

BULLETIN

April 2019

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An emerging jurisdiction full
of possibilities

INTA 2019

141st Annual Meeting

MAY 18 - MAY 22
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Meet us at

**THE WESTIN BOSTON
WATERFRONT HOTEL**

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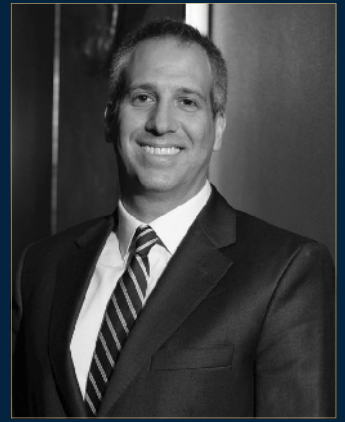
Rami Abdallah



Maria Abdo



Shafic Eid



Marwan Haddad



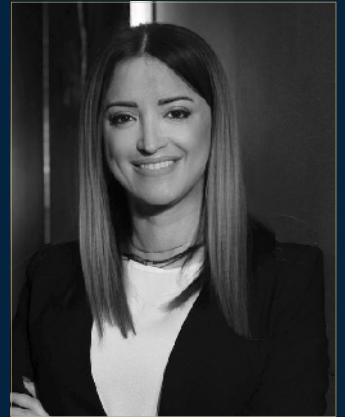
Pascal Haddad



George Jomaa



Hady Khawand



Zeina Salameh



Salah Samhouri



Tatiana Solomon



Ramzi Tarazi



Hisham Zahr

SAUDI ARABIA | REVISION IN OFFICIAL FEES

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia recently announced a revision in the official fees for all trademark matters. The new rates will be published in the Official Gazette and will enter into force on the date of publication.

It is worth noting that, with the introduction of e-filing for all trademark recordal matters, we saw a significant increase in the official fees in February 2017.



SAUDI ARABIA | TAKING THE FAST LANE ON THE PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY WITH THE KIPO



SAUDI
ARABIA

In its ongoing efforts to advance the intellectual property scene in Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property recently signed a patent prosecution highway agreement with Korean Intellectual Property Office.

The PPH agreement is expected to foster and develop a bilateral partnership in the field of intellectual property and to strengthen the relationship between the Saudi Arabia and South Korea. The PPH allows an application that has been determined to be patentable in the KIPO to undergo an accelerated examination with a simple procedure upon the applicant's request.

We expect the PPH agreement will streamline the Saudi patent registration procedures and attract South Korean patent applicants to register their inventions in Saudi Arabia.

EGYPT | INTRODUCTION OF E-PAYMENT FOR PATENT APPLICATIONS

EGYPT

As more and more patent offices in the Middle East and North Africa region establish themselves as receiving offices for national applicants, the services they provide improve over time. Not surprisingly, the Egyptian Patent Office, which is the only regional International Search Authority and International Preliminary Examination Authority, is offering the possibility for Egyptian nationals to file international applications. Applicants will be able to pay the official fees electronically as of May 1, 2019.

It is worth noting that applicants can file patent applications in Arabic or English and designate any one of the following competent examining authorities: the United States, Austria, Egypt, and the European Patent Office.



MOROCCO | AN EMERGING JURISDICTION FULL OF POSSIBILITIES ____



With coasts along the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, Morocco occupies a strategic regional position of great importance. The country has made use of its proximity to Europe and its location in North Africa, along with skilled labor, to work towards building a diverse, open, market-oriented economy. Key sectors of Morocco's economy include agriculture, tourism, aerospace, automotive, phosphates, textiles, apparel, and subcomponents. The economic system of the country presents several facets that are characterized by a large opening towards the outside world.

Morocco has recently increased investment in its port, transportation, and industrial infrastructure in order to better position itself as the epicenter for business in the region. Industrial growth policies and infrastructure developments, which are most visibly illustrated by a new port and free trade zone, are improving Morocco's attractiveness for investment. Morocco's main industries are the mining and processing of phosphate rock, food processing, manufacturing of leather goods, arts and crafts, textiles, construction, and tourism.

The latest industry taking off in Morocco is the aerospace industry, which has made significant strides over the past decade, with its industrial base growing from around 10 companies to over 100. The industry generated US\$1 billion in 2013 and created employment opportunities for 10,000 people in the country. Aerospace exports accounted for six percent of total exports in 2013, up from 0.5 percent a decade earlier. Major manufacturers are present in Morocco and are contributing to the rise of this industry.

Another sector of great ambition in Morocco is renewable energy. The country relies on imports for fossil fuels, but is committed to supply over 50 percent of the country's needs by 2030 using renewable energy. Several ongoing projects including solar and wind plants are under way with more to come as new technologies are developed and making access to these technologies more affordable.

Morocco is a member of the Paris Convention as well as the Patent Cooperation Treaty. In addition, Morocco is a WTO member and abides by the TRIPs agreements.

MOROCCO

MOROCCO | AN EMERGING JURISDICTION FULL OF POSSIBILITIES

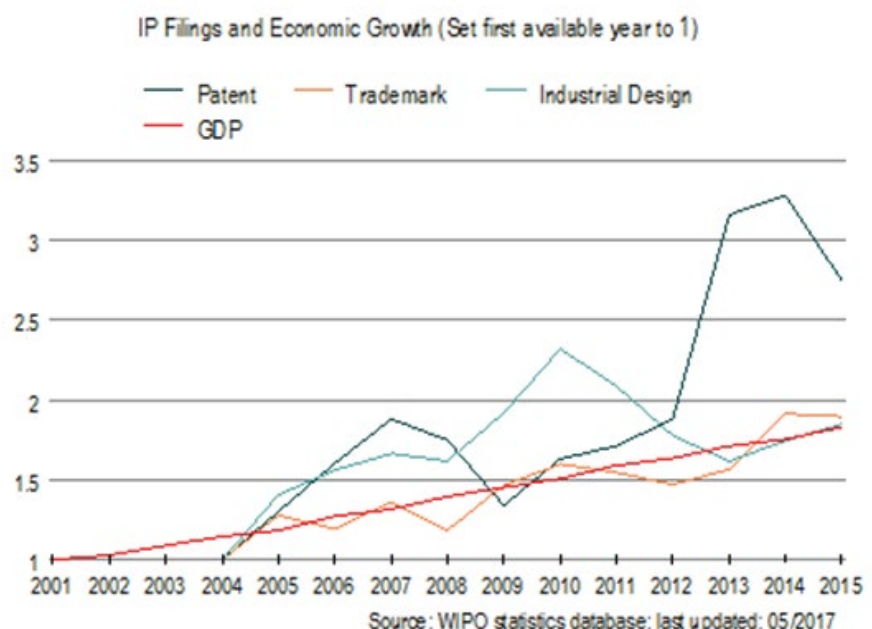


Similarly to Algeria, the Moroccan patent system used to be one of grant only. In 2014, the Patent Office in Morocco issued a new intellectual property law amending the existing law with updated provisions.

Under the new law, applications are examined substantively, and issued on their merits of novelty, inventiveness, applicability and compliance.

In 2015, the Moroccan government voted into law the agreement of 2010, entered between the Moroccan Patent Office and the European Patent Office. This decision effectively simplified the patenting system in Morocco. All European patent applications filed on or after March 1, 2015 can designate MA at the time of requesting examination. Upon grant of the European patent, the same can be validated in Morocco. Since Morocco is not a European Patent Convention state, the local patent law governs matters relating to infringement, validity, supplementary protection certificates and such.

All these factors can be seen in the continuous growth profile shown in the graph below:



MOROCCO | AN EMERGING JURISDICTION FULL OF POSSIBILITIES

MOROCCO

As a WTO member and a signatory to the TRIPs agreement, Morocco does provide for an exclusivity period. In addition, pursuant to provisions of its own patent laws, patent term extensions are possible, but in all cases, for no longer than a period of two and half years.

In short, protection of IP assets is a challenging and labor intensive process that requires special consideration and handling. Inventors and owners must be able and ready to adopt a model that incorporates both legal as well as regulatory approaches in order to arrive at a well-established protection strategy in Morocco. For more information on Morocco, we invite you to visit our [jurisdictions page](#)



THE SABA NETWORK

Head Office

Saba House
Saïd Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
headoffice@sabaip.com

Algeria

Cabinet Boukrami
(In cooperation with Saba & Co. IP)
Centre Commercial et d'Affaires El Qods
10th floor, BU 10-04 B, Cheraga 16002
Algiers, Algeria
T. +213 21 34 11 61
F. +213 21 34 11 62
P.O. Box 86 Centre Commercial et d'Affaires
El Qods, Cheraga 16002
algeria@sabaip.com

Bahrain

Bahrain Tower, Al-Khalifa Road
Manama, Bahrain
T. +973 17 210 301
F. +973 17 224 699
P.O. Box 21013
bahrain@sabaip.com

Cyprus

Mitsis Building #2
14, Makarios Avenue
1065 Nicosia, Cyprus
T. +357 22 755 434
F. +357 22 754 037
P.O. Box 21143
1502 Nicosia
cyprus@sabaip.com

Djibouti

Saba House
Saïd Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
djibouti@sabaip.com

Egypt

10 Aisha El Taymouriah Street
Garden City, CP 11451
Cairo, Egypt
T. + 20 2 279 59686
F. + 20 2 279 52314
P.O. Box 129, Mohamed Farid
info@sabaip-eg.com

Ethiopia

Saba House
Saïd Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
ethiopia@sabaip.com

Gaza

Saba House
Saïd Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
gaza@sabaip.com

Iraq

Saba House
Saïd Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
iraq@sabaip.com

Jordan

56 Prince Shaker Bin Zaid Street
Al Shmeisani
Amman, Jordan
T. +962 6 464 2145
F. +962 6 464 2159
P.O. Box 840553, Amman 11184
jordan@sabaip.com

Kuwait

Al Hajri Building
Al-Shuhadaa Street
Kuwait, Kuwait
T. +965 2 242 3428
F. +965 2 240 2243
P.O. Box 1245, 13013 Safat
kuwait@sabaip.com

Lebanon

Saba House,
Saïd Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 40
F. +961 5 45 48 42
P.O. Box 11-9420
lebanon@sabaip.com

Libya

Saba House,
Saïd Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
libya@sabaip.com

Morocco

185 Boulevard Zerkoutni
Residence Zerkoutni
Casablanca 20330
Casablanca, Morocco
T. +212 522 251 530
F. +212 522 251 603
P.O. Box 13 921
Casablanca 20032
morocco@sabaip.com

Oman

Muscat International Centre
Beit Al Falaj Street
Muscat, Oman
T. +968 248 111 26
F. +968 248 111 28
P.O. Box 2027 Ruwi
Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman
oman@sabaip.com

Qatar

Gridco Building
C Ring Road
Doha, Qatar
T. +974 44 42 3992
F. +974 44 32 4106
P.O. Box 14035
qatar@sabaip.com

Saudi Arabia

Al Hadaf Marks Services LLC
(In Cooperation with Saba & Co. IP)
Office # 1, 2nd Floor, Tower B GOSI Olaya
Towers Olaya Street, Riyadh 11565
Saudi Arabia
T. +966 11 2079596
F. +966 11 2079598
P.O. Box 61145
saudi@sabaip.com

Sudan

Saba House
Saïd Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
sudan@sabaip.com

Tunisia

Saba House
Saïd Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
tunisia@sabaip.com

United Arab Emirates

Tamani Arts Tower - 18th Floor
Al Asayel Street, Business Bay
Dubai, UAE
T. +971 4 553 9911
F. +971 4 566 8470
P.O. Box 42259
uae@sabaip.com

West Bank

Saba House
Saïd Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
westbank@sabaip.com

Yemen

Hadda Towers, Building #7
Hadda Street
Sana'a, Yemen
T. +967 1 420 595
F. +967 1 420 596
P.O. Box 1493
yemen@sabaip.com