-3f56-4b61-91be-967cd66e930a> (28-01-2025)

[Commissioned by JPO]  
Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 93

[Author]  
Saba Intellectual Property

**SABA**  
INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY

[Published by]  
Japan External Trade Organization Dubai Office

**JETRO**  
JAPAN EXTERNAL TRADE ORGANIZATION

Published in February 2025  
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.