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Sudan Trade Marks Act Enters into Force in South Sudan



JUDA - The South Sudan Ministry of Justice has taken a decision to be guided by the Sudan Trade Marks Act of 1969, relying on Article 198 of

the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan 2011, which states that “All current Laws of Southern Sudan shall remain in force and all current institutions shall continue to perform their functions and duties, unless new actions are taken in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution”, a press release by Lysaght & Co.

There is a draft Trade Marks Bill in existence which is currently before Parliament, and until this is passed, the provisions of the old Sudanese Trade Marks Act are being followed, and it is now possible to file applications with the Ministry of Justice.

Since any trade marks filed now will be enforceable when the new law comes into force, it is recommended that anyone wishing to protect their trade marks in South Sudan should do so as soon as possible.

European Patent Validation Agreement Signed with Tunisia



MUNICH - Benoît Battistelli, President of the European Patent Office (EPO), and Kamel Ben Naceur, Tunisian Minister for Industry, Energy and Mines, signed an agreement on the validation of European patents for Tunisia. “This is a strategic breakthrough for the patent system in Tunisia”, declared President Battistelli. “The agreement will simplify access to patent protection in Tunisia for European patent applicants and proprietors.

Ultimately it will help to strengthen innovation in the

country and open up new industrial and commercial prospects for foreign investors. “The signing of this validation agreement is a major step forward for Tunisia,” said Minister Ben Naceur for his part. “The extended co-operation that it represents is bound up with the ongoing discussions between Tunisia and the EU on a possible deep and comprehensive free-trade agreement. We expect it to boost foreign investment in our country and stimulate national innovation and Tunisia’s industrial development.” Under the terms of the agreement, European patent applicants and proprietors will be able to validate the legal effects of their European patents and applications on Tunisian territory, even though Tunisia is not an EPO member state.

Validated European patent applications and patents will have the same legal effect as Tunisian national applications and patents, and will be subject only to Tunisian patent legislation. The agreement has to be ratified before it can enter into force. Co-operation between the EPO and the Tunisian Patent Office (the National Standardization and Industrial Property Institute, or INNORPI) goes back over ten years, and has intensified since 2011. The chief co-operation activities are the training of INNORPI examiners in prior-art searching and in drafting written opinions on the patentability of applications filed directly with INNORPI. The EPO and INNORPI also cooperate in the field of Tunisian patent document publication.

Singapore: Amended Copyright Act Seeks to Stop Online Piracy



SINGAPORE – Singapore parliament recently passed an amended Copyright Act that aims to put a stop to online piracy and give copyright owners greater ability to protect their rights in the online space.

The amended act allows owners to obtain blocking orders against infringing websites. They can do this by applying directly to the court, without having to first establish liability on the part of

the network service provider for copyright infringement.

Previously, copyright owners needed to send a request to network service providers to disable access or remove copyright infringing material. This was done by issuing a take-down notice to the network service provider. Since there is no rule making it mandatory to comply, service providers need not act on such notices.

India is First to Ratify “Marrakesh Treaty” Easing Access to Books for Persons Who Are Visually Impaired



GENEVA - World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) announced that India has become the first nation to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

So far, more than 75 WIPO member states have signed the Treaty, which was adopted on June 27, 2013 at a diplomatic conference organized by WIPO and hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco in Marrakesh.

The Treaty will take effect after 20 ratifications or accessions are presented to WIPO. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva Dilip Sinha said "India supports the Marrakesh Treaty for its human rights and social development dimension. The speedy

ratification of the Treaty reflects India's commitment to facilitating access to published works for the millions of blind, visually impaired and otherwise print disabled persons." He added.

"We hope other countries will follow India's lead quickly so the Treaty can enter into force and we begin to see real and tangible benefits for the world's blind and visually impaired community."

The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or otherwise Print Disabled addresses the "book famine" by requiring its contracting parties to adopt national law provisions that permit the reproduction, distribution and making available of published works in accessible formats—such as Braille—through limitations and exceptions to the rights of copyright right holders.

It also provides for the exchange of these accessible format works across borders by organizations that serve the people who are blind, visually impaired, and print disabled. It will harmonize

limitations and exceptions so that these organizations can operate across borders.

This sharing of works in accessible formats should increase the overall number of works available because it will eliminate duplication and increase efficiency. For example, instead of five countries producing accessible versions of the same work, the five countries will each be able to produce an accessible version of a different work, which can then be shared with each of the other countries.

The Treaty is also designed to provide assurances to authors and publishers that system will not expose their published works to misuse or distribution to anyone other than the intended beneficiaries. The Treaty reiterates the requirement that the cross-border sharing of works created based on limitations and exceptions must be limited to certain special cases which do not conflict with the normal exploitation of the work and do not unreasonable prejudice the legitimate interests of the right holder.

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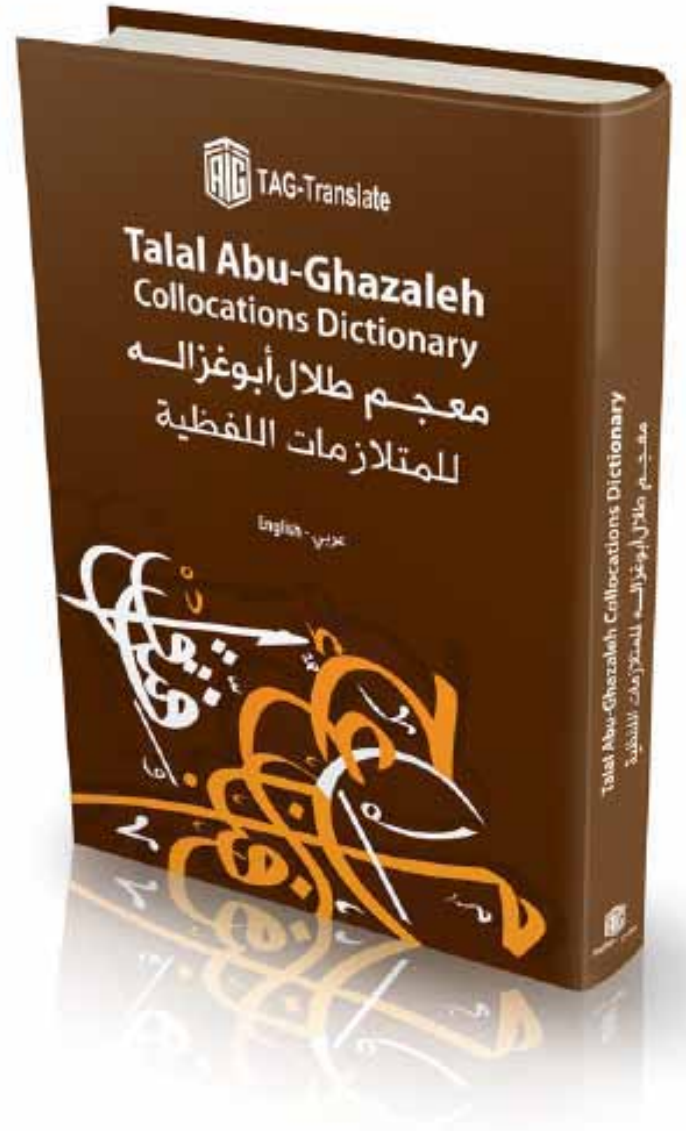
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Mrs. Iman Salameh

TAG-Org Launches Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Collocations Dictionary



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) has issued the Collocations Dictionary, the sixth in a series of dictionaries launched and published by the group.

The book is prefaced by a word from TAG-Org's Chairman, HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, who said the dictionary has come to "unveil the richness of our vivid language, Arabic."

He gave examples of some Arabic collocations that raise the curious question of why such combinations of words insist on coming together to give new meanings.

He said: "Collocations are indeed commonly used words so interlinked that they convey together an accurate and beautiful meaning. Learning collocations will give the users immediate powers of expressions in Arabic and will further attach his ties with his native tongue as part of "linguistic empowerment".

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