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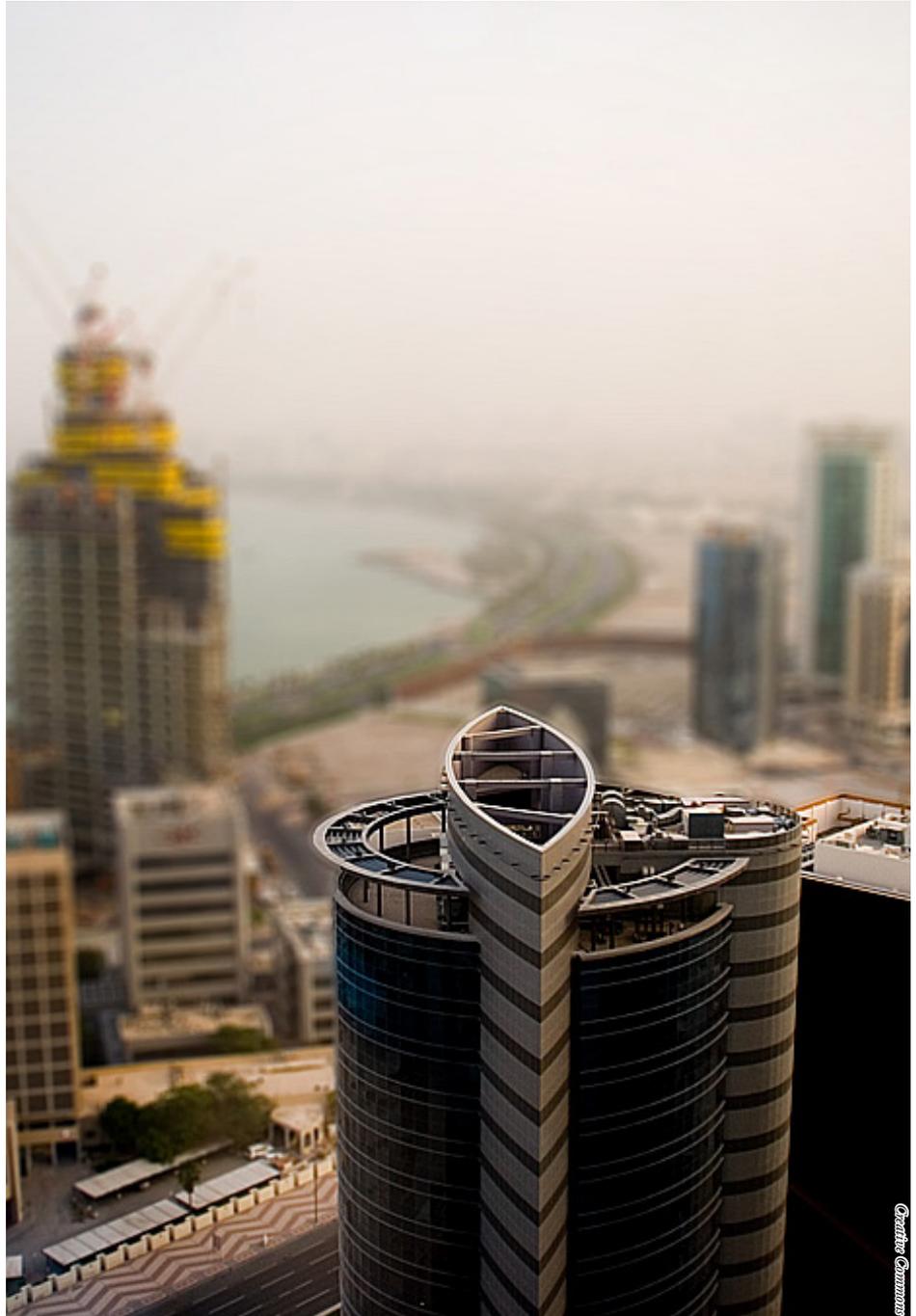
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Issue 3

**A Review of Intellectual
Property-Related News and
Developments in the Middle
East and North Africa**



Morocco: *European Patents Recognized*



Morocco became the first country not signed up to the European Patent Organization to validate European Patents beginning March 1, 2015.

European applications and patents administered by Morocco will have the same legal rights there as national patents, and will

be subject to Moroccan patent law post grant. Application filed before the aforementioned date will not be validated, however. Given that divisional applications are restricted to the designated states of the earlier application under Article 76(2), it will not be possible to obtain

a validated patent from the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office by filing a divisional application of an application filed prior to March 1, as well.

The implementing regulations have yet to be announced by the concerned authorities, and there has

been no indication if Morocco will implement the London Agreement, which does not require the translation of European patents. We will be closely monitoring this situation and we will provide you with any necessary updates.

Morocco: *Protection of Geographical Indications*



Morocco concluded an agreement with the European Union concerning the protection of food and agricultural products produced in specific geographical locations.

The geographical indications agreement has yet to be

passed to the legislative authorities in Morocco and the European Council and Parliament, where it must be approved before it enters into force.

Qatar: *Patent Official Fees Announced*

The Intellectual Property Protection Department in Qatar issued the official fees related to patent applications, which entered into force on January 12, 2015.

Although the implementing regulations have yet to be issued by the authorities concerned, it is now possible to request payment of the substantive examination fees along with the filing fees, as outlined in a new filing form. The payment of a second annuity for PCT applications is now required at the time of filing.

Substantive examination will be completed at competent institutions in the European Union or the United States of America. Expediting the substantive examination is possible through the payment of a surcharge.

Iran: Trademark Insights

Iran, formerly known as Persia, is the second-largest nation in the Middle East. Iran shares borders with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, and Iraq. The country has a coastline that stretches 2,440 km along the Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf, and Gulf of Oman.

Iran's GDP (purchasing power parity) is estimated to be \$987.1 billion, whereas the GDP per capita is \$12,800. Industry accounts for 44.9 percent of the GDP composition, followed by 44.5 percent for services, and 10.6 percent for agriculture. Industries in Iran include petroleum, petrochemicals, construction materials, and food processing. The country's main exports are petroleum and chemical and petrochemical products. Imports to Iran include industrial supplies, capital goods, foodstuffs and other consumer goods, and technical services.

Iran joined WIPO in 2001 and has acceded to several WIPO intellectual property treaties. In 2003, Iran joined the Madrid Agreement and the Madrid Protocol for the International Registration of Marks and in 2005 Iran joined the Lisbon Agreement for the



Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration. Iran has been a member of the Paris Convention since 1959.

Iran follows the 8th edition; however, class 33 and alcoholic goods in class 32 cannot be registered in the country. A single application, however, may include several classes.

The main features of trademark registration are as follows:

FILING REQUIREMENTS

1. Power of attorney, legalized. A general power may be used for subsequent filings.
2. Extract from the commercial register, signed and notarized.
3. Copy of priority document, if priority is claimed, certified
4. 15 prints of the mark for each application.

All documents may be submitted within 60 days from notification date.

EXAMINATION

Examination is performed on formal, absolute and relative grounds.

OPPOSITION

Trademark applications accepted by the Registrar are published in the Official Gazette. Oppositions may be filed within 30 days from publication date.

EXTENSION OF TIME

Extension of time for oppositions/counter oppositions or for responding to office actions is not possible.

PROTECTION TERM

Trademark registrations are valid for 10 years from filing date and are renewable for like periods. There is a grace period of 6 months for late renewals with payment of a surcharge.

Documents required for renewal: Power of attorney, legalized.

USE REQUIREMENTS

Use of a trademark is not required for registration or renewal of a mark. However, a trademark is vulnerable to cancellation by any

interested party if there has been no effective use of the mark for a period of 3 years from registration date.

SEARCH

An official search may be conducted for word marks only. It takes approximately 10 working days for the results to be available. A single application is required for the search in all classes. The search report discloses similar and identical trademarks.

ASSIGNMENT

Trademark applications and registrations may be assigned with the goodwill of the business concerned.

Documents required: Power of attorney from the assignee, legalized; deed of assignment, legalized; and latest original registration certificate of the mark(s) for endorsement.

CHANGE OF NAME/ADDRESS

A change of name/address may be recorded for trademark applications and registrations. Documents required: Power of attorney, legalized; extract from the commercial register or any other document evidencing this change, legalized; and latest registration certificate of the mark(s) for endorsement.

IP FEATURE

Iran: Trademark Insights

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LICENSING

License recordal is compulsory in order to be effective against third parties.

Documents required:

Power of attorney, legalized; copy of the license agreement, legalized; and the original registration certificate of the mark(s) for endorsement.

MERGER

A merger may be recorded for trademark applications and registrations.

Documents required:

Power of attorney, legalized; certificate of merger, legalized; and the original registration certificate of the mark(s) for endorsement.

MARKING

Marking is not compulsory.

CANCELLATION

Cancellation proceedings must be brought within 3 years from registration date unless the mark was registered in bad faith in which there is no time limit.

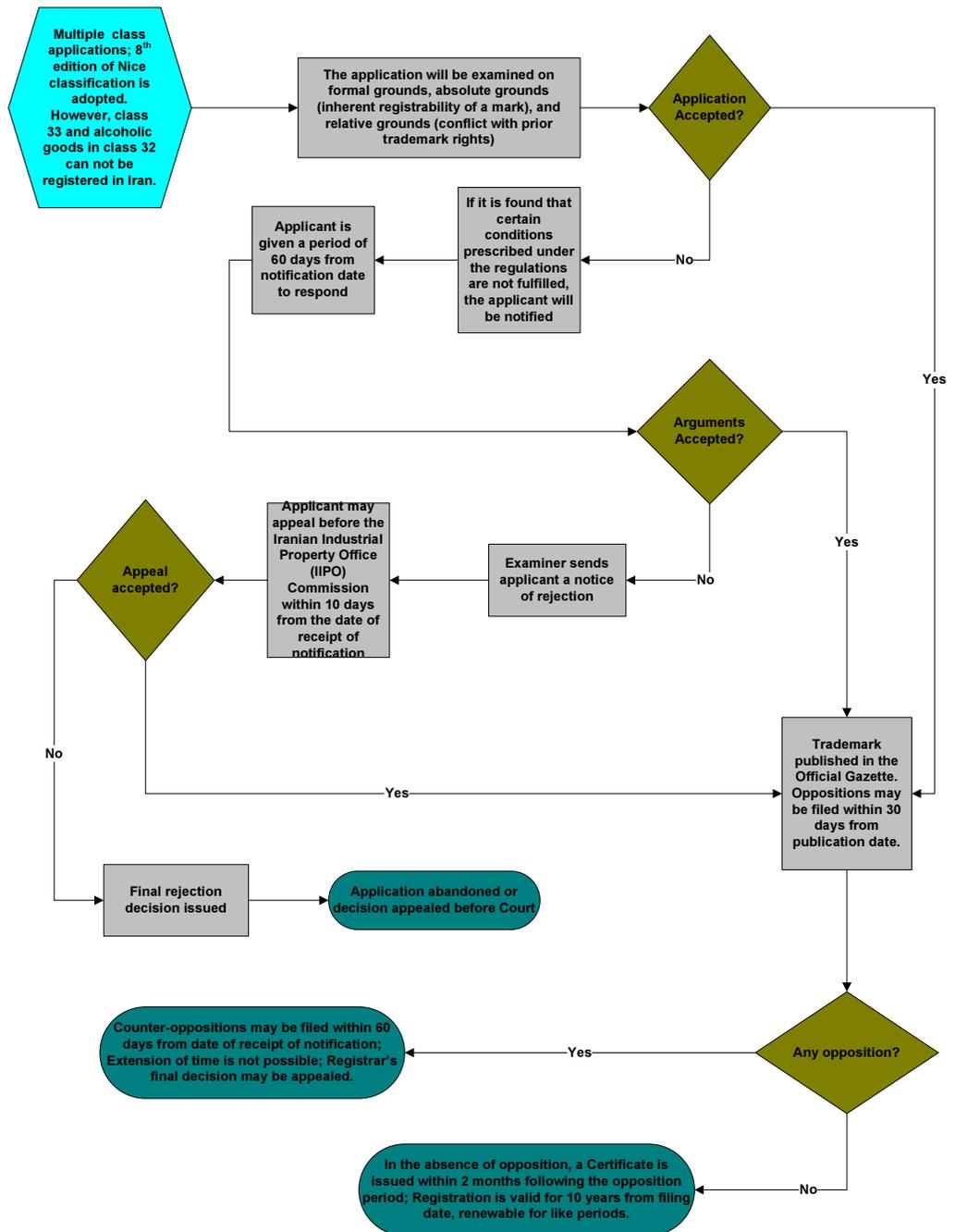
REGISTRATION TIME FRAME

The time frame for completing the registration process is 10 months.

THREE DIMENSIONAL TRADEMARK APPLICATIONS

Admissible.

IRAN: TRADEMARKS FLOW CHART



This flow chart is for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon as legal advice. Legal or other professional counseling should be sought from our firm's Head Office.
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INTA 2015: *Announcement from Saba & Co. IP*

Saba & Co. IP will be attending the 137th INTA Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA from May 4, 2015 to May 6, 2015.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference this year. Kindly email us at inta@sabaip.com to arrange for a suitable time to meet.

Sincerely,

INTA TEAM — SABA & Co. IP



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*All mail should be dispatched to the Head Office address in Lebanon for proper channeling.

The information contained in this publication intends to provide updates on Intellectual Property news and should not be relied upon as legal advice. Legal or other professional advice should be sought out from the firm's Head Office in Beirut, Lebanon.

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