

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 112

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News

1. Important topics

Bahrain: Accession to the Locarno Agreement^{1 2}

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Bahrain has approved its accession to the Locarno Agreement for the International Classification of Industrial Designs under Law No. 21 of 2026.

The Locarno Agreement provides a standardized international classification system for industrial designs, making it easier to categorize, search, and administer design rights across jurisdictions. Bahrain's accession reflects its continued alignment with international intellectual property standards.

For design owners, the development should support greater consistency in the classification and management of industrial design applications in Bahrain.

Oman: Mandatory Trademark Registration³

Oman's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has called on businesses to register their trademarks to protect brand identity and reduce the risk of misuse.

¹ https://www.lexismiddleeast.com/gazette/Bahrain/2026_3885/en

² <https://oneworldip.com/bahrain-accession-to-the-locarno-agreement-for-the-international-classification-of-industrial-designs/>

³ <https://www.muscatdaily.com/2026/06/14/mociip-calls-for-mandatory-trademark-registration/>

The campaign highlights the importance of trademark registration as a practical tool for securing exclusive rights and supporting enforcement against unauthorized use. It also reflects Oman's broader focus on strengthening awareness of intellectual property rights among businesses.

For brand owners, the message is straightforward: trademark registration remains the first and most important step in protecting commercial identity in the Omani market.

Oman: Over 13,000 Counterfeit Auto Parts Sized⁴

Oman's Consumer Protection Authority has seized more than 13,000 counterfeit vehicle spare parts in the Wilayat of Barka.

The raid was conducted by the Department of Consumer Protection in Barka, in cooperation with the Public Prosecution, after a consumer report alleged that counterfeit vehicle spare parts were being sold from a residential property. The seized items reportedly included air filters and spark plugs bearing the name of an international trademark.

The case highlights the continued enforcement focus on counterfeit automotive parts, a category that presents both brand protection and consumer safety concerns.

Saudi Arabia: New Copyright Law Introduced⁵

Saudi Arabia has enacted a new Copyright Law under Royal Decree No. M/169⁶, replacing the previous 2003 framework. The law is scheduled to enter into force on August 12, 2026, following a transitional period.

Key changes include expanded protection for foreign works, strengthened moral rights, clearer rules on work-for-hire ownership, provisions relating to software and databases, a limited text and data mining exception for AI-related use, safe harbor rules for online platforms, and enhanced penalties for infringement.

The new law is an important step in the modernization of Saudi Arabia's copyright regime and is expected to have practical implications for authors, publishers, software companies, online platforms, and rights holders operating in the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabia: Advances in Geographical Indications Protection⁷

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property has approved the Implementing Regulations of the Geographical Indications Protection System under Board Resolution No. 2026/39/01⁸ dated April 30, 2026. The regulations follow the issuance of the Geographical Indications Protection System under Royal Decree No. M/102 dated November 17, 2025. They establish a framework for protecting products whose quality, reputation, or characteristics are linked to a specific geographical origin.

SAIP is expected to begin accepting GI applications once the system and regulations enter into force and the applicable official fees are published. The new regime may be particularly relevant to agricultural products, food and beverage items, handicrafts, and heritage-related goods.

UAE: IP Cooperation Agreements with Spain and Morocco⁹

⁴ <https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1190822/oman/cpa-seizes-over-13000-counterfeit-car-parts-in-barka>

⁵ <https://utmps.com/saudi-arabias-new-copyright-law-key-changes-and-implications/>

⁶ <https://decreesa.com/p/514446/>

⁷ <https://rouse.com/insights/news/2026/saudi-arabia-advances-geographical-indications-protection-with-new-regulations>

⁸ <https://decreesa.com/p/516103/>

⁹ <https://www.moet.gov.ae/en/-/uae-signs-mous-with-spain-and-morocco-to-enhance-cooperation-in-industrial-property-patent-registration-knowledge-exchange-and-capacity-building>

The UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourism has signed memoranda of understanding with the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office and the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property.

The agreements aim to strengthen cooperation in industrial property, patent registration, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and the use of digital tools, including artificial intelligence, in patent management, search, and classification.

The initiative reflects the UAE's continued efforts to modernize its intellectual property ecosystem and deepen cooperation with international IP offices.

Yemen: New Trademark Examination System Launched¹⁰

Yemen's Ministry of Economy, Industry and Investment has launched a new website and electronic trademark examination system. The new platform¹¹ is intended to support the ministry's digital services and provide access to information, guidance, complaints channels, and legal resources.

The trademark examination system is designed to function as a digital identity platform for trademarks. It will support automated similarity checks, help identify potential counterfeiting and impersonation, and verify trademark validity and compliance before protection is granted.

For rights holders, the development may improve the examination process and increase transparency in trademark administration.

2. Additional topics

Jordan:

Hikma Ruling Looms Large in House IP Subcommittee Hearing Debating Legislation Favoring Generic Drugmakers

<https://ipwatchdog.com/2026/06/04/hikma-ruling-looms-large-house-ip-subcommittee-hearing-debating-legislation-favoring-generic-drugmakers/> (04-06-2026)

Kuwait:

Kuwait Authorities Seize Over 6,000 Counterfeit Items in Salmiya Raid

<https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/kuwait-authorities-seize-over-6000-counterfeit-items-in-salmiya-raid/> (03-06-2026)

Middle East:

3.6 Million Products Seized For Trademark Violations In MENA Could Your Brand Be Next?

<https://menafn.com/1111297104/36-Million-Products-Seized-For-Trademark-Violations-In-MENA-Could-Your-Brand-Be-Next> (23-06-2026)

Oman:

New cyberlaw to enhance Oman's digital security

<https://timesofoman.com/article/172462-new-cyberlaw-to-enhance-omans-digital-security> (01-06-2026)

Ministry of Information urges digital media platforms to secure mandatory licenses

<https://timesofoman.com/article/172603-ministry-of-information-urges-digital-media-platforms-to-secure-mandatory-licenses> (05-06-2026)

¹⁰ <https://www.saba.ye/en/news3720994.htm?cid=14>

¹¹ www.moit.gov.ye

MoH launches campaign to combat counterfeit medical products

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2026/06/14/moh-launches-campaign-to-combat-counterfeit-medical-products/> (14-06-2026)

Oman Obtains International Geographical Indication Recognition for Frankincense

<https://utmps.com/oman-obtains-international-geographical-indication-recognition-for-frankincense/> (18-06-2026)

Oman Customs seizes undeclared electronics and appliances at Al Khatm border

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/2026/06/22/oman-customs-seizes-undeclared-electronics-and-appliances/> (22-06-2026)

Qatar:

Commerce and Industry Ministry Organizes Patent Examination Training Program

<https://qna.org.qa/en/news/news-details?id=commerce-and-industry-ministry-organizes-patent-examination-training-program&date=10/06/2026> (10-06-2026)

MoCI organises roundtable discussion on Qatar's National Intellectual Property Strategy

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/18/06/2026/moci-organises-roundtable-discussion-on-qatars-national-intellectual-property-strategy> (18-06-2026)

Saudi Arabia:

Protecting pharmaceutical and medical device patents in Saudi Arabia: the two-step process every innovator must know

<https://gowlingwlg.com/en-gb/insights-resources/articles/2026/protecting-pharmaceutical-and-medical-device-patents-in-saudi-arabia> (01-06-2026)

Northern Region Cement Company Announces the Filing of a Lawsuit Against Safwa Cement Company

<https://www.saudiexchange.sa/wps/portal/saudiexchange/newsandreports/issuer-news/issuer-announcements/issuer-announcements-details/?anId=95941&anCat=1&cs=3004&locale=ar> (08-06-2026)

Inside Saudi Arabia's Female-Led Tech Boom

<https://www.voguearabia.com/article/saudi-arabia-female-led-tech-boom> (10-06-2026)

Saudi university secures five US nanotech patents

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2647163> (14-06-2026)

Najran University Secures US Patent for Advanced Drug Capsule Innovation

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2613645> (16-06-2026)

The Cabinet's ratification of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty reaffirms the Kingdom's active role in supporting the intellectual property ecosystem and contributing to shaping the future of design protection worldwide

<https://www.linkedin.com/posts/aetaeuaesaebabraepaesawaeaaezaepaej-share-7472723070604972033-mZKz/> (17-06-2026)

Saudi Arabia Joins Global Push To Streamline Biosimilars

<https://insights.citeline.com/generics-bulletin/policy-and-regulation/saudi-arabia-joins-global-push-to-streamline-biosimilars-45SOYJSN5FGCZIE5QCBTBIRYF4/> (17-06-2026)

Saudi Arabia and the Apostille Convention: A Simpler Path for IP Documents

<https://thepatentplace.com/blog/saudi-arabia-ip-document-apostille/> (18-06-2026)

Between unauthorized use and an agreement that restores rights

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/between-unauthorized-use-and-an-agreement-share-7474417348226179073-0Gom/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAB4uUjoBeP27iGJs1KXVftfax5QlGWTlaw8 (22-06-2026)

From enforcement to awareness

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/from-enforcement-to-awareness-integrated-share-7475515252907012097-uYr3/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAB4uUjoBeP27iGJs1KXVftfax5QIGWTlaw8 (24-06-2026)

Türkiye:

Turkish math teacher wins copyright suit against Netflix

<https://www.turkiyetoday.com/lifestyle/turkish-math-teacher-wins-copyright-suit-against-netflix-3221794> (12-06-2026)

Olive oil is more than a culinary staple in Türkiye, it is a symbol of heritage and a driver of the local economy

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/hasankleib_wipo-taerskiye-geographicalindications-ugcPost-7472256678323761152-bjIB/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAB4uUjoBeP27iGJs1KXVftfax5QIGWTlaw8 (15-06-2026)

A general introduction to intellectual property and antitrust in Türkiye

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d0efc233-1182-4ced-a7d4-7c5ec3a0b64e&g=d0efc233-1182-4ced-a7d4-7c5ec3a0b64e> (15-06-2026)

UAE:

Bodour Al Qasimi witnesses signing of cooperation agreement between Erra and Kopipol

<https://www.emirates247.com/uae/bodour-al-qasimi-witnesses-signing-of-cooperation-agreement-between-erra-and-kopipol/2148> (01-06-2026)

How to report online fraud in Abu Dhabi as police warn of fake search links

<https://www.arabianbusiness.com/business/technology/abu-dhabi-report-online-fraud> (07-06-2026)

UAE Trade Marks: When Dormant Applications Still Block New Filings

<https://rouse.com/insights/news/2026/uae-trade-marks-when-dormant-applications-still-block-new-filings> (17-06-2026)

Yemen:

Meeting at Ministry of Culture, Tourism Discusses Issues of Poets & Performers

<https://www.saba.ye/en/news3727466.htm> (20-06-2026)

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