

**Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 83**

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## **News**

### **1. Important topics**

#### **UAE: UAE Patent Office announces new regulations on patents effective from January 15<sup>1</sup>**

In a session with local IP agents on December 25, 2023, the UAE Patent Office announced forthcoming regulations on patents in the UAE.

The implementation of these new regulations is scheduled to commence on January 15, 2024. Notable points highlighted by the MOE expert include the following:

- 1) Clients should submit any outstanding documents at the time of application filing, if feasible. Filing amendments within 90 days will incur a fee using the portal's Amendment service. Arabic translations following the application filing will be subject to an official fee per submission.
- 2) The commercial registration or certificate of a corporation if it is issued outside the UAE, could be only certified by the issuance department, and no need to be notarized.
- 3) SME filing fees are applicable only for the UAE companies that hold certificates from a government department showing that this is an SME project.
- 4) The express examination will incur a fee as per the re-structured schedule of patent and design fees, and the examination results will be issued within 6 months. After the payment of the express examination, the result of the examination will be issued within 6 months from the date of the payment. However, this depends on the ministry's capacity to receive or stop the express examination.  
The start date of the express examination service not yet decided by the patent office.
- 5) Examination fees can be refundable, only in case the examination was not carried out. The examination fees will depend on the number of claims, and the electronic portal will automatically calculate the fees.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://intra.jetro.go.jp/dav/newsletter/dubai/2024/UAE\\_Patent\\_Regulation\\_Jan\\_15\\_2024.pdf](https://intra.jetro.go.jp/dav/newsletter/dubai/2024/UAE_Patent_Regulation_Jan_15_2024.pdf)

- 6) The online portal will show the registered agent for the application to avoid paying the annuity twice.
- 7) If an application surpasses the designated deadline, restoration is still possible, but a new late filing fee will be charged for each month it exceeds.  
Restoration applies only to registered applications, not pending ones. However, if a pending application lacks maintenance through annuity payments or if the agent fails to respond to examiner requirements promptly, it will incur fines and ultimately lapse after 9 months.
- 8) The Change of Agent can now be facilitated through a new mechanism, wherein the new agent has the option to request the patent office to link their portal account to the specific application. Additionally, they can request the dismissal of the previous agent associated with the application by paying the required fee for the agent change.
- 9) Any minor errors in the application should be identified during the second round of examination, and the examiner will be the authority to determine the nature of these minor errors.

In 2025, the patent office plans to issue examination results within one year from the filing date by outsourcing the examination process outside the UAE.

### **UAE: Dubai Customs setting records in performance, earning innovation awards, and making significant community impact in 2023<sup>2</sup>**

The continuous growth of the UAE's role as a global trade hub and its influential position in the world economy. Emphasizing the significance of the "Economic Principles of the UAE" document, approved by the government, he highlighted its role as a guide for achieving global Emirati leadership and a sustainable national economy. Dubai Customs, aligning with the UAE's goals, achieved a remarkable performance in 2023, processing over 30.4 million customs transactions, marking a 17.5% growth from 2022. This success is attributed to ongoing initiatives like the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements program.

Dubai Customs' goals in connection with the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33)<sup>3</sup>, focus on increasing foreign trade volume, adding cities to the trade map, and fostering connections with business partners. The department introduced digital initiatives, such as the "Cargo Status Tracking" project and the "Post Audit Robotic Process Automation (PCA-RPA)" initiative, to streamline operations. Dubai Customs received several accolades, including the Global Customs Innovation Award for its Cross-Border E-Commerce project. In 2023, Dubai Customs handled approximately 333 intellectual property dispute cases, addressing over 15 million counterfeit goods valued at around AED 73.4 million. The recycling efforts involved 694,000 pieces through 122 operations.<sup>4</sup>

Throughout the year, the department organized workshops and awareness events on intellectual property, involving participants from diverse categories to promote awareness and underscore the significance of combating counterfeit goods for the nation's economy and public health.

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<sup>2</sup> [MEDIA CENTRE News Detail \(dubaicustoms.gov.ae\) \(2024.1.24\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Dubai Economic Agenda D33 | The Official Portal of the UAE Government](#)

<sup>4</sup> [WAM - Emirates News Agency \(2024.1.23\)](#)

## **Saudi Arabia: Commencing the operations of the National Platform for Intellectual Property Rights Exchange (ATM) project<sup>5</sup>**

As part of the National Intellectual Property Strategy initiatives, the initiation of the National Platform for the Exchange of Intellectual Property Rights, known as the "ATM" project, has been announced.

The ATM platform aims to encourage creativity and innovation in the face of new technologies and creative industries. It simplifies the process of buying and selling intellectual property assets in a secure online space for creators and innovators. This helps boost investments in intellectual property with transparency and reliability. The platform also offers additional services, like creating a national registry of service providers and licensed practitioners in fields related to intellectual property, such as evaluation and mediation. This makes it easier for people to access these services and streamline transactions.

## **Saudi Arabia: The participation in proposing additions to the Locarno classification, Saudi Arabia achieved a 78% acceptance rate<sup>6</sup>**

During the inaugural participation of Saudi Arabia in proposing additions to the Locarno classification, 78% of the submissions were accepted in the meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Locarno Union<sup>7</sup> at the WIPO. Notable accepted proposals include women's abayas, men's headbands, fire extinguisher efficiency sensors, and prayer rugs.<sup>8</sup>

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia deposited its instrument of accession to the Locarno Agreement on September 3, 2020, effective from December 3, 2020.<sup>9</sup>

## **Yemen: Filing a new trademark application in the Sana'a Trademark Office**

The filing regulations at the Sanaa Trademark Office have been updated and all intellectual property offices have been verbally notified. According to the new guidelines, a trademark application can now cover up to four products within a given class. If there are more than four products or services falling under the same class, a new application for the same trademark in that class must be submitted, incorporating the additional four products. This procedure has already been put into effect.

Moreover, the office has introduced an electronic submission system, allowing applicants to submit their applications through the Ministry of Industry and Trade's electronic portal.

## **Libya: Official fees have been revised with the adoption of the new Executive Regulations under Trademark Law No. 26<sup>10</sup>**

<sup>5</sup> إطلاق أعمال مشروع المنصة الوطنية لتبادل حقوق الملكية الفكرية (أتم) [saip.gov.sa](http://saip.gov.sa) (2024.1.4)

<sup>6</sup> في أول مشاركة للمملكة في تقديم مقترحات لإدراجها في تصنيف لوكارنو، تم قبول 78% من المقترحات خلال اجتماع " on X: الملكية الفكرية <https://t.co/fcjWT3Ag9E>" / X (twitter.com) (2024.1.22) لجنة خبراء اتحاد لوكارنو في المنظمة العالمية للملكية الفكرية

<sup>7</sup> [Committee of Experts of the Locarno Union \(wipo.int\)](http://wipo.int)

<sup>8</sup> [pdf \(wipo.int\)](http://wipo.int)

<sup>9</sup> [TREATY/LOCARNO/72: \[Locarno Agreement\] Accession by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia \(wipo.int\) \(2020.9.3\)](http://wipo.int)

<sup>10</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aqS19V7Dlq6bZmrZzgxqNsaCGP4hla06/view>

Starting from January 17, 2024, there will be a change in the official fees for trademarks, in accordance with Libya Decision No. 26 for the year 2024.

The new regulations cover deficiencies in trademark law, including aspects such as eligible marks, registration procedures, the expiration of property rights, mortgages, and disputes arising from trademark registration, renewal, and cancellation.

Some of the official fees and requirements are as follows;

	<b>Official fees in LYD</b>	<b>Official fees in USD (JPY)</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
<b>Search applications</b>			
Search for one trademark in one class	200	USD 60 (Approx. JPY 8,900)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One print of the mark by email.</li> <li>- The list of goods to be covered by the application</li> </ul>
Each additional class	200	USD 60 (Approx. JPY 8,900)	
<b>Trademark applications</b>			
Filing a trademark application in one class	100	USD 30 (Approx. JPY 4,400)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The POA should be signed and notarized by the trademark owner and legalized up to the Libyan Consulate in the owner home country.</li> <li>- An extract of the entry of the applicant company in the Commercial Register legalized up to the Libyan Consulate.</li> <li>- The Name, address, nationality, and business of the applicant.</li> <li>- One print of the mark by email.</li> </ul>
Filing a trademark in each additional class	100	USD 30 (Approx. JPY 4,400)	
Publication in the Libyan Official Gazette	250	USD 72 (Approx. JPY 10,600)	
Registration fees of a trademark	300	USD 86 (Approx. JPY 12,700)	

## **2. Additional topics:**

### **UAE:**

Dewa's innovative clean energy storage technology and groundbreaking patents (2024.1.7)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/dewas-adoption-of-clean-energy-storage-technologies-enhances-energy-security-in-dubai>

Residents targeted by counterfeit websites, emphasizing proactive measures for fraud prevention (2024.1.10)

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/dubai-residents-lose-thousands-of-dirhams-to-fake-rta-global-village-websites>

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/transport/dubai-rta-issues-warning-after-khaleej-times-exposes-deceptive-nol-card-scam>

Abu Dhabi University (ADU) collaborates to launch a scientific research center, promoting the development of commercialized intellectual property (2024.1.17)

<https://wam.ae/en/article/b1744kh-adu-united-saqer-group-collaborate-establish>

Dubai Future Foundation (DFF) strengthens global ties at World Economic Forum 2024, focus on AI and intellectual property rights (2024.1.18)

<https://wam.ae/en/article/b17pjxp-dff-strengthens-global-partnerships-vital-sectors>

Emirates Reprographic Rights Association initiates studies on safeguarding writers' and publishers' rights following WIPO standards (2024.1.18)

<https://wam.ae/en/article/b1a3aoe-emirates-reprographic-rights-association-launches>

American University of Sharjah (AUS) granted US patent for breast cancer therapy with reduced side effects (2024.1.19)

<https://wam.ae/en/article/13q13ia-aus-secures-patent-from-patent-and-trademark>

Dubai Customs hosts Intellectual Property Program participants, emphasizing rights protection and counterfeit goods combat (2024.1.24)

<https://twitter.com/DubaiCustoms/status/1750087915894341848>

<https://twitter.com/DubaiCustoms/status/1750087289630314770>

UAE initiates project for SME financing, introduces 'Patent Incubator' to support intellectuals and talents

(2024.1.25)

<https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/gcc/uae-sets-up-special-project-to-extend-financing-to-smes-start-ups-ugnu866l>

### **Saudi Arabia:**

MOC in industrial property approved between SAIP and the Moroccan Office of Industrial and

Commercial Property (2023.12.26)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1739634996241973665>

<https://twitter.com/aalswailem/status/1739631608490025260>

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2019833>

SAIP board designates 'Saudi Arabia' as state property, introduces new controls for trademark registration

(2023.12.30)

<https://www.zawya.com/en/legal/regulations/saip-adopts-new-trademark-registration-guidelines-for-saudi-arabia-e2k4pesp>

Council of Ministers approves draft MOU for the establishment of WIPO trust fund for the Kingdom

(2024.1.2)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1742270117939916994>

Saudi's Permanent Representative to the Arab League holds discussions on legal cooperation, intellectual property, and competitiveness strategies (2024.1.2)

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2023373>

Destruction and recycling of 11,000+ intellectual property violations in cooperation with Riyadh

Municipality (2024.1.12)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1745767290635739485>



SAIP advances to fifth place in Digital Transformation Measurement Index 2023 (2024.1.18)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1747875857501200797>

Trademark Owners Protection Council collaborates with international companies to address enforcement challenges (2024.1.23)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1749863577010286992>

Collaborative alliances in intellectual property forged by King Fahd National Library and King Abdulaziz Department with SAIP (2024.1.23)

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1749797069475422563>

<https://twitter.com/SAIPKSA/status/1749796806618431808>

### **Turkey:**

Turkey aims for global leadership in patent applications through high-tech and R&D Initiatives (2023.12.22)

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/turkiye-continues-its-rise-in-the-world-in-patent-applications>

Turkey's global position, leading in trademark and design applications, prioritizing Geographical Indications for export potential (2024.1.3, 2024.1.11, 2024.1.15, 2024.1.18)

<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1742429990182850659>

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/en/news/178th-anniversary-of-agricultural-education-and-training>

<https://twitter.com/TURKPATENT/status/1746823602664530021>

<https://twitter.com/mzekidurak/status/1747874304539107399>

<https://twitter.com/mzekidurak/status/1748004092088037746>

<https://twitter.com/mzekidurak/status/1747963241211281410>

### **Pakistan:**

IPO Pakistan and Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) collaborate for digitalization and automation (2023.12.26)

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2728>

IPO-Pakistan visits flood-stricken Pono Village, emphasizes intellectual property's role in sustainability and resilience (2023.12.28)

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2733>

<https://ipo.gov.pk/node/2735>

**Bahrain:**

Arabian Gulf University (AGU) advances cybersecurity, filing patents for innovative devices (2024.1.10)

<https://www.zawya.com/en/world/middle-east/agus-new-cybersecurity-devices-in-bid-for-patent-in-bahrain-dhqdwbyb0>

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