

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 105

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News

1. Important topics

Bahrain: Japan-Bahrain Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program to Commence in 2026¹

The Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) of the Kingdom of Bahrain commenced the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program on January 1, 2026.

The pilot program allows applicants to request accelerated examination of patent applications in one office when corresponding claims have been found allowable by the other office.

Unless there are particular issues, the pilot program will be automatically extended every three years.

Egypt: EGIPA Reaffirms Commitment to Strengthening Copyright Protection²

¹ https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/system/patent/shinsa/soki/pph/japan_bahrain_highway.html

² <https://sis.gov.eg/en/media-center/news/egipa-head-affirms-commitment-to-strengthening-copyright-protection/>

The Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority (EGIPA) has reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to strengthening copyright protection and developing the national creativity system under the National Intellectual Property Strategy.

The statement was made by EGIPA Chairman Hesham Azmi during his participation in a regional meeting of heads of copyright offices in Arab countries, held in Algiers on November 26-27, 2025. The meeting was organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in cooperation with Algeria's National Office for Copyright and Related Rights.

During the opening session, Azmi highlighted the role of Arab copyright offices in supporting creative industries and strengthening regional coordination in response to digital-era challenges, including artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and content protection.

Egypt submitted a request to host the next regional forum in Cairo, expected to take place in 2027.

Jordan: Jordanian Inventor Secures First US Patent in Electrical Engineering and Artificial Intelligence³

The patent was granted to Kasim Ali Abu Ain for an invention titled "Topological Metabolic Analysis-Based Energy Management System Using Artificial Intelligence (TMA-EMS) for Electrical Power Networks."

According to the inventor, the system is designed to improve the efficiency and stability of electrical power networks by analyzing energy flow and supporting decision-making through artificial intelligence. The system applies analytical models inspired by biological pathways to optimize energy distribution and reduce losses.

The invention addresses challenges associated with modern power grids, including the integration of renewable energy sources, energy storage systems, and fluctuating electrical loads. It can be applied in areas such as smart grids, renewable energy systems, industrial projects, smart buildings, and energy storage systems.

Kuwait: Ministry of Commerce and Industry Shuts Two Shops Selling Counterfeit Goods⁴

Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) has shut down two commercial shops for selling counterfeit items, as part of its enforcement actions against intellectual property violations.

The closures were carried out following inspections conducted by the Ministry, which resulted in the identification of counterfeit goods being offered for sale. The measures were taken in accordance with applicable commercial and regulatory laws governing consumer protection and intellectual property enforcement in Kuwait.

The action forms part of ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to monitor markets and combat the circulation of counterfeit products.

Lebanon: Customs Seize Counterfeit Footwear from Unlicensed Factory⁵

Lebanese customs authorities have seized large quantities of counterfeit footwear following an operation against an unlicensed factory in Jadra, Chouf.

The operation was conducted by the General Directorate of Customs after receiving confirmed information regarding illicit manufacturing activity. The facility was found to be producing shoes bearing the logos and

³ https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=79652&lang=en&name=en_news

⁴ <https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/moci-shuts-two-shops-selling-counterfeit-items/>

⁵ <https://www.mtv.com.lb/en/news/%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AA/1637411/watch--counterfeit-shoes-seized-at-the-factory>

trademarks of well-known international brands, in violation of applicable trademark and commercial regulations.

Customs officials identified the factory owner, a Syrian national, confiscated the counterfeit goods, and sealed the premises. The individual was transferred to the customs center in preparation for legal proceedings under the supervision of the competent judicial authorities.

The Directorate stated that the seizure forms part of its ongoing efforts to combat commercial fraud, protect consumers, and address trademark infringement through targeted enforcement actions.

Qatar: MOCI Expands AI Assistant to Support Patent Information Services⁶

Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) has expanded the scope of its artificial intelligence-based assistant, Saif, to support access to information related to patent rights.

The assistant provides guidance on patent-related matters, including application procedures, documentation requirements, examination processes, and renewal obligations. Saif is available through MOCI's digital platforms and is intended to support residents, inventors, businesses, and intellectual property stakeholders.

According to the Ministry, the system responds to user queries in natural language and is updated to reflect current legislation and administrative practices relating to intellectual property.

Qatar: Qatar and Republic of Korea Agree to Develop National IP Strategy⁷

Qatar has taken a further step toward strengthening its intellectual property framework with the signing of an agreement on December 14, 2025, between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Intellectual Property of the Republic of Korea, alongside the Korea Intellectual Property Strategy Agency.

The agreement forms part of Qatar's National Intellectual Property Strategy and is intended to support the development of a more structured and innovation-driven IP ecosystem. It was signed on behalf of Qatar by H E Mohammed bin Hassan Al-Malki, Undersecretary of MOCI, and on behalf of Korea by H E Young-sun Kim, Minister of Intellectual Property, and Byung-soo Yoon, President of the Korea Intellectual Property Strategy Agency.

Under the agreement, the Korean agency will prepare a comprehensive National IP Strategic plan for Qatar. This will include an assessment of the current IP environment, the definition of strategic objectives and priorities, and the development of performance indicators to support implementation.

Officials from both sides highlighted the importance of enhanced cooperation in intellectual property, particularly in building national capabilities and drawing on Korea's experience in developing policies that support innovation. The initiative aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy, reflecting Qatar's broader transition toward a knowledge- and innovation-based economy.

Türkiye: TURKPATENT Clarifies Assessment of Proof of Use for Luxury Trademarks⁸

The Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (TURKPATENT) has reaffirmed that proof of genuine use in trademark opposition proceedings must be assessed in light of the commercial characteristics of the relevant sector, including the luxury goods market.

⁶ <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/28/12/2025/mocis-saif-ai-assistant-enhances-access-to-patent-rights-information>

⁷ <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/15/12/2025/qatar-and-republic-of-korea-sign-agreement-to-develop-national-intellectual-property-strategic-plan>

⁸ <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=e425d066-dcb1-49e8-a684-743397159a37>

In a recent decision concerning a Class 14 (watches) trademark, TURKPATENT accepted that limited sales volumes may constitute genuine use where goods are high-value and distributed through selective channels. The Office considered a combination of evidence, including invoices, catalogues, online materials, and information on authorized distribution points.

TURKPATENT emphasized that proof of use should not rely solely on quantitative criteria and must take into account factors such as pricing strategy, consumer profile, and distribution model. The Office confirmed that a small number of high-value transactions may be sufficient to demonstrate genuine use for luxury goods.

In the same decision, TURKPATENT distinguished genuine use from well-known trademark status, noting that acceptance of use does not automatically establish notoriety under Turkish law.

UAE: First Online Platform for Trademark Trading Announced⁹

The UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourism has launched TM Market Place, a new digital platform allowing the buying and selling of registered trademarks within a secure online environment. According to the Ministry, it is the first initiative of its kind in the UAE and the broader region focused on digital trademark trading.

The platform enables trademark owners—both national and international rights holders with registrations in the UAE—to list and trade registered marks, with identity verification and digital payment features built into the system. Operational oversight will remain with the Ministry to ensure compliance with UAE trademark law, including Federal Decree-Law No. 36 of 2021 on Trademarks.

Policy Objectives

According to official statements, the initiative seeks to:

- Expand commercialization of intangible assets through trademark monetization
- Support SMEs and family businesses in leveraging brand value
- Improve transparency in trademark transfers and valuation
- Increase the ease of market entry for new investors

The Ministry indicated that the platform aims to increase the market attractiveness of brands by up to 20% within the first year of operation, supported by broader efforts to strengthen IP infrastructure.

Recent IP-Related Developments in the UAE

The launch forms part of wider IP and trademark reforms currently underway, including:

- Updated trademark fees under a new Cabinet Resolution
- Introduction of a geographical indications (GI) registration system
- UAE accession to the Madrid Protocol
- Cooperation with private sector stakeholders on IP awareness and enforcement

Between January and early November 2025, the UAE recorded 34,234 national and international trademark registrations, reflecting continued growth in IP filings.

Relevance for International Businesses

TM Market Place represents a new mechanism for IP commercialization in the UAE, complementing existing registration and enforcement systems. Dubai and Abu Dhabi continue to position IP as part of economic diversification, innovation policy, and SME support initiatives.

⁹ <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/bmwua9h-ministry-economy-and-tourism-launches-trademark>

The platform is already operational and limited to trademarks registered in the UAE. It may support future activity in:

- IP valuation and brokerage
- Brand acquisition and divestment strategies
- SME financing linked to intangible assets

Information on registration criteria, transaction procedures, and valuation guidelines is expected to be refined as adoption increases.

2. Additional topics

Bahrain & Saudi Arabia:

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Bringing IP to 1,000+ Youth in Chile, Jordan & Uganda
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QU signs IP licensing agreements at MWC25 Doha

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MOCI hosts workshop on geographical indications

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How a young Saudi inventor is looking to advance political science

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Saudi Film Confex Continues with Sessions on Investment, Intellectual Property, AI

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[Author]
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