

جمعية المجتمع العربي للوساطة والتحكيم في الملكية الفكرية
Arab Intellectual Property Mediation and Arbitration Society



Ceremony for Publicizing the Arab Centre for Arbitration and Mediation in Intellectual Property

**Opening Statement by Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh
Chairman of the Arab Society for Intellectual Property
(ASIP)**

Amman, June 11, 2005

**Your Excellency Mr. Sharif Zubi, Minister of Trade and Industry and
Representative of HE the Prime Minister**

Your Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am overjoyed that Amman is witnessing through this event, a series of professional activities in the field of intellectual property (IP) under the kind patronage of Mr. Adnan Badran the Prime Minister, the attendance of Mr. Sharif Zubi, a man of law, IP and economy and the participation of this elite group of leaders in the professional and academic fields.

I thank God that today, as we approach the 20th anniversary for the establishment of the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP), we are talking about accomplishments that numerous sectors & individuals have been participating in, such that IP -along with its subcategories- has become an essential element of economic and civilized growth and development for Arab peoples and nations.

I recall on this occasion how difficult our task was when we created and launched ASIP around 20 years ago, because of the ignorance within Arab communities at that time relating to the concepts and importance of IP. However, the group of founders, who were leaders in the fields of intellect and economy were determined, and decided to continue moving towards our designated objectives despite any obstacles that came up, as we recognized the importance of what we were undertaking. Accordingly, plans and programs were set in motion to assist us in fulfilling our goals.

Today, this Society is a professional Arab institution that contributes to the development of laws and legislations in Arab states, in accordance with global economic progress. The work of the Society still constitutes capacity building, promoting awareness and knowledge through seminars, conferences, training and continuous education and qualification, in addition to the distribution of professional publications.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our ceremony this evening to publicize the Arab Centre for Arbitration and Mediation in Intellectual Property is an achievement with significant meaning, because it fills a vacuum in resolving IP disputes through arbitration, in addition to promoting awareness and legal knowledge for all interested parties, and particularly for those working in the profession of law. This in and of itself is quite an accomplishment, and is a fruit of the serious labor undertaken by the Society.

We are also proud that our efforts have resulted in another great project we are executing in collaboration with the Center for consultations, Technical Services and Studies at the University of Jordan, to fill a gap in the area of professional qualification of IP experts. This project is the launch of the Arab Certified Intellectual Property Practitioner (ACIPP) program, and this is one of our top priorities; to see Arab experts qualified throughout the Arab world.

As a practical step towards this goal, the Society has taken the initiative –in conjunction with the faculty of law at the University of Jordan- to create a series of contests for simulated IP tribunals, which represents a great example on the cooperation between professional and academic institutions in the realm of human-capacity building.

I'd like to point here to another fine achievement of the Society, namely the release of the Abu-Ghazaleh dictionary on IP, which is the first dictionary of its kind in the Arabic language. It includes approximately six thousand words and phrases, and is considered an important reference for academics, researchers, attorneys, judges, economists and others who work in the field of IP.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

What is most revealing about these accomplishments and activities, is that although they were launched from Jordan, they still encompass the entire Arab region, hence providing a model for successful common Arab action between the private and academic sectors. This is due to the fact that the Society's directives with everything it executes as far as programs and plans are concerned, covers all economic sectors in the Arab world.

With the grace of God, we will continue to work towards everything that helps contribute growth and progress in our Arab region, and our motivation for doing so is satisfying our professional responsibilities, in addition to our duty towards God and our conscience.