February 2020

SAUDI ARABIA
SAIP is the New Patent Sheriff in Town

The Ball is in Your Court, Copyright and Patent Disputes

On the Silk Road with CNIPA

TUNISIA
Increase in Official Fees

EGYPT
Accession to the UPOV Bears Fruit
In compliance with its mandate to unify all IP related matters under one authority, patents, layout designs of integrated circuits, plant varieties, and industrial designs previously managed by King Abdul Aziz City of Science and Technology, have now been transferred under the umbrella of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP).

Furthermore, all Committees which hear on and decide on matters of opposition, appeals, and validity are also now under the jurisdiction of SAIP.

With this update, SAIP showcases its efforts as a self-funded agency with streamlined procedures. It is worth noting that SAIP has been very active since its inception in late 2017, and has signed two patent prosecution highway agreements with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Korean Intellectual Property Office.

Saudi Arabia shows its commitment to develop and establish a competent IP system and demonstrates its awareness of the strategic importance of IP on the country’s economic development.

**PATENT PROTECTION FRAMEWORK IN SAUDI ARABIA**

**Equivalent Search**
Official search among granted and published patents is possible by patentee name, title, subject matter, and priority/PCT number

**Examination**
As to form, novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability

**Publication**
Patents are published in the Official Gazette after substantive examination and before grant

**Opposition**
No provisions

**Annuities**
Due annually and is payable the first 3 months of each calendar year following the year the patent application was filed. 3-month grace period for late payment with a surcharge

**Protection Term**
20 years from the international filing date
SAUDI ARABIA | THE BALL IS IN YOUR COURT, COPYRIGHT AND PATENT DISPUTES

As a much welcomed attempt at improving the enforcement scene in the country, Saudi Arabia announced that patent and copyright disputes will be settled before specialized Commercial Courts as of February 1, 2020.

The Commercial Courts, which will be comprised of three judges, will hear infringement and invalidation cases. By resorting to the legal system, cases, where one of the parties is a national entity, can be brought in front of the local Courts. This update indicates a clear decentralization of the outgoing process to raise grievances, which for patent matters used to be under the jurisdiction of a Committee housed at the King Abdul Aziz City of Science and Technology - which meant that all related cases had to be heard and processed in one location.

This news comes in light of Saudi Arabia’s ongoing efforts to develop the national system to become a more effective and convenient system for locals and to help promote local innovation.
SAUDI ARABIA | ON THE SILK ROAD WITH CNIPA

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property signed a memorandum of understanding with the China National Intellectual Property Administration.

The MOU aims to facilitate the processing, examination and registration of applications for patents, industrial designs, and trademarks. It also expected to foster and develop a bilateral partnership in the field of intellectual property and to strengthen the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the People’s Republic of China.
The Patent and Trademark Office in Tunisia, known by the French acronym INNORPI, announced an increase in the official fees for all trademark matters. The new fees were published in the Official Gazette and entered into force on January 24, 2020.

In related news, INNORPI also alluded to an upcoming increase in the official fees for patent matters.

It is worth noting that there has not been an increase in official fees in Tunisia since 1999.
Egypt ratified its accession to the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, which is known by the acronym UPOV. Egypt became a member of UPOV in December 2019.

The filing requirements of a plant variety application in Egypt are as follows:

• Denomination of the variety
• Full disclosure of the origin of the variety and the method of breeding
• A detailed description of the consecutive stages of the choice and propagation processes which were used to breed the variety
• Proof of the novelty of the variety, in the sense that the variety has not been sold or otherwise disposed of for purposes of exploitation. A variety shall not lose its novelty if it was exposed or circulated in Egypt for more than one year prior to the effective filing date of the application. Where a variety has been exposed or circulated outside Egypt, such period shall not exceed six years in case of trees and vines or four years for other crops
• Proof of the uniformity of the variety in the sense that any variations are describable, predictable, and commercially acceptable
• Proof of the stability of the variety in the sense that the variety, when reproduced, will remain unchanged with regard to its essential and distinctive characteristics within a reasonable degree of commercial reliability
• Proof of the distinctiveness of the variety, in the sense that the variety is clearly distinguishable from any other publicly known variety
• Illustrations of the variety, if they are necessary to identify it, along with a brief description

The protection term is 25 years from date of grant for trees and grapevines, and 20 years for other agricultural products. As for annuities, a maintenance fee is due annually and should be paid within a period not exceeding three months from the date of the grant of the certificate.
THE SABA NETWORK

Head Office
Saba House
Said Frehha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
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 26 Centre Commercial et d’Affaires
El Qods, Cheraga 16002
info@boukrami.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
1302 Nicosia
cyprus@sabaip.com

Djibouti
Saba House
Said Frehha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
djibouti@sabaip.com

Egypt
10 Aisha El Taymouriah Street
Garden City, CP 11651
Cairo, Egypt
T. +20 2 279 50686
F. +20 2 279 55354
P.O. Box 129, Mohamed Farid
info@sabaip-eg.com

Ethiopia
Saba House
Said Frehha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
ethiopia@sabaip.com

Gaza
Saba House
Said Frehha 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
Said Frehha 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 2 646 2145
F. +962 6 646 2150
P.O. Box 84053, Amman 11184
jordan@sabaip.com

Kuwait
Jassim Ahmed Aljadah
(In cooperation with Saba & Co. IP)
Al Haji Building
Al-Shuwaikh Street Kuwait, Kuwait
T. +965 2 240 2243
F. +965 2 240 2243
P.O. Box 1245, 13013 Safat
info@jaladafeh.com

Lebanon
Saba House,
Said Frehha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 840
F. +961 5 454 842
P.O. Box 11-9420
lebanon@sabaip.com

Libya
Saba House,
Said Frehha 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 Zerkouni
Residence Zerkouni
Casablanca 20330
Casablanca, Morocco
T. +212 522 251 530
F. +212 522 251 603
P.O. Box 13 927
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
Grindo Building
C Ring Road
Doha, Qatar
T. +974 44 42 3992
F. +974 44 42 4106
P.O. Box 14055
qatar@sabaip.com

Saudi Arabia
Al-Nadaif Marks Services LLC
(In Cooperation with Saba & Co. IP)
Office # 1, 2nd Floor, Tower B Olaya
Towers Olaya Street, Riyadh 12213,
Saudi Arabia
T. +966 11 2079596
F. +966 11 2079598
P.O. Box 61145 Riyadh 11565
saudi@sabaip.com

Sudan
Saba House
Said Frehha 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
Said Frehha 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
Tannami Arts Tower- 18th Floor
Al Kuyayl Street, Business Bay
Dubai, UAE
T. +971 4 553 9911
F. +971 4 566 8470
P.O. Box 122599
uae@sabaip.com

West Bank
Saba House
Said Frehha 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 1 420 593
F. +967 1 420 596
P.O. Box 14053
yemen@sabaip.com