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## AGIP Participates in FICPI EXCO and World Congress



MELBOURNE – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) represented by its Deputy Chair Ms. Samar Al-Labbad and Executive Director Mr. Charles Shaban, participated in the World Congress and ExCo Meeting of the Fédération Internationale des Conseils en Propriété Intellectuelle (FICPI) 2012 held April 15 - 21 in Melbourne, Australia.

The theme of the Congress was Communication and Cooperation.

The sessions of FICPI Congress were wide ranging this year,

touching every area of the fast changing Intellectual Property (IP) field such as updates on governments offices cooperation, new legislations, and recent important issues such as protecting Intellectual Property in cyberspace.

“It was informative and a great opportunity to meet with other IP professionals from around the world. The event kept us updated with the latest legislations, cooperation between the different IP offices and exchanging views on professional and practice matters.” Ms. Al-Labbad said.

FICPI holds the World Congress every three years, attendance of which is restricted to FICPI members only. Next Congress is scheduled to be held in Cape Town, South Africa in 2015.

FICPI is an organization working for the interests of patent and trademark professionals worldwide. It is the only association whose membership consists solely of Intellectual Property professionals in private practice.

## Well-Known Trademark Conference 2012 Concluded



AMMAN - The Well-Known Trademarks Conference 2012, organized by the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP), concluded today at the Amman Marriott Hotel with the participation of a host of experts in intellectual property, valuation and legal fields.

The two-day Conference, organized by ASIP in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on the occasion of the World Intellectual Property Day April 26th, witnessed the discussion of various topics related to Well-Known Trademarks including: Well-Known Trademarks: Background and Recent Developments, the Enforcement of WKM in the Arab Region, European and US legislation and practice, relevant case law, as well as an introduction to the dilution doctrine, among others.

"I believe this is a great opportunity to discuss at this Conference trademark-related issues with the presence of experts in different jurisdictions," Ms. Marth Friedli, WIPO representative told ag-IP-news Agency.

In her presentation, Friedli highlighted a definition and special protection of

well-known marks (WKM); provisions contained in the Paris Convention; the TRIPS Agreement; WIPO Joint Recommendation on Well-Known Marks, and practical examples on the application of the criteria for determining WKM and famous marks.

"IP protection worldwide has been recognized at all levels; in terms of legislations the situation is very good, however, in terms of application the situation is different," she continued.

From his part, Representative of Quan Management LLC, Geneva Peter Friedli discussed different methods and approximations to the valuation of IP assets and trademark portfolios in an increasingly virtual economy.

"Brand valuation is a crucial issue as it's one of the non-current assets enterprises possess," he said.

"I believe a brand value is a tool to understand the health of a brand and how to increase its value," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) Executive Director Charles

Shaban talked about the main threats to WKM domains on the Internet tackling Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy, ccTLD and gTLDs among other issues.

The Well-Known Trademarks Conference 2012 was inaugurated by Sami Gammouh, Minister of Industry and Trade in the presence of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP) and representative of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Martha Friedli and a host of high ranking officials.

"The Conference was an excellent opportunity for businesses to know more about their trademarks and how to protect them with speakers from around the world tackling the recent developments in laws and regulations, protecting of Well-Known Trademarks (WKM) and management and unfair competition law in addition to other important issues," Mutasem El Dmour, ASIP executive director said.

Ag-IP-news Agency ([www.ag-ip-news.com](http://www.ag-ip-news.com)), the Only Specialized Global Intellectual Property News Agency covered the event as the Media Partner.

## AGIP Re-elected to the IGF Advisory Group



AMMAN - Charles Sha'ban, Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) Executive Director, was re-elected to the Advisory Group of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), following the renewal of its mandate.

According to the United Nations (UN), the mandate has been renewed in order to assist in preparations for the next meeting of the IGF, to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, November 6-9, 2012.

The 56-member Group will serve in their personal capacity. They have been chosen from governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and technical communities, representing all regions and stakeholder groups.

"This year, 33 new members were chosen. We are very proud at AGIP to be among the members representing the private sector worldwide and the only member representing the private sector in the Arab region," Sha'ban said.

As part of its mandate, the Advisory Group has been asked to enhance the transparency of the preparatory process by ensuring a continuous flow of information between its members and the various interested groups. It has also been requested to make proposals on a suitable rotation among its members, based on recommendations from the

various interested groups. Any decision on how to prepare subsequent meetings will be taken after the Baku meeting in an open, inclusive and transparent consultative process, taking into account the proposals of the Advisory Group.

The IGF is an outcome of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which took place in 2005. In the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, governments asked the UN Secretary-General to convene a "new forum for policy dialogue" to discuss issues related to key elements of Internet governance and set out the Forum's mandate.

To check the full list of the IGF Advisory Group members:  
<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/component/content/article/114-preparatory-process/941-mag-2012->

## AGIP Participates in INTA 134th Annual Meeting in Washington D.C



Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) will be participating in the International Trademark Association (INTA) 134th Annual Meeting in Washington D.C, May 5-9, 2012.

The following AGIP members will be attending this event:

1. Luay T. Abu-Ghazaleh
2. Charles Shaban (Regional Office)
3. Dima Naber (Regional Office)
4. Nabil Salame (Montreal Liaison Office)
5. Ahmad Hussein (Morocco Office)
6. Amjad Hussein (UAE Office)
7. Khaled Battash (Egypt Office)
8. Amro Hattab (Jordan Office)
9. Ali Hijazi (Libya Office)
10. Ridab Abutaleb (China Office)

AGIP delegation will be staying at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. Downtown Hotel (Headquarters Hotel); Mount Vernon Square A & B Meeting Rooms will be prepared especially to host AGIP meetings with its clients or receive your inquiries about China and our offices worldwide.

In order to schedule a meeting with one or more of AGIP representatives, please contact us at [inta@agip.com](mailto:inta@agip.com)

# AGIP Announces 2nd Winner of 'Test your Trademark Logo Knowledge' Competition



AMMAN - Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) announced the second winner of its Test your Trademark Logo Knowledge Competition.

Mr. Nader Al Salamat, Intellectual Property Rights Protection Division/ Criminal Investigation Department has got the highest number of correct answers and was awarded with a Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Laptop (TAGITOP II), the first state-of-the-art Arab laptop.

Mr. Al Salamat expressed his happiness after winning the first prize saying: "I am really excited to be part of this educational competition. Thanks to AGIP for this wonderful and useful brain teasing competition. I wish there are more awareness courses regarding IP."

Meanwhile, Mr. Charles Sha'ban, AGIP executive director said: "We are really excited with the positive reception the competition gained from around the world including Germany, US, India and the UAE. We will continue with this exciting competition with new ideas."

If you are interested in seeing how you made out with the second quiz, please find below the correct answers:

- A: Auchan
- G: Galaxy
- I: Pizza Hut
- P: Paris Hilton
- P: Pokemon
- A: Samsung
- T: Targus
- E: DeLonghi
- N: Mango
- T: Tod's
- S: Sephora

Below you will find the top-10 participants of "Test Your Trademark Logo Knowledge":

1. Nader Alsalamat
2. Amjad Judeh
3. Patrick
4. Enas Hasan Kanan
5. Doa'a Hasan Kanan
6. Moe
7. Victor Amos
8. Moses Itode Wecome
9. Fotini Ikonomidou Ikonomou
10. Hari Kumar Pillai

For more information, please visit:

[www.agip.com](http://www.agip.com)

## About AGIP:

Recognized regionally and internationally as the top Arab firm in the Intellectual Property field, Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) adheres to high ethical and professional standards, and employs an in-house team of qualified professionals, as well as state-of-the-art technology, so as to provide a comprehensive range of IP services tailored to meet clients' needs around the world.

## Jordan Ends Use of Class Heading for Trademark Application



AMMAN – The Jordanian Trademark Office, affiliate to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, has recently issued regulations stipulate that the use of class headings in trademark applications will no longer be an accepted practice. The Registrar of Trademark will refuse the application with class heading because each claimed list of goods and/or services should be specified in details to avoid any possible rejection during the examination phase.

This practice will be enforced immediately, and it can affect also all pending trademark applications that are due for examination.

## AGIP Launches German-Language Website

AMMAN – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) is proud to announce the launch of its new German language website adding its fourth user-selectable languages in order to reach an increasingly diversified customer base.

German speaking clients will now be informed of AGIP's various services, activities and news and be able to keep track of the latest developments related to Intellectual Property (IP) laws, registration requirements and practices.



"The new German website is designed to meet the needs of our increasingly diversified customer base. The expansion of AGIP's website into new languages will enhance communication with IP practitioners and interested parties worldwide," said Charles Sha'ban, AGIP Executive Director.

To access the German-language version of AGIP's website, simply visit: <http://www.agip.com> and select "Deutsch" from the language drop-down box.

## New Trade Names Law Issued in Bahrain

MANAMA – His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, has issued the new Trade Names Law No. 18 of 2012 on April 12, 2012. As of this date, the Law entered into effect, and has been published in the Official Gazette.

The new Law consists of 26 Articles, and the first article deals with the definitions related to the Law.

The new Law stipulates the conditions for registering a trade name in Bahrain as follows:

- A trade name should be new and innovative, and not identical to another trademark or a trade name.
- It should not be registered previously.
- A trade name may be registered in Arabic or any acceptable

foreign language accompanied with its translation into Arabic.

- A trade name should respect public order and morals.

According to the new Law, a trade name shall enjoy protection in compliance with the provisions of this law once this trade name has been incorporated into the registry of trade names.

Judicial Control Officers appointed by the Minister of Industry and Commerce shall verify the implementing of the provisions of this law.

Furthermore, anyone who commits any violation such as (use of a trade name owned by another person, use of a trade name in any manner which misleads or confuses the public, use of a trade name which has not been registered in compliance with this law, ...etc.) will be punishable with a fine of not less than (BD 500) Bahraini Dinars and not exceeding (BD 1000) Bahraini Dinars.

## Tunisia to Accede to the Hague Agreement



GENEVA - The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) announced the deposit by the Government of the Republic of Tunisia, on March 13, 2012, of its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs, adopted in Geneva on July 2, 1999 (the "Geneva Act").

According to WIPO, the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs provides a mechanism for registering a design in countries and/ or intergovernmental organizations member of the Hague Agreement. It is administered by the International Bureau of WIPO located in Geneva, Switzerland.

This System gives the owner of an industrial design the possibility to have his design

protected in several countries by simply filing one application with the International Bureau of WIPO, in one language, with one set of fees in one currency (Swiss Francs). An international registration produces the same effects in each of the designated countries, as if the design had been registered directly with each national office, unless protection is refused by the national office of that country.

The Hague System simplifies the management of an industrial design registration, since it is possible to record subsequent changes or to renew the registration through a single procedural step with the International Bureau of WIPO.

The Geneva Act will enter into force, in respect of the Republic of Tunisia, on June 13, 2012.

## Update on the Libyan Trademark Office Situation



TRIPOLI – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) would like to inform its clients that it is still monitoring the situation closely at the Libyan Trademark

Office (LTO) which has been closed for internal organization.

AGIP recommends its clients not to provide any official documents (Power of Attorney, Commercial Extract or Registration Certificate of the Trademark) for the time being until the Libyan Trademark Office is operational again in order to avoid any complications, additional cost or change on filing requirements or procedures that may occur.

Clients may still send us their instructions for filing trademarks in Libya without the official documents in order to keep and list them in our work; once the LTO is open, AGIP will inform its clients about the developments and the required documents for filing in Libya.

For further information you may contact Libya Office at:  
Libya@agip.com

## New Intellectual Property Office and Procedures in Afghanistan



KABUL – Afghanistan Government announced that the Trademark Registration Department has been relocated from the Commercial Court to the newly formed Intellectual Property Office (IPO) within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as of April 4, 2012.

The opening of the new Intellectual Property Office (IPO) is expected to be on May 12, 2012.

In the meantime, the IPO is planning to unofficially receive applications and

once the office becomes operational it will start giving formal application numbers.

The IPO will enforce the Trademark Law No. 995 dated September 1, 2009 and the new Rules and Regulations which will be finalized and approved by the Afghan Parliament.

In line with this change, some amendments have been made to the requirements and procedures for trademark registration, these changes include:

- Application shall undergo an examination before acceptance; the time frame needed for completing the examination is 15 working days as of the application date.
- The priority will be allowed based on the reciprocity principle.
- The time frame for registration is three (3) months as of the application date.
- The registration will be given only for all the goods/ services falling in the class(s) in which the registration is sought for, and there is no provision to apply for limited goods/ services.
- Applications can be filed with a copy of legalized Power of Attorney; meanwhile, the original document duly legalized and attested by the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be submitted at the time of obtaining the registration certificate.
- All the documents submitted should be accompanied with certified local language translations.
- In accordance with the new system, the official fees will be modified as well. The new fees will shortly be approved by the Afghan Parliament and applied on the applications filed before at the Commercial Court, but not yet completed the procedures.

AGIP is working on updating its charges based on the new official fees, and the new lists of charges shall be displayed on our website: [www.agip.com](http://www.agip.com)

# World Intellectual Property Day 2012 Celebrates Visionary Innovators



mark the day, including competitions, exhibitions and public discussions.

In his World IP Day message, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Director General Francis Gurry describes a visionary innovator as someone whose innovations have transformed our lives and, at times, the way society operates. In the arts, he notes, innovation revolves around new ways of seeing things. "A visionary artist or a composer or a writer is able to show us a different way, a new way of looking at the world," Mr. Gurry says.

The Director General says World Intellectual Property Day is an opportunity to celebrate the contribution that intellectual property makes to innovation and cultural creation – "and the immense good that these two social phenomena bring to the world." He notes it is an "opportunity to create greater understanding about the role of intellectual property," and encourages young people to get involved in discussions on IP.

World IP Day is "an opportunity to create greater understanding about the role of intellectual property as a balancing mechanism between the competing interests which surround innovation and cultural creation: the interests of the individual creator and those of society; the interests of the producer and those of the consumer; the interest in encouraging innovation and creation, and the interest in sharing the benefits that derive from them," Mr. Gurry says, noting, "we should look upon intellectual property as an empowering mechanism to address these challenges."

GENEVA - This year's World Intellectual Property Day on April 26 celebrates visionary innovators - individuals whose ingenuity and artistry have broken molds, opened new horizons and made a lasting impact. Across the world, intellectual property (IP) Offices, associations, businesses and technology institutions and students are organizing numerous activities to

WIPO's member states initiated World IP Day in 2000 to raise public awareness about the role of IP in daily life, and to celebrate the contribution made by innovators and creators to the development of societies across the globe. World IP Day is celebrated annually on April 26, the date on which the Convention establishing WIPO entered into force in 1970.

## When & Where to Meet AGIP Professionals

Who	Where	When
AGIP Delegation	INTA 134th Annual Meeting, Washington D.C	May 5 - 9
Nabil Salamé (Executive Director / Vice President Marketing)	LES USA/Canada Spring Meeting, Boston	May 15 - 17

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