

With Ongoing Unrest in Yemen, AGIP Office Remains Operational

Page 2



Qatar Accedes to PCT

Page 3



Apple Becomes World's Most Valuable Brand, Says WPP's BrandZ

Page 5



Internet Adds 4.5 Million Domain Names in First Quarter of 2011

Page 5

Senator Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Awarded Shield of Excellence by Canisius College



The Shield was presented to Senator Abu-Ghazaleh by Head of the Accounting Department in a special ceremony at the College in Buffalo, New York

BUFFALO, New York - HE Senator Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), was awarded the Shield of Excellence by the highly reputable Canisius College in appreciation of his efforts in developing education in the Arab region.

The Shield was presented to Senator Abu-Ghazaleh by Head of the Accounting Department in a special ceremony at the College in Buffalo, New York.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh earned this prestigious award due to the excellence achieved by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Graduate School of Business (TAGSB) and in appreciation of introducing TAGITOP; the first Arab production with an Arab design and investment as a non-profit project to support the efforts of the Arab society to access the world of knowledge.

During his visit to Canisius College, Senator Abu-Ghazaleh took part in several activities including a meeting with the board of the Accounting Faculty along with the academic staff at the College. A special meeting was held with the College's vice president and deputies discussing academic aspects of cooperation between the College and the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Business University in Bahrain.

Moreover, Senator Abu-Ghazaleh presented the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International Award for Excellence in the Accounting Programs to Ms. Jessica Grogan, in a special ceremony at the College.

Furthermore, Senator Abu-Ghazaleh presented TAGITOP to his senior advisor on education Dr. Edward J. Gress, in appreciation of his role in making TAGSB in Jordan a success and in enhancing educational ties with the Canisius College. In his meeting with the students of the Canisius College, they asked Senator Abu-Ghazaleh to place TAGITOP at the College's Library so that all the College's students and visitors will have the opportunity to use it.

Oman Activates Payment of Patent Annuity Renewal Fees

MUSCAT - Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) announced in a press release that the General Directorate of Commerce at the Omani Ministry of Commerce and Industry has issued a notification stipulating the implementation of patent annuity fees payment regarding patent application renewals in accordance with Article 12 of the Industrial Property Law No. 67/2008 effective July 2011.

In conformity with the abovementioned Article, the annuity fees should be paid during and no later than the last day of protection. Failure to comply with this regulation will lead the case in question to be subjected to a \$130 penalty fee if the same was paid during the subsequent six months of the protection date.

Article No. 12 stipulates as follows:

The fees assigned for a patent shall be paid in an ascending order one year after the filing date in order to preserve the

right in the patent itself or the patent application. A grace period of six months shall be granted for late payment, otherwise the patent application shall be considered null and void.

In case the assigned fees have been paid within six months from the maturity date, a fine amounting to OR 50 shall be collected. In case payment of the assigned fees has been effected in advance, such fine shall not be applicable.

The second paragraph of the above article is being currently activated. It reads as follows:

The Registrar may reinstate the lapsed patents at any time before the lapse of one year from the date of the payment period, if there is a justification for non-payment of the assigned fees and such act shall not cause any damages to the rights of others that might have arisen during said period.

AGIP Participates in INTA 133rd Annual Meeting

NEW YORK – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) took part in the 133rd Annual Meeting of the International Trademark Association (INTA) held in San Francisco, CA, May 14-18, 2011.

More than 8,500 attendees from 140 countries took part in the meeting which focused on new trends and trademark developments worldwide.

AGIP's 10-member delegation headed by its Managing Partner Mr. Luay Abu-Ghazaleh held several crucial meetings with clients and

associates and discussed mutual issues and future cooperation.

Mr. Charles Shaban, AGIP executive director, held first face-to-face meetings with the INTA Board, as well as the Board Planning Committee, during which he took part in discussing the measures of success for INTA and the next four-year strategic plan to be presented for the INTA Board in November 2011.

INTA's Annual Meeting is the largest prestigious meeting of the international trademark community.

With Ongoing Unrest in Yemen, AGIP Office Remains Operational



SANAA – Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) would like to inform its clients that due to the ongoing unrest in Yemen, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, including the Yemen Trademark Office, have suspended operations.

According to an official source at the Ministry, all trademark applications will be accepted once the Office resumes its activities.

However, AGIP Office in Yemen is still operational and receives clients' communications, instructions, applications to guarantee immediate filing and response in due time.

Yet for security purposes, the working hours at AGIP Yemen Office have been reduced and work ends at 3 pm, local time in Yemen.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and advise our clients immediately once we are informed of any change.

Release of “Trademark Licensing Contract in the Jordanian Legislation” Book by Al-Salamat



AMMAN - Legal Researcher Major Nader Al-Salamat from the Jordan Public Security

Department/ Criminal Investigation Department - Intellectual Property Rights Protection Division confirmed in his book entitled “Trademark Licensing Contract in the Jordanian Legislation: A Comparative Study” the high value of trademarks that may exceed the value of assets and liabilities of projects they represent.

Al-Salamat told ag-IP-news Agency that this book, which has been recently published by the Deanship of Academic Research (DAR) at the University of Jordan and falls in 202 pages, discusses aspects of licensing contracts to use the multi-trademark stating that the trademark doesn't only play the traditional role any longer since it has become a symbol or an inseparable character of products or services that it marks , pointing out that the consumer does not see any longer such products or services except through their trademark or brand name, which is directly linked to quality.

The book addresses the concept of licensing to use trademarks, the nature of such contracts, the phase of preliminary negotiations for such contracts that include conducting a feasibility study to assess the effectiveness of concluding such a contract, and the best modality for its finalization, and what rights and obligations the contract would impose on both parties, what elements that the contract should cover, the quality of liability for its breach, and the law applicable in case of dispute or conflict, plus designating competent courts having jurisdiction over such disputes as well as the right to resorting to arbitration, and finally defining cases which could lead to the termination of the contract, particularly as a result to its unique special nature.

For a copy of the book: University of Jordan - the Deanship of Academic Research (DAR)

Qatar Accedes to PCT



GENEVA - Qatar deposited its instrument of accession to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on May 3, 2011. The treaty will enter into force for Qatar on August 3, 2011, according to a press release by the Organization.

The accession by Qatar means

that in any international application filed on or after August 3, 2011, Qatar will automatically be designated, and as it will be bound by Chapter II of the treaty, will automatically be elected in any demand for international preliminary examination filed in respect of an international application filed on or after August 3, 2011.

Morocco Accedes to Budapest, Copyright, Performances and Phonograms Treaties



GENEVA - The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) announced that the

Kingdom of Morocco has deposited its instrument of accession to a number of Intellectual Property (IP) related treaties.

According to WIPO, the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco deposited on April 20, 2011, its instrument of accession to the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure, done in Budapest on April 28, 1977, and amended on September 26, 1980.

In addition, Morocco deposited on the same date its instrument of accession to the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT), adopted in Geneva on December 20, 1996, and to the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, adopted in Geneva on December 20, 1996.

The said Treaties will enter into force, with respect to the Kingdom of Morocco, on July 20, 2011.

Turkey: 2011 Patent Days

ANKARA - Turkish Patent Institute organizes on May 26 and 27, 2011 "Patent Days", which has been held in various cities of Turkey since 2008, in Ankara this year. The purpose of the organization is to encourage innovation, productiveness and creativity as well as increasing the level of knowledge and awareness in the field of industrial property rights. The organization partner of this year is Hacettepe University, Ankara.

The technology need of industry and practical need of universities are met by the cooperation between universities and industry in many countries. Turkish Patent Institute, which has a strategic role in terms of all public and private sectors, aims at contributing the improvement of the creative and innovative structure of Turkish economy and industry through industrial property rights that have a great role in the technological and economical development of countries.

During the "Patent Days", informative seminars will be held

and patent experts will provide consultancy service free of charge. Among the Institute's main purposes are;

- Small and medium sized enterprises could find chance to follow the latest technology trends and their competitors,
- Universities could transform their current scientific studies into patents and offer them to the use of industrialists,
- Enterprises could find solutions to the technical problems they encounter during the manufacture process,
- Enterprises could develop new idea products utilizing patent documents.

In addition, the participants will also be informed about the Patent and R&D contributions provided by Ministry of Industry and Trade, TUBITAK (Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Institution) as well as KOSGEB (Small and Medium Industry Development Organization).

China Agrees to Step Up Its Efforts to Curb Software Piracy and Limit Procurement Discrimination

WASHINGTON - The Business Software Alliance (BSA) welcomed in a press release commitments by China to combat software piracy and limit procurement discrimination based on indigenous innovation policies, but said the ultimate test of progress will be increased software sales and exports.

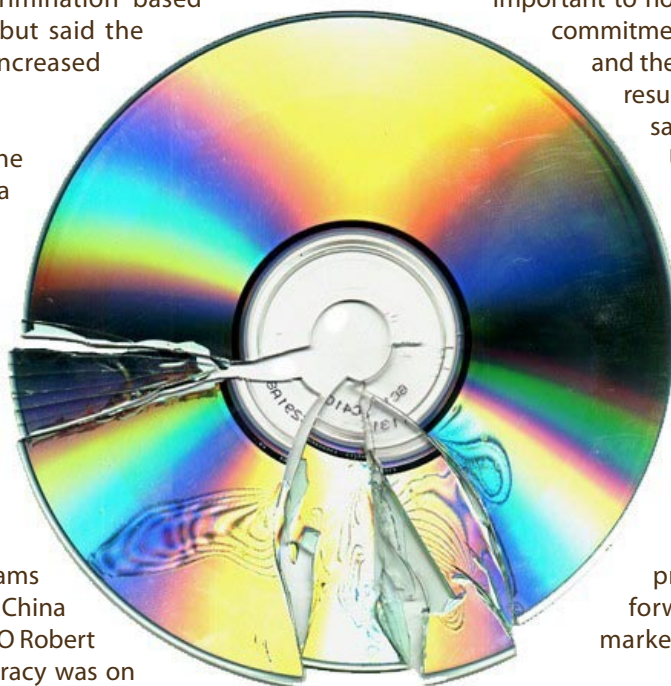
China made these commitments at the conclusion of the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue, held May 9-10 in Washington. In a joint statement, China said it will strengthen the checks it uses to ensure government agencies are using properly licensed software. China also committed to eliminate discriminatory product catalogues that it had established as part of its indigenous innovation program.

"Four out of five software programs installed on personal computers in China are pirated," said BSA President and CEO Robert Holleyman. "The fact that software piracy was on the table in this week's talks between the United States and China underscores the impact it has on the US economy. It is encouraging that China has committed to strengthen its inspections of government agencies to ensure they are using

legal software: it acknowledges that the results of China's software legalization efforts to date have been inadequate. But it is also important to note that China has made a series of commitments like these in recent negotiations, and the software industry has not yet seen results that it can measure in increased sales and exports. For that reason, the US should continue insisting that China take credible steps to lower its piracy rate."

"I am encouraged by China's new commitments to limit the impact of its discriminatory procurement policies. These policies, under the umbrella of indigenous innovation, have made it nearly impossible for many BSA members to sell to the Chinese central or provincial governments. We look forward to seeing real change in the marketplace."

The Business Software Alliance is the world's foremost advocate for the software industry, working in 80 countries to expand software markets and create conditions for innovation and growth.



USTR Releases Annual Special 301 Report on Intellectual Property Rights



WASHINGTON, DC - On May 2, 2011, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) released its annual Special 301 Report on the adequacy and effectiveness of US trading partners' protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

According to the Office, fighting IPR theft in overseas markets is critical to the livelihoods of the estimated 18 million Americans who work in intellectual property-intensive industries. The Special 301 Report provides a means for the United States to promote the protection and enforcement of IPR. This year, for the first time, USTR has issued an open invitation to all trading partners listed in the report to cooperatively develop action plans to resolve IPR issues of concern.

"This year's Special 301 Report comes with a call to action for our trading partners. We are ready to work intensively with you to stop intellectual property theft that threatens IP-related jobs in the United States and other countries," said Ambassador Ron Kirk. "Today's report is a springboard for ambitious and collaborative partnerships in the coming year to strengthen protection for the innovation and creativity that drive jobs and exports for the United States and our partners around the world."

Apple Becomes World's Most Valuable Brand, Says WPP's BrandZ

NEW YORK - Registering a staggering 84 percent increase in value over the past year, Apple has emerged as the most valuable brand in the world, ending the four-year reign of Google at the top of the table in the sixth annual BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands study, a press release by WPP stated.

The Apple brand, as calculated by Millward Brown Optimor, a WPP company, has increased in value by 859 percent since

2006 and now stands at \$153.3 billion. Other key findings in the study are that during the economic recovery of the last year, the combined value of all the brands in the top 100 has risen by 17 percent and is now worth \$2.4 trillion. In terms of geography, according to the 2011 BrandZ study, 19 of the Top 100 brands now originate in "BRICs" markets, versus only two in 2006.

The Most Valuable Global Brands 2011

Rank Brand Value in \$ million Brand value change from 2010

1. Apple 153,285 +84%
2. Google 111,498 -2%
3. IBM 100,849 +17%
4. McDonald's* 81,016 +23%
5. Microsoft 78,243 +2%
6. Coca-Cola 73,752 +8%
7. at&t 69,916 -
8. Marlboro 67,522 +18%
9. China Mobile 57,326 +9%
10. GE 50,318 +12%

Internet Adds 4.5 Million Domain Names in First Quarter of 2011

DULLES, VA - Four and a half million domain names were added to the Internet in the first three months of 2011, according to the latest Domain Name Industry Brief published by VeriSign Inc., the trusted provider of Internet infrastructure services for the networked world.

According to VeriSign, the first quarter of 2011 closed with a base of more than 209.8 million domain name registrations

across all Top-Level Domains (TLDs), or a 2.2 percent increase over the fourth quarter of 2010. Registrations grew by 15.3 million, or 7.9 percent year over year.

Verisign's combined base of .com and .net domain names experienced aggregate growth in the first quarter of 2011, surpassing a total of 108 million names. New .com and .net registrations totaled 8.3 million during the first quarter. The

total represents a 9.2 percent increase year over year in new registrations, and a 2.7 percent increase from the fourth quarter. The .com/.net renewal rate for the first quarter was 73.8 percent, up from 72.7 percent from the fourth quarter.

The base of Country Code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs) was 81.7 million domain names, a 2.1 percent increase quarter over quarter, and a 5.1 percent increase year over year.

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