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AGIP Contributes to New IP Office in Afghanistan



KABUL - Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) Afghanistan Office took part in a special meeting to discuss possible support to build the required infrastructure for the new IPO in Afghanistan.

Mr. Babu Nambarath, AGIP Afghanistan Office Manager and Mr. Tariq Ahmad Sarfaraz, Director of Afghanistan Central Business Registry and

Intellectual Property (ACBR-IP), took part in this crucial meeting which tackled the adoption of a new infrastructure to speed up the whole trademark registration process. During the meeting, Mr. Sarfaraz, on behalf of the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Commerce and Industries, sought the assistance of major agents to support the new IPO with donation to develop the infrastructure.

In compliance with the request of the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Economy & Industries, AGIP donated a handsome amount. Mr. Sarfaraz received the amount and praised AGIP's Chairman Dr. Talal Abu-

Ghazaleh's generous support to his office.

"AGIP is committed to working in close coordination with governments and multilateral organizations on introducing and developing an efficient IP system. We are also proud to assist in the development of numerous IP systems in the Arab world and abroad," Mr. Nambarath stated.

It is noteworthy that the new IPO will be striving to expedite the processing of all pending trademark applications through cooperation with AGIP Afghanistan to speed up registration procedures.

Jordan Celebrates World IP Day



AMMAN - In celebration of the World Intellectual Property Day, the Arab Federation for the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (AFPIPR) celebrated the World Intellectual Property Day on April 28, 2013. The celebration was held under the patronage of Prime Minister of Jordan, Dr. Abdullah Ensour.

The theme for this year's World IP Day is "Creativity - The Next Generation"; where many

innovative achievements and contributions made around the globe are celebrated.

The celebration included the honoring of "Character of the Year" that marked distinguished achievements during the past year. The event linked IP leading experts who contributed to the Intellectual Property community, in order to discuss and demonstrate how IP works to contribute to the driving of technological innovation that helps shape our world.

World IP Day was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization in 2000 to raise awareness of how patents, copyright, trademarks and designs impact on daily life, and to celebrate creativity, and the contribution made by creators and innovators to the development of societies across the world.

Libyan Trademarks Office Will not Receive Applications prior to May 2013



TRIPOLI – Despite what has been circulated by an IP firm about the Libyan Trademarks Office having started accepting new applications, Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) would like to strongly confirm that the Libyan Trademarks Office has not yet and will not accept any new applications before May 2013.

We shall keep you informed of any developments as soon as the Registrar issues an official notification in this regard or starts accepting new applications.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to receive more information on filing a trademark application in Libya:

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Design Applications are Now Published in the Kuwaiti Official Gazette



KUWAIT CITY– Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) would like to inform its clients that the Kuwaiti Patent Office has started publishing the industrial design applications in the Official Gazette.

The design applications are published for the first time in Kuwait after conducting formal

examination. After completing the examination and accepting the design, the application will be published in one issue of the Official Gazette.

For more information, please contact AGIP Kuwait office at the following address:

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Comoro Islands Becomes a Member of OAPI



YAOUNDE – The African Intellectual Property Organization (known by its French acronym OAPI) announced that the Comoro Islands ratified the Bangui Accord on March 25, 2013. Accordingly, the Comoro Islands is now a full member of OAPI.

Since the Comoros Islands has not yet legislated Intellectual Property laws, right holders who seek to protect their rights in the Comoro

Islands can only publish a Cautionary Notice. Therefore, all trademarks filed with OAPI on or after March 25, 2013 will be effective in the Comoros Islands.

As for other registrations filed prior to the said date, they will be granted an extension period automatically on their next renewal after March 25, 2013.

By its adherence to the Bangui Accord, the Comoro Islands brings the total number of Member States of OAPI to 17.

The OAPI's Members now include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo in addition to Comoro Islands.

India Joins the International Trademark System



GENEVA - India's Minister for Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma deposited his country's instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol for the International Registration of Marks at World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), bringing the total number of members of the international trademark system to 90. The treaty will enter into force with respect to India on July 8, 2013, according to a press release by the Organization. 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.

Minister Sharma said "We recognize that this instrument will provide an opportunity for Indian companies, which are increasing their global footprint, to register trademarks in member countries of the Protocol through a single application, while also allowing foreign companies a similar dispensation."

WIPO Director General Francis Gurry welcomed India's accession, noting that "India's accession to the Madrid system is

a major milestone in bringing us closer to transforming the Madrid System into a system with truly global reach." He noted that "India's participation in the Madrid system gives brand owners around the world the ability to extend their protection to the important Indian market, through a single, simplified and cost-effective procedure."

India is the 14th of the G-20 economies to accede to the Madrid Protocol. Mr. Gurry said "India's accession to the international trademark system, as with the recent accessions by Colombia, Mexico, New Zealand and Philippines, signals an era of significant geographical expansion of the Madrid system, which offers greater benefit to right holders worldwide."

The Madrid system is equally attractive to large businesses as well as small and medium-sized enterprises, which are the largest users of the system. In the midst of current global economic conditions, the Madrid system has shown signs of strength, evidence of its advantages in protecting trademarks internationally. 2012 saw the highest number of international trademark applications ever filed under the Madrid system, with 44,018 applications, or a 4.1 % increase compared to 2011. Furthermore, a record number of 41,954 international registrations were recorded.

Mr. Sharma also took part in a high level policy dialogue at WIPO, where he spoke on the subject "Innovation and Development: The Indian Experience." Members of the Geneva diplomatic community, including ambassadors, took part in the dialogue.

UN Spotlights ‘Bibliodiversity’ on Annual World Book and Copyright Day

NEW YORK - The United Nations highlighted in a press release the diversity of books and the protection of plots and protagonists and other content, while also raising awareness of literacy programs and careers in publishing, book shops, libraries and schools as it marks World Book and Copyright Day.

“The diversity of books and editorial content is a source of enrichment that we must support through appropriate public policies and protection from uniformity,” the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Irina Bokova, said in her message for the Day.

She added that “this bibliodiversity is our common wealth, making books much more than a physical object, for they are our most beautiful invention for sharing ideas beyond the boundaries of space and time.”

World Book and Copyright Day is marked annually on April 23, a symbolic date for world literature. On this day in 1611, Miguel de Cervantes, William Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega died.

It is also the date of birth or death of other prominent authors such as Maurice Druon, Haldor K.Laxness, Vladimir Nabokov, Josep Pla and Manuel Mejía Vallejo.

“This day provides an opportunity to reflect

together on ways to better disseminate the culture of the written word and to allow all individuals, men, women and children to access it, through literacy programs and support for careers in publishing, book shops, libraries and schools,” Bokova said in her message.

The day, she said, also provides an opportunity to reflect on the changing nature of printing, as more publishing uses digital platforms, and the protection of intellectual property.



According to UNESCO, the agency is committed to the spirit of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions as are all its partners, including the International Publishers Association, the International Booksellers’ Federation and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

As part of UNESCO’s effort to support literacy, this year, Bangkok has been designated as a World Book Capital. The Paris-based agency said it chose the Thai capital “in recognition of its program to promote reading among young people and underprivileged sections of the population.”

Bangkok’s theme for its year is “Bangkok, Read for Life,” a phrase chosen to reflect on the efforts by the local and national governments “to inspire Thai citizens to use reading to improve their quality of life and build a resilient and peaceful society.”

ICANN Commends .JOBS Use of Trademark Clearinghouse

BEIJING - The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) welcomed the decision by .JOBS to use the Trademark Clearinghouse database to support a sunrise registration period ahead of its planned open registration period to begin later this year, according to ICANN.

Established in 2006, .JOBS is uniquely positioned as a TLD Registry Operator never to have held a sunrise period prior to launching its initial general registration process.

“Later this year and for the first time, .JOBS intends to open up the types of names that can be registered. This will allow people around the world to register whatever name they choose on a first come, first serve basis, so

long as the types of registrants and types of registrations are consistent with the .JOBS Charter,” said Tom Embrescia, Chairman of .JOBS. “As an ICANN authorized solution to rights’ protections in the New gTLD Program, using the Clearinghouse to support .JOBS sunrise registrations is the best approach for the registry, as well as for brand holders before .JOBS launches open registration.”

“We appreciate and support the .JOBS decision to use the Clearinghouse to support its upcoming planned sunrise period,” said Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO of ICANN. “Here we have an opportunity with an existing TLD to learn how the Clearinghouse might impact the sunrise registration process. It will give us a critical perspective just as New gTLDs are coming online.”



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