

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 79

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The 21st Arab Media Forum featured discussions on how AI can serve as a transformative tool in the film industry

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SAIP and the Fund for the Support of Associations signed an MOU to work together on intellectual property projects

**Turkey:** Turkey continues to showcase its cultural heritage and flavors globally through GI applications to the European Union  
TÜRKPATENT hosted the 16th Design Strategy Meeting, advancing the "Türkiye Design Vision 2030 Document"

**Pakistan:** IPO Pakistan and Pakistan Customs organized a training session for Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement (IPRE) field officers in Lahore to enhance their capacity  
The ambassador and IPO Chair discussed investment opportunities and the importance of Japanese support for boosting IP awareness and capacity in Pakistan

**Kuwait:** Two individuals were arrested for producing and storing 1,500 counterfeit wine bottles

**Palestine:** In August, the General Directorate of Intellectual Property filed 252 trademark registrations, approved 84 new trademarks, and submitted 2 patent applications, among other activities

**GCC:** The GCC Patent Office published the 78th edition of the Patent Bulletin

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The 202 International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property Crime Conference drew 450 attendees from 70 different nations

**News**

**1. Important topics**

**UAE: The Ministry of Economy emphasizes the UAE's contributions to IP legislation development in Cairo<sup>1</sup>**

The UAE's Ministry of Economy, represented by its Intellectual Property sector, participated in the 11th Intellectual Property Technical Committee Meeting organized by the Intellectual Property and Competitiveness Department of the League of Arab States in Cairo. The Intellectual Property and Competitiveness Department was established as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding between the League of Arab States (LAS) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in July 2000, along with LAS Council Resolution No. 6071 from March 12, 2000, and LAS SG Resolution No. 89/1 from April 4, 2012.<sup>2</sup>

The primary focus of the Technical Committee for Intellectual Property lies in establishing guidelines for collaboration among Arab countries in safeguarding intellectual property rights. Its mission is to elevate awareness within the Arab community regarding intellectual property matters, all the while fostering a culture of innovation.

The meeting covered the implementation of subcommittee recommendations, creating a document on industrial property in Arab nations, establishing a regional technology support network, addressing copyright and neighboring rights challenges, and finalizing a draft study on these topics.

The UAE Ministry aims to collaborate with government and private sector partners locally, regionally, and globally to establish a comprehensive intellectual property protection environment in line with international standards.

**Saudi Arabia: Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)<sup>3</sup>**

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property has officially joined the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), marking a significant step forward in the IP journey to promote inventive minds and streamline the patent examination process.

This PPH Pilot Program commenced on 12 September 2023 for a period of 2 years and will end on 11 September 2025.

An applicant who receives a positive ruling on the patent claims from either the SAIP or the IPOS may request accelerated prosecution of the corresponding claims in the other office. Furthermore, it permits each office to exploit the work previously done by the other office.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303201384> (2023.9.25)

<sup>2</sup> [wipo\\_ace\\_9\\_16.docx \(live.com\)](#) (2014.1.17)

<sup>3</sup> [ipos-saip-pph-guidelines.pdf](#)

It is worth noting that the SAIP has already signed similar PPH agreements with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)<sup>4</sup>, Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO)<sup>5</sup>, Japan Patent Office (JPO)<sup>6,7</sup>, China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA)<sup>8,9</sup>, and the European Patent Office (EPO)<sup>10</sup>.

#### Bahrain: Decreased Patent Fees for Individuals

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has introduced an initiative promoting innovation and safeguarding intellectual property rights in Bahrain. This initiative involves lowering the official fees for patent registration for individuals. The Ministry's decision for this fee reduction was announced by Official Gazette No. 3699, dated September 21, 2023.<sup>11</sup>

Through the recent regulatory changes of a reduction in official fees, the Ministry is able to provide individuals with a more accessible avenue for inventors to protect and share their innovative ideas.

Service	Previous official fees	Current official fees
Filing an application for a patent	270 BHD (Approx. 716 USD/106,705 JPY)	40 BHD (Approx. 106 USD/15,797 JPY)
Substantive examination of an application by National Patent Office	280 BHD (Approx. 742 USD/110,580 JPY)	250 BHD (Approx. 663 USD/98,807 JPY)
Publication and grant fees	160 BHD (Approx. 424 USD/63,189 JPY)	50 BHD (Approx. 132 USD/19,672 JPY)

<sup>4</sup> [Cooperation Arrangement between the USPTO and the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the PPH](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Microsoft Word - Draft \[KIPO-SAIP\] Procedures to KIPO final.doc](#)

<sup>6</sup> [saudi-arabia\\_jpo\\_en.pdf](#)

<sup>7</sup> [saudi-arabia\\_saip\\_en.pdf \(jpo.go.jp\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> [附件 2 《在中沙专利审查高速路 \(PPH\) 试点项目下向中国国家知识产权局 \(CNIPA\) 提出 PPH 请求的流程》\(英文\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [附件 4 《在专利审查高速路试点项目下向沙特知识产权局 \(SAIP\) 提出请求的流程》\(英文\) \(cnipa.gov.cn\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> [2022-a59.pdf \(epo.org\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VbGpAvkwkvcTnpfd8Z9D8omdxNBSnL\\_6/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VbGpAvkwkvcTnpfd8Z9D8omdxNBSnL_6/view) (2023.9.21)

## Pakistan: Adoption of New Regulations for Designs Rules

The Federal Government of Pakistan has adopted new regulations for Designs Rules, 2023 which published in the Official Gazette Part-II on March 11, 2023<sup>12 13</sup> and came into force immediately thereafter. The salient features of the new Designs Rules under the Registered Designs Ordinance, 2000 are as under:

➤ ***FEE***

The fee for applications and registrations under the Ordinance has been raised as per the 2023 Rules, and the updated fees are specified in the First Schedule of these Rules.

➤ ***FORMS***

New forms, including the Application Form and Power of Authority Form, have been introduced. The new form<sup>14</sup> requires only the applicant's or an authorized officer's signature, and notarization or legalization is no longer necessary.

➤ ***CLASSIFICATION OF ARTICLES***

A new classification system, equivalent to the Locarno Classification, has been introduced for design registrations. The third schedule of the Rules categorizes articles into 32 classes based on this system.<sup>15</sup>

➤ ***REPRESENTATION OF DESIGN TO BE FURNISHED***

Representations of the design shall be furnished in the form of-

- a) drawings; or
- b) photographs; or
- c) three-dimensional modeling; or
- d) combination of any of the above; or
- e) any other visual representation of design.



Registered Designs  
Rules, 2023-Part 1.pd  
<sup>12</sup>



Registered Designs  
Rules, 2023-Part 2.pd  
<sup>13</sup>



Form D-13.doc  
<sup>14</sup>



Design  
Classification.docx  
<sup>15</sup>

Design representation can be in color or black and white. If requested by the Registrar, a specimen of the design must be provided along with the representations. The design can be shown in one view that fully reveals it or through multiple views. For articles with movable parts, these parts should be depicted consistently in all dimensions.

The representation should not contain lines or descriptive text, except for dimension labels. If shadows are necessary to highlight novel features, they should be light and non-obstructive.

The Registrar may request additional views to fully depict the product incorporating the design. However, new views showing novel elements not derived from the original view are not required. When the design applies to a set of articles, each representation should display all intended arrangements for the articles in that set.

➤ *EXAMINATION OF APPLICATION*

The Rules, 2023 provides timelines for the prosecution of a Design application as follows:

- The application will be examined within two months receiving of the application.
- The examination report shall be sent to the applicant or his authorized agent in writing or by electronic means who shall file a reply to the report within two months from the date of official communication of the report. A period for the removal of the objection may be extended for a further period not exceeding six months from the date of the first examination report made upon requesting in a prescribed manner along with payment of the prescribed fee.

➤ *CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION*

The certificate of registration shall be granted upon the filing of a request on the prescribed form and payment of the prescribed fee where the decision of the Registrar is in favor of the design.

Any request by the registered proprietor for an additional or duplicate copy of the certificate of registration shall be made in a prescribed manner along with the prescribed fee.

➤ *PUBLICATION OF DESIGN*

After the issuance of a certificate of registration, the Registrar publishes the Design in the patents journal and in the official Gazette, on a weekly basis, with the following details. namely:

- a) date of filing of design application;
- b) date of registration;
- c) priority date, if any, accorded under a claim to a right to priority and the name of the country or territory concerned;
- d) name and address of the registered owner;
- e) the article in respect of which the design is registered including its classification number;
- f) registration number;
- g) representation of the design; and
- h) such other information as the Registrar deems appropriate;

The Registrar may select one or more views of the representation of the design for the publication, which in his opinion would depict the design best.

➤ ***EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PAYMENT OF RENEWAL FEE***

A design can be restored if its validity lapses due to unpaid extension fees. The owner or their representative, and in jointly-owned cases, can apply for restoration with the Registrar's permission within six months of lapse. The application requires payment of unpaid fees and a statement explaining the delay, verified accordingly. Additional evidence may be requested by the Registrar if necessary.

➤ ***CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION OF DESIGN (Opposition)***

Cancellation of a registered design involves:

Submitting an application to the Registrar with prescribed fees, including:

- Statement of grounds
- Supporting evidence
- Nature of the applicant's interest

If the registered proprietor opposes, they must provide a counter-statement within one month.

Failure to submit a counter-statement on time may be taken as not opposing the cancellation application.

In the counter-statement, the registered proprietor must:

- Present concise facts relied upon.
- Specify which allegations in the statement of grounds are denied.
- Indicate which allegations cannot be admitted or denied but need proof from the applicant.
- The state admitted allegations, verified by a statement of truth.

Both parties can submit supporting evidence with the Registrar's permission, shared simultaneously. After evidence is complete or within one month of the counter-statement, the Registrar schedules a hearing with at least ten days' notice.

In proceedings before the Registrar:

- Evidence is considered filed only when received by the Registrar and shared with all parties.

Parties must notify the Registrar if they want to attend the hearing.

After hearing parties or if no one attends, the Registrar decides and communicates the decision. Both parties can request grounds for the decision in a prescribed manner.

➤ ***APPEALS***

An aggrieved party can appeal the Registrar's decision within ninety days of receiving it to the relevant High Court. The date of receiving the Registrar's decision marks the start of the appeal period, and the reasons for the appeal must be provided.

**Middle East: Results of the Global Innovation Index 2023<sup>16</sup>**

In the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023 by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Arab Emirates has retained its position as the most innovative country in the MENA region, followed by Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.

Over the past four years, especially since the onset of the pandemic, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have demonstrated significant advancements in the MENA region. Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran have emerged as remarkable innovators in the MENA region over the past decade.

The UAE has remained steadfast in its ranking, securing the 32nd position and nearing the top 30. The UAE was ranked 31st globally and 1st regionally in 2022. The UAE's overall rank improved from last year and continues to lead the Arab region for the 7th consecutive year.<sup>17</sup> The UAE has made a remarkable economic shift in recent decades to become a thriving center of trade, tourism, and services. According to the GII 2023 profile, while IP-related rankings are still evolving, the UAE remains committed to emphasizing the significance of intellectual property.<sup>18</sup>

The Global Innovation Index 2023: Economy profiles for UAE (comparison to 2022 <sup>19</sup> )				
	Value/Score		Ranking	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Business environment	91.7	89.4	2	1
Tertiary education	71.2	71.5	1	1
Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	89.0	90.2	14	13
General infrastructure	58.4	64.6	8	4
Innovation linkages	56.3	47.8	15	19
<b>Intellectual Property related columns</b>				
Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.7	0.7	58	56
Patents by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	0.1	0.1	112	113
PCT patents by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	0.1	0.2	54	55
Utility models by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	0.0	0.0	72	76
Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	1.0	1.0	22	21
Trademarks by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	11.4	9.7	109	110
Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	0.1	0.1	110	115

Saudi Arabia (48th) and Qatar (50th) have both secured places in the top 50. Other Middle Eastern economies, including Bahrain (67th), Oman (69th), Jordan (71st), and Egypt (86th), have also shown notable improvements in their innovation rankings. Bahrain and Oman have even broken into the top 70, while Jordan narrowly misses this threshold.

As evident, the Middle East has experienced consistent and positive trends in innovation rankings.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo-pub-2000-2023-en-main-report-global-innovation-index-2023-16th-edition.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> [Innovation | The Official Portal of the UAE Government](#)

<sup>18</sup> [WIPO to Support IP Projects in the UAE](#) (2023.2.18)

<sup>19</sup> [ae.pdf \(wipo.int\)](#)



## 2. Additional topics

**UAE:**

The UAE established economic partnerships to increase investments and collaborations with both Brazil and France (2023.9.3, 2023.9.26, 2023.9.28)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303192101>

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303201997>

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303202729>

Sharjah Media City 'Shams' at International Government Communication Forum talks about AI in government communication (2023.9.8)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303194845>

The Emirates Intellectual Property Association participated in a dialogue session on Intellectual Property organized by the Ministry of Economy (2023.9.9)

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=685789130248722&set=pcb.685789173582051>

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cw72r6yt0Mb/?igshid=NTc4MTlwNjQ2YQ%3D%3D&fbclid=IwAR3>

[V98WhKHYLmd2oDnKgbpCm7uqq-PVYzXpYpjXQMkt2-4rte77bD2u21kA](https://www.facebook.com/reel/641096241440411)

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/641096241440411>

UAE and Serbia launch Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations (2023.9.18)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303198789>

The Sharjah Book Authority (SBA) is bringing together industry experts for the 13th annual Publishers Conference at the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) (2023.9.18)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303198703>

Dubai Customs strengthens IP protection for brand owners (2023.9.21)

<https://twitter.com/DubaiCustoms/status/1704912638600265757>

Future100 gains 25 new partnerships with investment opportunities, innovation support, legal assistance, and IP workshops (2023.9.24)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303200881>

<https://future100.ae/>

The 21st Arab Media Forum featured discussions on how AI can serve as a transformative tool in the film industry (2023.9.27)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303202729>

**Saudi Arabia:**

SAIP launched the "The Game is Open" campaign to raise awareness about intellectual property, its protection, and its role in fostering creativity and innovation (2023.9.6)

<https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2161/>

SAIP and the Fund for the Support of Associations signed an MOU to work together on intellectual property projects (2023.9.17)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1703397529751036265>

**Turkey:**

Turkey continues to showcase its cultural heritage and flavors globally through GI applications to the European Union (2023.9.8, 2023.9.9)

<https://twitter.com/mfatihkacir/status/1700101714244768063>

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/milas-yagli-zeytini-registered-by-the-european-union>

TÜRKPATENT hosted the 16th Design Strategy Meeting, advancing the "Türkiye Design Vision 2030 Document" (2023.9.13)

<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1701839303309988325>

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/turkiye-design-vision-2030-workshop>

<https://wdo.org/turkey-outlines-2030-design-vision/>

**Pakistan:**

IPO Pakistan and Pakistan Customs organized a training session for Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement (IPRE) field officers in Lahore to enhance their capacity (2023.9.21)

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2607>

The ambassador and IPO Chair discussed investment opportunities and the importance of Japanese support for boosting IP awareness and capacity in Pakistan (2023.9.25)

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2613>

**Kuwait:**

Two individuals were arrested for producing and storing 1,500 counterfeit wine bottles (2023.9.19)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/world/gulf/two-arrested-for-manufacturing-storing-1500-bottles-of-counterfeit-wine-in-kuwait>

**Palestine:**

In August, the General Directorate of Intellectual Property filed 252 trademark registrations, approved 84 new trademarks, and submitted 2 patent applications, among other activities (2023.9.18)

<https://www.mne.gov.ps/newsdetails.aspx?NewsId=6571>

**GCC:**

The GCC Patent Office published the 78th edition of the Patent Bulletin (2023.9.4)

<https://www.gccpo.org/Doc/PatentGazette/Gazette/Gazette-E/78.pdf>

**Worldwide:**

Global intellectual property perception survey 2023 was published by WIPO (2023.9.14)

<https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo-pub-rn2023-36-en-wipo-pulse.pdf>

The 16th International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property Crime Conference drew 450 attendees from 70 different nations (2023.9.19, 2023.9.26)

<https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2023/Media-invitation-2023-International-Law-Enforcement-IP-Crime-Conference>

<https://iipic.org/conference.php>

<https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2023/Capitalizing-on-immersive-learning-to-fight-IP-crime>

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