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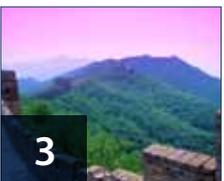
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Residency Visa Changes in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI -New rules for expats who wish to renew their residency visas have come into effect in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

A recent utility bill, a tenancy contract and a valid telephone number are among the documents required from now on by the General Department of Naturalization and Foreign Affairs.

The changes follow on the back of UAE's ID card scheme designed to integrate information from labour cards, visas and other ID documents aimed at making government transactions easier. Each card contains the holder's address, photo, date of birth and fingerprints, and can be used as an official source of identification in the Gulf state.

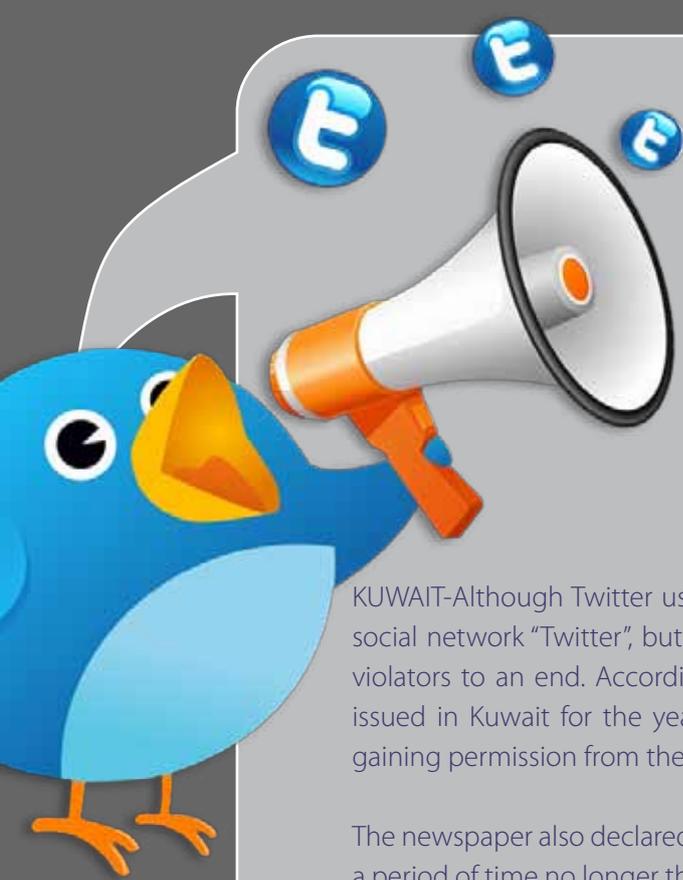
The Emirates Identity Authority (EIDA) extended the deadline for Dubai residents to register for the cards to June 30.

The changes come at a time when there is a growing concern about the lack of knowledge among expats about living in the region, including customs and traditions. A survey by the monthly publication of the Ministry of Interior showed that seven out of 10 expats lack knowledge of UAE's local customs and traditions.

The survey shows that despite the abundance of learning resources and materials available, some 72% of expats know little about their host country.

Only 28% of respondents had real knowledge of the country's local customs and traditions and just a third of the respondents set aside enough time to find out about the UAE's culture, while the rest were comfortable with occasional glimpses. Some 11% confessed they never really bothered trying.

Source: ExpatForum



A Year Imprisonment and 500 KWD for Stealing Tweets in Kuwait

KUWAIT-Although Twitter users have always shared their thoughts and opinions through the social network "Twitter", but this has not stopped Kuwait from enforcing restrictions bringing violators to an end. According to Al-Qabas Newspaper, the Intellectual Property Law No. (5) issued in Kuwait for the year 1999 will be applied on Twitter users stealing tweets without gaining permission from the rightful owner.

The newspaper also declared that one tweet, less than 140 letter, may lead who stole it to jail for a period of time no longer than a year and a fine of 500 KWD. The Intellectual Property Law also states the same penalty for those who violate the exclusive copyrights, or who sold, offered for sale, distributed, imported or exported any counterfeit product, or whoever exposed computer programs before publishing and people using any measure or technology used for encoding or controlling the extraction of copies that are used to prohibit or limit carrying out any work unlicensed by the holders of the right.

Source: Ammonnews



Syria Withdraws from Madrid Agreement, Remains Member of the Protocol

DAMASCUS - The Syrian President Bashar Assad issued the Presidential Decree No. 179 stipulating the cancelation of Syria's accession to the Madrid agreement for the international registration of marks (the Madrid agreement), endorsed in conformity with the Decree No. 92 dated March 25, 2004.

However, the newly declared decree stated that work continues with the remaining regulations of the 2004 Decree stipulating the accession of Syria to the Madrid Protocol established in 1989.

The 179 Decree was published in the Official Gazette on May 27, 2012.

Source: Ag-IP News



Media Law to Come into force after Ramadan in Qatar

DOHA-Qatari Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, HE Dr Hamad bin Abdul Aziz Al Kuwari, mentioned recently that the State Cabinet will approve the draft of the proposed legislation at its first meeting after the fasting month of Ramadan, Qatar News Agency (QNA) reported.

Addressing chairmen of the board of directors of youth centers, the Minister said that everyone has the desire to see the law issued as soon as possible. Therefore, the Cabinet is keen to ratify the draft at its very first meeting after Ramadan.

The Minister also declared that the draft of the proposed media legislation was studied for four long years and several bodies of the government have been briefed about it. While editors of local newspapers were also invited by the Advisory Council to discuss the draft so as to ensure that all of its aspects are taken into consideration before it is enforced.

The law (once it is put into force) will live up to the expectations of the journalists, especially, since it abolishes prison sentences, for six of the articles deal with online journalism, which will not be censored as the draft suggests.

Source: The Peninsula



China Amends Patent Laws to Enable Compulsory Licensing

BEIJING- China has amended its Intellectual Property laws in order to allow the government to issue compulsory licenses for local generics makers to produce drugs which are still in patent.

A report for The State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) shows that a revised version of Measures for the Compulsory Licensing for Patent Implementation, which took effect in May, allows officials to issue compulsory licenses (CL) to local firms in cases of state emergencies, unusual circumstances or in the interests of the public.

The moves also permit domestic firms that receive the licenses to be able to apply for permission to export their versions of the patented drugs, for “reasons of public health.”

Source: Pharma Times



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Years in Prison for Skype in Ethiopia

ADIS ABABA- The Ethiopian authorities have passed a new law criminalizing people using voice communications and technology through VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), including "Skype" and "Google Voice", where the authorities installed specific tools for the purpose of filtering and cutting connections through such applications.

Reporters without Borders Organization declared in its recent issued report that the authorities justified banning such applications for the sake of social security causes. While the visual-vocal communications conducted through the Internet are considered a threat that monopolizes the country's communications, according to the Arab Gate of Technical News.

The law also states that whoever uses the VoIP techniques shall be imprisoned from three to eight years, while whoever uses applications to conduct the communications through the Internet, such as "Skype", shall be imprisoned for a period of time reaching 15 years, according to the African Review website.

The Law offers for the Ethiopian authorities full control over communication tools as the authorities are concerned about Skype in specific as it is hard to control or sensor its connections.

Ethiopia is considered one of the countries that has restrictions controlling the Internet, as it asks the Internet cafes to keep the names of their customers written down so as to chase the opponents of the governmental regime.

Source: Ammonnews



HTC

Drops ITC Lawsuit against Apple

TAOYUAN- HTC has decided to drop an appeal filed with the International Trade Commission that had sought to reopen a patent complaint against Apple.

The ITC dismissed HTC's complaint against Apple in February, but HTC still had an option to appeal the ruling. MacNN now reports that HTC will not pursue the appeal and has instead filed for a motion to dismiss it.

According to the report, HTC will still have cases lodged against Apple with the ITC by way of S3 Graphics, which it acquired previously. S3 Graphics filed a suit against Apple last September. Months later, an earlier complaint from S3 was dismissed by the ITC, causing HTC to conduct a "holistic re-evaluation" of its acquisition.

For its part, Apple succeeded in winning an injunction against HTC late last year over a "data detectors" patent for recognizing actionable information such as email addresses and phone numbers. Though HTC quickly built a workaround into its handsets, HTC's handsets have still seen some delays at US customs checkpoints as agents check the devices for infringement.

Source: Appleinsider



Three Saudi Women Inventors Shine in Korea's International Exhibition

SEOUL-Three women inventors from Saudi Arabia have won medals and valuable prizes in Korea's International Women's Invention Exposition for 2012, which was recently held in the capital of South Korea, Seoul, with a remarkable participation of 270 participants from 23 countries worldwide.

This international event has been organized by Korea's Intellectual Property Office in cooperation with the Korean Society of Inventions and the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO). The participation of the Saudi inventors was presented by "Bader", a program related to technology, which has been under King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST).

While Professor Dania Indiajani, from Um Al-Qura University, has won a golden medal for inventing a machine used in clothing and textiles factories to measure the softness of fabrics. Indiajani has been also awarded a special prize from Korea's Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) presented by the President of the Korean Society of Inventions.

Moreover, Amani Al-Shahri, an alumni at Al-Riyadh's College of Medicine, has won a silver medal for her invention of Adhesive pills easing childbirth. Al-Shahri also got a diploma from the Russian House for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

Amal Al-Dousari was presented a medal as well by the Deputy of the Director General for inventing a creative closet for ironing clothes.

Source: Alarabiya.net



USPTO Publishes Proposed Rules to Implement Micro Entity Status for Paying Discounted Patent Fees

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The US Commerce Department's United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is proposing to amend the rules of practice in patent cases to implement the micro entity provision of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA). If an applicant qualifies as a micro entity, then the applicant is eligible to pay reduced patent fees once the USPTO exercises its fee setting authority under the AIA. The fee setting provision in the AIA sets the micro entity discount at 75% of the fees set or adjusted for filing, searching, examining, issuing, appealing, and maintaining patent applications and patents.

"The new micro entity provision in the America Invents Acts makes our patent system more accessible for smaller innovators by entitling them to a 75% discount on patent fees," said Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO David Kappos. "By paying discounted patent fees as micro entities, smaller innovators can access the patent system to move their ideas into the marketplace and accelerate U.S. economic growth."

More specifically, the Office is proposing changes to the rules of practice to set out the procedures for an applicant to claim micro entity status and to pay patent fees as a micro entity. The USPTO likewise is proposing changes to the rules of practice to set procedures for an applicant to notify the Office of the loss of micro entity status and to correct payments of patent fees erroneously paid in the micro entity amount. The USPTO published these proposed changes to rules in the Federal Register.

Publication in the Federal Register of the proposed rules to implement the micro entity provision of the AIA begins a sixty-day public comment period. During this time, the public may provide written input about the proposed rules.

Source: Intellectual Property Today



Abu-Ghazaleh Tackles 'The Road to Success: IT for IP' at LES Pan European Conference 2012

ROME- HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) discussed 'The Road to Success: IT for IP' at LES Pan European Conference 2012 with the participation of IP practitioners and industry professionals from all over the world.

The event hosted by Licensing Executives Society Rome (LES Rome) and held at Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel & Spa in Rome focuses on the Intellectual Property needs of large corporations as well as small and medium-sized enterprises and brings together leaders from the world of business and finance to discuss the importance of IP Rights as a driver for economic growth and development

In his keynote speech to the LESI Young Members Congress (YMC), Abu-Ghazaleh introduced how a small company in 1972 that started with only 10 employees grew to become Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP), a global leader operating out of 70 offices of its own with 900 staff and over 100 representative offices throughout the world serving over 70,000 clients and stores 800,000 registered trademarks and patents in its data base.

The LESI Young Members Congress (YMC) is an initiative created to meet the networking and professional needs of young executives under the age of 40 interested in the business of Intellectual Property, including licensing, sales, valuation and investment.

"Still AGIP has more plans and if you wonder how we did it? Well, like all the other leading firms, we are proud of the quality of our services, the integrity of our staff and are very protective of our brand. Our IP firm is managed as an IT firm which provides IP services. Our ICT state-of-the-art digital programs, constantly being developed, enable us to continue to provide our clients with services that meet our clients' continuous expectations for better services," Abu-Ghazaleh, President of Licensing Executive Society-Arab Countries (LES-AC), said. Abu-Ghazaleh who was inducted to the IP Hall of Fame in 2007 stated some milestones in the life of AGIP which received Middle East IP Firm of the Year Award for the sixth year in a row by Managing IP Magazine, TAG IP dictionary was published in 2000 and the first IP news agency Agip news was established in 2003.

Abu-Ghazaleh who was recently selected to the WTO panel of experts representing the global stakeholders commissioned to review and address challenges to future trade pointed out that AGIP is planning to become an IP Knowledge Age Firm.

The LES Pan European Conference 2012 has been designed specifically to explore the role of IP as an essential asset for businesses in the 21st Century.

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