

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 80

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1. Important topics

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia Steps Forward in Changing Industrial Designs Law¹

Industrial designs consist of three-dimensional features, such as the shape of a product, as well as two-dimensional elements, including patterns, lines, and colors. In a legal context, an industrial design represents the ornamental or aesthetic aspect of an article. They hold a significant role in Intellectual Property due to their creative and innovative qualities, which provide a distinctive appearance to industrial products used in commerce. Therefore, comprehensive protection is imperative for industrial designs, as they are an integral component of IP rights.

As a result, by virtue of Royal Decree No. (M/45) dated 10/03/1445 AH (25 September 2023), Saudi Arabia's Council of Ministers has approved changes to the Patents, Layout-Designs of Integrated Circuits, Plant Varieties, and Industrial Designs law. The amended Patent and Industrial Design Law came into effect on October 3, 2023.

These remarkable amendments have had a significant impact on the scope of Intellectual Property protection, including:

- Defining "The Hague Agreement" and the "World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)."
- Extending Design Protection to 15 years.
- Modifying fees, requiring annual payments at the beginning of each year, except for international industrial models filed under The Hague Agreement, where fees will be paid every five years.
- Adding the applicability of The Hague Agreement to international applications registering industrial designs.

Furthermore, Saudi Arabia has been selected to host the Diplomatic Conference on November 11 to November 22, 2024 related to the Design Law Treaty²³, which aims to unify the registration procedures for industrial designs.

During a WIPO meeting in Geneva, the CEO of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) called for the inclusion of Arabic as one of the languages used by The Hague and Madrid Systems for protecting intellectual property rights. It's worth noting that the SAIP, along with Saudi National IP Offices, is committed to aligning Saudi Arabia's intellectual property field with international best practices.

¹ <https://uqn.gov.sa/details?p=23816> (2023.10.6)

² [Saudi Arabia will host the DLT Diplomatic Conference \(saip.gov.sa\)](https://saip.gov.sa) (2023.10.9)

³ [Saudi Arabia Set to Host 2024 Diplomatic Conference to Conclude Design Law Treaty \(wipo.int\)](https://wipo.int) (2023.10.9)

The newly amended Patent and Industrial Design Law in Saudi Arabia is designed to enhance The Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, offering a streamlined registration process through a single international application. Saudi Arabia's dedication to protecting and enforcing Intellectual Property Rights, aligning international standards with national IP rights protection, and fostering innovation and creativity in the country is of paramount importance.

Saudi Arabia: The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization concludes his visit to the Kingdom⁴

The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Mr. Darren Tang, visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the period 1-3 October 2023. This visit comes within the framework of enhancing joint cooperation and discussing aspects of future partnership between the Kingdom and the Organization in the field of intellectual property. During the visit, he pledged WIPO's support to the Government's cross-sectoral efforts to use innovation, creativity, technology, and entrepreneurship to develop and grow.⁵

During his visit, Mr. Tang held meetings with top government officials and various departments and witnessed how the country is putting efforts to turn Vision 2030 into reality.

He had a meeting with Mr. Abdullah Alswaha, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Mr. Khalid A. Al-Falih, Minister of Investment, Mr. Mohammed bin Abdulmalek Al-Sheikh, Minister of State, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Suwailem Chairman of the Saudi Authority for IP (SAIP) Board of Directors and Mr. Sami Ibrahim Alhussaini, Governor of the Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Monsha'at), wherein his key theme was the reliance on innovation as a driver of future growth.

Establish WIPO's first Joint Master's Program in the Arab region

- A joint Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between, the CEO of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Suwailem, the President of Umm Al-Qura University, Prof. Dr. Farid Al-Ghamdi, and the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, that aims at mutual benefit of all parties involved with respect to the field of intellectual property.⁶

Agreement on alternative dispute resolution (ADR)

- The SAIP and the WIPO also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide platform enabling solutions to settle intellectual property disputes and implement conciliation and arbitration options in the areas of intellectual property to improve rights enforcement procedures and reduce the burdens on judicial authorities.

Trilateral collaboration among WIPO, SAIP, and NEOM on innovation and intellectual property

- Neom⁷ is a new urban area planned by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to be built in its northwestern Tabuk Province. It is planned to be a green megacity that promises to redefine the concept of urban

⁴ [https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2173/\(2023.10.3\)](https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2173/(2023.10.3))

⁵ [WIPO Director General Pledges WIPO's Support in Efforts to Strengthen Innovation Ecosystem in Saudi Arabia \(2023.10.3\)](#)

⁶ <https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1708780191936328018> (2023.10.2)

⁷ [NEOM: Made to Change](#)

development, and is an initiative that has emerged from the Saudi Vision 2030⁸, and plans to reduce Saudi Arabia's dependence on oil, diversify its economy and develop public-service sectors.

During the visit of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization to Saudi Arabia, in coordination with Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property entered in an agreement and signed a letter of Intent with NEOM⁹, that details the active initiatives by the parties involved to improve and strengthen the intellectual property system, nurture innovation including discussions related to the future aspects of cooperation between the three parties.

Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Darren Tang, the Chief Executive Officer of Intellectual Property, Dr. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al-Suwailem, and the CEO of NEOM, Engineer Nazmi Al-Nasr, were present at the ceremony, wherein the letter of intent was signed by the parties.

The letter of intent complements the partnerships SAIP seeks to conclude, stems from its awareness about the importance of empowerment and development in the field of intellectual property, and that it aims to boost efforts contributing to achieving the objectives of the Saudi Vision 2030.

Turkey: Decrease in the official fee with respect to Madrid Application, designating Türkiye¹⁰

The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has established new amounts, there has been a decreased in the individual official fee that is payable when Türkiye is designated in an international application, with respect to registration with Türkiye as a designated country, as well as renewal of an international registration in which Türkiye has been designated. The new official fees will be effective from November 6, 2023.

The changes in the official fees are as follows:

Items		Amounts in Swiss francs (USD/JPY)	
		until November 5, 2023	as from November 6, 2023
Application or Subsequent Designation	- for the first class of goods or services	125 (approx. 140USD/20,996JPY)	90 (approx. 101USD/15,147JPY)
	- for the second class of goods or services	35 (approx. 39USD/5,849JPY)	25 (approx. 28USD/4,199JPY)

⁸ [saudi_vision203.pdf \(vision2030.gov.sa\)](https://www.saudi.gov.sa/Portals/0/2023/09/20230920_01.pdf)

⁹ [https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2172/ \(2023.10.2\)](https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2172/)

¹⁰

[https://www.wipo.int/edocs/madrdocs/en/2023/madrid_2023_28.pdf?utm_source=WIPO+Newsletters&utm_campaign=9ce094158a-DIS_MADRID_NEWS_EN_091023&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e80981fddd-%5B%5D_EMAIL_ID%5D \(2023.10.6\)](https://www.wipo.int/edocs/madrdocs/en/2023/madrid_2023_28.pdf?utm_source=WIPO+Newsletters&utm_campaign=9ce094158a-DIS_MADRID_NEWS_EN_091023&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e80981fddd-%5B%5D_EMAIL_ID%5D (2023.10.6))

	- for each additional class	40 (approx. 45USD/6,749JPY)	29 (approx. 33USD/4,949JPY)
Renewal	- independent of the number of classes <i>Where payment is received within the period of grace:</i>	113 (approx. 127USD/19,046JPY)	81 (approx. 91USD/13,647JPY)
	- independent of the number of classes	210 (approx. 235USD/35,243JPY)	151 (approx. 169USD/25,345JPY)

Pakistan: Chairperson of IPO Pakistan meets the Chairman of Copyright Board Pakistan¹¹

Mr. Farukh Amil, Chairperson of IPO Pakistan, held a meeting with Justice Asif Rasheed, Chairman of Copyright Board at Copyright Office, Karachi, wherein various discussions were held on the current status of the working of the Copyrights Board, since its reconstitution last year after lapse of more than a decade.

While highlighting on the working of the copyrights department in the country, Justice Rasheed apprised the Chairman of IPO, on the number of meetings held by the department, and also the number of cases decided.

This meeting was important for the Chairman of IPO to highlight on the need for speedy decisions for complicated cases which would relieve the public that the system is working effectively and would thereby encourage them invest in their IP Rights.

Other points that were emphasized by the Chairman of IPO was as follows:

1. The need for creating more awareness on intellectual property rights and their effective protection and management in Pakistan.
2. The importance for Law Colleges to educate law students on IPRs in order to encourage them to pursue their careers in IP Law, including the need to hold training exercises with respect to IPR across the country.

GCC: The Patent Office introduced the WIPO Publish System for electronic publishing of patent applications, complying with global standards

¹¹ <https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2633> (2023.10.5)

Under an agreement between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a series of steps were taken to finalize technical updates. These collective endeavors resulted in the successful introduction of the WIPO Publish System¹². This system is tailored for electronically publishing patent applications in compliance with international standards, such as the widely recognized ST. 36 standards adopted by advanced patent offices worldwide¹³.

The system is designed to serve streamlining the exchange of published patent data and documents among patent offices in GCC countries and other nations. Furthermore, it simplifies the access to international patent applications and their bibliographic details, available in both Arabic and English.

2. Additional topics

UAE:

The Minister of Economy visited 'Station F' in France to enhance UAE-France economic collaboration to circular economy including intellectual Property (2023.10.1)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303203317>

<https://stationf.co/>

Khalifa University, focused on sustainability, presents the COP28 model expo and holds over 280 patents, including 60% in sustainability, and 54 patents in various fields like advanced materials and clean energy (2023.10.2)

<https://gulfnews.com/uae/environment/abu-dhabi-cop28-model-expo-among-new-sustainability-projects-of-khalifa-university-1.98481764>

The Emirati Children's Parliament demonstrates the nation's commitment to child rights by waiving patent fees for students under 18 and offering inventor guidance (2023.10.11)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303208284>

Abu Dhabi unites regulators for the future of smart and autonomous vehicles with a one-stop regulatory service to attract global leaders (2023.10.15)

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303209394>

Abu Dhabi Government unveils digital initiatives at GITEX, advancing technology inclusivity (2023.10.18)

¹² <https://gccpo.org/AboutUsEn/ShowNews?id=70> (2023.10.3)

¹³ <https://wipo.gccpo.org/wopublish-search/public/home;jsessionid=6A9BDC44C9A9C0EB3316186970D5E0FB?0>

<https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303211221>

The Emirates Intellectual Property Association joined forces with the Arab Organization for Administrative Development and the Egyptian-Japanese University of Science and Technology to host the Second Arab Conference on Intellectual Property, focusing on countering piracy and commercial fraud in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (2023.10.24)

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=713512034143098&set=a.622300136597622>

An MOU with Korea for intellectual property services in the UAE strengthens their ongoing partnership (2023.10.25)

<https://www.kipo.go.kr/en/engBultnDetail.do>

<https://twitter.com/kipoworld/status/1716252566227767454>

<https://twitter.com/kipoworld/status/1716339215510933660>

Saudi Arabia:

Launching a sub-regional workshop in collaboration with WIPO and the Japan Patent Office on IP law enforcement for GCC officials (2023.10.2, 2023.10.3, 2023.10.31)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1708811878594486764>

<https://www.jpo.go.jp/news/ugoki/202310/2023103103.html>

https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/dg_tang/news/2023/news_0043.html

SAIP and KIPO signed a deep-line cooperation agreement (2023.10.25)

<https://www.kipo.go.kr/en/engBultnDetail.do>

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1716088200303714773>

<https://twitter.com/kipoworld/status/1716339215510933660>

Turkey:

Geographical Indication Registration Certificates issued for Çerkeş Water Pastry, Çerkeş Cookie and Kuyucak Orange (2023.10.10, 2023.10.25)

<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1711703227354243556>

<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1717153659652305244>

Cooperation Protocol signed between Turkish Industrial Property Valuation Engineering and Consultancy Services Inc. (TÜRKSMĐ) and Kastamonu University to enhance commercialization support for patent and brand valuation, and portfolio management (2023.10.19)

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/haberler/turksmd-ile-kastamonu-universitesi-arasinda-is-birligi>

AIPPI World Congress, with over 2,000 participants, addressed international intellectual property law (2023.10.22)

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/aippi-world-congress-has-opened-its-doors>

Pakistan:

The Chair of the Intellectual Property Organization visited Institute of Business Management (IOBM) to emphasize the inclusion of Intellectual Property Rights in the university curriculum (2023.10.6)

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2631>

IPO-Pakistan and WIPO organized an event concerning Sindhri Mango, a recognized Geographical Indication (2023.10.19)

https://twitter.com/pakistan_ipo/status/1714906812590489805

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2641>

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2643>

Pakistan's UN Ambassador in Geneva met IPO-Pakistan's Chair to emphasize cooperation between IPO-Pakistan, Pakistan's UN Mission, and government ministries for IP rights promotion (2023.10.20)

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2650>

Qatar:

MoU was signed with WIPO to help SMEs in the State enhance their use of IP in business strategies (2023.10.25)

<https://twitter.com/MOCIQatar/status/1717049613566328833>

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