



AGIP Bulletin



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Libya: Trademark Office Update and Issuance of First Official Gazette



TRIPOLI - Two years after its services were interrupted as a result of the civil unrest in Libya, the Libyan Trademark Office officially resumed its full operation by issuing its first Official Gazette, providing a comprehensive database of newly published trademarks.

The Trademark Office is currently accepting trademark search instructions, and receiving new trademark applications. As for the applications filed before the revolution, they have been assigned filing numbers.

In order to facilitate trademark registration procedures, the Trademark Office stated that the documents required for filing a trademark application are not necessary to be submitted when filing the application, they may be submitted within one month from the filing date.

These developments are a step in the right direction for expected trademark holders who seek to protect their rights in Libya.

Saudi Arabia Switches Weekend to Friday-Saturday



RIYADH – Pursuant to the Royal Decree issued by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz No. A/185 dated 14 Sha’aban 14340 H corresponding to June 23, 2013 , the official weekend days in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be changed from Thursday

and Friday to Friday and Saturday, bringing the Kingdom’s working days in line with other countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The implementation of the new weekend days starts on 20 Sha’aban 1434 H, corresponding to June 29, 2013 and applies to all ministries and government bodies, while it will be implemented by schools and universities starting from the next academic year.

This decree was issued following a recommendation in April by the Kingdom’s Shura Council, based on the economic position of the Kingdom and its international and regional obligations. This change will keep the Kingdom more in touch with the world trading centers.

New Telephone Number at AGIP Gaza Office



GAZA – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) would like to notify its clients that the telephone and fax numbers at Gaza Office have changed as of June 22, 2013.

Accordingly, the new telephone and fax numbers are as follows:

Telephone: +970-8-2626073

Fax: +970-8-2626070

Baghdad Trademark Charges Adopted in Erbil



ERBIL – The Trademark Office of Erbil, the capital of Kurdistan Al Iraq Region, announced that the trademark charges in Kurdistan will be the same as adopted by the Trademark Directorate of Baghdad, as per the decision issued by Kurdistan Presidency Council No.3306 dated April 1, 2013 and published at the Kurdistan Official Gazette.

Accordingly, starting from the beginning of June 2013, the following will be applied:

- Cancellation of the previous charges issued by the Ministry of Finance of Kurdistan. However, the charges will be interpolated as per the registration phases mentioned in the amended Trademark Law No. 21 of 1957.

- All trademark applications which have been accepted and published will be subject to the previous trademark charges.

- As from June 1, 2013 the new trademark charges will be applied according to the newly adopted tariff. Charges will be paid by each registration phase including examination phase, filing, publication,

as well assignment, change, merger, cancellation, etc....

- The amended Trademark Law No. 21 of 1957 will be enforced with regard to the legal period of each phase of registration.

- Filing applications will be conducted using the legal forms available at the Trademark Office of Kurdistan in Arabic and Kurdish.

Accordingly, Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) amended its schedule of charges which is now posted on the website www.agip.com.

It is worth mentioning that the trademarks already registered in Baghdad could be protected in the Kurdistan Region through obtaining a certified copy of the certificate of registration of the subject mark. It must be attached to a certification letter from the Trademark Directorate of Baghdad addressed to the Trademark Office of Erbil which confirms the registration of the trademark in Baghdad. Also note that this service is chargeable.

Arab IGF Extends its Advisory Committee's Work



CAIRO – The League of Arab States and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, two affiliates of Arab Internet Governance Forum, recently held consultations with the Secretariat of Arab Internet Governance Forum to discuss issues related to the Forum.

As a result of consultations, the work and

activities of Advisory Committee of the Forum will be extended until the second annual meeting to be held in Algeria is finished. However, the re-formation of the Advisory Committee will be taken into consideration after the annual meeting.

This decision has been taken following the success of the first annual meeting of the Forum which was held in Kuwait, and in appreciation of the efforts of the Advisory Committee and the subcommittees.

It is worth mentioning that the fourth annual meeting of the Advisory Committee is now held in Casablanca under the chairmanship of Mr. Qusai Al-Shatti, current president of Committee, and Mr. Faisal Bassah, representative of Ministry of Post and Information and Communication Technologies of Algeria.

UAE is Middle East's Top Brand Building Country - Brand Finance



DUBAI - The UAE has 15 brands out of the top 50 brands in MENA in 2013, with a brand value touching US\$ 14.48 billion according to a recent study published by Brand Finance, the world's largest independent intangible assets and brand valuation consultancy, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported.

According to the study, the value of the UAE brands constitutes 37 percent of the total value of US\$ 39.33 billion of the top 50 MENA brands.

Emirates (brand value of US\$ 4.1 billion) leads the list, followed by Etisalat (brand value of US\$ 3.4 billion). Leading the airlines and telecoms industries in the MENA region, the UAE also dominated the MENA real estate sector with Emaar Properties (brand value of US\$ 468 million) and the commercial services sector with DP World (brand value of US\$ 681 million).

29 brands out of the 50 are from UAE and KSA, constituting 70% of the total brands' value in The Middle East; a clear indication of the dominance of the two business powerhouses of the Middle East. KSA comes second

with a marginal difference, with a total of 14 brands compared to UAE's 15 brands, but KSA recorded the highest ever growth of 11% in total brand value.

Hany Mwafy, Managing Director, Brand Finance Middle East said: "With offices in more than 22 countries, Brand Finance publishes tables of the most valuable brands at both the global and regional level, providing crucial insights to brand managers and broader business community. Being the one and only brand valuation study to target the MENA region, the Brand Finance MENA 50 serves as a benchmark of the Middle East's top

brands." According to the study, Etisalat is the most valuable telecom brand in the Middle East, followed by STC. Etisalat's Saudi brand Mobily had the highest growth at 55%.

The GCC has some of the wealthiest investors and sovereign wealth funds in the world. GCC has been investing in highly branded US and EU businesses. Shell, Barclays, AMEX, Citi, Harrods, Sainsbury's, Paris St Germain and Manchester City are just some of the global brands at the receiving end of GCC investor interest." The Brand Finance study was published in the MENA region in collaboration with Virtue PR '&' Marketing Communications.

EPO and Morocco strengthen their partnership on patents



MUNICH - The European Patent Office (EPO) President Benoît Battistelli and the Director-General of the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office (OMPIC), Adil Elmaliki, signed a set of co-operation agreements in Munich to strengthen the patent system in both Morocco and Europe. The agreements concern, in particular, renewed access to the EPOQUE Net search system for OMPIC examiners, plus various training programmes and exchanges of expertise between the two offices.

The President Battistelli paid tribute to "the vision that OMPIC has developed for the Moroccan patent system and is implementing with rigour and consistency." Director-General Elmaliki in turn stressed "the importance for Morocco of working bilaterally with the EPO; this co operation is reciprocal and benefits the strategies of both partners."

The EPO and OMPIC have been co-operating for ten years now, entering into a strategic partnership with the signature,

at the end of 2010, of the first agreement on the validation of European patents. This agreement, now being ratified by Morocco, aims to make the country more attractive for investors, while at the same time raising its capacity to support innovation. Its implementation will go hand in hand with capacity-building at OMPIC, in both the examination of Moroccan filings and in the dissemination of technological information in the country.

The validation agreement will enable users of the European patent system to validate their applications and EPO-granted patents in Morocco in addition to 40 European countries. European applications and patents validated for Morocco will have the same legal effects there as Moroccan ones and will be subject to Moroccan law.

Internet Society Outlines Framework for Discussions on IP Policy on the Internet



WASHINGTON, D.C. and GENEVA - The challenge of how to reconcile intellectual property rights and emerging Internet technologies and platforms has become a pivotal point of all Internet governance discussions. In its new paper on intellectual property policy, the Internet Society proposes establishing a set of fundamental processes and standards to facilitate and guide policy discussions on intellectual property issues.

The Internet Society urges in a press release all intellectual property policy stakeholders to consider the following minimum standards:

Intellectual Property and Transparency: In the context of intellectual property policy and legal processes, transparency is a significant issue in relation to the way international intellectual property agreements should be negotiated. All discussions about intellectual property on the Internet should be conducted under an inclusive multi-stakeholder framework.

Intellectual Property and the Rule of Law: Intellectual property should be based on principles such as due process, equality of rights, fairness, transparency, the right to be heard, and legal certainty.

Intellectual Property and Internet Architecture: The issue of intellectual property rights should

be addressed in ways that do not undermine the global architecture of the Internet or curtail internationally recognized rights.

Innovation without Permission: All intellectual property laws and policies should bear in mind the OpenStand Modern Paradigm for Standards Development, which captures key aspects of the Internet development model. This standards paradigm supports interoperability, fosters global competition, and encourages standards development through an open participatory process and voluntary global adoption.

According to Konstantinos Komaitis, Internet Society Policy Advisor, “An important point for the Internet Society in writing this paper is the understanding that intellectual property discussions, irrespective of whether they reflect trademark, copyright, or patent considerations and, as long as they primarily relate to Internet concerns or propositions, are part of the wider Internet governance discussions. This pragmatic rationalization is significant in making some subsequent determinations relating to the structure, design, and ultimate approach of such discussions.”

The Internet Society also commissioned Analysys Mason to explore the impact of the Internet on global content creation. The resulting discussion paper, also released today, considered the evolution of the content industry in terms of spending, content development, and device adoption, with a focus on new business strategies developed by content owners and distributors in order to take advantage of, and monetize, online distribution.

The Analysys Mason report found that in recent years there has been an increasing trend of online distribution of content, however

this has not generally resulted in declining revenue for content owners. Although online distribution does present some threats to the existing business models of content owners, it allows for even greater opportunities that are already being exploited and there is large potential for further growth related to the online distribution of content in the future.

Michael Kende, Partner at Analysys Mason and co-author of the report, states, “New and innovative business models for distributing content to a growing variety of devices have led to a recent upturn in global revenues for recorded music, with video not far behind. Our study shows that, by making rights available for online distribution, content providers are not only able to shrink the demand for pirated content, but also expand their markets and

overcome corresponding decreases in the sale of physical content.”

To read the report, visit <http://www.internetsociety.org/content-creation-paper>

The Internet Society is the trusted independent source for Internet information and thought leadership from around the world. With its principled vision and substantial technological foundation, the Internet Society promotes open dialogue on Internet policy, technology, and future development among users, companies, governments, and other organizations. Working with its members and Chapters around the world, the Internet Society enables the continued evolution and growth of the Internet for everyone. For more information, visit www.internetsociety.org.

Q & A on Patents



If someone has an idea for a product, can he/she patent his/her idea before making the product?

“Yes, he/she can patent their idea before production because patent offices deal with documents only (title, technical background,

drawings and claims). The patent examiner can decide if the invention, as described in those documents, is industrially applicable or not.

1. If someone uses our patent without getting permission, what can we do?

Patent infringement is handled by legal authorities in the country which the infringement occurs.

2. What is the process for getting a patent?

The first step is drafting the concept, followed by filing,

a formal examination, substantive examination, publication, and finally, a grant. During the substantive examination, the concept undergoes a novelty check and consideration of its inventive step and industrial application.

3. If two persons work together on the same invention, who will be granted the patent?

Patents are granted based on the order they are received. Thus, the first person who submits the patent will be granted protection of the invention’s concept.

Find Us on Social Media



As a pioneering firm in the field of Intellectual Property, Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) is connecting with its clients, associates and friends through social networks.

Become a fan on Facebook and connect with us on LinkedIn to stay up-to-date on all Intellectual Property issues.

You will be the first to hear about our news, activities and new services.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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