

Yemen: First Letters Patent Granted to Saba

We are very pleased to announce that Saba is the agent of the first two letters patent issued by the Patent Office in Yemen. The patents were issued and signed on July 11, 2012. This first patents will bear the numbers 1 and 2.

This is an explicit recognition by the authorities in Yemen of the growing importance of patent protection in the country. The patent framework in Yemen is now evolving to cope with the rapid globalization and technological change. Both globalization and technological advancement have presented significant opportunities and challenges to the patent system.

As a result, patent rights are becoming increasingly important in Yemen, but many of the challenges facing the patent system are yet to be addressed.

In principle, a maintenance fee will be due annually on the anniversary of the filing date. However, the Patent Office is still working on its new setup in preparation for implementing the new regulations and, to date, has not yet started accepting annuity payments. We will let you know once this happens.

For your information, patent applications in Yemen will be accepted as long as they have already been published by other Patent Offices.

Should you have any questions, or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at yemen@sabaip.com



Syria: Withdrawal from the Madrid Agreement

Based on Presidential Decree No. 179, Articles 1 and 2, the Syrian Authorities announced the withdrawal of Syria from the Madrid Agreement for the international registration of marks. Syria will remain a member of the Madrid Protocol (date of accession August 5, 2004). The subject Ministerial Decree was issued and signed on May 27, 2012 and published in Official Gazette number 24 / 2012 dated June 13, 2012.

Should you have any questions, or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at syria@sabaip.com

In This Issue

Yemen	1
First Letters Patent Granted to Saba	
Syria	1
Withdrawal from the Madrid Agreement	
Sudan	2
Simplified Formalities	
Jordan	3
Seizure of Counterfeit Drugs	
Yemen	4
One Number for a Trademark	
Saudi Arabia	5
Arabic Language on Billboard	
Oman	5
Workshop on effective IP Asset Management	
GTLD Applications Published	5

Sudan: Simplified Formalities

The Trademark Office has recently dropped the legalization requirement for powers of attorney submitted in support of trademark applications. The only authentication requirement will be a valid attestation by a Notary Public. Also, applicants will be required to submit a statutory declaration, simply signed, within 2 months from the end of the opposition period. This declaration is used to affirm that the nationality of the applicant has not changed since the date of filing, which makes it similar to an affidavit.

For further clarification, we list below the statutory requirements for filing a trademark application at the Sudanese Trademark Office along with the revised authentication procedures:

- 1- Power of Attorney, notarized. A general power may be used for subsequent filings.
- 2- Certificate of incorporation, with English translation, legalized.
- 3- Copy of priority document, if priority is claimed, certified.
- 4- 15 prints of the mark for each application.

5- Declaration of nationality, simply signed.

Documents 1 to 4 may be submitted within 1 month from filing date. Document 5 must be submitted within 2 months from the end of the opposition period.

Should you have any questions, or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at sudan@sabaip.com

Jordan: Seizure of Counterfeit Drugs

The Jordanian authorities have recently seized large quantities of counterfeit drugs, used for the treatment of physical and psychological diseases. A criminal case against the perpetrators was initiated by the Public Prosecution. Drug counterfeiting is a great threat to public health.

It could easily get into any legitimate drug supply chain and for this reason, Jordanian authorities are constantly working on improving the anti-counterfeit measures to protect the public and stay ahead of the criminals.



Yemen: One Number for a Trademark

Pursuant to the new regulations implementing Trademark Law no. 23 of 2010 in Yemen (issued on July 27, 2011), the registration number will remain the same as the filing number once an application matures to registration. This is now applicable in the country for all trademarks filed as of October 1, 2011. The other salient features of the new implementing regulations include:

1. The 8th edition of the Nice classification is adopted with no local sub-classification.

2. The Registrar is expected to complete substantive examination (examination on absolute and relative grounds) within 30 days from submission of all required documents.

3. Applications for renewal of trademarks will be published in the Official Gazette.

4. In the event that an owner of a trademark desires to secure provisional protection to a mark which is used on products or services displayed in national or international exhibitions held in the country, he shall notify the competent authority one month before the opening of the exhibition.

The trademark's owner shall be granted a certificate of provisional protection of his trademark within a period that does not exceed 3 months after the end of the exhibition.

5. The Trademark Office will no longer issue any certificates of renewal, change of name or change of address. Only official receipts to this effect will be granted to applicants attesting to any change of title. The Trademark Office will only issue the following trademarks:

- Certificate of Registration.
- Merger Recordal Certificate
- Assignment Recordal Certificate
- License Recordal Certificate
- Pledge Recordal Certificate

6. The Trademark Office has cancelled all surcharges imposed on late filing of documents.

7. There is a grace period of 1 year for late renewals without payment of a surcharge.

Should you have any questions, or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at yemen@sabaip.com



Saudi Arabia: English Language on Billboards

In Saudi Arabia, trademarks must appear in Arabic on all signboards. The mark in Latin may also be displayed but Arabic is a requirement. This means that it would be recommended to have the marks in class 35 registered in the country in the local character script. Applicants for the registration of a trademark must always take into account the language that must be used on signboards.

There are actually signboard requirements in almost all countries of our region. The following table lists the language requirements of signboards in some Arab countries. The table basically addresses the following questions:

- Is it a requirement for a trademark on signboards to appear in Arabic?
- Is it advisable for trademark owners doing business in class 35 to register the transliteration of the mark into the local script, in addition to the registration in the original script?



	Should the signboards be in Arabic by law?	Is registration in class 35 in Arabic advisable?
Bahrain	No	No
Egypt	No	Yes
Jordan	Yes- The mark in Latin can also be displayed along with the Arabic mark	Yes
Kuwait	No	No
Lebanon	No	No
Oman	Yes- The mark in Latin can also be displayed along with the Arabic mark	Yes
Qatar	Yes- The mark in Latin can also be displayed along with the Arabic mark	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes- The mark in Latin can also be displayed along with the Arabic mark	Yes
Syria	Yes-The mark in Latin can also be displayed along with the Arabic mark	Yes
UAE	Yes- The mark in Latin can also be displayed along with the Arabic mark	Yes



Oman: Workshop on Effective IP Asset Management

The Omani Ministry of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with the WIPO have recently organized a workshop on “Effective Intellectual Property Asset Management” by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The workshop aims at supporting SMEs and sheds the light on the role of IP rights in these companies which would eventually contribute to the growth of the national economy.

gTLD Applications Published

On June 13, 2012, the ICANN published a list of new applied-for gTLDs. The applications will now be subject to a 60-day public comment period and a 7-month formal objection period. ICANN will start evaluating these applications in batches. Third parties are entitled to raise a “legal rights objection” to any submitted application during the objection period.

All trademarks owners should review the list of proposed new gTLDs in order to determine whether there are any attempts of cybersquatting.



Move Notice: Our New Address

SABA & Co.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

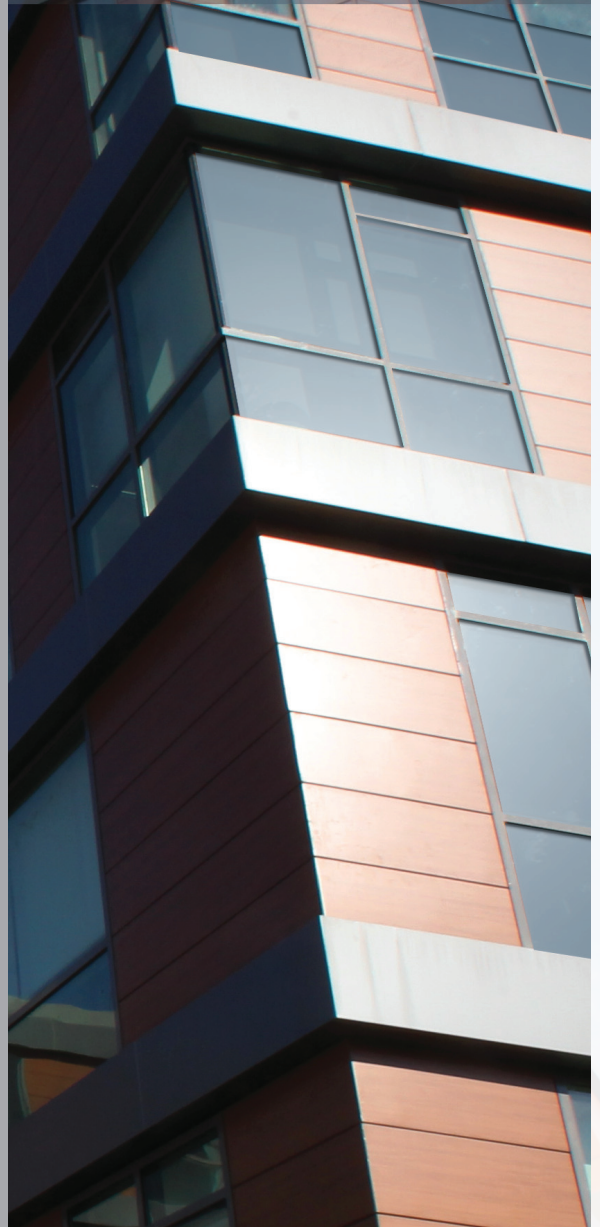
WE ARE ALWAYS
MOVING FORWARD

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The information contained in this newsletter is intended to provide a brief update of intellectual property news and should not be relied upon as legal advice. Legal or other professional counseling should be sought from the firm's Head Office in Beirut, Lebanon.

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SABA IP Bulletin, A publication of Saba & Co. IP, Trademark & Patent Agents & Attorneys with branch offices in the Middle East and North Africa.