

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 99

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News

1. Important topics

Egypt: Patent Examination Fees Doubled and Deadlines Shortened¹

The Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority (EGIPA) has issued Decree No. 26 of 2025, published in Official Gazette No. 132² on June 17, 2025, introducing significant changes to patent examination procedures in Egypt.

Effective June 18, 2025, the official fee for patent examination has doubled from EGP 25,000 to EGP 50,000 (approximately USD 1,060 / JPY 168,000). Additionally, the deadline for paying examination and expert fees has been shortened from six months to three months from the date of official notification.

GCC: New Committee on Intellectual Property and International Law Launched³

The International Law Association (ILA) GCC Branch has announced the formation of a new Committee on Intellectual Property and International Law. While the committee is not affiliated with the official bodies of

¹ <https://rnaip.com/egypt-doubles-patent-examination-fees-and-revises-payment-deadlines/>

² <https://www.cairo24.com/2229976>

³ <https://x.com/ILAGulfCCouncil/status/1934873855778013560>

the Gulf Cooperation Council, it reflects the ILA's broader mission as a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and advancement of international law.

The Committee aims to promote research, training, and dialogue on international and regional IP matters, focusing on how domestic and regional legal frameworks align with global standards and best practices. It will also explore the intersection of intellectual property with sustainability, sports, alternative dispute resolution, and emerging technologies.

This initiative reflects the region's growing emphasis on strengthening IP systems to support innovation and economic growth. The Committee's work is expected to contribute to a more harmonized understanding of international IP law across the GCC.

Türkiye: Court of Cassation Confirms Bad Faith in Trademark Application⁴

In a decision dated March 18, 2025, the 11th Civil Chamber of the Turkish Court of Cassation upheld a ruling that a trademark application was filed in bad faith, highlighting key criteria under Turkish Trademark Law.

The case concerned the trademark 'Stayer+', filed in 2019 for classes 7 and 35. The opponent argued that the mark created a likelihood of confusion with its earlier well-known trademark 'Stayer', and that the application was made in bad faith. While the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office initially rejected the bad faith claim, the Regional Court of Appeal found otherwise, noting the high distinctiveness and sector-specific reputation of the 'Stayer' mark.

The court concluded that the applicant was likely to be aware of the earlier trademark and provided no valid justification for adopting a near-identical sign. It held that bad faith extended to the entire application, not just certain goods or services, and ordered full invalidation.

The Court of Cassation rejected the Office's final appeal, confirming that under Turkish law, the distinctiveness and reputation of a prior mark can support a finding of bad faith—even without a direct relationship between the parties.

This decision reinforces the importance of conducting thorough trademark clearance in Türkiye and highlights the risks of adopting marks similar to well-established brands.

Qatar: Strategic Dialogue with France Highlights Focus on Intellectual Property⁵

On June 12, 2025, Qatar and France held their third Strategic Dialogue in Paris, where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation across key sectors—including intellectual property.

As part of Qatar's €10 billion (approximately USD 10.8 billion / JPY 1.69 trillion) investment commitment to the French economy, intellectual property was identified as a strategic sector for collaboration, alongside areas such as semiconductors, digital economy, artificial intelligence, and healthcare.

The discussions emphasized Qatar's focus on fostering innovation and IP protection in line with its National Vision 2030. The two countries agreed to align efforts through joint initiatives, public-private partnerships, and research programs that support the commercialization of IP assets and technology transfer.

This growing IP collaboration is expected to strengthen bilateral trade and investment while supporting long-term goals in innovation and economic diversification.

⁴ <https://www.managingip.com/article/2exgpdv9ow3j65xhniq68/sponsored-content/turkish-court-of-cassation-underlines-key-factors-in-establishing-trademark-bad-faith>

⁵ <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/qatar/events/article/joint-statement-third-strategic-dialogue-between-the-french-republic-and-the>

Qatar: MOCI Hosts Workshop on Combating Trademark Infringement⁶

On June 18, 2025, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) in Qatar, in collaboration with the Brand Owners Protection Group (Gulf BPG), held a training workshop at its Lusail City headquarters focused on combating trademark infringement and identifying counterfeit products.

The workshop brought together officials from MOCI's Intellectual Property Rights Protection Department and Consumer Protection and Commercial Fraud Department, along with representatives from the Ministry of Interior and the General Authority of Customs.

The training included practical exercises on distinguishing genuine products from counterfeits, highlighted challenges faced during inspection campaigns, and presented the latest technologies used to detect trademark violations.

UAE: INTA to Open MENA Regional Office in Dubai⁷

The International Trademark Association (INTA) has announced the opening of its new regional office in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, with operations set to begin in the second half of 2025. The announcement was made during INTA's Annual Meeting in San Diego.

The office will serve as a hub for IP-related training, policy engagement, and collaboration across the Middle East and North Africa. INTA stated that the move responds to growing membership in the region and aims to support trademark protection, anti-counterfeiting efforts, and capacity building.

Yemen: 12th Edition of the Nice Classification Now in Effect⁸

The Trademark Office in Aden has officially adopted the 12th Edition of the Nice Classification, effective April 28, 2025.

This update brings Yemen's trademark classification system in line with the latest international standards for the classification of goods and services, facilitating greater consistency for applicants filing in multiple jurisdictions.

Yemen: Legalization Now Required for All Trademark POAs in Sana'a TMO⁹

The Trademark Office in Sana'a has issued a regulatory update concerning Powers of Attorney (POAs) submitted for trademark matters.

Effective immediately, all POAs must be legalized at the Yemeni Embassy. General POAs that were previously legalized will no longer be accepted unless each individual POA is separately legalized.

To ensure broader representation and avoid limitations, it is also recommended to include the phrase "and for all subsequent works" in upcoming POAs. This language helps ensure the POA covers future actions beyond the initial filing.

2. Additional topics

Bahrain:

Bahrain: Adopts the 12th Edition of the Nice Classification

⁶ <https://qna.org.qa/en/news/news-details?id=moci-holds-workshop-to-solidify-trademark-infringement-combat&date=18/06/2025>

⁷ <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/bk7sm3i-international-trademark-association-opens-regional>

⁸ <https://alyafi-ip.com/yemen-trademark-nice-classification-2025/>

⁹ <https://alyafi-ip.com/yemen-trademark-poa-update/>

<https://www.aiippi.org/news/bahrain-adopts-the-12th-edition-of-the-nice-classification/> (2025 - 06 - 20)

GCC:

Control, Alt, Expand: The Rise and Rise of Esports in the GCC

<https://www.twobirds.com/en/insights/2025/saudi-arabia/control,-alt,-expand-the-rise-and-rise-of-esports-in-the-gcc> (2025 - 06 - 11)

5 innovations disrupting industries in the GCC

<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2025/06/5-innovations-disrupting-industries-in-the-gcc/> (2025 - 06 - 06)

Kuwait:

Kuwait PM Receives Digital Cooperation Organization Chief

<https://kuwaitnewsgazette.com/kuwait-pm-receives-digital-cooperation-organization-chief/> (2025 - 05 - 28)

Oman:

Knowledge Oman and Muscat College collaborate to strengthen community entrepreneurship

<https://www.thearabianstories.com/2025/06/01/knowledge-oman-and-muscat-college-collaborate-to-strengthen-community-entrepreneurship/> (2025 - 06 - 01)

Oman making efforts to be among top in global innovation index by 2030

<https://cdn-3.timesofoman.com/article/158853-oman-making-efforts-to-be-among-top-in-global-innovation-index-by-2030> (2025 - 06 - 02)

A New Era for Investment & Commerce Dispute Resolution in Oman

<https://alyafi-ip.com/court-investment-commerce-oman/> (2025 - 06 - 24)

Pakistan:

Sharjeel For Strict Enforcement Of Intellectual Property Rights Laws To Achieve Desired Objectives

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/sharjeel-for-strict-enforcement-of-intellectu-1999818.html> (2025 - 06 - 19)

Geographical Indications and Sustainable Development: Bridging Policy Gaps in Pakistan's GI Framework for Socio-Economic Growth

<https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/17/11/5114> (2025 - 06 - 02)

Quantum Valley to boost Pakistan's industrial modernization

<https://www.inp.net.pk/article-detail/inp-wealthpk/quantum-valley-to-boost-pakistans-industrial-modernization> (2025 - 06 - 23)

Qatar:

How to Navigate Intellectual Property Protection in Qatar

<https://www.middleeastbriefing.com/news/how-to-navigate-intellectual-property-protection-in-qatar/> (2025 - 06 - 16)

Qatar Participates in Tashkent Law Spring Forum

<https://qna.org.qa/en/news/news-details?id=qatar-participates-in-tashkent-law-spring-forum&date=29/05/2025> (2025 - 05 - 29)

Amir issues decree establishing Qatari institute supporting innovation, scientific research
<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/04/06/2025/amir-issues-decree-establishing-qatari-institute-supporting-innovation,-scientific-research> (2025 - 06 - 04)

Saudi Arabia:

Film Commission Joins International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives
<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2337520> (2025 - 06 - 10)

Saudi Arabia Re-elected to IGC Administrative Committee in Global Recognition of Leadership
<https://thesauditimes.net/en/saudi-arabia-re-elected-to-igc-administrative-committee-in-global-recognition-of-leadership/> (2025 - 06 - 14)

Appointing and assigning a number of deputies in SAIP in support of enhancing the institutional and leadership efficiency in the Commission.
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/saipksa_aepaesetaesaeraeyeraeraeraepaesaezaeyeraer-activity-7342573892324024320-m75q?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=android_app&rcm=ACoAAB4uUjoBeP27iGJs1KXVftfax5QIGWTlaw8&utm_campaign=gmail (2025 - 06 - 22)

Saudi Arabia to Host Inaugural Licensing Industry Conference in Riyadh
<https://www.licenseglobal.com/licensing-events/saudi-arabia-to-host-inaugural-licensing-industry-conference-in-riyadh> (2025 - 06 - 06)

Türkiye:

Türkiye's Afyon sausage gains EU geographical indication recognition
<https://www.dailysabah.com/life/food/turkiyes-afyon-sausage-gains-eu-geographical-indication-recognition> (2025 - 06 - 12)

A Practical Guide to Trademark Registration in Türkiye: Protecting Your Brand at the Crossroads of Europe and Asia
<https://harris-sliwoski.com/blog/registering-trademarks-in-turkiye-what-you-need-to-know/> (2025 - 06 - 16)

A delegation headed by Mr. Hu WENHUI, Deputy Commissioner of CNIPA, visited TÜRKPATENT on June 17-18, 2025.
<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/delegation-from-the-china-national-intellectual-property-administration-visited-turkpatent> (2025 - 06 - 19)

UAE:

Dubai tops again in creative industries cluster FDI
<https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/gcc/dubai-tops-again-in-creative-industries-cluster-fdi-be6tgzm3> (2025 - 06 - 03)

Yemen:

Customs Authority Meeting discusses preparations for Anti-Smuggling Strategy Workshop
<https://www.saba.ye/en/news3492615.htm> (2025 - 06 - 02)

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