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UK to Introduce Criminal Penalties for Design Infringement

LONDON- Steps to introduce criminal penalties for design infringement have been included in the UK government's 2013 Intellectual Property (IP) Bill, announced in May. If passed, the Bill would ensure that, apart from facing the risk of civil lawsuits, infringers of registered designs will face criminal records that could affect their ability to trade in the UK, or to design products for third parties.

Lord Younger, who has tabled the Bill, said, 'This will be a deterrent to those who deliberately copy UK registered designs, and provide greater protection for our hugely important design sector.'

The economic value of the UK's design sector was underlined by business secretary Vince Cable, who said, 'Figures show that UK companies invest nearly £16 billion in design each year, which represents 1.1% of GDP. The changes in this Bill are to help small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and innovative businesses get on and grow.'

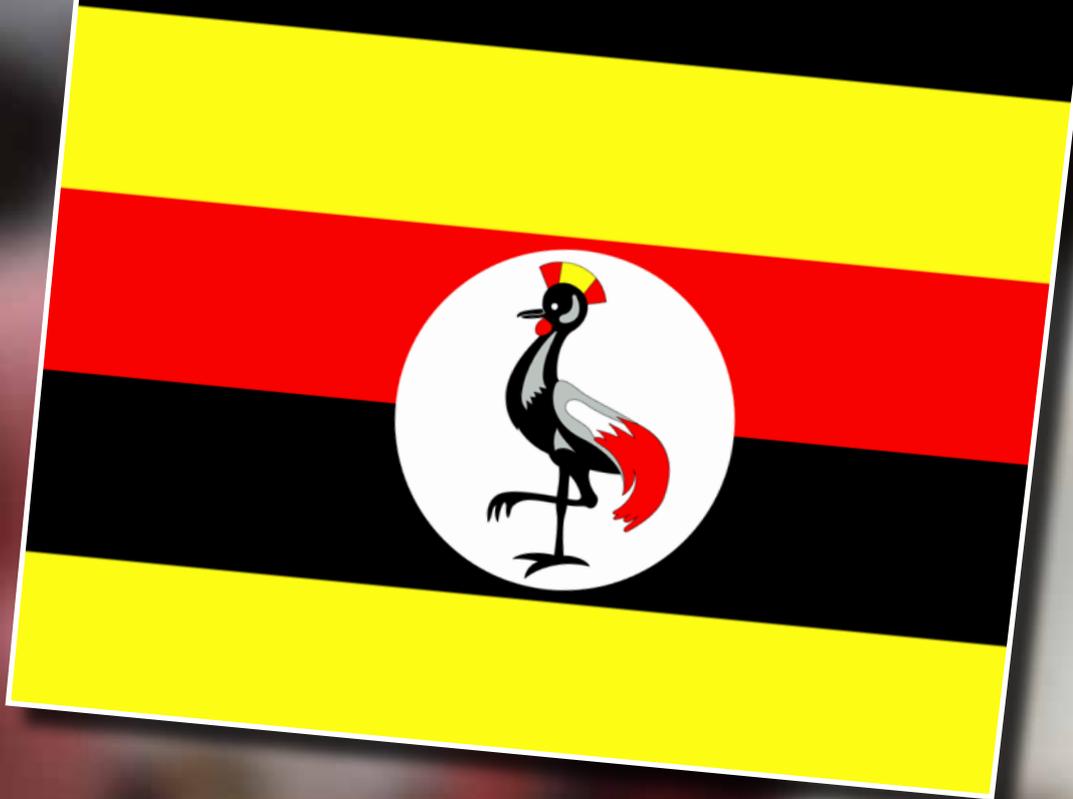
As a survey conducted by the UK Design Council, in partnership with Mountain View Learning and

Law Firm Speechly Bircham, revealed that 57% of companies generated most of their annual sales through design innovations.

Dids Macdonald – chief executive of Anti Copying in Design (A©ID) and vice chair of the Alliance for Intellectual Property – said: 'It's great that the government has taken a positive first step to protect designers against design copying with a proposal to introduce criminal sanctions for deliberate registered design infringement. This will encourage more designers to register their designs. However, we hope that in the future this [protection] will also apply to those who rely on unregistered rights, which comprise the majority of designers in this country.'

In addition to its design-related measures, the Bill also lays the groundwork for the forthcoming single EU patent, also known as the unitary patent – a new type of regional IP protection that has had a troubled route to approval. Under the Bill's text, the Coalition government would be empowered to implement London's chapter of the EU agreement towards a Unitary Patent Court (UPC).

Source: NewLegalReview



Uganda: LDCs Granted Extension On Intellectual Property

KAMPALA- The World Trade Organization has granted the least developed countries (LDCs) an extension period till 2021 before enforcing Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS).

Under TRIPS, LDCs are supposed to implement high standards of legal protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights of the original producer of a product. This extension guarantees access to affordable health, education, and climate technologies for people living in LDCs since generics are cheaper than patented and therefore protected services and products.

Earlier, the WTO had demanded that LDCs enforce TRIPS by 2016. However, civil society organizations (CSOs) petitioned the East African Legislative Assembly in a bid to block this decision and the EALA passed a resolution in support of the LDCs.

«The pressure by US and European countries on LDCs was outrageous and hypocritical. The US government has called for achievement of an AIDS free generation and global goals on education and climate but without access to affordable generic medicines and other technologies in poor countries, this vision cannot be attained,» said Matthew Kavanagh of Health GAP.

Primah Kwagala, advocacy manager of Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), said:«In Uganda, the EU emphasises human rights but their tactics in Geneva show that they conveniently ignored the human right to health when it mattered most.»

LDCs need the extension to develop domestic technological and creative capacity before having to adopt the highest standards of intellectual property protection and enforcement.

Source: AllAfrica



Supreme Court Ruling On Gene Patenting May Be A Boon For Biotech Startups

WASHINGTON, D.C - The Supreme Court ruled that naturally occurring genes can't be patented, which should be a boon for the host of emerging gene testing and patenting companies that are coming out of the Valley. Silicon Valley VCs like Founders Fund, Khosla Ventures, Felicis Ventures and SV Angel have been making more bets in the space, on the assumption that biology is becoming a space that can be attacked by software.

In the case, a company called Myriad Genetics had acquired patents on BRCA1 and BRCA2, two genes that are strongly correlated with breast and ovarian cancer. Because of their patents, the cost of testing for those genes had been pushed higher, sometimes beyond the \$3,000 range. That would have made it too expensive for many middle- and low-income women to learn if they were at risk for the cancers.

At the same time, other human genes were being scooped up with somewhere north of 20 percent of all human genes being covered by patents, according to the National Society of Genetic Counselors.

However, the court ruled that human genes can't be patented, but that synthetic genes can be protected.

Now that naturally occurring human genes can't be patented, expect gene testing companies to benefit broadly with lower-cost products across the board. The costs for full human genome sequencing have already fallen to about \$8,000 today from \$100 million in 2011.

One of the remaining barriers preventing lower-cost testing has been whether consumers would be on the receiving end of high licensing fees to the patent owners of these genes. Patent holders like Myriad could also monopolize the testing market for these genes too, which would have also forced prices higher.

At the same time, the host of emerging synthetic biology startups won't suffer either since the court ruled that synthetic DNA and cDNA or complementary DNA that is synthesized from messenger RNA, can be patented.

Source: Tech Crunch

New Emirati Inventions in the Field of Smart Devices

ABU DHABI- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has published two new international patent applications for the UAE in the field of smart phones and tablets, to register ownership in this field of four international inventions, which are the first for the Arab world.

As their first inventions in this field of technology, for tablets of multiple parts which fold automatically into smart phones, the team of inventors, Eida Almuhairbi along with her husband Eng. Wasfi Alshdaifat and Eng. Farah Qassab, decided that the development by international companies for flexible, manually foldable tablets also need a further developed automatic folding and unfolding mechanism.

The main inventor, Wasfi Alshdaifat, said, «The international search and examining authorities have written in their reports that the 55 claims in the four inventions are totally industrially applicable, novel, and inventive compared to the searched patents, which were referring to Samsung, LG, Toshiba and other companies.

Eida Muhairbi stated that according to the PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty), the major competent companies capable of developing their prototypes into marketable products, based on the positive results of the high-quality international search reports from WIPO, had requested them to enter into the international phase, to get their patents granted from the relevant patents offices in USA, China, Japan, Europe, and South Korea. Almuhairbi added, «Now, it will be easy to get the patents granted from these offices, but we need to file 20 national patent applications in these offices, which costs around AED 2,000,000 as fees for the agent offices' service charges and patents filing fees.

WIPO has published 15 international patent applications for the UAE so far this year, including 6 (40%) for the Almuhairbi and Alshdaifat team, who now have thirty registered international patents applications with the WIPO making them the top inventive body in the country, ahead of UAE university which has eight.

Source: Emirates News Agency (WAM)



E-Fraud in Kingdom among Lowest in the World: BMAC

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia is one of the countries in the world with the lowest rate in financial fraud committed by electronic information and communication devices, and the rate matches with globally accepted limit, the Banking Media Awareness Committee (BMAC) disclosed at the launch of its 5th edition of the anti-financial fraud campaign entitled: «Don't disclose it», held at Four Seasons Hotel, Riyadh.

«Considering that the Kingdom is one of the lowest in this kind of fraud was based on global financial evaluation and ranking agencies, and not on opinion of top officials of Saudi banks. Financial fraud committed by electronic information and communication devices include using stolen credit cards, and stealing bank account code numbers or personal financial information in order to illegally generate money or financial benefits,» said Talat Hafiz, the Secretary General of Banking Media Awareness Committee of the Saudi banks, at the press conference.

Financial fraud committed by electronic information and communication devices include using stolen credit cards, and stealing bank account code numbers or personal financial information in order to illegally generate money or financial benefits.

Hafiz stressed that the campaign this year will use more channels to reach as much as possible our

targeted audience. «These channels include print, audio, video, social media, road advertisements, street screens, and for the first time airport screens, as well as smart communication devices. We will send over 30 million messages in our campaign this year. Also, we will target people of special needs through the proper communication media,» he said.

Two other members of the committee participated in the press conference. One of them, Mohammed Al Yami, said the Saudi banks are going ahead in modernizing their infrastructures and enhancing their e-banking capabilities as the future of banking lies in this type of capabilities.

«These capabilities mean more of flexibility, efficiency, and performance. But these characteristics cannot be sustained without the alert customers on fraud, as this alertness keeps these attempts at their lowest level,» he said.

The other member Dr. Mohammed Al Awad mentioned that the launch of this campaign at this time of the year, in the beginning of summer every year, by commitment and in collaboration with Saudi banks for the fifth consecutive year, comes to coincide with the beginning of the exodus of people abroad with large sums of money to spend on vacation, the thing that necessitates financial awareness efforts.

Source: The Saudi Gazette



UN Human Rights Council Adopts Resolution Promoting Medicines Access

GENEVA-The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution urging governments to encourage technology development, transfer and apply intellectual property rights measures in ways that avoid creating barriers to trade in “affordable, safe, efficacious and quality medicines.” The resolution includes references to IP flexibilities in international trade law and to “delinkage” of R&D costs with the price of health products.

The vote was 31 in favor, 0 against and 16 abstentions, according to the UN.

Among its numerous provisions, the resolution reinforces countries’ right to use flexibilities to intellectual property rights as provided in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). It also encourages governments “To explore and promote a range of incentive schemes for research and development, including addressing, where appropriate, the delinkage of the costs of research and development and the price of health products, in accordance with the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.”

Meanwhile, in a separate resolution, the Council reinforced the right to the enjoyment of cultural rights and respect for cultural diversity.

Source: IP-watch



The Syrian Government Ratifies Stamps of Official Transactions

DAMASCUS- The Syrian Lower House has approved a draft law in his last sessions related to imposing extra fees on stamps of official documents, transactions and sukuk for the purpose of supporting the national army, not to mention that there were other amendments applied on the stamps for having some contracts, documents, transactions and signed papers from Syrian citizens. Amendments applying on these contracts, documents and signed papers shall come into effect under the legislative decree No. 44 of 2005.

The first article of the draft law stipulates that the stamp will be priced at SYP50 instead of SYP25 where all regulations related to penalties and fines shall be applied as per the legislative decree No.44 and its amendments. The second article gave precise details of the documents and their needed stamps, just as suggested by the Minister of Finance, while the third article stated that the payments collected from stamps shall be considered as of the country's balance.

Source: Tashreen Newspaper



Abu-Ghazaleh: ICANN Approves the Arab Center for Dispute Resolution as the 5th Worldwide

MARINA DEL REY, CA - The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Board of Directors has recently approved the proposal submitted by the Arab Center for Dispute Resolution (ACDR) to be an official dispute resolution service provider for the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP). The Center will start operating in January 2014.

The ACDR is jointly established under the leadership of HS Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh by the Arab Intellectual Property Mediation and Arbitration Society (AIPMAS) and the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP), with headquarters in Amman, Jordan and offices in other Arab countries.





It is the first UDRP provider in the Middle East and Northern Africa and it owns a vast experience in resolving Intellectual Property disputes.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, AIPMAS chairman expressed his happiness with the ICANN's recognition hoping that the Center will undertake its duties and properly play its role to serve the whole region.

Earlier, AIPMAS General Assembly unanimously agreed to establish the Arab Center for Dispute Resolution (ACDR) and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal, a member of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization was entrusted to take necessary actions for this purpose provided that the center will be totally owned by the Society.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said that this is the fifth accredited center in the world, and being in the Arab region has a special importance by focusing on the domain name-related disputes especially with the existence of arbitrators from all over the world capable to settle the domain name disputes in many languages.

The Center which will be headed by Ms. Lala Khan, Attorney at Law will deal solely with resolving IP domain name disputes and will provide reliable and quality administration of UDRP cases in three major languages - Arabic, English and French with more in the near future. A graduate from Temple University Law School Philadelphia, PA, Ms. Khan has a long experience in this field and is a member of the New York Bar Association; she is fluent in English, French, Spanish, Urdu and Dari and

has worked as a Human Rights Legal Affairs Officer, legal advisor and as legal consultant to the Saudi Embassy in NY.

The Center is inviting attorneys, academics and all those who are interested in joining the Panelists to contact the Center and be part of this official dispute resolution service provider.

The Arab Intellectual Property, Mediation and Arbitration Society (AIPMAS) is a non-profit organization that was established in Amman Jordan, by some of the top practitioners of the many fields of intellectual property (IP) in the Arab region, headed by Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh. Its mission is to bring together the IP professionals and practitioners in the Arab region and to help build awareness and understanding of intellectual property issues and their dynamics.

AIPMAS works to foster the development of intellectual property laws and systems, in the Arab region, and the building of capacities among Arab practitioners. The Society also focuses on the activities of its Center of Mediation and Arbitration which resolves conflicts in the area of Intellectual Property through international arbitrators applying international rules. AIPMAS implements a broad range of activities, such as assisting in the development of IP laws and systems, holding seminars, workshops, teaching and training courses, research projects as well as through its many publications.

*For more information, please visit our website
<http://www.aipmas.org>*

Source: Ag-IP News

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