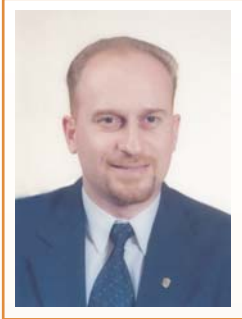




## Sha'ban and Pharaon Join FICPI



Mr. Charles Sha'ban



Mr. Samer Pharaon

**A**MMAN - Executive Director of Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) Mr. Charles Sha'ban and Executive Director of Abu-Ghazaleh Legal Mr. Samer Pharaon have recently been accepted as members in the Fédération Internationale des Conseils en Propriété Industrielle (FICPI).

"Committed to representing the Arab region on a global level, AGIP and through continued involvement with IP international organizations will foster the exchange of views on the rapidly changing intellectual property scene," said Mr. Sha'ban.

"This represents yet another testimony to the caliber of AGIP's executives and the recognition they enjoy internationally," Mr. Sha'ban added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Pharaon, who participated in the FICPI World Congress held in Paris, May 22-26, 2006, noted, "Joining such prestigious organization will help employ my experience in intellectual property and law for the interests of patent and trademark professionals worldwide.

The Congress highlighted the following themes: balancing patents with economic development, balancing fair protection of inventions with a reasonable degree of certainty to third parties, balancing privacy law with IP laws, balancing IP rights with public policy as well as balancing the interests of all participants in the patent system.

FICPI members will be involved in providing professional counsel and input to governments, agencies and international organizations in the field of intellectual property as well as helping ensure that decisions made today fuel balanced development and growth.

The International Federation of Industrial Property Attorneys or FICPI, an acronym for Fédération Internationale des Conseils en Propriété Industrielle in French, is a non-political, international, professional body of intellectual property professionals, i.e. patent and trademark attorneys, in private practice, with members in 80 countries. FICPI was established on September 1, 1906 and is based in Basel, Switzerland.

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## New IPRs Office Inaugurated in India

NEW DELHI - As part of India's drive to fully modernize its Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) infrastructure, Indian Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath, inaugurated the new Intellectual Property Office at Antop Hill, Wadala, in Mumbai on May 25, 2006.

According to *the Indian Press and Information Bureau*, the government of India has embarked on a major modernization program for all IPRs offices which includes electronic filing, electronic register, online search capabilities, extensive application of information technology as well as human resources' development.

This is the fourth in a series of four virtually interlinked IPRs offices in the metropolitan cities. The three other offices have already been set up in Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai.



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## AGIP Participates in INTA 128th Annual Meeting 2006 in Toronto

**T**ORONTO, ONTARIO - Under the special theme of "Cross-Border Trademark Issues," the International Trademark Association (INTA) held its 128th Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, May 6-10, 2006.

More than 7,000 professionals and experts in the field of intellectual property attended this year's meeting which offered an informative program for practitioners on the most important international trademark issues and developments.

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) always exerts its effort to have an unmatched presence at each meeting.



*AGIP Delegation*

"Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property is keen on attending such an important event every year in order to take advantage of the educational programs, committee meetings, exhibits, social events and networking opportunities," AGIP Executive Director, Mr. Charles Sha'ban said.

"The INTA meeting provides a unique opportunity for AGIP to meet clients from different countries, exchange expertise and discusses potential cooperation prospects with them," he added.

Meanwhile, ag-IP-news Agency participated in the INTA 128th Annual Meeting and provided coverage of the event.

"The INTA meeting was the ideal place to keep abreast of the new developments in the trademark industry," ag-IP-news Agency Editor-in-Chief Mr. Roufan Nahhas said.

On the sidelines of the event, Executive Director of Abu-Ghazaleh Legal Mr. Samer Pharaon was selected as a mediator to the INTA's Panel of Neutrals.

"I'm honored to join this group consisting of more than 150 of the most experienced and qualified trademark lawyers from all over the world," Mr. Pharaon commented.

The Panel of Neutrals is part of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program developed by INTA. The Panel is a select group of highly qualified individuals with experience in trademark matters that help parties resolve trademark and unfair competition disputes without litigation, in particular, through mediation.

The program for the INTA 128th Annual Meeting included skill-building workshops, industry breakouts and practical sessions which enabled participants learn all the myriad international trademark issues in the major industries and the importance of protection and enforcement around the world.

The next INTA 129th Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois, USA, April 28 - May 2, 2007.

## Sudan Forms National IP Committee

**KHARTOUM** - A new national committee for Intellectual Property (IP) has recently been established in Sudan. The committee has been assigned the tasks of formulating the IP strategies and policies in Sudan, including revision of the current IP laws, regulations, membership in the international treaties, and the establishment of framework for all IP activities in the country.

"The 30-member committee which is headed by Minister of Justice, has been formed up on

the request of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Economic Development Bureau for Africa," said Mr. Mohammad Elhaj, manager of Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) Sudan Office and a member of the committee.

Mr. Elhaj noted that the committee's final decisions and recommendations would be raised to the said entity.

## Special 301 Annual Report on IPRs Issued

**W**ASHINGTON - The Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) announced on April 28, 2006 the release of its "Special 301" Annual Report on the adequacy and effectiveness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) protection in 87 countries.

The report identifies governments that need to take stronger actions to combat piracy and counterfeiting, for example, by cracking down on illegal optical disc production and Internet piracy, or stepping up border enforcement against trade in fake goods.

"This report acknowledges the positive steps that several of our trading partners have taken to strengthen IPRs protection over the past year," said US Trade Representative Mr. Rob Portman.

This year's Special 301 Report places 48 countries on the Priority Watch List (PWL), Watch List (WL) or the Section 306 monitoring list.

Countries on the PWL do not provide an adequate level of IPRs protection or enforcement, or market access for persons relying on intellectual property protection. In addition to China and Russia, eleven countries are placed on the PWL in this year's report including Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela.

Thirty-four trading countries are placed on the lower level of the WL, meriting bilateral attention to address

the underlying IPRs problems. The WL countries are the Bahamas, Belarus, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, European Union, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Jamaica, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

This year's Special 301 Report adds a new section that notes the improvements and progress that several countries have made in addressing IPR-related concerns identified in previous Special 301 Reports. Pakistan, Ukraine, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan have made progress in IPRs protection and enforcement against retail piracy, Internet piracy, and optical disc pirate production.

Due to progress on intellectual property, the status of several countries has been improved since last year's Special 301 Report. Ukraine, the Philippines, Kuwait and Pakistan were moved from the PWL to the WL. Four countries were removed from the WL entirely because of improvement in intellectual property protection: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Slovak Republic and Uruguay.

This year, Paraguay continues to be subject to Section 306 monitoring list and the United States will work with it to address numerous IPRs concerns.

## Software Piracy Rate in the Middle East Declines in 2005

WASHINGTON, DC - Business Software Alliance (BSA), the foremost organization dedicated to promoting a safe and legal digital world, announced in a press release on May 23, 2006 that software piracy levels in the Middle East have declined in 2005, with the UAE leading the way with the lowest piracy rate in the region.

Piracy rate in the Middle East dropped one percentage point last year to 57 percent, while the global piracy rate has remained unchanged at 35 percent, according to an independent study released by BSA. The study was conducted by IDC (International Data Corporation), the IT industry's leading global market research and forecasting firm.

"The study shows that the Middle East and Africa region has made substantial progress in tackling the

problem of software piracy, with piracy rates dropping in as many as 19 of the 26 countries in the region. Government support to anti-piracy campaigns has been crucial to making this possible," said Mr. Jawad Al Redha, co-chairman of BSA Middle East.

The UAE has posted the lowest piracy rate in the region for the 10th consecutive year, and is the only Middle East entry to the list of 20 nations with the lowest piracy rates. In fact, the UAE's piracy level of 34 percent is lower than that of several European countries, such as France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland, and is comparable to the piracy rates of the United Kingdom (27 percent), the Netherlands (30 percent) and Australia (31 percent).

Morocco, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon and Oman showed considerable

decline in piracy, while in other Middle Eastern countries the piracy level remained relatively stable. Among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Qatar's piracy rate dropped from 62 percent in 2004 to 60 percent in 2005, while that of Saudi Arabia remained unchanged at 52 percent. Kuwait also witnessed a two-percentage point reduction in piracy, from 68 percent to 66 percent, whereas in Oman, piracy dropped from 63 percent to 62 percent.

A significant aspect of the findings of the BSA study is that 51 of the 97 countries covered in the study witnessed a drop in piracy in 2005. In addition, positive movement in a number of markets indicates education and enforcement efforts are paying off in emerging economies such as Brazil, China, Russia and India and in Central/Eastern Europe and the Middle East & Africa.



## New Integrated Circuits and Industrial Designs Laws in Bahrain

**M**ANAMA - His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, issued on April 29, 2006 Law No. 5 of 2006 for Integrated Circuits and Law No. 6 of 2006 for Industrial Designs in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

As per the new laws, protection period for industrial designs is ten years starting from the date of filing the application renewable for another five years, whereas, the protection period for integrated circuits is ten years starting from the date of filing the application, or from the date of the first commercial exploitation in the Kingdom or abroad.

The laws, which were published in the Official Gazette No. 2737 dated May 3, 2006, specify requirements for the registration, renewal, ownership transfer and licensing of industrial designs and integrated circuits.

## Patents (Amendment) Rules Issued in India

NEW DELHI - The Patents (Amendment) Rules 2006 were issued by the Indian government on May 11, 2006.

Commenting on the Rules, Indian Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath, said, "The recent amendments to the Patents Rules represent yet another major step forward in India's endeavor to develop a vibrant and user-friendly Intellectual Property regime which would facilitate as well as encourage innovation and creativity."

The Minister added, "The thrust of the Patents Rules is to introduce transparency, decentralize the functioning of patent offices, simplify the procedures and to make them user-friendly."

Pursuant to the amendment to the Patents Act of 1970 as contained in the Patents (Amendment) Act of 2005, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, issued a notification on May 5, 2006, published in the Gazette of India No. S.O. 657 (E) further amending the Patents Rules of 2003.

According to *the Indian Press and Information Bureau*, the Patents (Amendment) Rules 2006 have been finalized through a consultative process involving patent attorneys, industry associations, government departments concerned and other stakeholders.

In order to decentralize as well as facilitate the patent administration, all patent related activities can now be performed by all the Patent Offices at Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai.

Patent applications are now to be mandatorily published within one month after expiry of the statutory period of 18 months and, in case of request for an early publication, the application is to be published within one month from the date of request. This step will introduce an element of certainty regarding the date of publication which was not available previously.

With a view to enforcing transparency and ensuring time bound disposal of patent applications, definitive time frames have been prescribed for various activities by the patent

offices. A patent application now has to be referred to an examiner within one month of a request for its examination. Further, the controller will now be required to take a decision on the report of the examiner within one month of its submission and the First Examination Report has also to be issued within six months of the date of request for examination of a patent application. The time for granting permission to file patents abroad has also been reduced to 21 days.

In order to make the system user-friendly, timelines available for applicants and the public have also been extended. Accordingly, the timeframe for making a request for examination has been extended from 36 to 48 months; time for filing a pre-grant opposition extended from three to six months; time for filing reply to pre-grant opposition extended from one to three months; and time for meeting the requirements of the First Examination Report increased to 12 months.



# Internet News

## Sha'ban Selected to the IGF Advisory Group

**A**MMAN - Executive Director of Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) Mr. Charles Sha'ban has been selected by the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan to be a member of the newly formed Advisory Group.

The Group, formed by the Secretary-General on May 17, 2006 to assist him in convening the first meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), consists of 46 members from governments, private sector and civil society, including the academic and technical communities, who represent all regions of the world.

The Advisory Group is chaired by Mr. Nitin Desai, the Secretary-General's Special Advisor for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), a press release by *the United Nations* stated.

Its main task is to prepare the substantive agenda and program for the first meeting of the IGF, which is to be held in Athens from October 30 to November 2, 2006. Decisions on how to prepare subsequent meetings and on any future structure and working methods of the Forum will be taken in light of the experiences gained during the preparatory process for the Athens meeting.

The IGF is an outcome of the Tunis phase of the WSIS, which took place in November 2005. In the Tunis agenda for the information society, governments asked the Secretary-General to convene the Forum, giving it the mandate to discuss the main public policy issues related to Internet governance, in order to foster the Internet's sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development.

Governments called for the Forum to be convened in an "open and inclusive process." Accordingly, the Advisory Group will carry out its work in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, and will seek to make the best possible use of electronic working methods, including online consultations.

"Business has valuable technical, practical and innovative experience to contribute to the IGF and this multistakeholder group," said Mr. Sha'ban in a statement to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Mr. Sha'ban, who participated in the IGF Advisory Group meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, May 22 - 23, 2006, is one of the Group's seven business representatives.

For more information on the IGF, please visit : [www.intgovforum.org](http://www.intgovforum.org)

## ICANN Rejects .XXX, Approves .Tel

MARINA DEL REY, CA - The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) voted on May 10, 2006 against a proposed agreement for a .XXX sponsored Top-Level Domain (sTLD).

The decision from ICANN follows opposition from conservative groups and some pornography websites to create the domain name for voluntary use by the adult entertainment industry.

According to a press release by *the Corporation*, the controversial application for .XXX domain, which was proposed by the ICM Registry, received much public comment

and detailed discussion by the ICANN Board of Directors and ended with ICANN's rejection in a 9-5 vote.

Meanwhile, ICANN unanimously approved on May 15, 2006 the creation of the new .Tel Top-Level Domain (TLD) and awarded the contract to Telnic Limited, a UK-based technology company founded in 1998.

According to a press release by *Telnic*, the .Tel domain will enable people to reach a business from any Internet enabled device (computer or mobile) simply by typing, for example, "Hertz.tel." The user will

then be able to connect directly to a Hertz representative or navigate through a list of services that Hertz may offer. Businesses can easily extend their brands into this new space and enhance the way customer inquiries are handled.

In addition, individuals can use the .Tel domain to publish and update their contact information directly in the Domain Name System (DNS). These individuals will decide, in real time, by what means their friends and colleagues will be able to reach them. This could include: VoIP, conventional telephony (fixedline or wireless), email, SMS, Skype, AIM and many more.