

**Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 104**

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**News**

**1. Important topics**

**Bahrain: National Innovation Roadmap Introduced During Global Entrepreneurship Week<sup>1</sup>**

Bahrain’s Ministry of Industry and Commerce has introduced the National Innovation Strategy 2025–2035 during Global Entrepreneurship Week at the American University of Bahrain. The strategy is designed to position Bahrain as a regional hub for innovation and to accelerate the shift toward a knowledge- and creativity-based economy. The launch was attended by Minister Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro alongside representatives from major public, private, and academic institutions, including the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Higher Education Council, the Economic Development Board, Tamkeen, and the University of Bahrain.

According to the Ministry, the strategy aligns with the country’s broader economic vision and aims to strengthen cooperation between government, industry, and academia. It serves as a national roadmap to

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<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.bna.bh/En/IndustryMinistrylaunchesNationalInnovationStrategy20252035.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwlZON1%2BDgbBd1SQ1iFMPJ8SuhKxLfQ%3D>

advance innovation in education, industry, scientific research, and entrepreneurship, improving Bahrain's competitiveness at the regional and global levels.

The strategy focuses on developing the R&D ecosystem by identifying national research priorities, improving regulatory policies, supporting research programs, promoting technology-driven startups, and establishing a National R&D Award. It places strong emphasis on education and talent building, with plans to integrate STEM into curricula and provide advanced training in future-technology fields. It also highlights intellectual property as a core pillar, calling for updates to IP laws, strengthened cooperation with international patent offices, improved registration processes, and the allocation of a share of university revenues to support scientific research. The strategy further aims to enhance Bahrain's digital environment and improve mechanisms for measuring R&D and innovation outcomes, while requiring institutions to disclose their innovation-related investments.

The initiative sets specific national targets, including doubling patent registrations by 2027, increasing industrial design and trademark filings by 2030, training more than 6,000 Bahrainis in innovation fields, raising R&D expenditure to 2 percent of GDP by 2035, and positioning the country among the top 50 economies in the Global Innovation Index. A National Task Force representing government, academia, and the private sector has been formed to oversee implementation and monitor progress.

The Ministry noted that the strategy supports the long-term objectives of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and reinforces the Kingdom's ambition to become a regional center for innovation, technology, and high-value economic activity.

### **GCC: Trade Cooperation Committee Approves the GCC Patent Prosecution Highway<sup>2</sup>**

The GCC Trade Cooperation Committee held its 69th meeting in Kuwait on October 29, 2025 and approved the launch of the GCC Patent Prosecution Highway (GCC-PPH). This mechanism was recommended earlier in April 2025 during GCC Patent Committee's fifth meeting.

The GCC-PPH will allow applicants to request accelerated examination for patent applications filed with national patent offices in GCC member states as well as applications filed with the GCC Patent Office of the General Secretariat. The initiative aims to shorten examination timelines, support work-sharing practices, and improve examination quality across the region.

By introducing this pathway, the GCC seeks to encourage innovation, support inventors, and strengthen coordinated IP practices among member countries. Further details regarding the implementing regulations, procedures, and associated fees will be announced in due course.

### **Kuwait: MOCI Seizes Over 1,000 Counterfeit Goods<sup>3</sup>**

Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) announced the seizure of more than 1,000 items bearing counterfeit international trademarks at a store in the Hawally Governorate. The action was carried out by the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Department through Jabriya Center, which is affiliated with the Ministry.

According to the Ministry, inspection teams issued a violation report, referred the case to the Commercial Prosecution, and submitted the seizure report to the relevant committee to complete legal procedures. MOCI emphasized that it continues to intensify field inspections across the country as part of its efforts to combat commercial fraud and protect intellectual property rights.

The Ministry reiterated that it would impose strict measures against violators and encouraged consumers to report counterfeit products through designated complaint channels, highlighting the role of public cooperation in safeguarding the local market.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gccpo.org/AboutUs/ShowNews?id=1438>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/over-1000-items-confiscated-in-crackdown-on-counterfeit-goods/>

#### **Qatar: MOCI and MOEHE Launch “Young Innovator” Seminars for Students<sup>4</sup>**

Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE), has launched the “Young Innovator” seminar series to promote intellectual property awareness among school students. The program began with sessions at Qatar Technical Secondary School for Boys and Al Kaaban Primary Preparatory Secondary School for Girls, with activities continuing through the current academic year.

The seminars introduce students to foundational IP concepts through the “Beginner's Guide,” covering patents, trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications, copyright, and related rights. The initiative aims to help students understand the role of IP in daily life, develop creative and innovative skills, and learn practical steps for protecting their ideas.

The program also highlights recent MOCI initiatives to strengthen IP protection, including the development of an integrated electronic system designed to support trademark owners, inventors, authors, and rights holders.

The initiative concludes with the “Young Innovator” competition, through which five students will be selected and recognized for their innovative contributions.

#### **Saudi Arabia: Ministry of Justice and WIPO Sign MOU on Publishing IP Judicial Rulings<sup>5</sup>**

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Justice and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on November 3, 2022 to advance cooperation in publishing judicial rulings related to intellectual property. The agreement was signed in Geneva by Minister of Justice Walid Al-Samaani and WIPO Director General Daren Tang.

The MOU aims to improve access to IP-related judicial decisions, support knowledge exchange, and contribute to the development of judicial practices at both the national and international levels. During the meeting, the Ministry highlighted ongoing reforms within the Saudi judicial sector, including efforts to enhance specialized legislation.

#### **Türkiye: New Rights-Management Collective Planned Under Digital Copyright Bill<sup>6</sup>**

Türkiye is preparing to introduce a rights-management organization as part of its upcoming digital copyright bill, which aims to ensure that digital platforms compensate journalists and media organizations for news content used to generate advertising revenue.

According to the chair of the parliament's Digital Media Commission, Nazım Elmas, the draft legislation has reached its final stage following consultations with several institutions, including the Press Advertisement Institution, the Competition Authority, the Communications Directorate, and journalists' associations. Their recommendations have been consolidated into a legislative proposal expected to be submitted to parliament soon.

The new collective will operate similarly to MESAM, Türkiye's music copyright society, negotiating payment terms with digital platforms on behalf of content producers. Advanced software will be introduced to track original sources of news content and monitor its online circulation to support accurate distribution fee.

The planned framework also involves the Competition Authority and a state-appointed arbitration board, which will act as an intermediary between platforms and rights holders.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://thepeninsulagatar.com/article/06/11/2025/moci-launches-young-innovator-seminars-for-school-students>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/656267/SAUDI-ARABIA/Al-Samaani-WIPO-chief-sign-deal-to-strengthen-cooperation>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/digital-copyright-bill-nears-completion-in-turkish-parliament-215740>

## **UAE: Court of Cassation Rejects Appeal in Trademark Case, Reinforcing Strong IP Enforcement<sup>7</sup>**

The Abu Dhabi Court of Cassation has dismissed a trademark appeal on procedural grounds, reaffirming the UAE's strict approach to IP enforcement, including in cases involving online-only brands.

The dispute began in 2024 when a globally recognized digital-only brand filed a complaint after discovering that a retailer in Abu Dhabi was using its registered trademarks on store signage, products, and marketing materials. The Abu Dhabi Commercial Court ruled in favor of the brand, ordering the retailer to stop using the marks, remove its trade name from commercial registries, and withdraw infringing goods. The Abu Dhabi Court of Appeal upheld the ruling in December 2024, confirming that unauthorized use amounted to trademark infringement and unfair competition.

A further cassation appeal submitted in early 2025 was deemed inadmissible because the appellant failed to pay the mandatory security deposit required under Article 179 of the Civil Procedures Law. The Court stated that non-compliance with procedural requirements renders an appeal invalid, regardless of the underlying arguments.

While the Court of Cassation did not examine the substantive trademark issues, the lower court decisions remain in force and highlight the UAE judiciary's readiness to protect trademarks, including those used exclusively in digital markets. The case reflects broader trends in the UAE toward stronger IP enforcement frameworks and provides guidance for international and local businesses operating in the expanding digital economy.

## **2. Additional topics**

### **Iran:**

Prior Use vs Trademark Registration: Who is the Ultimate Owner Under the Iranian IP Regime?

<https://namiassociates.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Prior-Use-vs-Trademark-Registration-Who-is-the-Ultimate-Owner-Under-the-Iranian-IP-Regime.pdf> (2025-11-03)

### **Jordan:**

Jordan Registers 99 Patents in First Ten Months of 2025

<https://en.ammonnews.net/article/86733> (2025-11-17)

### **Kuwait:**

Kuwait sets precedent with filmed destruction of counterfeit character stationery

<https://www.worldtrademarkreview.com/article/kuwait-sets-precedent-filmed-destruction-of-counterfeit-character-stationery> (2025-10-29)

Kuwait Science Club, Arab League Discuss Strengthening Cooperation in Scientific Research

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3256394#> (2025-10-30)

Intellectual property and creative works protection in Kuwaiti law

<https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/intellectual-property-and-creative-works-protection-in-kuwaiti-law/> (2025-11-26)

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<sup>7</sup> <https://thelawreporters.com/uae-court-of-cassation-rejects-appeal-in-trademark-dispute-underscoring-strong-ip-protection-for-online-only-brands>

**Middle East:**

Arab League Intellectual Property Meeting Starts

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2448557> (2025-11-19)

**Oman:**

Oman hosts regional meeting for Technology and Innovation Support Centers

<https://omannews.gov.om/topics/en/79/show/125337/ona> (2025-11-05)

**Pakistan:**

Awareness On Intellectual Property Imperative To Position Pakistan As Global Innovation Hub: IPR Chairperson

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/business/awareness-on-intellectual-property-imperative-2077345.html> (2025-11-04)

ICCI, IPO Pakistan to collaborate on promoting intellectual property awareness

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Nov-2025/icci-ipo-pakistan-collaborate-promoting-intellectual-property-awareness> (2025-11-12)

Pakistani coffee chain faces court case over alleged copying of international brand

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/11/11/pakistani-coffee-chain-faces-court-case-over-alleged-copying-of-international-brand/> (2025-11-11)

Pakistan, China unveil plan to modernize agricultural research

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/917544-pakistan-china-unveil-plan-to-modernise-agricultural-research> (2025-11-13)

IP Facilitation Desk Inaugurated At MCCI

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/ip-facilitation-desk-inaugurated-at-mcci-2084435.html> (2025-11-14)

**Qatar:**

Qatar participates in GCC Committee meeting on Patents in Riyadh

<https://thepeninsulagatar.com/article/12/11/2025/qatar-participates-in-gcc-committee-meeting-on-patents-in-riyadh> (2025-11-12)

**Saudi Arabia:**

China–Saudi relations entering new phase driven by tech, innovation, say business leaders

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2620842/amp> (2025-10-30)

Intellectual Property Protection Association Meets to Strengthen Saudi-Japanese Cooperation

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2440840> (2025-11-11)

3 expats arrested for selling counterfeit smartphones

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/656741/SAUDI-ARABIA/3-expats-arrested-for-selling-counterfeit-smartphones> (2025-11-21)

Pure Lithium Secures Saudi Patent for Pioneering Vertically Integrated Battery Technology

<https://www.chemanalyst.com/NewsAndDeals/NewsDetails/pure-lithium-secures-saudi-patent-for-pioneering-vertically-integrated-battery-40176> (2025-11-26)

#### **Türkiye:**

TÜRKPATENT has canceled the name and logo registration of Now TV

<https://en.haberler.com/turkpatent-has-canceled-the-name-and-logo-19247299/> (2025-11-13)

Türkiye breaks into global top 10 for patent applications in 2024

<https://en.yenisafak.com/economy/turkiye-breaks-into-global-top-10-for-patent-applications-3710850> (2025-11-20)

Türkiye aims to boost EU-registered geographical indications to 60

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkiye/turkiye-aims-to-boost-eu-registered-geographical-indications-to-60/news> (2025-11-07)

#### **UAE:**

United Arab Emirates University Registers Patent for Innovative Graphitic Compound

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/middle-east/united-arab-emirates-university-registers-pat-2078983.html> (2025-11-06)

EPA, Ministry of Economy and Tourism sign deal to boost UAE's publishing, IP sectors

<https://www.zawya.com/en/business/technology-and-telecom/epa-ministry-of-economy-and-tourism-sign-deal-to-boost-uaes-publishing-ip-sectors-siq74dav> (2025-11-06)

Successful IP Enforcement: Protecting a Leading E-Commerce Brand Against Multiple Infringements Across the UAE

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=dfdab897-e71e-42c4-8b7d-750375218686> (2025-11-05)

The United Arab Emirates University registers a patent for an innovative graphite compound extracted from date syrup

<https://www.voiceofemirates.com/en/emirates/2025/11/06/the-united-arab-emirates-university-registers-a-patent-for-an-innovative-graphite-compound-extracted-from-date-syrup/> (2025-11-06)

Dubai hosts 14th regional summit to combat rising global IP crimes

<https://gulfnews.com/uae/government/dubai-hosts-14th-regional-summit-to-combat-rising-global-ip-crimes-1.500352487> (2025-11-19)

Carney to sign investment agreement, launch Canada–United Arab Emirates trade talks

<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/business/2025/11/19/carney-to-sign-investment-agreement-launch-talks-towards-new-trade-pact-with-uae-official/> (2025-11-19)

Emirates Engineering Gets First UAE GCAA Major Design Approval

<https://www.mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2025/November/20-11/emirates-engineering-gets-first-uae-gcaa-major-design-approval> (2025-11-20)

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