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## Syria Issues Official Fees & Implementing Regulations for New Patents Law, Utility Models, Layout Design, Integrated Circuits, Undisclosed Information



DAMASCUS – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) would like to inform its clients that the Syrian Minister of Economy and Trade Dr. Mohammad Nidal al-Sha'ar has issued the Implementing Regulations for the new Syrian Patent Law, Utility Models, Layout Design, Integrated Circuits, and Undisclosed Information along with the official fees.

The new official fees included fees for filing, examination, oppositions, annuities, patenting and other related services concerning patents of invention, utility models and layout designs whether submitted by individuals or enterprises.

Meanwhile, the 131-Article Implementing Regulations included the patentable and non-patentable inventions, procedures for filing applications, required documents for filing, patents transfer, priority right and border measures.

The new annuities fees will be applied on the patents, which were registered under the previous law.

For those pending patent applications, which were filed under the former law, and are still under consideration, the Patent Office has not yet decided whether they will be progress under the former fees or the new fees.

AGIP is revising its professional fees accordingly and the list of its charges will be posted soon.

## Syria Withdraws from Madrid Agreement, Remains Member of the Protocol

DAMASCUS – The Syrian President Bashar Assad issued the Presidential Decree No. 179 stipulating the cancelation of Syria's accession to the Madrid agreement for the international registration of marks (the Madrid agreement), endorsed in conformity with the Decree No. 92 dated March 25, 2004.

However, the newly declared decree stated that work continues with the remaining regulations of the 2004 Decree stipulating the accession of Syria to the Madrid Protocol established in 1989.

The 179 Decree was published in the Official Gazette on May 27, 2012.

## Libyan Trademark Office Update



due to internal arrangements and organizational issues.

Our valued clients may still send us their instructions and inquiries to AGIP Libya Office at [Libya@agip.com](mailto:Libya@agip.com) ; all your instructions and deadlines will be listed and inserted into our follow-up system in order to guarantee the immediate filing as soon as the Libyan Trademark Office resumes its operations.

Meanwhile, the Libyan Patent Office (Industrial Research Center) is open and operating normally.

AGIP would like to inform its clients that we are still monitoring the situation in Libya closely and on a daily basis, the Libyan Trademark Office is still not operational

For further information you may contact Libya Office at: [Libya@agip.com](mailto:Libya@agip.com)

## AGIP Cairo Office Relocates



CAIRO - As of June 3 AGIP Egypt office was relocated back to the renovated permanent premises at the Smart Village. Our contact information became as follows:

TAG Building, A26 Smart Village, km 28 Cairo/Alex Desert Road 6th October, Egypt

P.O. Box: 150 Smart Village 12577, 6th October, Egypt

Tel : (+202) 35370434 – (+202) 35370435

Fax: (+ 202) 35370433

AGIP Egypt Manager: Tarek Al-Khatib

Email: [egypt@agip.com](mailto:egypt@agip.com)

Website: [www.agip.com](http://www.agip.com)

## AGIP Participates in INTA Annual Meeting, MEASA Council Formed



WASHINGTON, DC – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) took part in the

International Trademark Association (INTA) 134th Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC May 5-10, 2012.

AGIP delegation headed by Mr. Luay Abu-Ghazaleh, AGIP CEO and Managing Partner, had the opportunity to make a valuable contribution at this year's Annual Meeting which was the largest ever – featuring valuable skill-building workshops, industry breakouts, interactive table topics, and trademark law sessions focused on international topics; as well as an exhibition hall boasting nearly 100 exhibitors debuting new products and services to help protect brands. During this meeting, Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) Council was formed, and Mr. Charles Sha'ban, AGIP executive director

chaired the first meeting.

"The Council members are INTA Committee Chairs and sub-committee chairs from the different committees of the covered region (similar to the other Councils which were formed in previous years covering the other regions). Main task for this Council to exchange information and coordinate task related to the different Trademarks issues in the region," Sha'ban said.

This is Shaban's second year on the INTA Board and Board Planning Committee, and the first face-to-face meeting this year was conducted during this annual meeting. Sha'ban chairs the INTA bulletin sub-committee for Middle East and Africa for the second term.

## ASIP Approves a Proposal to Activate the Jordanian Arbitration Center in IP



AMMAN - The Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP) held its annual general assembly meeting at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Business Forum.

Attendees discussed several key issues presented by Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, ASIP president including an online survey to gain access to the most famous Arabic trademarks through a committee of experts who will set Arab criteria for assessing the Intellectual Property Rights especially of famous trademarks.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated that fame does not mean the value, but known to the general public which means that a trademark which everyone can agree that it is distinctive and well known meanwhile the value of a trademark is determined by other criteria saying that with this we can highlight our famous Arab brands for the benefit of our economy.

An e-form will be distributed to all companies, establishments, professional societies, chambers of commerce and industry and committees in all Arab countries to collect a comprehensive list of famous and well known trademarks.

Attendees also endorsed a proposal to activate the Jordanian mediation center in intellectual property aimed at gathering experts in mediation and arbitration to market the concept of arbitration and propose amendments on current laws and regulations.

Board Chairman of Jordan International Chamber of Commerce Mr. Mohammad Asfour suggested holding a seminar with ASIP on arbitration in IP.

It was also endorsed to change the name of the Arab Intellectual Property Mediation and Arbitration Society (AIPMAS) to become the Arab Society for Intellectual Property – Jordan and to carry out all the required legal procedures.

Attendees were also briefed on the latest development concerning the acceptance of ASIP application by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) for establishing the fifth accredited center globally which aims to settle domain names dispute online. The application was approved and the project is in its final stages of being accredited.

After going through the Society's annual report, the assembly discussed and endorsed the budget 2010 and 2011 which showed a deficit that was covered by Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh.

A total of 36 new members from around the Arab countries joined ASIP. The upcoming meetings will be held at the end of this year.

## New gTLD Name Applications Revealed

MARINA DEL REY, CA – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) would like to inform its clients that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) on June 13, 2012 revealed who has applied for which generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) names in what is expected to become the largest expansion in the history of the Internet's Domain Name System.

A total of 1,930 new gTLD applications were received during the application period of the new generic Top-Level Domain program, 643 among them represent brands.

ICANN Senior Vice President Kurt Pritz noted that the applications will now be subject to a public comment and objection period, and a rigorous, objective and independent evaluation system.

"A 60-day comment period begins today, allowing anyone in the world to submit

comments on any application, and the evaluation panels will consider them," said Pritz. "If anyone objects to an application and believes they have the grounds to do so, they can file a formal objection to the application. And they will have seven months to do that."

Of the 1,930 applications received:

- 66 are geographic name applications.
- 116 applications are for Internationalized Domain Names, or IDNs, for strings in scripts such as Arabic, Chinese, and Cyrillic.

Applications were received from 60 countries and territories, broken down by ICANN's geographic regions;

- 911 from North America.
- 675 from Europe.
- 303 are from Asia-Pacific.
- 24 from Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 17 from Africa.

Applications from Latin America/Caribbean and Africa would be the first gTLDs ever from those regions.

ICANN will start evaluating the applications in batches: 500 in the first batch and 400 in subsequent batches. Placement in batches will be determined by batching preference, secondary timestamp score, geographic location, and contention among identical and "similar" applications.

The full list of the new applications can be found on this URL: <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/application-results/strings-1200utc-13jun12-en>

AGIP advises all to check them to see in case any new requested gTLD is similar to their brand or trademark.

For more information, kindly email us at: [agip@agip.com](mailto:agip@agip.com)

## WIPO Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances Concluded

BEIJING - The diplomatic conference to finalize a new treaty for audiovisual performers was successfully concluded on June 26, 2012 as negotiators from World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)'s member states signed the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances— so-named in recognition of the city that hosted the final round of negotiations.

The new treaty brings audiovisual performers into the fold of the international copyright framework in a comprehensive way, for the first time.

Welcoming the excellent atmosphere that characterized the talks, WIPO Director General Francis Gurry thanked the Government of China and the Municipality of Beijing for the outstanding organization of the Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of Audiovisual Performances which met from June 20 to 26, 2012. He expressed gratitude particularly to the

National Copyright Administration of China (NCAC) and the Municipality of Beijing for taking the lead in staging the Diplomatic Conference and for their generosity.

The President's gavel brought an end to over 12 years of negotiations held under WIPO auspices. Gurry hailed this major development in the history of international copyright as a success of the multilateral system. "The conclusion of the Beijing Treaty is an important milestone toward closing the gap in the international rights' system for audiovisual performers and reflects the collaborative nature of the multilateral process," Gurry said. He noted that "the international copyright framework will no longer discriminate against one set of performers."

At the opening of the Conference actors from around the world – including American Meryl Streep, Brazilian Sonia Braga, Chinese Mei Baojiu and Spanish

actors Javier Bardem and Antonio Banderas – appealed for adoption of the treaty. In a closing message, international actors present at the Diplomatic Conference hailed the successful conclusion of the treaty. Chinese performer Wang Xiaotang, Indian film producer Bobbi Bedi and International Federation of Actors (FIA) President Agnette Haaland addressed delegates at the closing of the Conference.

The Diplomatic Conference was attended by 156 member states, 6 intergovernmental organizations and 45 non-governmental organizations. This is the highest level of participation ever at a WIPO Diplomatic Conference. 122 countries signed the Final Act of the treaty, which is a record that the conference took place.

The Treaty will enter into force once it has been ratified by 30 eligible parties, including countries or certain intergovernmental organizations.

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For inquiries: [agip@agip.com](mailto:agip@agip.com)



## AFGHANISTAN

### *Kabul*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
Plot #56, Street# 12/2, Qalai-e-Fathullah, Kabul, Afghanistan  
P.O.Box:13004, Qalai-e-Fathullah, Kabul, Afghanistan  
Tel.: 0093-7526 00515/7794 64384  
Fax: 001-514-9339 023 (through Canada)  
E-mail: afghanistan@agip.com

## ALGERIA

### *Algeria*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
Centre Commercial et d'Affaires(El-Qods) 9th Floor, Office No. 09-22  
P.O.Box: 143, Cheraga, Algiers, Algeria  
Tel.: 21321341419  
Fax: 21321341423  
E-mail: algeria@agip.com

## BAHRAIN

### *Manama*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
TAG-Org Building, 1002 Road 5121 Block: Suwayfiah 351  
P.O.Box: 990 Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
Tel.: (+973) 17550003  
Fax: (+973) 17550003  
E-mail: bahrain@agip.com

## CHINA

### *Shanghai*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
702 A, Bank of Shanghai Tower, 168 Middle Yincheng Road, Shanghai, China 200120  
Tel.: (00 86-21) 5878 6281  
Fax: (00 86-21) 5878 2853  
E-mail: china@agip.com

### *Beijing*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
P7, 5/F, China Life Tower, 16 Chaowei Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China 100020  
E-mail: china@agip.com

### *Hong Kong*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
SUITE 3304 33/F, OFFICE TOWER CONVENTION PLAZA, 1 HARBOUR RD WANCHAI, HK  
E-mail: china@agip.com

## CYPRUS

### *Nicosia*

24 Gregoriou Xenopopoulou Str. Kyza Court, Office 302, 1061 Nicosia, Cyprus  
P.O.Box: 16270, 2087 Nicosia, Cyprus  
Tel.: +357-22 518610  
Fax No.: + 357-22 518680  
E-mail: cyprus@agip.com

## EGYPT

### *Cairo*

TAG Building, A26 Smart Village, km 28 Cairo/Alex Desert Road 6th October, Egypt  
P.O. Box: 150 Smart Village 12577, 6th October, Egypt  
Tel : (+202) 35370434 – (+202) 35370435  
Fax: (+ 202) 35370433  
Email: egypt@agip.com

## INDIA

### *New Delhi*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
HL Arcade-3rd Floor, Plot No. 14, Sector 5 (MLU)  
Above AXIS Bank, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075, India  
Tel.: +91-11-45122000  
Fax: +91-11-45122099  
E-mail: india@agip.com

## IRAQ

### *Baghdad*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
Mahala 712, Zukak, 25, Building 11/2 Al-Muthana District, Zayona, Baghdad, Iraq  
P.O.Box: (Through the Regional Office) 921100, Amman 11192, Jordan  
Tel.: (00 964-1) 747 0524  
(00 964-1) 747 0527  
Mobile: (00 964-7) 70269 6631  
(00 964-7) 90215 3509  
Fax: (Through the Regional Office) (00 962-6) 5100 901  
E-mail: iraq@agip.com

### *Erbil*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
Ein Kawa, in front of Siemens Company, Home No.109/237, Kurdistan, Erbil  
Tel.: (00964-6) 62561715  
(00964-7) 504237048  
Fax: (00964-6) 62531007  
E-mail: erbil@agip.com

## JORDAN

### *Amman*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
26, Prince Shaker bin Zaid Street, Shmeisani, Amman  
P.O.Box: 921100, Amman 11192, Jordan  
Tel.: (00 962-6) 5100 900  
Fax: (00 962-6) 5100 901  
E-mail: jordan@agip.com

## KUWAIT

### *Kuwait*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
Souk Al Kabir Building, 9th Floor, Block A, Fahed Al Salem Street, Kuwait  
P.O.Box: 4729, Safat 13048, State of Kuwait  
Tel.: (00965) 22433004  
Fax: (00965) 22440111  
E-mail: kuwait@agip.com

## LEBANON

### *Beirut*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
Sanayeh, Anis Tabbara Street, Halabi Bldg. - 1st Floor  
Beirut  
P.O.Box: 11-7381 Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel.: (00 961-1) 753 222  
Fax: (00 961-1) 350 548  
E-mail: lebanon@agip.com

## LIBYA

AGIP Building, No. 26, Prince Shaker bin Zaid Street, Shmeisani, Amman  
PO Box: 921100, Amman 11192, Jordan  
Tel: (00 962-6) 5100 900  
Fax: (00 962-6) 5100 901  
E-mail: libya@agip.com

## MOROCCO

### *Casablanca*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)  
SPACE PORTE D'ANFA, No. 3 Rue Bab Mansour Casablanca 20050, Kingdom of Morocco  
P.O.Box: 19005 Casa El Hank, Kingdom of Morocco  
Tel.: (00 212-5-22) 36 61 19/21/26  
Fax: (00 212-5-22) 36 61 33  
E-mail: morocco@agip.com

## OMAN

### *Muscat*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
P. O.Box: 2366, Postal Code 112 Ruwi,  
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman  
Tel : + 968-24560740 / 24560153  
Fax: + 968-24563249  
Email: oman@agip.com

## PAKISTAN

### *Karachi*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Anum Empire 604, 6th Floor, Block 7/8,  
Shara-e-Faisal, Karachi, Pakistan  
P.O.Box: 13035 Karachi, Pakistan  
Tel: (00 92-21) 3438 8113/4  
Fax: (00 92- 21) 3438 8115/6  
E-mail: pakistan@agip.com

## PALESTINE

### *Gaza*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Al-Quds Street, Ansar Square, Awkaf  
Building, 2nd floor, Apartment No. 8+9,  
Southern Rimal, Gaza, Palestine.  
P.O.Box: 505 Gaza City, Gaza Strip  
Tel: (00 970-8) 282 7947  
Fax: (00 970-8) 282 4156  
E-mail: gaza@agip.com

### *Ramallah*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Green Tower Building, Al-Nuzha Street,  
near Ramallah Public Library  
P.O.Box: 3800 Al-Berah, Ramallah, The  
West Bank  
Tel: (00 972-2) 298 9401  
Fax: (00 972-2) 298 8150  
E-mail: westbank@agip.com

## QATAR

### *Doha*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Trans Orient Center Building, Airport  
Road, Doha  
P.O.Box: 2620 Doha, State of Qatar  
Tel: (00 974-4) 4416 455  
Fax: (00 974-4) 4425 687  
E-mail: qatar@agip.com

## SAUDI ARABIA

### *Riyadh*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
King Fahd Road - Olaya District - Talal  
Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org)  
P.O.Box: 9767, Riyadh 11423, Kingdom of  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: (00 966-1) 464 2936  
Fax: (00 966-1) 465 2713  
E-mail: ksa@agip.com

## SUDAN

### *Khartoum*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Sudanese Islamic Bank Bldg., 6th Floor  
Apartment No.1, Alqaser St., Khartoum,  
Sudan  
P.O.Box: 1623 Khartoum, Sudan  
Tel: (249-1) 83763483  
Fax: (249-1) 83763484  
E-mail: sudan@agip.com

## SYRIA

### *Damascus*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization  
Building Kafersoseh Villas - The Southern  
Highway  
P.O.Box: 31000 Damascus, Syrian Arab  
Republic  
Tel: +963 11 214 0160 +963 11 214 0161  
Fax: +963 11 241 0162  
E-mail: syria@agip.com

## TUNISIA

### *Tunis*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Appt. B. 3.2, 7 Rue Chott Errommen,  
Montplaisir, Tunis 1002  
P.O.Box: 1, 1073 Montplaisir,  
Tunis, Tunisia  
Tel: (00 216) 71 90 3141/ 71 90 1078/  
71 90 4621/ 71 90 8499  
Fax: (00 216) 71 90 9426  
E-mail: tunisia@agip.com

## TURKEY

### *Ankara*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Tunus Cad. No. 15/4, Kavaklidere 06680 ,  
Ankara-Turkey  
Tel: (00 90-312) 417 6095  
Fax: (00 90-312) 417 0091  
E-mail: turkey@agip.com

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### *Dubai*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Mohammed Abdel-Rahman Al-Bahar  
Building  
3rd Floor, Entrance No. II  
Salah El-Din Al-Ayyoubi Street  
P.O. Box 1991, Dubai, UAE  
Tel: +971-4-268 2192/4  
Telefax: + 971-4-268 2282  
E-mail: uae@agip.com

### *Jebel Ali*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Office No.16127, LOB - 16  
P.O.Box: 17191, Jebel Ali, UAE  
Tel: +971-4-881 6996  
Telefax: + 971-4-881 8117  
E-mail: uae@agip.com

## YEMEN

### *Sana'a*

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Beirut Street, Faj Attan, in front of  
Sudanese Embassy Sana'a, Republic of  
Yemen  
P.O.Box: 2055 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Tel: 00 967 1 433 411  
Fax: 00 967 1 433 422  
E-mail: yemen@agip.com