

# SABA *bulletin*

May 2012 issue

## SABA & Co.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**WE ARE** ALWAYS  
**MOVING** FORWARD

Effective May 2, 2012, our new address will be:

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*Our postal address remains unchanged.*



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# QATAR NEWS

## ADVERTISING LAW IS BORN

A new Advertising Law (Law no. 1 of 2012) was issued on March 19, 2012 in Qatar. The Law will only be effective once the implementing regulations are issued. The provisions of this Law stipulate that Arabic will be the main language used on billboards. Other languages may be used along with Arabic according to rules determined by the relevant municipalities.

By way of background, there are signboard requirements in almost all countries of our region (such as the display of the signboard and the language). With regards to language requirements, applicants for the registration of a trademark must always take into account the language that must be used on signboards. Therefore, the main question that should be addressed here is whether it would be necessary to have the trademarks in class 35 registered in any given country in the local character script. To answer this question, 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?	IS REGISTRATION IN CLASS 35 IN ARABIC ADVISABLE?
<b>BAHRAIN</b>	No- The mark can be in Arabic, Latin, or a combination of both	No
<b>EGYPT</b>	Yes- The mark in Latin can also be displayed along with the Arabic mark	Yes
<b>JORDAN</b>	No	No
<b>KUWAIT</b>	No	No
<b>LEBANON</b>	No	No
<b>OMAN</b>	Yes- The mark in Latin can also be displayed along with the Arabic mark	Yes
<b>QATAR</b>	Yes- The mark in Latin can also be displayed along with the Arabic mark	Yes
<b>SAUDI ARABIA</b>	Yes- The mark in Latin can also be displayed along with the Arabic mark	Yes
<b>SYRIA</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>UAE</b>	Yes- The mark in Latin can also be displayed along with the Arabic mark	Yes

# SYRIA NEWS

## NEW PATENT LAW APPROVED

The new patent law in Syria (Law no. 18 of 2012) was issued on March 30, 2012 and will enter into force within 60 days from its issuance date. The implementing regulations of this Law are not available yet. It is however, expected to take a long time for the regulations to be issued.

The salient features of the new patent law are as follows:

- The term of protection is extended to 20 years from filing date instead of 15 years as per the previous Law.
- Examination is possible as to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.

- A maintenance fee is due annually on the anniversary of the date of grant. There is a 6-month grace period for late payment with a surcharge. Reinstatement of a patent is possible within 6 months from the date the patent is cancelled.

- Patents of Addition are admissible.
- Patent applications accepted by the Registrar are published in the Official Gazette. Oppositions may be filed within 6 months from publication date.
- A patent has to be worked. If the patent is not being fully exploited by the patentee within 4 years from filing date or 3 years from the date of grant, the patent will be subject to compulsory licensing under the provisions of the law.

Should you have any questions, or require any additional information, please contact us at [syria@sabaip.com](mailto:syria@sabaip.com)



## BAHRAIN NEWS

### NEW TRADE NAME LAW ISSUED

The new Trade Name Law (Law no. 18 of 2012) was recently issued in Bahrain. This Law was drafted back in February 2011. The salient features of Law no. 18 of 2012 are as follows:

- The new trade name shall be new and innovative.
- The new trade name shall not be identical or similar to a well-known mark nor to any other mark registered in the country.
- The new trade name shall not include any political, military or religious content.
- The new trade name shall not refer to any regional, Arab or international organization.
- The use of the new trade name shall not create any confusion with other names of company owners or product distributors.

Should you have any questions, or require any additional information, please contact us at [bahrain@sabaip.com](mailto:bahrain@sabaip.com)

## AFGHANISTAN NEWS

### RESTRUCTURING OF THE TRADEMARK OFFICE

The Trademark Office in Afghanistan is currently reorganizing its opera-

tional structure for the purpose of making it better equipped for its present needs. As a result, the work of the Trademark Office has been interrupted which means that no trademark applications will be processed for the time being. It is still not known when the Office will resume its normal operations.

Meanwhile, in order to ensure an uninterrupted service, please continue to send us all your instructions. We will be preparing all the required forms and diarizing all approaching deadlines in order to ensure a proper follow-up and organization. This way, we will be able to immediately file all pending applications once the Trademark Office resumes its activities. Please keep in mind that the Trademark Office will put off any deadlines falling within the closure period to the first opening day. We will keep you updated in due course.

## SAUDI ARABIA NEWS

### AUTOMATING THE PATENT FILING SYSTEM

The Patent Office in Saudi Arabia has recently launched a new system to file patent applications electronically. On-line applications became acceptable as of March 28, 2012. This new system allows applicants to fill out an electronic application form, check and review it for accuracy and precision and then submit it directly over the internet to the Patent Office.

The system then generates a filing date and a filing number. At a later stage, the supporting documents would be submitted to the Patent Office in order to complete the registration requirements. This service is only available for new applications.

## YEMEN NEWS

### WORKSHOP ON THE TRADEMARK REGISTRATION PROCESS

On March 20, 2012, the General Administration of the Protection of Intellectual Property (GAPIP) in cooperation with Saba & Co. IP – Yemen Office organized a workshop on the trademark registration process in the country and how to improve it. It is worth mentioning here that the GAPIP aims at promoting creativity and innovation in the country and providing assistance to research and development.

The workshop included an introduction on the Yemeni trademark law and its regulations and discussed the benefits of introducing an automated system for the registration of trademarks. The most important issues that were raised during this workshop included:

- Mode of payment of the official fees
- Evaluation of the publication procedure
- Decisions on oppositions
- The role of the Board of Grievances

- Issuance of certificates (implementation)
- Renewal notices (implementation)



## SHIFTING TO THE WIPO SYSTEM

The Trademark Office in the UAE has recently adopted the WIPO Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS). By way of background, the IPAS is an adaptable system that can be adjusted to individual Trademark and Patent Offices to automate all their intellectual property services (trademarks, patents, industrial designs...). This system can be adapted to the size of the office, the workflow, the data volume, the rules and regulations ... It also includes preparing templates for notifications, certificates, correspondences...

As a result of this shift and until the setup is complete, delays in filing new trademark applications may be expected to occur. Meanwhile, we will be handling all the instructions we receive from you with utmost care in order to ensure proper follow up and organization. Should you have any specific inquiries regarding the subject matter, please contact us at [uae@sabaip.com](mailto:uae@sabaip.com).



## APRIL 26, 2012 WORLD IP DAY

Every year, Saba & Co IP celebrates World Intellectual Property Day on April 26. This year, the World's IP Day theme is about visionary innovators that have added to the knowledge of humanity and came up with inventions which enriched the human capital. We honor the unlimited list of visionary innovators and greatly appreciate their creativity and innovation.



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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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