



AGIP Bulletin
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AGIP Attends 2025 LES China Annual Conference

2025
September

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XI'AN - Nearly 300 intellectual property experts gathered in Xi'an to discuss innovation-driven development strategies. Ms. Wei Shang, Director of Abu-Ghazala Intellectual Property (AGIP) for Greater China, attended the conference to participate in high-level exchanges and strengthen cross-border IP cooperation.

In late September, the 2025 Annual Conference of the LES China Society was held in Xi'an. Under the theme "Intelligent Connectivity along the Silk Road, Innovation Leading the Future," the conference brought together nearly 300 experts, scholars, corporate representatives, and legal service providers from the field of intellectual property.

Ms. Wei Shang participated in this grand event and engaged in in-depth communication with global IP professionals.

During the conference, experts from companies such as Huawei, ZTE, and Nokia held deep dialogues on hot topics including Standard Essential Patent (SEP) licensing, the application of FRAND principles, and the determination of licensing rates. Ms. Shang also shared AGIP's professional insights into the cross-border protection and commercialization of intellectual property.

A significant outcome of this year's conference was China's successful bid to host the 2028 LES International (LESI) Conference, which will take place in Shenzhen. This decision will further promote China's role in the global IP governance system.

The participation of Ms. Wei Shang and AGIP reflects the positive trend of global exchange and cooperation in the intellectual property field, signaling China's increasingly important role in the global







IP

UPDATES

Lebanon: Reverting to the Previous Recordal Process for Transfers of Trademarks, Patents, and Copyrights

The Intellectual Property Protection Department of the Ministry of Economy and Trade recently announced a reversion to its previous, simplified procedure for recording transfers of ownership in trademarks, patents and copyrights. Effective immediately, applicants no longer must submit original certificates to record assignments. Instead, a notarized and legalized Power of Attorney, a notarized and legalized Deed of Assignment, and a scanned copy of the certificate will suffice.

This decision by the Ministry restores earlier practice and removes a barrier that had previously required owners or assignees to provide original IP certificates in person. The revised requirements aim to expedite processing, reduce administrative burden for both rights holders and agents, and minimize the risks associated with transporting original documents. This change will be formally published in the next issue of the Official Lebanese Gazette.

For further details or inquiries, please contact our office in Lebanon at lebanon@agip.com





Russia: New Official Fees for Trademark Filing and Renewal

MOSCOW - The Government of the Russia has updated its official trademark fees, introducing an additional charge for filings and renewals that list more than 10 items of goods or services per class. The new change, outlined in Government Resolution No. 1459 published on September 26, 2025, will take effect on October 4, 2025, and adds 500 Russian Rubles (USD 6.11) for every item beyond the 10-item threshold.

For more information, please contact AGIP Russia office at russia@agip.com



Qatar Implements New Practice for Trademark Applications Filing

DOHA - The Qatari Trademark Office has announced that, effective immediately, all trademark applications must reference the 11th edition of the Nice Classification for lists of goods and services. Additionally, claiming class headings and all goods and services in the class are no longer acceptable. This is in accordance with the provisions of GCC Law No. 7/2014. This new requirement applies to both new filings and pending applications currently under review.

Under the updated practice, trademark applicants must prepare their specification of goods and services using the classes and terms as set out in the 11th edition of the Nice Classification. This decision follows the provisions of GCC Law No. 7/2014, which aims to harmonize intellectual property procedures across Gulf Cooperation Council member states.

For more information or inquiries, please contact AGIP Qatar office at qatar@agip.com

Qatar Investment and Trade Court and WIPO Sign Cooperation Agreement



DOHA - The Qatari Investment and Trade Court has signed a cooperation agreement with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), with the aim of strengthening partnership and exchanging expertise in the field of intellectual property rights protection, according to a press release by Qatar News Agency.

The agreement was signed by HE President of the Investment and Trade Court, Judge Khalid

bin Ali Al Obaidli, and Director of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, Ignacio De Castro Llamas. The agreement was signed in the presence of Director of the Intellectual Property Rights Protection Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), Abdulbasit Al Ajji, along with a number of judges and court officials.

The agreement focuses on supporting the development of an advanced judicial environment capable of keeping pace with the best international practices, thus enhancing the court's role in protecting intellectual property rights and improving the investment climate in the State of Qatar.

In his remarks, HE Judge Khalid

bin Ali Al Obaidli stated that this agreement reflects the Investment and Trade Court's commitment to engaging with leading international institutions and benefiting from their expertise, which strengthens Qatar's position as a developed center for intellectual property protection and the resolution of commercial and investment disputes.

After the signing, the WIPO delegation toured the court's facilities, where they were briefed on its various departments and the mechanisms it employs to adjudicate commercial and investment cases. They praised the advanced capabilities and infrastructure, which reflect the court's status as a pioneering judicial institution both locally and internationally.



Tanzania Introduces Mandatory Trademark Recordal for All Imported Goods

DODOMA – The Government of Tanzania has announced a mandatory trademark recordal requirement for all goods imported into mainland Tanzania, effective December 1, 2025. The new system will be administered by the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) under the Merchandise Marks Act and its accompanying regulations. The change aims to strengthen enforcement against counterfeit goods. Recordals will be valid for one year from approval and must be renewed thereafter.

The new system is intended to enhance intellectual property protection and streamline customs enforcement. Goods arriving without a valid FCC recordal may be seized or refused clearance, with authorities operating under a statutory presumption that unrecorded items could be counterfeit. The mandate applies to all persons and companies wishing to import goods into mainland Tanzania.

Brand owners should prepare now to meet the new requirements:

- Reviewing the intellectual property portfolio to identify all trademarks associated with imported goods into mainland Tanzania.
- Confirming that trademarks are valid and renewed.
- Collating the required documentation for recordal, including licensee details and high-quality digital images of goods displaying the trademarks.
- Appointing legal or administrative representation authorized to act before the FCC, as current authorizations to act at the Tanzania IPO will not suffice for FCC proceedings.

It is important to note that this legislation specifically refers to mainland Tanzania and does not apply to Zanzibar, which maintains its own intellectual property laws.

If you have any further questions or require clarification, please contact us at africa@agip.com



Bahrain and Japan Sign MoU to Launch Patent Prosecution Highway, Accelerating Patent Examination and Boosting Innovation

MANAMA - The Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Bahrain signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the Patent Prosecution Highway program with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) as part of the official visit of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to Japan. According to the Bahrain National Agency (BNA), the MoU was signed by Minister Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Deputy Commissioner Futoshi Yasuda on behalf of Japan.

The MoU aims to establish a mechanism for identifying and promoting cooperation between both parties to expedite the processing of patent applications, in line with their respective jurisdictions, responsibilities, and procedures, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

The signing also agreed to commence the PPH program on January 1, 2026. Minister Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro emphasized the ongoing efforts to develop the patents and intellectual property industry, which would enhance Bahrain's advanced and competitive business environment, support sustainable economic growth, and solidify the country's stance on safeguarding all forms of intellectual property and patents.

China Leads Global Core Digital Economy Patents in 2024

BEIJING - China ranked first worldwide in terms of the number of invention patent grants within the core industries of the digital economy in 2024, with a growth rate notably exceeding the global average, the country's top intellectual property (IP) regulator said.

According to the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), the number of authorized invention patents in these industries had reached 500,000 last year, recording a year-on-year increase of 23.1 percent. This data was released at the ongoing 14th China Intellectual Property Annual Conference, themed "IP in the Digital Age."

The CNIPA noted this progress in the AI industry, saying that China has emerged as the leading country in terms of AI-related patent holdings globally, accounting for 60 percent of the world total.

It also highlighted the growth of international patents, saying that the number of overseas invention patents granted to the core industries of China's digital economy had increased from 21,000 in 2016 to 52,000 in 2024.

Meanwhile, the number of foreign enterprises applying for invention patents in these industries in China has also been rising steadily. As of the end of last year, 95 countries and regions had obtained valid invention patents in the core industries of the digital economy in China. The number of such patents amounted to 407,000, accounting for 43.7 percent of the total valid invention patents held by foreign innovators in China.

"This fully demonstrates that foreign enterprises are confident in the future development of China's digital economy," said Shen Changyu, head of the CNIPA.



Saudi Arabia: Social Media Sharing Poems without Author's Consent now a Copyright Violation

RIYADH - Sharing a favorite poem on social media without the author's permission could cost in Saudi Arabia, as warned by the country's intellectual property authority.

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property stated, in a statement, that publishing or performing literary works, including poetry, without the creator's consent is a violation of copyright law and can result in fines and other penalties.

The authority referenced a recent case in which an individual recited a poem on a personal social media channel and used it for commercial purposes without authorization. As a result, the violator was fined 5,000 Saudi riyals (SR) and ordered to remove the content.

The authority clarified that utilizing any literary or artistic work without prior approval from its owner is a breach of the Copyright Protection Law. Offenders may face legal proceedings and sanctions.



AGIP

AROUND the WORLD

Yemen Office



Yemen Office

AGIP Yemen Office: Safeguarding Intellectual Property in Yemen Since 1984

AGIP Yemen is one of the oldest AGIP offices in the Arab Region. Established in 1984 in Aden, during the former Democratic Republic of Yemen, the Office later moved to Sana'a following the unification of North and South Yemen in 1990.

For more than 40 years, AGIP Yemen has proudly served international corporations and local enterprises by protecting, managing, and enforcing their intellectual property rights in Yemen. From trademark, patent, and industrial design registration to copyright protection and portfolio management, our team provides expert guidance and tailored solutions to safeguard ideas, innovations, and brands.

Supporting Local and Global Businesses:

AGIP Yemen not only supports multinational companies in securing their IP rights across Yemen but also works closely with Yemeni entrepreneurs and businesses, helping them unlock the value of their innovations in both local and international markets.

Commitment to Community and Awareness:

As part of our corporate social responsibility, AGIP Yemen actively contributes to initiatives that raise awareness about the importance of intellectual property



system. AGIP Yemen team collaborates with government authorities, business clusters, SMEs and universities in Yemen to highlight the role of IP in driving economic growth, innovation, and competitiveness, creating long-term value while contributing to a brighter future for Yemen.

Engagement and Knowledge Sharing

Recently AGIP Yemen organized and participated in several impactful lectures, workshops, and forums in IP, including:

- **Intellectual Property in Creative and Innovative Projects** Held during the National Competition for Creative and Innovative Projects, in cooperation with the Higher Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation.
- **IP and Creative Industries Session:** A special session in partnership with MEDALAH Incubator, engaging professionals from design, illustration, content writing, and photography communities.
- **Food Industries Forum: Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving Food Security:** AGIP Yemen presented a working paper titled “Intellectual Property and Food Industries in the Republic of Yemen” during this national event in Sana’a.
- **ICC Intellectual Property Roadmap Workshop:** Organized in cooperation with the General Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry, this virtual workshop covered Creating value from IP assets, Acquiring intellectual assets, Mechanisms for registering, protecting and enforcing IP rights and Interaction between IP and public domains (SDGs, environmental protection, competition)

AGIP Yemen remains committed to protecting innovation, empowering businesses, and building an IP-conscious culture in Yemen and beyond!



Abdunasser Radman
IP Manager

Accomplished IP Management professional with 17 years of experience and proven expertise in IP training and awareness initiatives.



Ahmed Fuad
IP Assistant Manager

Over 6 years of specialized experience in Intellectual Property recordal, renewals, and strategic consultation.



Mazen Abdul-Bary
IP Portfolio Manager

IP professional with over 20 years of experience in IP portfolio management for local businesses.



Hala Al-Absi
IP Senior Officer

Over 10 years of experience in trademark oppositions and advisory on IP disputes and enforcement.



Aalaa Zabarah
IP Senior Officer

Experienced in Intellectual Property registration and clearance for nearly 10 years.



Ahlam Al-Othmani
IP Legal Officer

A lawyer with 6 years of experience in IP enforcement, litigation and negotiation.

ARTICLES



150,000 New Solar Panels
Arranged financing for \$243M in Solar Projects by end of the year

Stamp Prices To Increase
Announced plans to further increase stamp prices by 6% in July

Hackers deface government site

'Viral' vaccines early promise

Retailers show drone delivery plans

Port X-Ray finds dog in bag

Also in the News

Prices Continue To Fall

Year lows. Analysts forecast future prices decrease. See complete

US appeals court rules mass record collection

Less people go on vacation this year

Markets

	Price	Change	% Change
EUR/USD	1.0934	-0.0043	-0.12%
USD/JPY	115.3547	0.0	0.0%
GBP/USD	1.5254	+0.0052	+0.14%
AUD/USD	0.7654	+0.0042	+0.06%

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IP & NDA 101: What It Is, Who Uses It, Why They Use It | Pros & Cons

By: Amer Al-Nasser/ AGIP Nordic

What Is an NDA?

An NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) is a promise to keep specific information secret.

In short, it's a contract that says: You'll hear something confidential. Don't share it.

Common types of NDA:

- **One-way** (unilateral): Only one side shares secrets.
- **Two-way** (mutual): Both sides share secrets.

Who Uses NDAs?

Inventors, designers, or companies may need to disclose details of an invention, design, or creative work to potential partners, manufacturers, or advisors before filing patents or design rights. An NDA prevents those parties from misusing or disclosing the information.

Why Bother with One?

- Signal seriousness: We respect your IP, please respect ours.
- Enable open talk: Share more than common information.
- Create a paper trail: Helpful if something leaks.
- Benefits vs. Cons
- Benefits
- Encourages deeper, faster knowledge sharing once signed.
- Sets expectations and remedies if someone leaks information.



Cons

- Friction and Delays: Redlines, delays, and “legal says no.”
- Bad Optics: Asking too early can signal “distrust” to the other party.

When You Probably Don't Need One

- First intro call or initial meeting.
- Industry panels, conferences, roundtables.
- Sharing “internal information” that is already online or in the public domain.

Bottom Line

Use NDAs to unlock conversations, not block them.

Need a proper NDA for your upcoming IP meeting?

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) can review, right-size, and train your team to use NDAs smartly in IP negotiations.

Find out more at www.agip.com