

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 102

Index

1. Important topics

Bahrain:	Patent Prosecution Highway with Japan to Begin in 2026
Oman and Iraq:	Agreements and MOUs Signed to Expand Cooperation
Pakistan:	IPO Launches Complaint Management System for IP Enforcement
Qatar:	MOCI Issues Guidelines for Online Trademark Registration
	Investment and Trade Court Signs Cooperation Agreement with WIPO
	Intellectual Property Management Clinic to Support Innovators
Saudi Arabia:	Surge in Patent, Trademark, and Copyright Filings in H1 2025
	3.6 Million Infringing Products Seized in IP Enforcement Drive
	Guidelines Issued on Copyright and AI-Generated Works

2. Additional topics:

See end of text

News

1. Important topics

Bahrain: Patent Prosecution Highway with Japan to Begin in 2026¹

The Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Kingdom of Bahrain have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to launch a bilateral Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) on January 1, 2026.

The agreement was signed in Tokyo on September 19, 2025, under the witness of Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain. Through this cooperation, both offices will share and utilize patent examination results to accelerate procedures and enhance the efficiency of patent examinations.

The initiative is expected to support Japanese companies by enabling faster and more reliable patent protection in Bahrain, reflecting the growing partnership between Japan and the Gulf region in intellectual property and innovation.

¹ <https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/news/ugoki/202509/2025092201.html>

Oman and Iraq: Agreements and MOUs Signed to Expand Cooperation²

Oman and Iraq signed two agreements and 24 memorandum of understanding (MOUs) during the visit of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani to Salalah in September 2025. The agreements cover a mutual visa waiver for holders of diplomatic and official passports, as well as the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion.

The MOUs span a wide range of sectors, including youth, trade, energy, housing, higher education, financial services, defense industries, transport, and logistics. Importantly, the package also includes an MOU on intellectual property cooperation, reflecting both countries' interest in aligning with international practices and strengthening protection frameworks.

Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi described the visit as a turning point in bilateral relations, while Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein emphasized the move toward a strategic partnership. Both sides noted that implementation will be followed up through the Omani-Iraqi Joint Committee and respective embassies.

Pakistan: IPO Launches Complaint Management System for IP Enforcement³

The Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan) has launched the Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Complaint Management System (IPRE-CMS), designed to streamline the handling of piracy and counterfeiting complaints and to better support businesses, innovators, and creators. However, the system is still in the process of being implemented, and an official access link has not yet been made available.

The system, inaugurated in Lahore by IPO Chairman Ambassador (ret'd) Farukh Amil and Director General Nauman Aslam, allows applicants to file complaints online, track their progress, and receive notifications without needing to visit IPO offices. The digital platform also provides secure accounts, calendars of deadlines, and case updates, reducing costs and processing times.

IPO-Pakistan emphasized that the initiative aligns with the government's vision for digitalization and ease of doing business, while empowering micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and strengthening investor confidence in the local IP environment.

Qatar: MOCI Issues Guidelines for Online Trademark Registration⁴

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) has released detailed guidelines to assist individuals and businesses in registering trademarks through its online services platform.

According to the instructions, applicants may access the service via the Ministry's official website by creating or logging into an account, selecting the "Trademark Registration Service," and completing the electronic application. The process requires submission of applicant information, trademark details, and supporting documents such as commercial registration, power of attorney, or personal identification, along with a JPEG image of the trademark.

The platform automatically calculates applicable fees, enables online payment, and generates a summary for final review before submission. Applications are then forwarded to the Ministry's specialized department for examination.

MOCI noted that the service aims to streamline procedures, enhance transparency, and save time for both individuals and companies, while reinforcing its commitment to providing efficient and user-friendly digital services.

² <https://www.fm.gov.om/oman-and-iraq-sign-agreements-and-memoranda-of-understanding/>

³ <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/ipo-pakistan-launches-complaint-management-sy-2046988.html>

⁴ <https://thepeninsulagatar.com/article/24/08/2025/moci-outlines-guidelines-for-registering-trademarks-online>

Qatar: Investment and Trade Court Signs Cooperation Agreement with WIPO⁵

The Investment and Trade Court has signed a cooperation agreement with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to enhance collaboration in the protection of intellectual property rights and the resolution of commercial disputes.

The agreement was signed by Judge Khalid bin Ali Al Obaidli, President of the Investment and Trade Court, and Ignacio De Castro Llamas, Director of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center. Officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, including Abdulbasit Al Ajji, Director of the Intellectual Property Rights Protection Department, were also present.

The partnership focuses on developing an advanced judicial environment that aligns with international best practices, reinforcing the role of Qatar's judiciary in safeguarding intellectual property rights and improving the country's investment climate.

Following the signing, the WIPO delegation toured the court's facilities and reviewed its mechanisms for adjudicating commercial and investment disputes. Judge Al Obaidli noted that the agreement reflects Qatar's commitment to working with international institutions and strengthening its position as a regional hub for IP protection and dispute resolution.

Qatar: Intellectual Property Management Clinic to Support Innovators⁶

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced the launch of an Intellectual Property Management Clinic (IPMC) in September 2025. The initiative, hosted at various institutions including universities and research centers, will provide innovators with advisory support before formally registering their innovations through MOCI's online platform.

According to MOCI, the IPMC will act as a consultative hub to help innovators determine whether their projects qualify as patentable inventions or require further refinement. The clinic is part of broader efforts to strengthen Qatar's innovation ecosystem under Qatar National Vision 2030, fostering a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship.

The Ministry has also introduced an integrated electronic IP registration platform and "Saif," an AI-powered virtual assistant that guides applicants through filing procedures. In parallel, MOCI continues to coordinate with customs and law enforcement agencies to combat counterfeiting and raise awareness of intellectual property rights.

In July, the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council, MOCI, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) launched a joint initiative to support SMEs through IP management clinics, embedding intellectual property as a key business driver for growth and competitiveness.

Saudi Arabia: Surge in Patent, Trademark, and Copyright Filings in H1 2025⁷

Saudi Arabia's intellectual property activity continued to expand in the first half of 2025, with notable increases across all categories. Patent filings rose by 23 percent to 4,928 applications, with 1,885 patents granted. Trademark activity also grew, with 27,938 applications submitted, up 15 percent, resulting in 18,784 registrations. In the field of industrial designs, 1,153 applications were filed, marking a 26 percent increase, and 729 certificates were issued. Copyright registrations likewise saw strong growth, with 1,847 voluntary applications filed, a 52 percent rise, and 1,029 certificates granted.

⁵ <https://thepeninsulagatar.com/article/05/09/2025/investment-and-trade-court-wipo-sign-cooperation-agreement>

⁶ <https://thepeninsulagatar.com/article/28/08/2025/intellectual-property-management-clinic-to-be-launched-to-support-innovators-in-qatar>

⁷ <https://economymiddleeast.com/news/saudi-arabia-patent-applications-rise-23-percent-to-4928-in-h1-2025-as-trademark-activity-expands-15-percent/>
<https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/3174/>

According to the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP), this consistent growth reflects rising awareness of the value of intellectual property rights and underscores the Kingdom's ambition to strengthen its position as a regional and global hub for innovation and creativity.

Saudi Arabia also recorded a 17.55 percent improvement in its overall score in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 13th International Intellectual Property Index, ranking among the fastest-progressing economies worldwide. Reforms contributing to this result included extending the term of design protection to 15 years, establishing a dedicated prosecution office for IP offences, and enhancing electronic enforcement of copyrights and trademarks. These measures lifted the Kingdom's score from 36.6 percent in 2019 to 53.7 percent in 2025, representing an overall increase of more than 40 percent in six years.

Launched in 2022 under the leadership of HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the National Intellectual Property Strategy (NIPST) continues to guide reforms under Saudi Vision 2030. Structured around four pillars—IP creation, administration, commercialization, and protection—the strategy aims to foster a knowledge-based economy, enhance competitiveness, support enterprise growth, attract investment, and create high-quality employment opportunities.

Saudi Arabia: 3.6 Million Infringing Products Seized in IP Enforcement Drive⁸

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) reported that more than 3.6 million infringing products were seized in 2024 following over 2,000 field inspection visits conducted across 51 cities and governorates. According to SAIP's Annual Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Report 2024, more than half of the violations (52 percent) were in the clothing and footwear sector.

In cooperation with the Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority (ZATCA), 330 suspected shipments were intercepted, preventing more than 6.7 million counterfeit goods from entering the Saudi market. Digital enforcement also intensified, with 7,900 infringing websites blocked; an increase of 128 percent compared to 2023; primarily targeting illegal live-streaming services. SAIP additionally reviewed over 3,200 complaints related to copyright and trademark infringement.

The report highlighted that Saudi Arabia has advanced in several international indicators related to intellectual property enforcement, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Intellectual Property Index and the enforcement index of the Global Competitiveness Report issued by the International Institute for Management Development.

Saudi Arabia: Guidelines Issued on Copyright and AI-Generated Works⁹

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) has issued [Guidelines on Copyright Principles for AI-Related Works](#) (June 2025), clarifying how copyright law applies to works involving artificial intelligence. The document is available in Arabic through SAIP's official website and is currently accessible from within Saudi Arabia.

The guidelines confirm that works generated entirely by autonomous AI systems, without human involvement, are not eligible for copyright protection, as originality under Saudi law is inseparable from human creativity and intent. By contrast, works created with AI tools may qualify for protection if they reflect meaningful human contribution, such as through detailed prompting, iterative modifications, or post-editing that embodies the user's creative vision.

SAIP emphasized that its interpretation aligns with international practice, referencing approaches in the United States, European Union, Japan, and South Korea, which similarly require human authorship. The

⁸ <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/654870>

⁹ <https://externalportal-backend-production.saip.gov.sa/sites/default/files/2025-08/Guilelines%20CR%202.pdf>

authority also noted that Saudi copyright law defines an author as a natural person, and rights such as moral rights and liability for infringement presuppose human responsibility.

For creators and businesses, the guidelines provide practical clarity: AI-assisted works can be registered if they demonstrate sufficient human originality, while fully autonomous AI outputs remain outside the scope of copyright protection.

By issuing these guidelines, SAIP positions the Kingdom among the jurisdictions actively shaping global copyright policy in the age of artificial intelligence, in line with Vision 2030's objectives to foster innovation and a knowledge-based economy.

2. Additional topics

Bahrain:

Bahrain's youth are making intellectual property easier to understand and showing how rights, strategy and innovation connect.

<https://x.com/WIPO/status/1960583053799252156> (2025-08-27)

Iran:

Many Registered Inventions in Iran Do Not Qualify as Patents

<https://irannewsdaily.com/2025/08/many-registered-inventions-in-iran-do-not-qualify-as-patents/> (2025-08-25)

WIPO Releases Iranian Student's Global Internet Patent

<https://wanaen.com/wipo-releases-iranian-students-global-internet-patent/> (2025-09-21)

13 new Iranian products registered with World Intellectual Property Organization

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85939478/13-new-iranian-products-registered-with-World-Intellectual-Property> (2025-09-15)

Jordan:

Jordan's Royal Hashemite Court Chief Receives ANCI Delegation

<https://agip-news.com/news.aspx?id=77348&lang=en> (2025-09-01)

Kuwait:

Kuwaiti inventor stresses importance of protecting IP rights

<https://kuwaittimes.com/article/32402/kuwait/other-news/kuwaiti-inventor-stresses-importance-of-protecting-ip-rights/> (2025-08-26)

Kuwait bans unauthorized use of state educational content

<https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/kuwait-bans-unauthorized-use-of-state-educational-content/> (2025-09-09)

KU honors researchers awarded US patents

<https://kuwaittimes.com/article/33434/kuwait/other-news/ku-honors-researchers-awarded-us-patents/> (2025-09-21)

Kuwaiti researchers patent new sleep apnea test

<https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/kuwaiti-researchers-patent-new-sleep-apnea-test/> (2025-09-04)

Oman:

Oman issues executive media regulations to shape sector's future

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2025/09/14/oman-issues-executive-media-regulations-to-shape-sectors-future/> (2025-09-14)

Oman advances 5 places in the Global Innovation Index 2025

<https://timesofoman.com/article/162823-oman-advances-5-places-in-the-global-innovation-index-2025> (2025-09-16)

Omani student develops bacteria-based cancer treatment

<https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1175845/oman/health/omani-student-develops-bacteria-based-cancer-treatment> (2025-08-31)

Dhofar Scientific Forum begins in Salalah

<https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1176903/oman/dhofar-scientific-forum-begins-in-salalah> (2025-09-21)

Pakistan:

Trademark tussle: Starbucks served a sip of defeat by Pakistan's 'SattarBuksh'

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/trending/trademark-tussle-starbucks-served-a-sip-of-defeat-by-pakistans-sattarbuksh/> (2025-09-11)

IPO Pakistan Inaugurates Online Management System For Swift Complaint Resolution At Karachi

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/business/ipo-pakistan-inaugurates-online-management-sy-2050390.html> (2025-09-24)

ICT Police Bust Fake Cement Factory; 8 Held In Trademark Scam

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/ict-police-bust-fake-cement-factory-8-held-i-2048100.html> (2025-09-21)

IPO Pakistan chairman stresses mass awareness, curriculum inclusion of IP laws

<https://www.app.com.pk/domestic/ipo-pakistan-chairman-stresses-mass-awareness-curriculum-inclusion-of-ip-laws/> (2025-08-22)

Review of Pakistan IP Regime

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-pakistan-ip-regime> (2025-09-15)

Qatar:

Qatar prioritizes modern dispute settlement methods: Minister

<https://www.gulf-times.com/article/709831/qatar/qatar-prioritises-modern-dispute-settlement-methods-minister> (2025-09-01)

Korea, Qatar deepen IP partnership to build knowledge economy

<https://www.koreaherald.com/article/10571320> (2025-09-09)

MOCI raises awareness to protect intellectual property rights

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/10/09/2025/moci-raises-awareness-to-protect-intellectual-property-rights> (2025-09-10)

Qatar Strengthens its Position in Global Health Security Through Development of Pharmaceutical Sector, Research Centers

<https://qna.org.qa/en/news/special-news-details?id=qatar-strengthens-its-position-in-global-health-security-through-development-of-pharmaceutical-sector-research-centers&date=22/09/2025> (2025-09-22)

WIPO launches first IP Management Clinic in Qatar

<https://www.wipo.int/web/business/w/news/2025/wipo-launches-first-ip-management-clinic-in-qatar> (2025-09-17)

MOCI Organizes Training Workshop for TISC Members

<https://qna.org.qa/en/news/news-details?id=moci-organizes-training-workshop-for-tisc-members&date=14/09/2025> (2025-09-14)

'Protecting intellectual property propels Qatar's economic growth'

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/02/09/2025/protecting-intellectual-property-propels-qatars-economic-growth> (2025-09-02)

Saudi Arabia:

Jeddah's Special Libraries Conference Highlights Intellectual Property, Heritage Preservation in the Age of AI

<https://spa.gov.sa/en/N2399214> (2025-09-17)

A Startup Emerging from KACST Transforms Underground Scanning with Intelligent Innovation

<https://spa.gov.sa/en/N2399280> (2025-09-17)

Interior Ministry: It is prohibited to use Saudi flag as a trademark or for commercial purposes

<https://www.msn.com/en-ae/news/featured/interior-ministry-it-is-prohibited-to-use-saudi-flag-as-a-trademark-or-for-commercial-purposes/ar-AA1N4t9Q?ocid=BingNewsSerp> (2025-09-23)

Saudi King Saud University Wins US Patent for Firefighting Robot

<https://english.aawsat.com/technology/5187053-saudi-king-saud-university-wins-us-patent-firefighting-robot%C2%A0> (2025-09-17)

Saudi Arabia's Biotech Renaissance: A Two-Pronged Strategy to Build a Future-Ready Innovation Ecosystem

<https://mitsloan.mit.edu/centers-initiatives/ksc/saudi-arabias-biotech-renaissance-a-two-pronged-strategy-to-build-a-future-ready-innovation-ecosystem> (2025-08-26)

New water purification technology that uses fruit peels earns patent

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2615276/saudi-arabia> (2025-09-14)

Environment Ministry Emphasizes Importance of Intellectual Property

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2384783> (2025-08-25)

Saudi Arabia: Patent applications rise 23 percent to 4,928 in H1 2025 as trademark activity expands 15 percent

<https://economymiddleeast.com/news/saudi-arabia-patent-applications-rise-23-percent-to-4928-in-h1-2025-as-trademark-activity-expands-15-percent/> (2025-08-27)

How Saudi producer Ahmed Alsallal uses music to promote intellectual property

<https://www.wipo.int/web/wipo-magazine/articles/how-saudi-producer-ahmed-alsallal-uses-music-to-promote-intellectual-property-74728> (2025-09-03)

SAIP Hosts Conference on Intellectual Property Enforcement with Global Partnerships

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2392978> (2025-09-08)

Saudi Arabia's 2024 Annual Report Highlights Significant IP Enforcement Successes

<https://www.onearabia.me/local/saudi-arabia-ip-enforcement-successes-2024-report-011-121871.html>
(2025-09-10)

SR9000 fine for copyright infringement using AI

<https://cdn.saudigazette.com.sa/article/654940/SAUDI-ARABIA/SR9000-fine-for-copyright-infringement-using-AI> (2025-09-13)

Türkiye:

Ownership Of Rights In Patent And Design Applications

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/trademark/1678608/ownership-of-rights-in-patent-and-design-applications> (2025-09-16)

European Patents And Their Validation In Türkiye

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/patent/1679036/european-patents-and-their-validation-in-turkiye>
(2025-09-17)

Trademark Revocations Redefined: A New Chapter In Turkish IP Law

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/trademark/1673956/trademark-revocations-redefined-a-new-chapter-in-turkish-ip-law> (2025-09-04)

Turkish Court of Cassation's stance on short-word trademarks: analysis

<https://www.managingip.com/article/2fbhlysygi43yefkzjaps/sponsored-content/turkish-court-of-cassations-stance-on-short-word-trademarks-analysis> (2025-09-12)

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<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/the-1st-meeting-of-intellectual-property-office-heads-of-the-organization-of-turkic-states-ots-was-held-in-bishkek> (2025-08-21)

Turkey to Spend \$16 Billion on Research and Development

https://www.bgnes.com/science/turkey-to-spend-16-billion-on-research-and-development#google_vignette (2025-09-18)

Design Classification Systems

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/trademark/1678412/design-classification-systems> (2025-09-16)

UAE:

UAE university granted US patent for carbon-cutting battery to power up sustainability ambitions

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uae/2025/09/17/uae-university-granted-us-patent-for-carbon-cutting-battery-to-power-up-sustainability-ambitions/> (2025-09-17)

Ministry of Economy and Tourism, Dubai Science Park partner to boost intellectual property protection

<https://www.wam.ae/en/article/blfuoooy-ministry-economy-and-tourism-dubai-science-park> (2025-08-29)

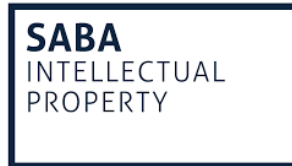
UOS launches 4th Arab Conference on Intellectual Property

<https://sharjah24.ae/en/Articles/2025/09/24/MA05> (2025 年 9 月 24 日)

<https://sharjah24.ae/en/Articles/2025/09/17/al015> (2025 年 9 月 17 日)

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