

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 113

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News

1. Important topics

GCC: GCC Secretariat and WIPO Sign Intellectual Property Cooperation Agreement¹

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) General Secretariat and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) signed a cooperation agreement in Geneva on July 8, 2026 to strengthen collaboration in the field of intellectual property.

According to the GCC Secretariat, the agreement aims to support the development of Gulf talent in intellectual property through specialized training programs and knowledge exchange. It will also reinforce the work of the Intellectual Property Training Centre of the GCC Patent Office at the General Secretariat.

During the meeting, both parties discussed broader cooperation initiatives and future programs of mutual interest intended to strengthen the regional intellectual property ecosystem and promote innovation across the GCC member states.

Kuwait & UAE: Strengthening Cooperation Against Commercial Fraud²

Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on January 29, 2026, to strengthen bilateral cooperation in combating commercial fraud and enhancing consumer protection. The agreement establishes a framework for exchanging information, coordinating enforcement

¹ <https://www.gcc-sg.org/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/news2026-7-9-1.aspx>

² <https://timeskuwait.com/kuwait-uae-sign-mou-to-combat-commercial-fraud-and-protect-consumers/>

activities, and sharing best practices to address counterfeit products and other fraudulent commercial practices.

The initiative reflects the growing regional emphasis on cross-border cooperation in market surveillance and intellectual property enforcement. By facilitating closer coordination between the two countries, authorities aim to improve the detection of counterfeit goods and strengthen consumer confidence while supporting legitimate trade.

For businesses operating in the Gulf region, the agreement signals continued efforts by GCC governments to reinforce enforcement mechanisms against counterfeit products and promote a more transparent commercial environment.

Oman: Customs Recordal System Launched to Strengthen Border Protection³

Oman has introduced a Customs Recordal System that enables intellectual property rights holders to record their registered rights with the Royal Oman Police – Directorate General of Customs. The system operates through the Bayan⁴ online customs platform, allowing rights holders to submit and manage recordals electronically. Access to the platform is currently restricted to users with valid Omani residency credentials.

The system is designed to facilitate the identification and detention of suspected counterfeit goods at the country's borders before they enter the local market. The recordal mechanism strengthens cooperation between customs officials and rights holders by providing customs with information on registered trademarks and other protected rights. This enables authorities to take more proactive measures against infringing imports and exports while improving the efficiency of border enforcement.

The initiative represents another step in Oman's continued efforts to modernize its intellectual property enforcement framework and aligns the Sultanate with international best practices for customs-based IP protection.

Saudi Arabia: Accession to the Madrid Protocol⁵

Saudi Arabia has deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol, becoming the latest member of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Madrid System for the international registration of trademarks. The Protocol will enter into force for the Kingdom on October 8, 2026.

Once operational, trademark owners will be able to designate Saudi Arabia through a single international application filed via the Madrid System, while Saudi applicants will gain simplified access to trademark protection across the System's member jurisdictions.

The accession marks a significant milestone in Saudi Arabia's ongoing intellectual property reforms. It is expected to simplify international trademark filings, reduce administrative burdens for rights holders, and further strengthen the Kingdom's position as an attractive destination for investment and innovation.

UAE: Joining the Locarno Convention⁶

The United Arab Emirates has officially joined the Locarno Convention, an international treaty establishing a uniform classification system for industrial designs.

Accession to the Convention strengthens the UAE's industrial design framework by aligning its classification practices with internationally recognized standards. The development is expected to facilitate design registrations, improve consistency for applicants, and further integrate the UAE into the global intellectual property system.

³ <https://oneworldip.com/oman-launches-customs-recordal-system-to-enhance-intellectual-property-border-protection/>

⁴ <https://www.customs.gov.om/esw/jsf/secure/esw/common/Login.xhtml>

⁵ <https://www.wipo.int/en/web/madrid-system/w/news/2026/saudi-arabia-joins-wipos-madrid-system>

⁶ <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/uae-registers-over-17000-trademarks-in-h1-2026-as-it-joins-locarno-convention>

UAE: Copyright Framework Highlighted at WIPO Assemblies⁷

The Emirates Reprographic Rights Management Association (ERRA) showcased the UAE's copyright framework during the 68th Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva.

During the meetings, ERRA highlighted the country's experience in collective rights management, copyright awareness initiatives, and licensing mechanisms designed to support authors, publishers, and other creators. The participation also emphasized the UAE's efforts to strengthen copyright enforcement and promote sustainable growth within the creative economy.

The presentation reflects the UAE's continued engagement in international copyright discussions and its commitment to aligning its intellectual property framework with global best practices while fostering innovation and creativity.

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Bahrain:

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Licensing Agreements Under The Merger Control Regimes of Egypt, Kuwait And UAE

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Ministry of Economy Announces the Expiry of the Statutory Opposition Period for Trademark No. 70

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Exhibiting in the GCC? Consider Temporary Trade Mark Protection

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Iran, WIPO underline need to bolster ties

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Authorities bust illegal counterfeit cleaning product operation

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⁷ <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/c18fnwf-erra-promotes-uaes-copyright-model-wipo>

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Kuwait tightens grip on counterfeit trade, closes eight stores

<https://timeskuwait.com/kuwait-tightens-grip-on-counterfeit-trade-closes-eight-stores/> (07-07-2026)

Counterfeiters in crosshairs as Kuwait steps up inspections

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Kuwait seizes 3,800 counterfeit branded clothing and footwear items in warehouse raids

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