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AGIP Participates in INTA Leadership Meeting 2012



ORLANDO - Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) Executive Director, Mr. Charles Sha'ban and Clients Relations Manager and Counsel Ms. Dima Naber participated in the International Trademark Association's (INTA) 2012 Leadership Meeting held in Orlando, Florida, USA.

INTA Leadership Meeting 2012 brought together the Board of Directors members, past

presidents, committee chairs and vice chairs, sub-committee chairs, committee members and project team members in order to exchange ideas, participate in advanced level educational sessions, conduct and interact with colleagues from around the world.

"Every year, AGIP is keen on attending such an important event in order to meet our friends and clients, participate in the different committees meetings, social events and networking opportunities," AGIP Executive Director, Mr. Charles Sha'ban said.

Sha'ban, who is an INTA Board

of Directors member, bulletin chair for Middle East and Africa, chair of the Middle East, North Africa and Western Asia (MEASA) Council, chaired the second meeting of the MEASA council which included chairs of the committees in the three regions to exchange views. During this meeting, members discussed the coming INTA Middle East Forum to be held in Dubai in December 2013 as well as the Africa Rising Initiative.

Highlighting the importance of participation in this event, INTA Internet Committee member, Dima Naber, said: "We have met our clients,

enhanced our relationship with them, and we learned from the informative programs that provide a platform for exchanging ideas, conducting important business and working together in the INTA committees.”

Meanwhile, the Board Planning Committee members discussed the INTA strategic plan for 2014-2017 in order to be presented to INTA Board in their coming meeting to be held in March 2013 for approval.

Saudi Arabia Announces Amendments to the Trademark Law

RIYADH – The Saudi Ministry of Commerce and Industry has issued a new Ministerial Decision No. 1147 dated October 16, 2012 amending Articles 1, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 20, 23, 24, 27, 29, 32, and 40 of the Implementing Regulations of Saudi Trademark Law (Law No. M/21). This Decision will be published in the Official Gazette and become effective as of the date of its publication.

The main amendments are listed as follows:

1. Trademark application shall be submitted by the applicant or his agent to the Trademark Office in Saudi Arabia. The application shall cover just one class of services or goods.
2. If a trademark application is approved by the Trademark Office, the applicant will be notified of the approval including the name of applicant, his address and nationality; trademark image and description; goods and services covered by the trademark. The notice must be given within 90 days as of its acceptance and published within 30 days on the website of the Saudi Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
3. An opposition to the trademark application may be lodged within 90 days as from the date of trademark's publication.
4. Trademarks register will be prepared by

the Trademark Office to include: number and date of trademark registration; name of trademark owner, his nationality and address; goods or services to be covered by the trademark; trademark image and description; date of obtaining trademark protection; date of priority (if any); assignment, licensing or transfer of trademark ownership.

5. Renewal application is accepted without new examination.
6. Trademark Office will publish a notification that indicates the trademark's assignment and includes: trademark's description; number and date of trademark registration; name of previous trademark owner; name of new trademark owner, his nationality and address.
7. Pursuant to Articles 25 and 26, the trademark will be cancelled and the Trademark Office will publish a notice regarding the same on the website of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
8. Temporary protection is granted to trademarks in respect of goods exhibited in national or international exhibitions if the owner of the trademark presents the temporary protection application within, minimum, one month from the exhibition's date.

New Official Charges for IP Services in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH - Based on the Ministerial Decision No. 1147 issued by the Minister of Commerce and Industry on October 16, 2012 related to the amendments of trademark law, the Saudi Trademark Office has modified its official publication charges related to different TM applications.

AGIP is revising its schedule of charges accordingly and the list of its charges will be posted soon on the website www.agip.com.

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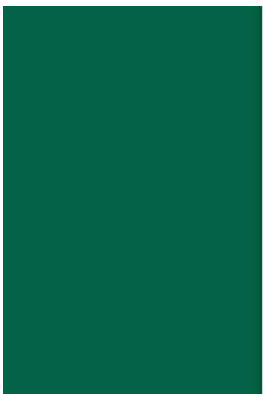
Saudi Arabia Adopts Tenth Edition of Nice Classification

RIYADH – The Tenth Edition of the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks under the Nice Agreement (Nice Classification) has been officially adopted in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, according to the Trademark Office at the Ministry of Commerce and Trade.

The Trademark Office is now ready to receive trademark applications for goods and services under the same edition of the classification.

The Nice Classification is a system of classifying goods and services for the purpose of registering trademarks. The system groups products into 45 classes and allows users seeking to trademark a good or service to choose from these classes as appropriate

Mexico Joins the International Trademark System



MEXICO - Mexico's Secretary of Economy Bruno Ferrari deposited his country's instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol for the International Registration of Marks with WIPO Director General Francis Gurry on November 19, 2012, bringing the total number of members of the international trademark system to 89, a press release by WIPO.

The treaty will enter into force with respect to Mexico on February 19, 2013. The Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks (Madrid system) offers trademark owners a cost effective, user friendly and streamlined means of protecting and managing their trademark portfolio internationally

Turkish Trademark Registry Undertakes Significant Reforms



ANKARA – Statistics from Turkish Patent Institute show that the year 2012 witnessed the highest number of trademark applications filed in Turkey, which ranks Turkey to be the country in which highest number of applications are made in Europe.

A total of 125000 applications were filed in 2012 compared to the number of applications filed in 2011.

In order to meet the increasing demand for trademark applications in Turkey, the Trademark Registry

has been planning to take the necessary measures in order to enhance the current capabilities of the online system and the scope of procedures that could be processed online.

A significant reform resulted from the meeting recently organized and gathered Turkish Patent and Trademark Attorney's Association and Turkish Patent Institute which discussed the proposed developments including administrative procedures especially in the registration process.

In keeping up with the reform, the overall process for trademarks, patents and industrial designs will be shortened, and the certificates of registration for trademarks will be issued online. Notifications to be issued by the Patent Institute will be sent online, and all petitions of opposition, response and appeal will be also filed online.

Another important reform deals with trademarks; the process of trademark registration will be shortened to be seven months instead of 12 months.

In addition, the Registry is planning to publish trademark applications on a daily basis as applied by the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) rather than publishing monthly trademark bulletins.

World Bank Extends Gratitude to TAG-Legal for Contribution to Doing Business 2013 Report



WASHINGTON, DC - The World Bank, a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world, has recently launched the Doing Business 2013 Report entitled "Smarter Regulations for Small and Medium-Size Enterprises". The World Bank extended gratitude to Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal (TAG-Legal) team for their support of the Doing Business legal research. TAG-Legal has previously contributed to the Doing Business reports by conducting surveys and legal

researches in various Arab and Middle Eastern countries and providing the World Bank with the results that were adopted for developing the reports.

The Doing Business Project provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 185 economies and selected cities at the subnational and regional level.

The Doing Business Project, launched in 2002, looks at domestic small and medium-size companies, and measures the regulations applying to them through their life cycle.

By gathering and analyzing comprehensive quantitative data to compare business regulation environments across economies, Doing Business encourages countries to compete towards more efficient regulation; offers measurable benchmarks for reform; and serves as a resource for academics, journalists, private sector researchers and others interested in the business climate of each country.

Ms. Yousriya Abu El-Ezz, executive director of Talal Abu- Ghazaleh Legal said: “We contributed in 23 surveys from eight economies this year. The following offices participated from TAG-Legal: TAG-Legal Bahrain, TAG-Legal Egypt, TAG-Legal Jordan, TAG-Legal Syria, TAG-Legal Oman, TAG-Legal KSA, TAG-Legal UAE and TAG-Legal Iraq.”

Here are some key findings of the report:

The report marks the 10th edition of the Doing Business series. Over the past decade, these reports have recorded nearly 2,000 regulatory reforms implemented by 180 economies. The reforms have yielded major benefits for local entrepreneurs across the globe. For example:

- Since 2005, the average time to start a business has fallen from 50 days to 30—and in low-income economies the average has been reduced by half.

- In the past eight years, the average time to transfer property fell by 35 days, from 90 to 55, and the average cost by 1.2 percentage points—from 7.1 percent to 5.9 percent of the property value.
- In the past eight years, improvements to simplify tax compliance have reduced the time required annually to comply with the three major taxes measured (profit, labor, and consumption taxes) by 54 hours on average.
- In the past year alone, 108 economies implemented 201 regulatory reforms that made it easier for local entrepreneurs to do business.

To review full report, data and media materials, including region-specific press releases and fact sheets, please visit the following website: www.doingbusiness.org

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal (TAG-Legal)

Founded in 1998, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal (TAG-Legal) is a member of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), a global service provider founded by Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, who is a noted philanthropist and a visionary innovator in professional business. TAG-Legal was established to add a new model of legal services providers relying on lasting collaboration with the local law firms and, at the same time, gaining international recognition with a “who’s who” of global and Arab business clients.

It constantly strives to maintain and contribute to global standards of the best professional practice through high quality, hard work and dedication from all TAG-Legal staff. TAG-Legal enjoys international connections and resources in every region of the globe, allowing its clients to smoothly traverse borders, boundaries and industries, and providing them with superior service across regions and time zones.

ESCWA Technology Center and LES-AC Sign MoU to Encourage Innovation



AMMAN - The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Technology Center and the Licensing Executives Society – Arab Countries (LES-AC) signed today at El Hassan Business Park a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to encourage innovation.

The MoU, signed by HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, LES-AC chairman, and ESCWA Technology Center Executive Secretary Dr. Rima Khalaf, stipulates the cooperation for expanding opportunities to correspond between innovators and investors in the ESCWA countries, and to disseminate information and enhance procedures for technology transfer on a regional level.

Moreover, the Memorandum shall strengthen partnerships with regional and international organizations and key stakeholders to plan and implement technology transfer projects along with launching national and international campaigns that support technology transfer initiatives on the regional level through joint efforts by all concerned entities.

Following the signing ceremony, HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his satisfaction for this partnership and cooperation. “This is a

great day that we are cooperating with the United Nations represented by ESCWA and it is indeed a very exceptional partnership to achieve our joint goals stated in the MoU,” he said.

“We will exert all required and invest our expertise in the fields of licensing and technology transfer armed with the feasibility studies that meet the needs of the ESCWA members,” he added.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh highly commended the essential role played by Dr. Rima Khalaf in her capacity as the ESCWA Executive Secretary and praised her as a Jordanian woman.

Meanwhile, Dr. Fouad Mrad, CEO of the ESCWA Technology Center, stressed that through this cooperation “our mission will be easier in fulfilling the ESCWA goals and vision represented by enhancing economic and social development at the Western Asia region in accordance with the region’s special priorities.”

“We are proud to be partners in this economic development effort with LES-AC headed by Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh to benefit from his vast experience and joint vision to accomplish what was indicated in the MoU,” Dr. Mrad continued.

The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was established on 9 August 1973 pursuant to the Economic and Social Council’s resolution 1818 (LV). The purpose of setting up the Commission was to raise the level of economic activity in member countries and strengthen cooperation among them. The ESCWA Technology Centre (ETC), inaugurated in 2011, supports technological development

in all ESCWA states. It is a regional hub for technology, innovation and scientific research through monitoring the available opportunities in ESCWA countries and developing them in accordance with the needs of these countries.

Meanwhile, LES-AC is committed to

providing the Arab world with professional executives in the fields of licensing and technology transfer, as well as promoting economic growth by encouraging, facilitating and enforcing Intellectual Property licensing and research and development (R&D) investment.

When & Where to Meet AGIP Professionals

| Who | When | Where |
|---|----------------|---|
| Nabil Salamé (Executive Director/ Vice President Marketing)) | December 2-5 | XVIII International Congress of ASIPI, Punta Del Este, Uruguay |
| Dima Naber (Clients Relations Manager) | December 10-14 | Geneva and Zurich, Switzerland |

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