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## **Increase in Official Publication Fees in Syria**



**DAMASCUS** – By virtue of the Ministerial Decree No. 1999 of November 13, 2014, issued by the Syrian Ministry of Interior Trade and Consumer Protection, which was disclosed just

recently without an earlier notice, the official publication and search fees will be increased as of January 1, 2015.

Such an increase will be applied to publications fees of trademarks/designs applications and renewals as well as the records thereof.

We would like to draw your attention that our own professional charges will be reduced in order to cope with the rise of the aforesaid official fees and avert the increase in the total inclusive charges, as we always endeavor to provide our clients with high-quality services coupled with competitive charges.

# New Law on Industrial Property in Morocco



CASABLANCA - A new industrial property law (No. 23-13) has been issued in Morocco to amend the law (No.17/97) related to Industrial Property. The said Law entered in force on December 18, 2014 and provides for the protection of industrial property rights in accordance with international standards in the field of industrial property.

The new law aims to strengthen the protection of industrial property taking into consideration the continuous change that characterized the protection of the rights related

to industrial property.

According to this new law, prior substantive examination for trademarks, designs and patents applications is now required, a new opposition procedure entered into effect, the datation system (enveloppe SOLEAU) is possible, the regulation of industrial property attorney profession, the Customs administration is now entitled to block suspected counterfeited goods not only for importation but also for exportation and in transit, it will be now possible to file divisional applications either for patents, trademarks and designs and models, possibility to delay the disclosure of a design & model, licensing and assignments allowed for pending applications, acceptance of

patents related to Micro-organisms, new duration of design & model rights, it will be possible to any interested third parties to oppose a trademark on absolute grounds, calculation of deadlines before the PTO.

Moreover, major changes were made regarding the improvement of the invention patent system, the consolidation of the national trademark system, the reform of the national system of industrial designs and the enforcement of IP rights.

The decree of application of the said law entered in force on January 15, 2015.

For more information, please contact our Morocco office at: [morocco@agip.com](mailto:morocco@agip.com)

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## Validation of European patents in Morocco with effect from 1 March 2015

CASABLANCA - On 17 December 2010, the President of the European Patent Office and Morocco's Minister for Industry signed an agreement on the validation of European patents (validation agreement). On 21 November 2014, the King of Morocco promulgated an amendment to the country's industrial property legislation creating the basis for the validation system. In the meantime, a decree, an order and a notice from the Director-General of the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office (OMPIC)

have clarified the details of the validation system, a press release by EPO.

This agreement enters into force on 1 March 2015. From that date it will be possible to validate European patent applications and patents in Morocco, where, after validation, they will confer essentially the same protection as patents granted by the EPO for the now 38 member states of the European Patent Organisation.

Validation in Morocco is mainly governed by Articles 50.1 to

50.5 of the country's industrial property law, as amended and supplemented, and by an information notice from the Director-General of the OMPIC.

Validation in Morocco occurs at the applicant's request.

Validation for Morocco is deemed requested for any European or international application filed on or after 1 March 2015. It is not available for applications filed prior to that date, or for any European patents resulting from such applications.

# Claiming Priority under Paris Convention is Now Possible in Kuwait



**KUWAIT** - Subsequent to joining the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property on December 2, 2014, the Kuwaiti Trademark Office announced that priority claims would be available for trademark applications in Kuwait as from January 1, 2015.

The trademark applicants

will be able to claim priority (within the six-month priority period) from corresponding applications filed in any of the other member states of the Paris Convention.

As for priority documentation, the Kuwait Trademarks Office will submit a certified copy of the priority application legalized up to Kuwaiti Consulate along with Arabic sworn translation certified by the Translation Department at the Ministry of Justice in Kuwait. Such document can

be filed within three months of the date of filing the application.

The Paris Convention is one of the key IP conventions administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It provides protection of patents, utility models, industrial designs, trademarks, service marks, trade names, indications of source or appellations of origin, and the repression of unfair competition.

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## Indian Design Act Amended

**MUMBAI** – The Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks announced that the Indian Design Act has been amended and made effective on December 30, 2014.

According to the amended Act, a revised fee structure has been provided for filing of design application as well as other proceedings under the Designs Act in the First as well as Fourth Schedule of the amended rules.

In addition, two main categories of applicants for designs have been introduced as ‘natural person’ and ‘other than natural person(s)’. The second category of applicants, i. e. ‘other than natural person(s)’ has been further divided into two sub-

categories: small entity and ‘others except small entity. The fees for ‘small entity have been fixed in between the fees for a natural person and for all persons other than natural persons (except a small entity). The criteria for ‘small entity’ have been elaborated in the amended rules.

A new Form 24 has been introduced in the rules for claiming the benefits of reduced official fee of small entity. This Form has to accompany every application filed in the name of a small entity. For subsequent documents towards which a fee has been specified and for which the fee applicable for a small entity is claimed, it should be ensured that Form-24 is filed at least once against the application number.

This Bulletin is published by  
the Editorial Department of Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)

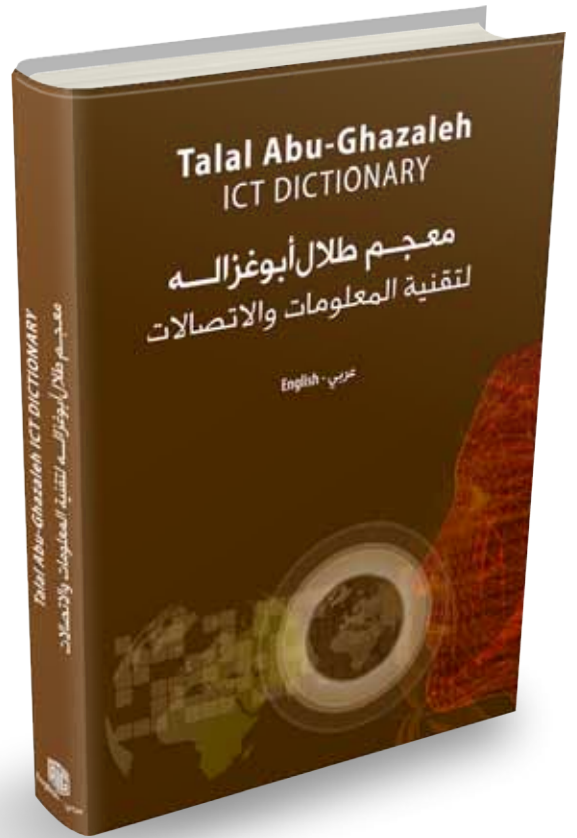
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For inquiries: [agip@agip.com](mailto:agip@agip.com)

Mrs. Iman Salameh

# Second Updated Version of TAG-ICT Dictionary Issued



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) has issued the second updated version of TAG-ICT Dictionary after updating its input and inserting a new set of terms used in daily life due to the fact that past months witnessed the launch of a large number of concepts, terms, technologies, application and protocols of communication.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, TAG-Org chairman, said in the dictionary introduction that ICT plays a significant role in our life and helps our society change into a Knowledge one.

He added that the contribution value of individuals or groups is measured based on the contributions produced by thought and innovation.

For example, it has been easy and necessary to teach the new generation throughout all stages using electronic means, and business, banking and government administration.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh reiterated his intention to continue updating and developing the dictionaries issued by TAG-Org which are, in addition to TAG-ICT Dictionary: Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property Dictionary, TAG Dictionary of Legal Terms, TAG Accountancy and Business Dictionary, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Dictionary of Patents and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Collocations Dictionary.

He also explained that these publications aim at enriching the Arabic language references and contribute to knowledge dissemination amongst students and all business sectors through specialized scientific and professional publications.



# AGIP Offices

## AFGHANISTAN

### Kabul

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization  
House No. 184, Street 14, District  
10, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul,  
Afghanistan  
P.O. Box: 13004, Qalai-e-Fathullah,  
Kabul, Afghanistan  
Tel.: 0093-20-2312688  
Mobile: 0093-779464384  
Fax: 0093-20-2312689  
E-mail: afghanistan@agip.com

## ALGERIA

### Algeria

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Centre Commercial et d'Affaires  
(El-Qods) 9th Floor, Office No. 09-22  
P.O.Box: 143, Cheraga, Algiers,  
Algeria  
Tel.: 21321341419  
Fax: 21321341423  
E-mail: algeria@agip.com

## BAHRAIN

### Manama

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
TAG-Org Bldg., 1002, Road  
5121, Sanabis Area of Manama/  
Suwafiah 351  
P.O.Box: 990 Manama,  
Kingdom of Bahrain  
Tel.: (+973) 17550003  
Fax: (+973) 17382208  
E-mail: bahrain@agip.com

## CHINA

### Shanghai

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
413, Tongsheng Tower, No. 458  
Pudong Fushan Rd,  
Shanghai, China, 200122  
Tel.: (00 86-21) 5878 6281  
Fax: (00 86-21) 5878 2853  
E-mail: china@agip.com

## Beijing

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
P7, 5/F, China Life Tower, 16 Chaowei  
Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing,  
China 100020  
E-mail: china@agip.com

## Hong Kong

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
SUITE 3304 33/F, OFFICE  
TOWER CONVENTION PLAZA,  
1 HARBOUR RD WANCHAI, HK  
E-mail: china@agip.com

## CYPRUS

### Nicosia

7 Efesou Street, Apartment 401,  
1055 Nicosia, Cyprus  
P.O.Box: 16270 2087 Nicosia, Cyprus  
Tel.: (+357) 22-518 610  
Fax No.: (+357) 22-518 680  
E-mail: cyprus@agip.com

## EGYPT

### Cairo

TAG Building, A26 Smart Village,  
km 28 Cairo/Alex Desert Road 6<sup>th</sup>  
October, Egypt  
P.O. Box: 150 Smart Village 12577,  
6th October, Egypt  
Tel : (+202) 35352900  
Fax: (+202) 35370433  
Email: egypt@agip.com

## INDIA

### New Delhi

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
HL Arcade-3rd Floor, Plot No. 14,  
Sector 5 (MLU)  
Above AXIS Bank, Dwarka, New  
Delhi - 110075, India  
Tel.: +91-11-45122000  
Fax: +91-11-45122099  
E-mail: india@agip.com

## IRAQ

### Baghdad

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Mahala 712, Zukak, 25, Building  
11/2 Al-Muthana District, Zayona,  
Baghdad, Iraq  
P.O.Box: (Through the Regional Office)  
921100, Amman 11192, Jordan  
Tel.: (00 964-1) 747 0524  
(00 964-1) 747 0527  
Mobile: (00 964-7) 70269 6631  
(00 964-7) 90215 3509  
Fax: (Through the Regional Office)  
(00 962-6) 5100 901  
E-mail: iraq@agip.com

## Erbil

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Italian village, house no. 463 next to  
the 2nd gate, Kurdistan- Erbil  
Tel.: (00964-66) 2561715  
(00964-66) 2531007  
Mobile: (00964-750) 4221470  
(00964-750) 4237048  
Fax: (00962-6) 5100901  
E-mail: erbil@agip.com

## JORDAN

### Amman

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
26, Prince Shaker bin Zaid Street,  
Shmeisani, Amman  
P.O.Box: 921100, Amman 11192,  
Jordan  
Tel.: (00 962-6) 5100 900  
Fax: (00 962-6) 5100 901  
E-mail: jordan@agip.com

## **KUWAIT**

### **Kuwait**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Souk Al Kabir Building, 9th Floor,  
Block A, Fahed Al Salem Street, Kuwait  
P.O.Box: 4729, Safat 13048, State of  
Kuwait  
Tel.: (00965) 22433004  
Fax: (00965) 22440111  
E-mail: kuwait@agip.com

## **LEBANON**

### **Beirut**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Sanayeh, Anis Tabbara Street,  
Halabi Bldg. - 1st Floor, Beirut  
P.O.Box: 11-7381 Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel.: (00 961-1) 753 222  
Fax: (00 961-1) 350 548  
E-mail: lebanon@agip.com

## **LIBYA**

AGIP Building, No. 26, Prince Shaker  
bin Zaid Street, Shmeisani, Amman  
PO Box: 921100, Amman 11192,  
Jordan  
Tel: (00 962-6) 5100 900  
Fax: (00 962-6) 5100 901  
E-mail: libya@agip.com

## **MOROCCO**

### **Casablanca**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
ESPACE PORTE D'ANFA, No.  
3 Rue Bab Mansour Casablanca  
20050, Kingdom of Morocco  
P.O.Box: 19005 Casa El Hank,  
Kingdom of Morocco  
Tel.: (00 212-5-22) 36 61 19/21/26  
Fax: (00 212-5-22) 36 61 33  
E-mail: morocco@agip.com

## **OMAN**

### **Muscat**

Al-Rumailah Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Office 22, Watiyah, Muscat,  
Sultanate of Oman  
P. O.Box: 2366, Postal Code 112  
Ruwi, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman  
Tel : + 968-24563650 / 24565390  
24560740 / 24560153  
Fax: + 968-24566281  
Email: oman@agip.com

## **PAKISTAN**

### **Karachi**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Anum Empire 604, 6th Floor, Block  
7/8, Shara-e-Faisal, Karachi, Pakistan  
P.O.Box: 13035 Karachi, Pakistan  
Tel: (00 92-21) 3438 8113/4  
Fax: (00 92- 21) 3438 8115/6  
E-mail: pakistan@agip.com

## **PALESTINE**

### **Gaza**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Al-Quds Street, Ansar Square,  
Awkaf Building, 2nd floor,  
Apartment No. 8+9, Southern  
Rimal, Gaza, Palestine.  
P.O.Box: 505 Gaza City, Gaza Strip  
Tel: (00 970-8) 2626073  
Fax: (00 970-8) 2626070  
E-mail: gaza@agip.com

### **Ramallah**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Green Tower Building, Al-Nuzha  
Street, near Ramallah Public Library  
P.O.Box: 3800 Al-Beerah,  
Ramallah, The West Bank  
Tel: (00 972-2) 298 9401  
Fax: (00 972-2) 298 8150  
E-mail: westbank@agip.com

## **QATAR**

### **Doha**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
T M P Agents  
Crown Plaza Doha Business Park  
Building E, 5th Floor, Airport Road  
P.O. Box: 2620 Doha – Qatar  
Tel: (00 974-4) 4416 455  
Fax: (00 974-4) 4425 687  
E-mail: qatar@agip.com

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **Riyadh**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
King Fahd Road - Olaya District -  
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization  
(TAG-Org)  
P.O.Box: 9767, Riyadh 11423,  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Tel: (00 966-11) 464 2936  
Fax: (00 966-11) 465 2713  
E-mail: ksa@agip.com

### **Jeddeah**

Tel: +966 2 668 5458  
Mobile: 00966 553354228  
Fax: +966 2 668 5415  
P.O. Box 20135, Jeddah 21455,  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.  
E-mail: marketing.jeddah@tagorg.  
com

## **SUDAN**

### **Khartoum**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)  
Sudanese Islamic Bank Bldg., 6th  
Floor Apartment No.1, Alqaser St.,  
Khartoum, Sudan  
P.O.Box: 1623 Khartoum, Sudan  
Tel: (249-1) 83763483  
Fax: (249-1) 83763484  
E-mail: sudan@agip.com

**SYRIA****Damascus**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization  
Building Kafersoseh Villas - The  
Southern Highway

P.O.Box: 31000 Damascus, Syrian  
Arab Republic

Tel: +963 11 214 0160

+963 11 214 0161

Fax: +963 11 241 0162

E-mail: [syria@agip.com](mailto:syria@agip.com)

**TUNISIA****Tunis**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)

Appt. B. 3.2, 7 Rue Chott

Errommen, Montplaisir, Tunis 1002

P.O.Box: 1, 1073 Montplaisir,

Tunis, Tunisia

Tel: (00 216) 71 90 3141/ 71 90 1078/

71 90 4621/ 71 90 8499

Fax: (00 216) 71 90 9426

E-mail: [tunisia@agip.com](mailto:tunisia@agip.com)

**TURKEY****Ankara**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)

Tunus Cad. No. 15/4, Kavaklidere  
06680 , Ankara-Turkey

Tel: (00 90-312) 417 6095

Fax: (00 90-312) 417 0091

E-mail: [turkey@agip.com](mailto:turkey@agip.com)

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES****Dubai**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)

Gulf Towers, Entrance A2, 7th  
Floor,

Oud Metha Road, Bur Dubai, Dubai

Tel: 00971(4)3966663 (8 Lines)

Fax: 00971(4)3966662

P.O. Box: 1991, Dubai,

United Arab Emirates

Email: [uae@agip.com](mailto:uae@agip.com)

**Jebel Ali**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)

Office No.16127, LOB - 16

P.O.Box: 17191, Jebel Ali, UAE

Tel: +971-4-881 6996

Telefax: + 971-4-881 8117

E-mail: [uae@agip.com](mailto:uae@agip.com)

**YEMEN****Sana'a**

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property  
(AGIP)

Beirut Street, Faj Attan, in front of  
Sudanese Embassy Sana'a, Republic  
of Yemen

P.O.Box: 2055 Sana'a, Republic of  
Yemen

Tel: 00 967 1 433 411

Fax: 00 967 1 433 422

E-mail: [yemen@agip.com](mailto:yemen@agip.com)