



HM King Abdullah II Appoints Abu-Ghazaleh as A member of the Newly-formed Royal Integrity Committee

Page 2



New Address for AGIP Bahrain Office

Page 4



Online Publication of Trademarks in Saudi Arabia

Page 4



Major IP Events in 2012

Page 5

AGIP Contributes to Thomson Reuters' Report on Trademarks in the Middle East



The Middle East is a large consumer market. As a result, many international brands are very interested in the region, and we're seeing steady growth among firms looking to protect their brands here- Charles Sha'ban

AMMAN- The Thomson Reuters special report on trademarks in the Middle East that has been recently launched gives a detailed

look at the trademarks market in the Middle East which is witnessing a hike in the number of US and European companies that are trying to protect their trademarks in this emerging market.

Mr. Charles Sha'ban, executive director at Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) stated in the report: "The Middle East is a large consumer market. As a result, many international

brands are very interested in the region, and we're seeing steady growth among firms looking to protect their brands in this specific region."

Sha'ban added, "Ten years ago, local awareness regarding IP laws was very low. This was the case even in big industries like pharmaceuticals, where the Middle East has a strong presence. Local companies were making products with no brand protection whatsoever as recently as the 1990s. More recently, there has been a surge in awareness among companies and individuals, and we're starting to see the local IP infrastructure grow to accommodate this."

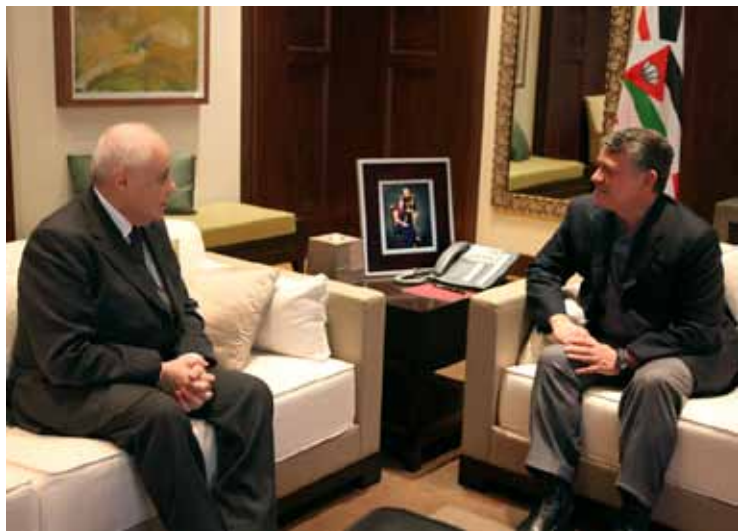
In 2003, AGIP established ag-IP-news Agency; the first and only specialized news agency in covering Intellectual Property events and activities (www.ag-ip-news.com); the Agency

aims at spreading awareness about IP issues in the Middle East, gives a comprehensive look on IP status for Western companies that are interested in the Middle East market and at the same time covers any IP-related issues around the world.

The comprehensive report also tackles several key issues and challenges: How can firms develop successful brand strategies in a region with such diverse cultural and socioeconomic footprints? How should big brands navigate the threat of civil unrest, which has been a constant source of tension in the region for many years? And who are the brand leaders who have already started to forge a path of best practices in the Middle East?

The report can be found through the following link: <http://img.en25.com/Web/ThomsonReutersScience/1001619.pdf>

HM King Abdullah II Appoints Abu-Ghazaleh as A member of the Newly-formed Royal Integrity Committee



The Royal committee, headed by Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour and 11 other key figures including HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) will work together in full transparency to support the system of integrity by studying the Kingdom's laws, conducting a review and submitting recommendations

AMMAN - His Majesty King Abdullah II has directed Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour to head a Royal Committee to reinforce integrity.

The Royal committee, headed by Ensour and 11 other key figures including HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) will work together in full transparency to support the system of integrity by studying the Kingdom's laws, conducting a review and submitting recommendations.

Members of the Royal committee are Speaker of the Senate HE Mr. Taher Masri, Judicial Council President HE Mr. Hisham Tal and Minister of Public Sector Development HE Mr. Khleef Al Khawaldeh, former minister HE Mr. Rajai Muasher and former MP HE Ms. Abla Abu Olbeh, HE Dr. Mohammad Hammouri, HE Mr. Abdul Majid Thuneibat, HE Dr. Mousa

Burayzat, HE Mr. Mahmoud Erdisat, HE Mr. Bassem Sakijha in addition to HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh.

According to The King, the Committee will ensure accountability and transparency in the public sector, administer the proper use of public money and state resources, fight corruption and establish criteria for appointments in senior positions and standards for offered services and mechanisms of processing complaints in addition to other key critical issues.

The King emphasized a set of basic points that would form the methodology of the work of the committee to:

1. Ensure that the administration of public money and state resources is properly done, and place regulations that would prevent any squandering.
2. Increase accountability and transparency in the public sector, regarding budgets, tenders and governmental supplies, in addition to placing a framework for appointments in senior positions and standards for offered services and dealing with complaints.
3. Enable monitoring agencies by strengthening their ability to deter and fight corruption, according to each institution's area of concern.
4. Instill the principles of good governance within the public and private sectors and civil society institutions, to establish a culture of transparency, accountability and concern for the public's well-being.
5. Develop a framework that would regulate the collaborative relations between the public and private sectors.

HM King Abdullah II reaffirmed the necessity for the highest degree of impartiality to be achieved by the Committee while performing its national tasks, and emphasized the necessity of communication and dialogue by the Committee

with all civil society institutions, including political parties, professional associations and the various political powers. The King also urged the Committee to be open-minded as they listen to the ideas and visions of Jordanians, so that the Committee would use these ideas to prepare the following:

Firstly: Draft a document that includes the basic principles and the ethical and professional criteria that would regulate work in both the public and private sectors, strengthen integrity, transparency, rule of law and accountability, which would ensure justice and equal opportunity, in a bid to fight so-called *wasta* and favoritism.

Secondly: Prepare an executive plan that is bound by a specified timeframe to strengthen the national integrity system, accountability and transparency, while institutionalizing its work and cooperation mechanism between them. It will specify and recommend laws that need to be amended, and the technical needs to develop the organizational capabilities of the relevant agencies to carry out their work according to the best international practices.

According to the Royal Letter, after the document and plan are concluded, they will be displayed and discussed — transparently and objectively — at a general, national conference before being presented to the next parliamentary government. That would form a new starting point in our blessed reform process, God willing.

The King reaffirmed the importance of the unity of all the sons and daughters of the country, on a single march where the efforts complement each other to achieve the higher interest of the country. He also said that he has complete faith that this Committee — which enjoys His Majesty's support and assistance, in addition to the collaboration of all the state's agencies — will perform its tasks to the fullest and serve the public interest.

New Address for AGIP Bahrain and Shanghai Offices

MANAMA and SHANGHAI – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) would like to inform its clients that its offices in Manama/Bahrain and Shanghai/China have relocated to their new locations.

AGIP Bahrain office's new address will be as follows:

T.J. Tower – wings 91 and 92
Building 683, Road 2811, Block 428
Seef District
Manama – Kingdom of Bahrain



However, the current postal address, telephone and fax numbers will remain unchanged.

AGIP Shanghai office's new address will be as follows:

413, Tongsheng Tower, No. 458 Pudong Fushan Rd,
Shanghai, China, 200122

As for the telephone and fax lines, they remain unchanged.

Online Publication of Trademarks in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH – Based on the Ministerial Decision No. 1147 dated 30/11/1432 H (corresponding to October 16, 2012) of the Minister of Commerce and Industry in Saudi Arabia, the publications of accepted trademarks including new filing, renewals, recordals, etc... have started to take place on the website of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and not in the Official Gazette (Um Al-Qura) as from 10/01/1434 H (corresponding to November 24, 2012).

This new step is expected to reduce timeframe required for completing the trademarks services and procedures at the TM Office and to end the publication backlog existed earlier in the Official Gazette.

The E-publication is taking place on the website of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the following link:

<http://eservices.mci.gov.sa/Eservices/Commerce/Trademarks.aspx>

Major IP Events in 2012

- Jan 10th AGIP Announces “Test your TM Logo Knowledge” Competition
-
- Feb 9th AGIP Ranked Number One in Patent Work for 2012
-
- Mar 13th National Arabized Domain “.تونس” Launched
-
- Apr 4th Tunisia to Accede to the Hague Agreement
-
- Apr 25th New Trade Names Law Issued in Bahrain
-
- Jun 18th ASIP Approves a Proposal to Activate the Jordanian Arbitration Center in IP
-
- Jul 17th Palestinian Ministry of National Economy Launches IP e-Gate
-
- Aug 6th TAGIUNI Launches Its Academic Programs in January 2013
-
- Aug 23th Qatar Receives First National Patent Application under the PCT
-
- Sep 3rd Arabian Business Selects Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh among the World’s Most Influential Arabs 2012
-
- Sep 9th Japan Ratifies ACTA
-
- Sep 19th Historic Patent Reform Implemented by USPTO
-
- Sep 24th AGIP Morocco Manager Elected General Secretary of AMACPI
-
- Sep 26th Lebanon Adopts Tenth Edition of Nice Classification
-
- Oct 9th TAG-Org Opens New Office in Malta
-
- Oct 11th Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Dictionary of Patent Terms Published
-
- Dec 10th HM King Abdullah II Appoints Abu-Ghazaleh as A member of the Newly-formed Royal Integrity Committee
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- Dec 12th Online Publication of Trademarks in Saudi Arabia
-
- Dec 19th AGIP Contribute to Thomson Reuters’s report on Trademarks in the Middle East
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- Dec 30th TAG-Org Becomes World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers Member

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