

**Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 100**

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**News**

**1. Important topics**

**Iran: Joins Strasbourg Agreement to Standardize Patent Classification<sup>1</sup>**

The Islamic Republic of Iran has formally joined the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification (IPC), a key international treaty administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The treaty introduces a standardized framework for classifying patents and utility models, aligning Iran's national IP system with globally recognized norms.

According to Dr. Siamak Islami, Head of Iran's Intellectual Property Organization, this step complements Iran's accession to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and is expected to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of patent filings across a wide range of sectors including mechanics, energy, and electronics. The agreement also supports inventors during prior art searches, document preparation, and international patent application procedures.

This move reflects Iran's continued efforts to improve its innovation infrastructure and promote global IP integration.

**Kuwait: MCI Seizes Over 1,600 Counterfeit Tech Accessories<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/515837/Iran-joins-Strasbourg-Agreement-Concerning-International-Patent>

<sup>2</sup> <https://timeskuwait.com/mci-seizes-over-1600-fake-tech-accessories-during-crackdown-on-shops/>

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) has announced the seizure of approximately 1,625 counterfeit electronic accessories during recent inspection campaigns targeting mobile phone accessory shops across Kuwait.

The confiscated items included falsified headsets, charging cables, and other unauthorized tech products. Violation reports were issued against the involved retailers, and legal proceedings have been initiated under Kuwait's intellectual property and commercial fraud regulations.

### **Qatar: Strategic IP Partnership Signed with Korea Intellectual Property Office<sup>3</sup>**

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) of the State of Qatar has entered into a strategic partnership program with the Korea Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), marking a key milestone in the development of Qatar's national intellectual property (IP) strategy.

The agreement was signed by H.E. Mohammed bin Hassan Al Malki, Undersecretary of MOCI, and Mr. Kim Wan Ki, Commissioner of KIPO. It builds on the comprehensive memorandum of understanding previously signed between the two entities on June 15, 2023, in Seoul.

The newly launched program aims to advance bilateral cooperation by supporting the formulation of a comprehensive national IP strategy, enhancing institutional and human capacity, and aligning Qatar's IP ecosystem with international standards. The collaboration will focus on capacity building and professional development in the IP sector, providing technical support to identify priority areas and benchmark them against global best practices. It will also include stakeholder engagement to ensure alignment with Qatar's economic and innovation objectives, as well as knowledge transfer and policy advisory support from KIPO to Qatari counterparts.

The program also includes mechanisms for regular evaluation and joint monitoring of progress to ensure effective implementation and sustainable outcomes. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to reinforcing IP cooperation and enabling an environment conducive to innovation, investment, and knowledge-based economic growth.

### **Saudi Arabia: IP Protection Guide Launched for Fashion Industry<sup>4</sup>**

The Fashion Commission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has released the Intellectual Property and Designers' Rights Protection Guide, developed in collaboration with the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP). This initiative aims to strengthen legal awareness and promote IP protection across the fashion sector.

The guide serves as a comprehensive reference for designers and brand owners, enabling them to leverage intellectual property laws to protect their creations across all stages of the fashion value chain. It reflects the Commission's broader mandate to empower the sector, support creative professionals, and cultivate a sustainable ecosystem for innovation.

Structured around four core areas of IP relevance to the fashion industry, the guide covers:

- Patents: Protecting innovations in materials and garment technologies;
- Industrial Designs: Securing rights for visual and aesthetic elements of fashion items;
- Copyright: Covering creative outputs such as sketches, illustrations, and patterns;
- Trademarks: Protecting brand identifiers, including logos and labels.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/184344/latest-news/moci-signs-strategic-partnership-programme-with-korea-intellectual-property-office>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2354419>

Designers and rights holders can access the guide<sup>5</sup> (available in Arabic) through the Fashion Commission's official website<sup>6</sup>. Please note that the link currently appears to be accessible only from within Saudi Arabia. In addition, SAIP continues to receive public rights complaints through its online portal concerning infringements under Saudi Arabia's Copyright Protection Law and Trademarks Law.

The launch of the guide aligns with Saudi Arabia's ongoing efforts to enhance IP awareness, safeguard creative industries, and foster a rights-respecting environment in line with Vision 2030.

### **Saudi Arabia: SFDA Seizes 1.5 million Unsafe Cosmetic Products<sup>7</sup>**

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has confiscated 1.5 million cosmetic products with tampered expiration dates that were stored in an unauthorized facility disguised as a residence in Najran. The operation, part of a broader crackdown on unsafe and counterfeit goods, resulted in the closure of the illicit site and referral of the case to the Public Prosecution for further legal action.

In a statement, the SFDA stressed that such fraudulent practices pose a serious threat to public health and will be met with strict enforcement. Under Article 31 of Saudi Arabia's Cosmetics Law, violations involving falsified or mislabeled products can result in penalties of up to five years in prison, fines of up to SAR 5 million (approximately USD 1.33 million / JPY 210 million), or both.

The seizure highlights the Kingdom's rigorous regulatory approach to consumer safety and fraud prevention. In 2024 alone, over 3.6 million counterfeit or IP-infringing products were confiscated across various sectors, supported by more than 20,000 inspection visits.

This latest operation follows a similar case last year, when the SFDA dismantled an unlicensed cosmetic manufacturing site in Qatif that had been producing and marketing unregistered products from residential premises.

The SFDA continues to intensify its efforts to ensure that only safe, compliant, and properly labeled cosmetic products are available on the Saudi market.

### **UAE: Joint Statement Signed with United States to Accelerate Patent Grant Procedures<sup>8</sup>**

The United Arab Emirates and the United States of America have signed a Joint Statement of Intent to establish a bilateral cooperation program aimed at expediting patent grant procedures in the UAE. The signing took place on July 20, 2025, on the sidelines of the 66th Assemblies of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva.

The agreement, concluded between the UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourism and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), sets out a collaborative framework that enables the UAE to consider positive examination results issued by the USPTO for corresponding Emirati patent applications, in accordance with national laws and procedures.

This cooperation reflects the two governments' shared objective of strengthening innovation ecosystems, enhancing procedural efficiency, and supporting high-standard intellectual property protection. The initiative is expected to streamline the patent process in the UAE, reduce delays, and encourage greater investment in research and development.

UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism, H.E. Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, welcomed the agreement as a strategic step towards advancing the country's innovation-driven economy. He emphasized that the

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<sup>5</sup> <https://fashion.moc.gov.sa/-/media/Project/Ministries/Commission/fashion/Publications/09072025-guide-to-int-property-for-designers-AR.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://fashion.moc.gov.sa/en>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.personalcareinsights.com/news/saudi-cosmetics-expiry-fraud-raid.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/bks1chs-uae-usa-sign-joint-statement-intent-accelerate>

partnership with the United States would bolster the UAE's position as a regional hub for IP services and facilitate a more investor-friendly environment for emerging technologies and industrial advancements.

The program forms part of the UAE's ongoing reforms to improve the national industrial property system and adopt the best global practices across its IP administration.

## **2. Additional topics**

### **Bahrain:**

Court orders destruction of fake designer bags shipment

<https://www.gdnonline.com/Details/1358776/Court-orders-destruction-of-fake-designer-bags-shipment> (2025-07-21)

Bahrain's Maryam Al Dossary Elected President of WIPO's Paris Union Assembly

<https://www.newsofbahrain.com/bahrain/115926.html> (2025-07-20)

### **GCC:**

GCC, Japan begin 2nd round of FTA negotiations in Tokyo

[https://www.arabnews.jp/en/business/article\\_150476/](https://www.arabnews.jp/en/business/article_150476/) (2025-06-30)

### **Iran:**

Iran Launches New Service for Validation of Innovative Products <https://ana.ir/en/news/9407/iran-launches-new-service-for-validation-of-innovative-products> (2025-07-16)

### **Iraq:**

Legal Procedures for Intellectual Property Protection <https://osamatumalegal.com/blog/Legal-Procedures-for-Intellectual-Property-Protection> (2025-06-30)

Head of the Communications and Media Commission Discusses Media Sector Cooperation with UK Embassy Official <https://www.iraqnewsgazette.com/head-of-the-communications-and-media-commission-discusses-media-sector-cooperation-with-uk-embassy-official/> (2025-07-15)

Al-Nahrain University Obtains Patent <https://mohestr.gov.iq/en/post/alnahrain-university-obtains-patent-2025-07-01-22> (2025-07-01)

### **Jordan:**

Jordan Customs seizes 30,000 counterfeit vape liquid bottles <https://en.royanews.tv/news/61304> (2025-07-16)

Jordan Registers 42 Patents, Over 2,000 Trademarks in First Half of 2025

[https://petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=73284&lang=en&name=en\\_news](https://petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=73284&lang=en&name=en_news) (2025-07-07)

### **Kuwait:**

Patent approvals in Q1 surge 340%; trademark applications see sharp decline

<https://timeskuwait.com/patent-approvals-in-q1-surge-340-trademark-applications-see-sharp-decline/> (2025-07-19)

Kuwait stresses necessity of protecting creativity, innovation in all fields

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3239986&Language=en> (2025-07-09)

### **Lebanon:**

Lebanon's 'fake pharma' scandal forcing cancer patients to import own chemo drugs

<https://www.newarab.com/news/lebanon-cancer-patients-diy-chemo-drugs-amid-fake-meds-crisis> (2025-07-07)

#### **Oman:**

Oman sees innovation boom as IP applications surpass 21,000

<https://www.thearabianstories.com/2025/07/12/oman-sees-innovation-boom-as-ip-applications-surpass-21000/> (2025-07-12)

Oman's intensified digitalization driving economic transformation

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2025/07/06/omans-intensified-digitalisation-driving-economic-transformation/> (2025-07-06)

Omani students invent a device that helps reduce carbon dioxide emissions

<https://timesofoman.com/article/159837-omani-students-invent-a-device-that-helps-reduce-carbon-dioxide-emissions> (2025-06-29)

Oman's Industrial and Manufacturing Push Gains Traction with Global Investors

<https://www.middleeastbriefing.com/news/omans-industrial-and-manufacturing-attracts-global-investors/> (2025-06-30)

#### **Pakistan:**

Stakeholders urge global promotion of Sindhri Mango, emphasize IP rights and R&D

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/amp/40372071> (2025-07-10)

Counterfeit Milk Production Unit Sealed <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/counterfeit-milk-production-unit-sealed-2013892.html> (2025-07-15)

Foreign Filing License requirements under Pakistani patent law: a Critical Compliance Guide

<https://ficpi.org/blog/foreign-filing-license-requirements-under-pakistani-patent-law-guide> (2025-07-08)

Vice Chancellor DUET met the officials of Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) of Pakistan at

Headquarters in Islamabad <https://duet.edu.pk/2025/07/17/vice-chancellor-duet-met-the-officials-of-intellectual-property-organization-ipo-of-pakistan-at-headquarters-in-islamabad/> (2025-07-17)

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<https://x.com/PIDEpk/status/1938940303290867839> (2025-06-28)

Meeting of IPR Enforcement Coordination Committee, Peshawar

[https://pid.gov.pk/site/press\\_detail/29778](https://pid.gov.pk/site/press_detail/29778) (2025-07-21)

IPO-Pakistan, LCCI agree to promote intellectual property awareness

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40369878> (2025-06-27)

IP rights for SMEs: SMEDA, IPO agree to undertake joint awareness drive

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#### **Qatar:**

QRDI Council, MOCI and WIPO establish new partnership <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/qrdi-council-moci-and-wipo-establish-new-partnership-nizjapd5>

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Qatar National Library leads regional efforts to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property

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Training courses on protecting intellectual property rights held

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The Role of #ADR, #IP Protection and Innovation in Advancing #FDIs for Sustainable Development: Qatar National Vision 2030 and Beyond <https://x.com/ILAGulfCCouncil/status/1940323826719424659> (2025-07-02)

Qatar's MOCI warns against unlicensed investment activities <https://www.zawya.com/en/world/middle-east/qatars-moci-warns-against-unlicensed-investment-activities-oxi8hx6b> (2025-07-10)

Ministry of Justice organizes two training courses on protecting intellectual property rights, combating money laundering crimes <https://thepeninsulagatar.com/article/09/07/2025/ministry-of-justice-organizes-two-training-courses-on-protecting-intellectual-property-rights-combating-money-laundering-crimes> (2025-07-09)

Minister highlights innovation, IP strategy at WIPO dialogue <https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/184837/business/minister-highlights-innovation-ip-strategy-at-wipo-dialogue> (2025-07-10)

#### **Saudi Arabia:**

The Essential Role of Saudi Legal Services in Driving Success for Expatriates and Foreign Investors <https://www.mondaq.com/saudiarabia/general-immigration/1645488/the-essential-role-of-saudi-legal-services-in-driving-success-for-expatriates-and-foreign-investors> (2025-07-03)

Saudi Intellectual Property Hits a Milestone with 20,000th Patent Issued

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2350975> (2025-07-02)

New Agreement Boosts Saudi-China Academic and Cultural Dialogue

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2353836> (2025-07-08)

Saudi efforts to boost innovation pay off <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2605955/amp> (2025-06-26)

Saudi Arabia Takes Leadership Role in WIPO Assemblies and Committees for Intellectual Property Governance <https://www.onearabia.me/local/saudi-arabia-elected-chair-wipo-assemblies-committees-011-116633.html> (2025-07-17)

Saudi Arabia ranks 13th globally in IP Enforcement in 2025 Competitiveness Yearbook

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#### **Türkiye:**

Understanding Turkish Intellectual Property Law

<https://www.ongurpartners.com/understanding-turkish-intellectual-property-law.html> (2025-06-27)

INTERVIEW: Türkiye's intellectual property ecosystem sees major growth as patent filings soar: Industry minister <https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/interview-turkiyes-intellectual-property-ecosystem-sees-major-growth-as-patent-filings-soar-industry-minister-3704642> (2025-07-09)

#### **UAE:**

UAU researchers awarded US Patent for transformable swarm robots for pipeline maintenance

<https://www.msn.com/en-ae/news/other/uae-researchers-awarded-us-patent-for-transformable-swarm-robots-for-pipeline-maintenance/ar-AA1J4PfR> (2025-07-23)

UAE: What can shoppers do when retail store sells fake designer goods?

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UAE signs MoU with WIPO to advance intellectual property ecosystem and strengthen policy integration across innovation, education, and industry <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/government-news/uae-signs-mou-with-wipo-to-advance-intellectual-property-ecosystem-and-strengthen-policy-integration-across-innovation-education-and-industry-bsonjwzd> (2025-07-16)

What Benefits Does the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Between the Republic of Serbia and the United Arab Emirates Offer <https://www.prlegal.rs/what-benefits-does-the-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement-between-the-republic-of-serbia-and-the-united-arab-emirates-offer/> (2025-06-18)

Emirates Publishers Association secures observer status at WIPO's 66th General Assembly <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/emirates-publishers-association-secures-observer-status-at-wipos-66th-general-assembly-j068k29q> (2025-07-23)

A new era for Art Law in the UAE <https://www.clydeco.com/en/insights/2025/07/a-new-era-for-art-law-in-the-uae> (2025-07-01)

ESC presents UAE's efforts in promoting intellectual property, innovation culture at WIPO Assemblies <https://www.msn.com/en-ae/news/other/esc-presents-uae-s-efforts-in-promoting-intellectual-property-innovation-culture-at-wipo-assemblies/ar-AA1IFfW0> (2025-07-15)

Dubai Culture signs strategic partnership with Emirates Intellectual Property Association <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/government-news/dubai-culture-signs-strategic-partnership-with-emirates-intellectual-property-association-t7ooyzs5> (2025-07-15)

Abu Dhabi Commercial Court halts global trademark infringement <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/government-news/abu-dhabi-commercial-court-halts-global-trademark-infringement-ouq3i4qm> (2025-07-09)

UAEU researcher granted four patents advancing drug design, medical devices <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/bkogrcg-uae-u-researcher-granted-four-patents-advancing> (2025-07-14)

Emirates Intellectual Property Association Strengthens Partnership with WIPO <https://www.arabnewsservice.com/emirates-intellectual-property-association-strengthens-partnership-with-wipo/> (2025-07-11)

ERRA strengthens global leadership with signing of UAE's first blanket reprographic rights licensing agreement <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/bkiiewi-erra-strengthens-global-leadership-with-signing> (2025-07-04)

INTA brings IP valuation workshops to Singapore and Dubai <https://trademarklawyermagazine.com/inta-brings-ip-valuation-workshops-to-singapore-and-dubai/> (2025-07-17)

Ministry of Economy and Emirates Intellectual Property Association launch training program to accredit trademark registration agents <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/government-news/ministry-of-economy-and-emirates-intellectual-property-association-launch-training-programme-to-accredit-trademark-registration-agents-i8c9nvji> (2025-06-30)

[Commissioned by JPO]  
Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 100

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Saba Intellectual Property

**SABA**  
INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY

[Published by]  
Japan External Trade Organization Dubai Office

**JETRO**  
JAPAN EXTERNAL TRADE ORGANIZATION

Published in August 2025  
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