

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 101

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News

1. Important topics

Egypt: EGIPA and National Council for Women Strengthen Cooperation¹

The Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority (EGIPA) and the National Council for Women (NCW) have held a joint meeting to discuss expanding cooperation in intellectual property and women's empowerment.

During the meeting, Justice Amal Ammar, President of the NCW, welcomed Dr. Hesham Azmi, Chairman of EGIPA, and Dr. Mona Yahia, EGIPA's Vice Chairman, along with delegations from both entities. Justice Ammar emphasized the importance of protecting women's cultural heritage and crafts through IP rights, encouraging women to register their creations to safeguard their economic and moral interests. She also highlighted the NCW's collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to promote women's participation in IP-related initiatives.

Dr. Azmi praised the NCW's efforts in supporting women and outlined EGIPA's commitment to empowering women across various sectors. He presented the key pillars of Egypt's National Intellectual Property Strategy and noted that the establishment of EGIPA as a unified IP body has enhanced efficiency and coordination among national stakeholders.

Dr. Yahia highlighted the significant role of women in fostering creativity and confirmed EGIPA's support in providing information, training, and guidance on protecting and monetizing their innovations.

¹ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/egipa-egyptian-intellectual-property-authority-903418341_%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%AB%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%B4%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A-%D9%84%D9%84%D9%85%D9%84%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A9-ugcPost-7362215742114574339-HoQX?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&rcm=ACoAAB4uUjoBeP27iGJs1KXVftfax5QIGWTlaw8

The meeting also reviewed preparations for the Inter-Regional Forum on Intellectual Property and Women Entrepreneurs in Asia and Africa, to be hosted in October 2025 in collaboration with WIPO and with the support of the Japan Patent Office (JPO). Additionally, the parties are coordinating an event on the carpet industry in Assiut, planned for early 2026.

Kuwait: Massive Crackdown Leads to Closure of Shops Selling Counterfeit Goods²

In early August 2025, Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry intensified its enforcement of IP and consumer protection laws. During a large-scale field campaign across several governorates, authorities seized more than 10,000 counterfeit products and shut down 13 retail shops found breaching commercial regulations.

This action reflects the ministry's ongoing dedication to combating commercial fraud, protecting consumer rights, and reinforcing market integrity. Officials also reaffirmed that similar enforcement campaigns will continue to be conducted to deter counterfeit trade and encourage compliance.

Qatar: Digital Trademark Services Launched³

The Intellectual Property Rights Protection Department of Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry has introduced new digital services aimed at improving efficiency and accessibility in trademark procedures.

Key updates include:

- Online Publication of the Official Gazette - Trademark announcements, previously limited to print, are now available online, providing greater transparency and easier access for applicants and rights holders.
- Electronic Registration Certificates - Trademark registration certificates are now being issued in digital format, allowing for faster processing and delivery.

The transition will be gradual, with older certificates still issued in hard copy during the implementation phase.

Qatar: Customs Reports Major Seizures in July⁴

The General Authority of Customs in Qatar reported a series of significant seizures during July 2025, reinforcing its efforts to protect the country's borders and combat illicit trade.

According to Yousef Muteb Al-Nuaimi, Director of Air Cargo Customs, most cases involved prohibited substances, primarily narcotics, followed by violations related to tax evasion, establishment regulations, and intellectual property rights infringements.

Al-Nuaimi noted that customs enforcement is a year-round operation, with officers maintaining round-the-clock vigilance at all entry points. Seized narcotics are promptly transferred to the competent security authorities, while other confiscated goods are stored in customs warehouses pending settlement and legal reconciliation procedures.

The authority also emphasized the role of advanced technology, including its integrated risk engine system, in identifying high-risk shipments and enhancing the efficiency of border control and inspection processes.

² <https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/shops-selling-counterfeits-face-shutdown-in-massive-crackdown-in-kuwait/>

³ <https://cwbip.com/insights/news/2025/qatar-launches-digital-trade-mark-services>

⁴ <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/18/08/2025/qatar-customs-reports-significant-seizures-in-july>

Saudi Arabia: Fine for Sharing Poems Without Author's Consent⁵

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) has reiterated that sharing or performing literary works, including poetry, without the author's consent violates the Copyright Protection Law.

The reminder follows a recent case in which an individual recited a poem on a personal social media channel and used it for commercial purposes without authorization. The violator was fined SAR 5,000 and ordered to remove the content.

SAIP emphasized that unauthorized use of any literary or artistic work may lead to legal proceedings, financial penalties, and other sanctions, underscoring the importance of obtaining prior approval from rights holders.

UAE: Dubai Customs Seizes Over 35 Tons of Counterfeit and Smuggled Goods⁶

Dubai Customs has announced the largest air cargo enforcement operation of 2025, seizing more than 35 tons of counterfeit, smuggled, and non-compliant goods over a three-month inspection campaign across the Emirate's air cargo centers.

The campaign led to the confiscation of:

- 12 million smuggled cigarettes
- 6.7 million counterfeit cigarettes
- 37,110 non-compliant cosmetic products
- 3,632 unauthorized electronic parts
- 10,520 counterfeit items of global brands

The operation underscores Dubai's commitment to protecting intellectual property rights, ensuring safe trade practices, and strengthening the emirate's position as a secure regional hub for global commerce.

His Excellency Dr. Abdulla Busenad, Director General of Dubai Customs, emphasized the role of advanced systems and data-driven monitoring tools in identifying suspicious shipments, supported by highly trained inspection teams. He noted that the department's strategy prioritizes secure customs operations, safeguarding national security, and protecting brand owners while supporting Dubai's economic growth.

The IPR Department also highlighted ongoing cooperation with trademark owners, including specialized training sessions for customs officers and environmentally responsible recycling of seized counterfeit goods to reduce environmental impact.

This proactive enforcement aligns with the UAE's broader efforts to combat counterfeiting and commercial fraud, reinforcing confidence among international rights holders and investors.

2. Additional topics

Bahrain:

Intellectual Property in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Who Owns AI-Generated Creations?

<https://www.legal500.com/developments/thought-leadership/intellectual-property-in-the-age-of-artificial-intelligence-who-owns-ai-generated-creations/> (2025-08-04)

⁵ <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/sharing-poems-without-authors-consent-now-attracts-sr5000-fine-in-saudi-arabia-1.500228855>

⁶ <https://www.dubaicustoms.gov.ae/en/mobile/pages/newsdetails.aspx?itemid=2117>

Egypt:

'Abu-Ghazaleh Global Digital' Finalizes E-Archiving Project of Egyptian Patent Office's WIPO Files
<https://agip-news.com/news.aspx?id=77291&lang=en> (2025-07-24)

Iraq:

Iraq grants patents for cancer therapy and smart tech innovations
<https://shafaq.com/en/society/iraq-grants-patents-for-cancer-therapy-and-smart-tech-innovations> (2025-07-28)

Jordan:

Counterfeit Goods and Unauthorized Imports in Jordan: Legal Risks, Challenges, and Practical Solutions
<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=2aac413f-bd7e-4b06-86dd-285652e6b149> (2025-08-19)

Kuwait:

Misuse of Trademarks and Intellectual Property in Kuwait
<https://kuwaitlawyer.net/misuse-of-trademarks-and-intellectual-property-in-kuwait/> (2025-08-05)

South Korea to adapt Kuwaiti animation IP in deal with MBVISION Studios
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Oman:

Agricultural Innovations Contribute to Enhancing Productivity, Promoting Environmental Sustainability in Oman
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Pakistan:

Patents, public interest, and healthcare: A legal perspective on compulsory licensing in Pakistan
<https://thefinancialdaily.com/patents-public-interest-and-healthcare-a-legal-perspective-on-compulsory-licensing-in-pakistan/> (2025-08-20)

Qatar:

Qatar aims to multiply patent output tenfold by 2030
<https://thepeninsulagatar.com/article/31/07/2025/qatar-aims-to-multiply-patent-output-tenfold-by-2030> (2025-07-31)

Saudi Arabia:

Taibah University Registers Patent for 'Flexpen' Technology for Precise Delivery of Semisolid Preparations
<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2373934> (2025-08-06)

Saudi customs record 1,626 seizures of contraband
https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/654024/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-customs-seize-over-1600-contraband-shipments-in-security-push#goog_rewarded (2025-08-09)

Saudi enforces 12 new rules for fine dining operations
<https://www.caterermiddleeast.com/news/saudi-enforces-12-new-rules-for-fine-dining-operations> (2025-07-23)

Türkiye:

Patent Litigation Comparative Guide

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/intellectual-property/1661128/patent-litigation-comparative-guide>
(2025-08-04)

Comparative Advertisements In Turkish Law

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/advertising-marketing-branding/1662710/comparative-advertisements-in-turkish-law> (2025-08-07)

Essential Steps for Trademark Registration in Turkey

<https://www.karanfiloglu.av.tr/en/essential-steps-for-trademark-registration-in-turkey/> (2025-08-09)

An Important European Precedent: Legal consequences of statements concerning competitors and its implications for Türkiye

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=e2388c9d-cf09-4b80-bbb2-4cad62e51263> (2025-07-23)

Baker McKenzie Secures CAD 5.96 Million in Damages for Turkish Broadcaster in Copyright Infringement Suit

<https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/newsroom/2025/08/turkish-broadcaster-copyright-infringement-suit> (2025-08-18)

Special Report exposes the enforcement gaps leaving global brands vulnerable in Türkiye

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UAE:

Tech-friendly jurisdictions: why startups choose Cyprus and the UAE

<https://startupsmagazine.co.uk/article-tech-friendly-jurisdictions-why-startups-choose-cyprus-and-uae>
(2025-08-20)

Dubai Customs seizes 18 million cigarettes in clampdown on smuggled and counterfeit goods

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uae/2025/08/12/dubai-customs-seizes-18-million-cigarettes-in-clampdown-on-smuggled-and-counterfeit-goods/> (2025-08-12)

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