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Abu-Ghazaleh Calls for Establishing a GCC Trademark Office



DUBAI - HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), discussed in his keynote speech the threats and challenges encountering Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection along with his recommendations during the opening ceremony of the Intellectual Property Law in the Middle East 2014 Conference held at the JW Marriott Marquis Hotel in Dubai.

Now in its third successful

year, the two-day Conference offers a unique environment to share experience and enhance knowledge of key IP issues in this fast developing region.

In his speech entitled “Protecting and Enforcing your IP Rights to Improve your Business Performance and Revenue”, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh talked about the impact of the so-called Arab Spring on the IPR protection among other significant related issues.

“Since it was marketed on us, I refused the word spring, as in spring it blossoms roses not atrocities. The impact of this “No Spring” resulted in IPR becoming a lower priority for all; impediments to proceedings for security problems; disruption in troubled countries; increase in official fees; lower public awareness; less investment in development of operational programs, and less investment in capacity building.”

Addressing the attendees, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated: “I have been in this business of IPR protection since 1960. TAGIP (AGIP) is our vehicle for protection, TAGLegal for litigation, and the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP) for capacity building and development of IP systems and Laws. Since many years, we remain in China as the only foreign IPR company on the IP advisor committee. For over a decade, we have worked on development to laws throughout the world and on IP capacity building in all countries.”

Meanwhile, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh applauded the Saudi Arabia and GCC patent offices for the admirable level of protection services they maintain, and said that similarly the UAE who has gone a long way in its protection disciplines. “The GCC model of one-stop-shop for applications, while enforcement is vested with the GCC countries separately, cuts down on registration cost in each country versus a single fee.”

However, he warned that there is still a problem of public awareness even within the country of production; as there is a misunderstanding of the importance of protection. “Some believe that all inventions should be free for all as a human right. If that was to happen, no one will invest in research and R&D and no inventions will be there to provide us with medicine as well as all other tools of life and we will be back to the Stone Age.”

To address this issue, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh urged for public awareness programs, while serving on WIPO’s industry board. “We also urged for that in our capacity as observers at the WIPO meetings. Whenever I could, during my tenor on global organizations, I called for a new protection discipline in the digital Era. As an expert panelist at the WTO I called for the need to negotiate an IPR internet agreement.”

He also stressed the significance of information saying, “We all know that information is power. My organization built over the decades a database of all published trademarks in the region and we are planning considering expanding this centralized database for all countries of the world. From our initial launch of services we captured the power of ICT as an enabler and built an ICT-based IPR firm. We are now moving our operation to a private TAG-Cloud, which will be accessible to all the TAG-Org communities as well as all partners and associates throughout the world. This will expedite our drive for global spread from 80 offices now to 100 by the end of 2015.”

In concluding, Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his belief that countering the No Arab Spring would be achieved by Promoting E-Registration (beyond ICT use) by Government & by IP Community; Using GCC patent office for examination and as a model for all countries; Improving the litigation process and encourage litigation; Developing GCC Patent Office into an Arab Patent office by inviting countries to accede; Investing in Capacity Building: using (ASIP) qualifications programs; Promoting Online publication of TM; Harmonizing Arab Laws, and Calling for An Internet IPR treaty.

“I urge the GCC to establish a GCC TM Office, similar to the GCC Patent office, now that the GCC TM law is dawning,” Abu-Ghazaleh concluded.

AGIP Participates in IGF and Arab MAG Meetings in Istanbul



ISTANBUL - Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) Executive Director, Charles Shaban, participated at the Ninth

Annual Meeting of Internet Governance Forum which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 2-5 September 2014.

Under the theme “Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multistakeholder Internet Governance”, the meeting witnessed the participation of many Internet active organizations and persons including: Mr. Fadi Shehadeh, president and CEO of ICANN and his advisor H.E. Dr. Tarek Kamel, ISOC directors, ICC Secretary General John

Danilovich, and the BASIS Chair Ilham Habibi besides others.

The Arab MAG Meeting held two days before focused on the preparation for the third Arab IGF Meeting which will be held in Beirut, November 25-27, 2014.

Mr. Shaban, vice-chair of the Arab MAG, chaired the first day meeting where participants discussed the subjects raised in the consultations after being summarized by the IGF Secretariat.

UAE Issues New Regulations Related to Patent Examination Fees



ABU-DHABI – The Patent Office at the United Arab Emirates recently issued new regulations related to patent examination fees.

By virtue to the regulations, all patent applications filed as from November 1, 2014, have to pay the examination fees upon filing the application, if all the formalities are met. Otherwise, the examination fees should be paid within 90 days from the filing date upon completing the formal requirements of the application.

Iraq Accedes to Singapore Treaty



GENEVA - The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) presented his compliments to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and had the honor to notify the deposit by the Government of the Republic of Iraq, on August 29, 2014, of its instrument of accession to the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, adopted at Singapore on March 27, 2006.

In conformity with Article 28(3), the said Treaty will enter into force, with respect to the Republic of Iraq, on November 29, 2014.

US Commerce Secretary Pledges to Protect a Free and Open Internet



LOS ANGELES, California - Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, addressing attendees at the opening ceremony of ICANN's 51st public meeting in Los Angeles, declared unwavering support for the United States government's decision to transfer stewardship of the IANA functions to the global multistakeholder community and not to any one single organization, a press release by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) stated.

"Let me be clear about this. The United States will not allow the global Internet to be co-opted by any person, entity or nation seeking to substitute their parochial world view for the collective wisdom of this community," said Pritzker.

More than 2,300 members of the global multistakeholder community have come together in Los Angeles, California, for

ICANN's 51st public meeting to discuss the future of the organization.

"If we don't strive to improve our governance and accountability at all times, and especially this time, we will not gain and maintain the confidence of the world," said Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO of ICANN. "ICANN's leadership, the ICANN board and the ICANN community are committed to the best possible governance and accountability mechanisms there are."

ICANN Board Chair Dr. Stephen Crocker spoke about ICANN's priorities, saying, "Throughout the organization we are sincerely concerned about transparency, about accountability, and we work assiduously trying to improve."

ICANN also announced the winner of the 2014 Leadership Award – Jonathan Robinson, Chair of the Generic Names

Supporting Organization (GNSO). The Leadership Award recognizes ICANN community members who demonstrate leadership in protecting and promoting the multistakeholder model.

The GNSO recommends changes to existing policy and develops new policy for generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs). To learn more about the GNSO, go to <http://gns0.icann.org/en/>.

ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet.

When & Where to Meet AGIP Professionals

AGIP informs you that its professionals will be attending the following IP international events and conferences, which will be held in November 2014.

Who	Where	When
Luay Abu-Ghazaleh (CEO & Managing Partner) Charles Shaban (Executive Director)	FICPI Forum, Barcelona, Spain	November 4 - 7
Luay Abu-Ghazaleh (CEO & Managing Partner) Amjad Al-Husseini (UAE Office)	APAA Council Meeting, Penang, Malaysia	November 7 - 12
Charles Shaban (Executive Director) Dima Naber (AGIP Director - International Development and Marketing)	INTA Leadership Meeting, Phoenix, AZ	November 11 - 15
Nabil Salamé (Vice-president Marketing/ Executive Director) Dima Naber (AGIP Director - International Development and Marketing) Georgina Busku (Hungary Office)	ASIPI XVIII Int'l Congress, Mexico	November 30 - December 3

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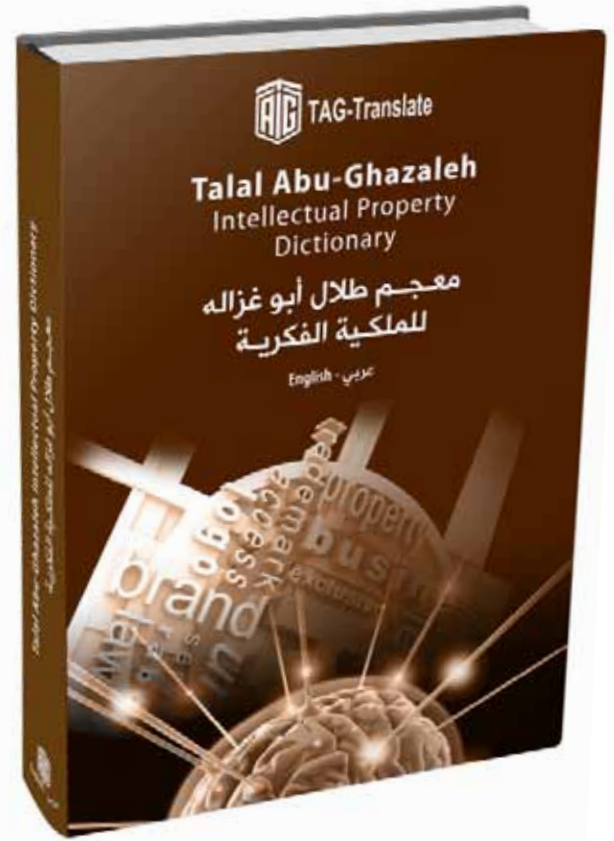
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Mrs. Iman Salameh

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization Releases the Second Edition of “Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property Dictionary”



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) recently issued “Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property Dictionary”, which is deemed the fifth dictionary to be released among a series of scientific, professional and specialized publications. This Dictionary is characterized by the variety of aspects it covers, which you wouldn’t find combined in any of the traditional dictionaries, it also contains the main terminologies that involve Intellectual Property reaching up to ten thousand words.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh stated that this updated second edition of the Dictionary is in alignment with the latest developments in the Intellectual Property field.

This Dictionary mirrors the efforts exerted by experts from different fields at TAG-Org mainly in translation, law, technical design and publications.

It was mainly issued to boost knowledge about Intellectual Property, including; the terminologies used by judges, lawyers, professors and law students, it also meets the needs of businessmen, companies and those working in the field of IP and in other economy –related sectors. This dictionary constitutes a main addition in the series of scientific and professional dictionaries.

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