

JULY NEWSLETTER

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Yemen – Super Legalization of Power of Attorney

The Ministry of Industry and Trade – the General Administration for the Protection of Intellectual Property in Sana'a-Yemen has announced a new circular which stipulated that all the Power of Attorney should be legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yemen.

Kuwait – The Electronic Publishing of Patents and Industrial Designs

As of April 1, 2023, the Ministry's website will display electronic versions of patents and industrial designs.



Oman - Cancellation of some Official IP Fees

MUSCAT – The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment has announced that the official Fees have been cancelled of IP services provided in Oman.

In accordance with the recent decision numbered 292/2023, the Sultanate of Oman has cancelled the fees associated with intellectual property services and patent registration services provided by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment. These fees have been consolidated and eliminated for both companies and individuals.

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Libya-The Operations of the Trademark Office have resumed

TRIPOLI – The Trademark Office of the Ministry of Economy and Trading resumed its operations on 28 May 2023.

The Trademarks Office in Libya has been operating at a very limited capacity since 1 November 2022, as the work has been suspended and not accepting any new applications (Filing, renewal, Recordals ...etc) to all foreign applicants.

The TMO is now accepting new applications from foreign applicants and is allowing for all Recordals and renewals as per the pre-existing limitations that were in place prior to the closure. No official notification received to us from the Ministry regarding the resumption of operations.



Lebanon - Resumption of IP Operations

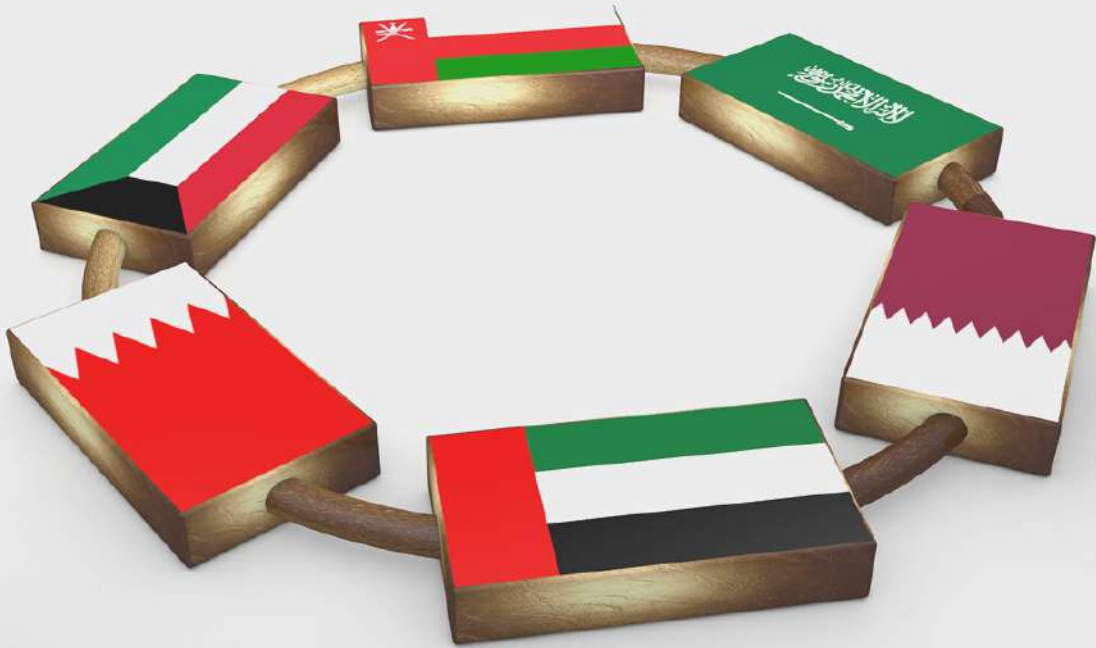
Starting from 9th May 2023 :

The trademarks office resumed its operations once a week, specifically every Thursday.

The patents office, which covers patents, copyright, and design, resumed its operations once a week, specifically every Tuesday.

Noting that they specify every Wednesday to file the new trademark applications via their online portal.

GCC Patent office : Patent Updates




The Gulf Cooperation Council Patent Office (GCCPO) announced that as of 1 July 2023, the GCC PO will commence accepting new filings and conducting formality and substantive examination on behalf of Qatar.


It is noteworthy that the GCC Patent Office has already resumed accepting new filings on behalf of Kuwait and Bahrain since January 1st, 2023.


However, there is no update on other GCC member countries, namely Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) regarding filing of the patent applications through the GCC patent office.

Our Baianat IP Office Qatar has relocated to a New Address

We are pleased to announce that our office has recently moved to a new premises, the new address is as follows:

 P.O. BOX 23032

 Tel: +974 44870216

 Palm Tower B Building 25, Office 1703 , Zone 60,
Street 820, West Bay, Doha, Qatar

The email address : qatar@baianatip.com , phone number and fax number remain unchanged.

As always, Our commitment to delivering exceptional intellectual property services remains unwavering. Whether you require trademark registration, patent services, or any other IP-related assistance, our experienced team is ready to provide expert guidance and support.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new office and serving your intellectual property needs with utmost dedication and professionalism.



USPTO and OMPIC Collaborate to Introduce Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Program in Morocco, Enhancing Efficiency and Speed of Patent Approvals

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office (OMPIC) have joined forces to introduce a new program called the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH).

The PPH is designed to expedite the patent application process by leveraging examination results from other participating patent offices. By benefiting from the examination outcomes of these offices, applications can progress through examination and approval more swiftly.

This collaboration aims to reduce waiting times for patent applicants and ensure a higher overall quality of granted patents. This initiative marks the third PPH program in Morocco, following successful pilot programs with the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO).

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Saudi Arabia Implements Patent Linkage System to Safeguard Brand-Name Drug Patents and Promote Innovation in Pharmaceutical Industry

In Saudi Arabia, a patent linkage system has been established to ensure smooth coordination between generic drug approval and the status of corresponding brand-name drug patents.

To prevent conflicts, pharmaceutical and biotech companies are encouraged to disclose relevant patents during product registration. If a patent is granted after registration, companies have 30 days to inform the regulatory authority for proper linkage.

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Türkiye - VAT Increasing from 18% to 20%

According to the decision published in the Official Gazette dated 07.07.2023 with the signature of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the 18 percent VAT rate applied to goods and services has been increased to 20 percent in Türkiye. This will come into force as of 10.07.2023.

Qatar – Ministry of Commerce and Industry Implements New GCC Trademark Law

BAIANAT IP would like to announce that The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Intellectual Property Department in Qatar has promulgated a Ministerial Decree No. 56 of 2023 on GCC Trademark Law and its implementing regulations.

The new decree aims to simplify and streamline trademark processes in Qatar, bringing them more in line with international best practices.

- The time for submitting an opposition will be two months instead of four months, with some services has an increase in official fees and others seeing a decrease.
- The time frame for responding to an office action will be reduced from two months to one month.
- If the trademark application is approved, the applicant or his agent must pay the publication fees within 30 days after receiving notice that the application has been approved.

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KSA - Appointing the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority with WIPO

During the 64th General Assembly meeting in Geneva, it was announced that the WIPO has officially approved the appointment of Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority within the framework of the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

This appointment is significant as SAIP will now serve as the second international search and examination office that supports the Arabic language.

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GCC Trademark Law Changes in Qatar

The GCC Trademark Law and its Implementing Regulations will come into force in Qatar on August 10, 2023. These changes include increased official fees, a shorter deadline for submitting an opposition, and the registrability of sound and smell marks.