



New Requirement for Trademark Renewal in Algeria

ALGIERS - According to the Algerian Implementing Regulations for Patents, Layout Designs of Integrated Circuits and Trademarks Laws, which were published in the Official Gazette No. 54 on August 7, 2005, renewal applications should be accompanied by proof of local use of the mark in the year preceding the renewal deadline.

In accordance with Article 19 of the Executive Decree No. 05-277 related to Trademarks of 2005 determining trademark filing and registration modalities, "Renewal applications should be supported by any means likely to substantiate the use of the mark within the year preceding the renewal due date, in accordance with Article 11 of Ordinance No. 03-06 related to Trademarks of July 19, 2003." This Article stipulates, "The practice of the right granted by a mark registration shall involve the serious use of the mark on goods or the packages thereof, or related to the services identified by such mark."

In case the trademark registration which is due for renewal has actually been used in Algeria, an affidavit simply signed by the applicant declaring the same should be filed with the renewal application. Copies of invoices evidencing actual sales would also be undeniable proofs of use.

Late filing of such evidences is feasible but no later than 60 days as from the renewal application date.

Enforced as of January 2006, requirements for renewal of trademark/service mark registrations have become as follows:

- A simply signed Power of Attorney for each application.
- Fifteen prints of the mark not exceeding 9 centimeters.
- The number and date of the registered trademark/service mark.
- The name, address and nationality of the applicant.
- Proof of use.

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Sudan Issues New Requirements for Powers of Attorney

KHARTOUM - Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) would like to inform its clients that as per a decision issued by the Sudanese Trademark Registrar Fawzia Hussein Saleh, any Power of Attorney, whose duration exceeds five years, will not be accepted starting June 1, 2006 and consequently it should be renewed.

The decision, issued on April 22, 2006, also stipulates that any Power of Attorney that is not stamped with the company's or the applicant's seal shall not be accepted as of June 1, 2006.

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AGIP Participates in INTA 128th Annual Meeting 2006 in Canada

AMMAN - Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) will be participating in the International Trademark Association's (INTA) 128th Annual Meeting to be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, May 6-10, 2006.

This year's theme of "Cross-Border Trademark Issues" will give attendees from more than 130 countries a chance to explore international trademark issues from a variety of perspectives.

AGIP delegation will be staying at The Fairmont Royal York Hotel, and will be pleased to discuss any matters of relevance.

For more information, please visit www.inta.org/annual/2006/index.html



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World Celebrates Intellectual Property Day

GENEVA - The power of ideas as the seedbed for innovation and creativity is the theme of this year's World Intellectual Property (IP) Day celebrated on April 26, 2006. In his message to mark the sixth World IP Day, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Dr. Kamil Idris, emphasized the limitless value of ideas in inspiring the work of inventors and creators from which all ultimately benefit.

"World Intellectual Property Day is an opportunity to encourage people to think about the role played by intellectual property in everyday life, and about its importance in stimulating and safeguarding innovation and creativity. This year, we celebrate the starting point of all intellectual property, the seeds from which all innovations and creative works grow - ideas," said Dr. Idris.

According to a press release by *the Organization*, countries around the world and members of the WIPO commemorated this day by organizing seminars, workshops, lectures and IP awareness campaigns.

General Director of Jordan's National Library, Mamoun Talhouni stressed, on this occasion, on enforcing an effective intellectual property protection system which will ensure the promotion of creativity and innovation and sustain cultural, technological and socio-economic development, *ag-IP-news Agency* reported.

In Algeria, the National Algerian Institute for Industrial Property (NAIIP) and the National Copyright Office (NCO) have jointly celebrated this day by conducting seminars on the Madrid Agreement and Protocol and on the rights of music producers. Other activities included an exhibition on industrial property as well as "Open Days" to highlight the work of the NCO.

The Egyptian Center for Intellectual Property and Information Technology (ECIPIT), in cooperation with the Intellectual Property Department at the League of Arab States, organized a conference on "Intellectual Property in the Era of Information and communication Revolution." The conference centered around one theme which is fighting the illegal usage of software products, according to a press release by *the ECIPIT*.

In Tunisia, the Institut National de la Normalisation et de la Propriété Industrielle organized a seminar, in collaboration with WIPO and the National Office of Handicrafts, on the protection of creations in the handicrafts sector.

Meanwhile, the Intellectual Property Rights Department of Dubai Customs in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) organized a seminar to commemorate the IP Day. The seminar stressed on creating a conducive investment environment in the UAE by bringing down piracy to minimal levels and providing effective protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), *AME Info* reported.

In India, the National Intellectual Property Organization (NIPO) organized a seminar on the "Data Protection Laws," in New Delhi which examined the growing concern over databases and personal privacy protection covered by the Indian Copyright Act.

WIPO member states decided, in 2000, to designate a World Intellectual Property Day to raise awareness of the role of intellectual property in peoples' daily lives, and to celebrate the contribution made by innovators and artists to the development of societies across the globe. April 26 was chosen as this was the date on which the Convention establishing WIPO entered into force in 1970.

China to Set up Centers Handling IPRs Complaints

BEIJING - "China plans to set up special service centers in 50 major cities within three years to handle domestic complaints on the infringement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)," Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Jiang Zengwei said.

According to *Xinhua News Agency*, such centers, which will provide IPRs-related consulting services, will be connected to official websites of departments in charge of IPRs protection.

Zengwei revealed that China is developing an IPRs protection action plan for 2006, which includes tightening laws and regulations, strengthening law enforcement and cracking down on IPRs infringements.

The government will also work on improving the IPRs protection mechanism and enhancing international exchange and cooperation.



EC Proposes Criminal Law to Combat IP Offences

BRUSSELS - The European Commission (EC) adopted on April 26, 2006, a proposal for a directive to combat intellectual property offences that amends the proposal approved by the Commission on July 12, 2005, a press release by *the European Union* stated.

According to Commission Vice-President Franco Frattini, who is responsible for justice, freedom and security matters, the new provisions proposed by the EC represent the criminal law dimension of the fight against counterfeiting and piracy in Europe.

The proposed measures are designed to bring member states' criminal legislation more closely into alignment and to improve European cooperation so as to combat more effectively counterfeiting and piracy, which are frequently committed by criminal organizations, often pose a risk to health and safety, and seriously harm the interests of many sectors in the European economy.

The arrangements will have to be applied to all types of intellectual property right infringements. In the directive, all intentional

infringements of an intellectual property right on a commercial scale, including attempting, aiding and abetting such infringements, are treated as criminal offences. The minimum sentence is a term of four years' imprisonment where the infringement is committed under the aegis of a criminal organization or carries a serious risk to the health and safety of individuals.

The amount of the fine will have to be at least EUR100,000 or EUR300,000 where there is a link with a criminal organization or any risk to health and safety. Member states may impose heavier penalties or fines.

UAE to Amend Several Commercial Laws

DUBAI - "Proposed amendments to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Commercial Agencies Law are aimed at keeping abreast with global best practices and maintaining maximum consumer protection," said Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, UAE Minister of Economy.

In a statement made to *the Emirates News Agency (WAM)*, Al Qasimi outlined the major amendments introduced to the existing Agencies Law, pending ratification by President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

"Amendments to Articles 8 and 9 of the law impose restrictions on the principal's right to revoke dealership unilaterally unless there is a strong reason that justifies the act. It is also prohibited to make an entry into the commercial agencies register in the name of another agent," she said.

By virtue of the new amendments, the agency contract shall be limited to certain duration, unless extended one year before its expiry. Such amendment denotes that the agency shall be renewed only at the mutual consent of the two

parties. This will help create equilibrium in the principal-agent relation.

Al Qasimi also pointed out to an amendment in Article 23 of the law under which, no products or goods of the same brand shall be allowed into the country without the agent's approval, with the exception of those specified by the cabinet as liberalized goods.

According to Al Qasimi, other commercial laws will be amended. The UAE government is in the process of drafting a competition law in line with the strategy of the UAE to create an enabling business environment that is conducive to economic growth.

Furthermore, she disclosed that the UAE is currently amending the Federal Companies Law.

"The main amendment pertains to removal of the equity capital restriction which is presently 51% national equity. These amendments will also streamline the authentication procedures by giving investors several options to attest through public notaries or registered law firms," she explained.



Internet News

ICANN Holds 25th International Public Meeting in New Zealand



WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND - Several key issues relating to the Internet's growth, security and stability were discussed at length at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Number's (ICANN) 25th International Meeting held in Wellington, New Zealand, March 25-31, 2006.

According to a press release by *the Corporation*, these meetings constitute an essential part of ICANN's global Internet community consensus-development and outreach efforts.

During the meeting, ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) issued a communiqué identifying public policy issues relating to the ICM Registry's application to operate the proposed .xxx sponsored Top-Level Domain (sTLD), paving the way for further consideration of the application by the Board.

Having received feedback from the GAC on the ICM Registry sTLD

application, the Board resolved that ICANN's President and General Counsel should analyze all publicly received inputs and continue negotiations with ICM Registry and to return to the Board with any recommendations regarding amendments to the proposed agreement.

The Wellington Meeting also saw developments in relation to Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). Strong community feedback was received that backed ICANN's progress towards the implementation of non-Latin character sets into the Root, following a period of thorough testing to ensure that stability of the Domain Name System (DNS) is maintained.

Another key outcome of the meeting was the release of two reports by ICANN's Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC). The first report examined amplified DNS Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks, while the second report looked at alternate Roots and IDNs. The reports appeal

to the Internet community to take these issues seriously.

The DDoS report identifies short and long-term measures to reduce the opportunities for and minimize the effects of DDoS attacks, while the report into alternate Roots and IDNs examines and identifies the motives that cause "breakaway" activities, and explains the issues and conditions that can accelerate fragmentation of the root name service. It also examines the consequences that such activities may have on Internet users and service providers.

Furthermore, the ICANN Board voted to approve the 2006-2009 strategic plan, providing the organization with a clear future direction.

Commenting on the Wellington Meeting, President and CEO of ICANN Dr Paul Twomey applauded its outcomes stating that it had been productive and had addressed some of the key issues facing the DNS.

Registration of .EU Internet Domain Names Opened to Public



BRUSSELS - The European Registry of Internet Domain Names (EURid) announced that registration of .eu domain name was opened to public on April 7, 2006.

From December 7, 2005, when .eu first opened until April 7, 2006, it has only been possible for holders of prior rights such as registered trademark owners to apply for .eu names.

General registration began on April 7, 2006 on a first-come, first-served basis, but only to people who

live in the European Union and to companies with headquarters or branches inside the 25-nation bloc.

"We are satisfied to see that the interest in .eu has been so large and that many already regard .eu as a useful complement to Internet's national top level domain names," says Managing Director of EURid Marc Van Wesemael.

The European Registry of Internet Domain Names (EURid) is a not-for-profit organization appointed by the European Commission to register and manage .eu domain names. EURid was founded on April 8, 2003, with headquarter in Brussels.