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AGIP Participates in INTA Leadership Meeting 2011



MIAMI – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) participated in the International Trademark Association (INTA) Leadership Meeting 2011 in Miami Beach, Florida, USA, November 8-12, 2011.

AGIP Executive Director Mr. Charles Sha'ban and AGIP Clients Relations Manager Ms. Dima Naber, who took part in the event, were the only participants from the Arab region.

This year's event, which tackled the issues facing trademarks practitioners, was an ideal opportunity for AGIP to meet with other INTA board members, Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) president as well as other clients and colleagues to exchange ideas and discuss trademark related laws and procedures.

During the event, Mr. Sha'ban was reelected to the INTA Board Planning Committee for 2013; while Ms. Naber was elected to the Internet Committee for the next term 2012-2013.

Commenting on this event Mr. Sha'ban, who will chair for a second term the INTA Bulletin, Law and Practice sub-committee for the Middle East and Africa, said: "We are honored with the trust for asking us to chair our region INTA bulletin for a second term especially that we were informed the bulletin article witnessed more than 100% growth of information from our region and contained some of the most read articles in INTA bulletin in general".

The 2012 INTA Leadership Meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida, USA, November 6-10, 2012.

Yemen Announces Fees for Publication of IP Services



SANAA - The Yemeni Ministry of Industry and Trade has issued Ministerial Decision No. 246 of the year 2011 regarding the designation of the Trademark Gazette (AL-TIJARAH) as a means to disseminate business sector services related to Intellectual Property (IP) provided by the Ministry of Industry & Trade and the provision of fees for publication.

The fees included for the publication of trademarks, industrial designs, patents and trade names among others.

The decision endorsed by Yemeni Minister of Industry and Trade Eng. Hisham Sharaf Abdullah on November 2, 2011 and

circulated on November 13, 2011 can be summarized as per the following:

- The publication upon acceptance and publication upon registration have been merged in one publication instead of two, and the official fees have also been merged.
- The size of the publication will be managed by the number of digits included in the list of goods of the application.
- A new size has been indicated for publication; that is 2/3 of a page which was not available before.

Libyan Patent Office Resumes Activities



TRIPOLI - Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) would like to inform its clients that the Libyan Patent Office has resumed its full operations officially. It has initiated its operations by accepting new filings of the national phase of PCT and Libyan

National applications normally.

AGIP Libya Office was able to prepare the patent applications with deadlines which falling during the unrest period, and it has filed tens of applications with preserving the right of claiming priority.

Meanwhile, the Libyan Trademark Office is still closed due to internal arrangements after the unrest period, and it is expected that it will resume its full activities soon.

AGIP Libya Office has prepared the trademark applications and applications with priority claims of instructions received from its clients to be ready for immediate filing once the LTO is open.

Further developments regarding the LTO or LPO will be announced to our clients in due course.

For any inquiries please contact us on Libya@agip.com

Morocco Becomes the 48th Country to Join the Hague Evidence Convention



RABAT – Morocco has deposited, on March 31, 2011, its instrument of accession to the Convention on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters, commonly referred to as the Hague Evidence Convention.

The convention entered into force in Morocco after its publication in the Official Gazette No. 5988 of October 20, 2011.

The accession by Morocco to the Hague Evidence Convention will allow transmission of evidence by means of letters of request, per the request of a Moroccan judicial authority (where the evidence is sought) to another competent authority in a signatory state (where the evidence is located).

The Hague Evidence Convention is a multilateral treaty which was negotiated in 1967 and 1968 and signed on March 18, 1970.

Morocco's accession to the said Convention will bring the number of the Hague Evidence Convention member states to 48.

Oman Arabic Domain Name to be Launched Soon



MUSCAT – Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) of the Sultanate of Oman announced that it will launch the first Arabic domain name for Oman in the first quarter of 2012.

TRA has acquired the approval of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to have Omani domain name written using the Arabic alphabet, so websites with Arabic content now can have their domain names also in Arabic instead of having it written using the Latin alphabet.

Commenting on this achievement, Mr. Mohammed Al-Khalidi, Senior Manager at TRA said: "Launching domain names in Arabic for Oman will benefit Omani businesses and boost the country's image abroad". "Our project is about to be launched very soon, and we are working with vendors who are installing the equipment and securing the connectivity," he added.

The growth of non-Latin content on the Internet will boost e-services in Oman; and it will enable Internet services to penetrate new market segments by eliminating language barriers.

AFNIC Launches New Dispute Resolution System



PARIS - The French Registry for the .fr and .re domain names (AFNIC) announced that it will launch the new dispute resolution system (Syreli) after being approved by the French Minister of Electronic Communication.

The dispute resolution system is a part of new legal framework set up subsequent to a decision of the French Constitutional Council on October 6, 2010.

The terms and conditions concerning the new dispute resolution system were published on November 3, 2011 in the French Official Journal, and the interface will be available on November 21, 2011.

The major changes brought by the new dispute resolution system are as follows:

- AFNIC issues its decision within two months as from the receipt of the dispute file.
- The holder can answer the complainant's demand within 21 days, and may modify his/her answer within this period.
- With the holder's consent, the decision is immediately enforceable without waiting for the end of the appeal period.
- Appeals regarding the decisions of the Registry may be brought before a judge in appeal.

China's New Commitments to Strengthen IP Protection - BSA

WASHINGTON, DC - The Business Software Alliance welcomed today in a press release new commitments by China to strengthen intellectual property protections and curb software theft, and looked forward to seeing how the plans would be implemented in practice to produce tangible results in the short term and long term.

The commitments, first signaled by China's State Council on November 9, came into clearer focus this week during bilateral negotiating sessions of the US-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT), held in the city of Chengdu. At the JCCT, China agreed that IP enforcement efforts would be led by the State Council, China's chief governing body, and made specific commitments to improve the process of government software legalization and complete it at all levels by 2013. China further agreed to press forward with programs to ensure legal software use in all enterprises.

This follows announcements by the State Council on November 9 that in addition to creating a new national office to coordinate enforcement of intellectual property rights, it will toughen copyright laws and related criminal and procedures, while holding government officials responsible for effectively enforcing IP violations.

"These are encouraging commitments that have the potential to reduce software piracy," said BSA President and CEO Robert Holleyman. "How the plans are implemented in practice will be critically important, but we are pleased that the State Council, China's chief governing body, has been put directly in charge. We need to see tangible results in the short term and long term, because the scale of piracy in China is enormous. I commend US Trade Representative Ron Kirk and Commerce Secretary John Bryson and their teams for working tirelessly with their Chinese counterparts to press for progress on this critical issue for the US economy."

Nearly four out of five software programs installed on personal computers in China were unlicensed in 2010, according to BSA's Global Software Piracy Study. Meanwhile, spending on legal software in China is two-thirds lower on a per-PC basis than it is in other developing countries such as India, Brazil, Mexico, and Korea.

"Last year, China committed to ensure its government agencies at all levels use only legal software. We are still assessing the impact of that ongoing program," Holleyman said. "China's commitment this week to improve and extend its government software legalization initiative is a positive step because it acknowledges there is still a great deal of work to be done."

"Now there is an opportunity for China to expand this campaign to the broader economy, starting with state-owned enterprises, where decisive action by government can have a major impact," Holleyman continued. "I welcome China's plans to create a national office to coordinate IP protection, to strengthen copyright laws, and to begin holding government officials responsible for making tangible progress in reducing piracy.

Depending on how these steps are put into practice, they may constitute noteworthy steps forward. But there is still a long road ahead for China to bring its under-performing market for legal software more in line with its surging market for PC hardware — which will soon be the world's largest."

"This effort requires a sustained commitment," Holleyman concluded. "A successful outcome in the fight against intellectual property theft will be to the benefit of both the US and Chinese economies."

The Business Software Alliance is the leading global advocate for the software industry.



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

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