



Proposals (9) received from Member States to host a WIPO External Office in the 2018-2019 biennium in accordance with the ‘Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices’ (contained in document A/55/INF/11)

April 13, 2017

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The International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) presents its compliments to the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, and has the honor to refer to the decision of the WIPO General Assembly at its Forty-Seventh (22nd Ordinary) Session, as contained in document A/55/INF/11, and its Forty-Eighth (26th Extraordinary) Session, as contained in document A/56/16 ADD.2, concerning new WIPO External Offices.

In accordance with the "Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices" as contained in A/55/INF/11, and further to the outcome of the process of consultations conducted by the Acting Chair of the WIPO General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Jānis Kārklīšs, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, with the Regional Coordinators in Geneva, the final list of Member States having submitted proposals to host a new WIPO External Office for the 2018/2019 biennium in accordance with the Guiding Principles is: Azerbaijan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Oman, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates (nine proposals).

The International Bureau will provide "a separate, factual and technical report" on the proposed new External Offices as stipulated by the Guiding Principles in the six official languages of WIPO by May 15, 2017, so that this report is available eight weeks prior to the 26th Session of the WIPO Program and Budget Committee (July 10 to July 14, 2017) at which it will be considered.

- ./. The International Bureau is pleased to enclose with this Note copies of all nine proposals received from Member States for the 2018/2019 biennium in the language of this Note.

April 13, 2017

PROPOSAL

for the establishment of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) external office (EO) in the Republic of Azerbaijan

Taking into account the leading position of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the region, its favorable geographic location, implementation of several large-scale projects and programs, growing role of intellectual property in the innovation, creative economy and sustainable development of the knowledge-based industries and its importance for our fast-growing economy, we apply for the establishment of the WIPO EO in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The proposal of the Republic of Azerbaijan to establish WIPO EO prepared jointly by the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patent and Copyright Agency was officially presented to the WIPO by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the International Organizations in Geneva through the letter of February 11, 2014. The issue was also discussed during the meetings between Mr. Gurry, the Director General of WIPO and Mr. E. Afandiyev, Deputy Prime Minister and Mr. M. Mammad-Guliyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs during Mr. Gurry's official visit to Baku on May 13-15, 2014 and in general, this issue was positively welcomed by the management of the WIPO.

The mandate of the WIPO EO in the Republic of Azerbaijan will be to represent WIPO in the country and to raise awareness of civil society about the activities of WIPO and the overall international intellectual property system.

The main aim of the EO in Azerbaijan will be to improve understanding and respect for IP, increase awareness of IP, improve their IP systems, streamline processes and develop the relevant staff dealing with IP at national IP offices, as well as to increase WIPO's visibility and engagement with the WIPO in the collaboration with the national IP offices – State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patent of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Copyright Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The EO in Azerbaijan will offer considerable advantage in terms of strengthening the participation of the country in WIPO's Global IP Systems in order to resolve IP related issues more quickly by more effective use of such systems, enabling the WIPO to service more sustainable, equitably and effectively a vast territory and its surrounding region, and will assist in building capacity for the use of IP in a region where most national economic strategies aim to use rich resource base as a foundation for value addition in more knowledge-based industries.

Original version in English

The activities of the EO will include: promoting research, development, outreach on intellectual property (IP) issues between WIPO and the government, industry, the private sector and the general public in the Republic of Azerbaijan; providing legal and technical assistance on IP; promoting the use of WIPO's services, providing assistance to the users; and liaising with WIPO Headquarters on issues that impact on the work of the Organization. It also will seek to increase innovation and creativity in the region by promoting effective use of global IP services such as the Patent Cooperation Treaty Madrid System of Marks, and Hague System for Industrial Designs.

More precisely, there will be several functions of the EO. First function will be the provision of information and assistance to the IP users. The EO can perform an indispensable work in supporting WIPO's global systems in the relevant time zones and in the locally applicable language.

Furthermore, it will provide support to WIPO's general customer response network. As the WIPO receives, thousands of call per week on IP related matters, and based on time difference many of them became unanswered after the business hours in WIPO Headquarters in Geneva, the existence of such an office in the region can be proven to be very valuable addition to the WIPO's general services.

Another function will be the administration of mirror sites for the WIPO's IT systems, platforms and databases for the purposes of IT security, business continuity, disaster recovery and load-sharing.

The further function will be the provision of technical support in relation to the various technical assistance programs administered in the Global Infrastructure Sector of the WIPO, such as implementation of the automation system for IP offices, establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Centers, that make available patent and other IP related information available to IP offices, higher educational and research institutions and implementation of IT system for collecting societies in support of copyright administration. This will also promote development and transfer of technology.

Last, but not least, the another function will be a general capacity building, that covers an extensive range, including conferences, seminars, trainings, on a spot training of technical nature (e.g. for patent or trademark examiners or for technical resources in relation to technical database), participation in academic courses and programs, study visits and training at the foreign IP offices.

[Annex II follows]



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

Proposal by India for hosting new WIPO's External Office in its National Capacity

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Original version in English



Government of India

Proposal by India for hosting new WIPO's External Office in its National Capacity

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the 'Guiding Principles regarding WIPO External Offices' as contained in A/55/INF/11, the Government of India has notified the Chair of the General Assembly and Director General its wish to host a new External Office in India, in its national capacity. A letter dated 28 December 2015 to this effect was written by Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce & Industry, Government of India, Her Excellency Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman to the Director General WIPO (copy of the letter is enclosed herewith).
2. A formal proposal to host a new External office in India in its national capacity was submitted for consideration of Program and Budget Committee (PBC) of 2016. Further the WIPO General Assembly at its Forty-Eighth (26th Extraordinary) Session held in Geneva from October 3 to 11, 2016, decided,
 - i. to open WIPO External offices in Nigeria and Algeria;
 - ii. to continue consultations on the opening of one External Office in the current biennium and three External Offices in the 2018-2019 biennium based on a relevant call for proposals made by the Secretariat with a view to making a decision on the above during the 2017 General Assembly based on the Guiding Principles.

In accordance with the 2016 decision of the General Assembly, the Director-General has invited proposals from Member States wishing to host an External Office in its national capacity or on behalf of a group of countries or Regional Group if so agreed by its members, to be opened in the 2018/2019 biennium. Member States who had submitted their proposals previously are also required to resubmit their proposals to the Director-General, either the same proposal or an updated proposal.

3. India presents its proposal, in accordance with the extant Guiding Principles regarding the WIPO External Offices, to host a new External Office in India in its national capacity, for submission through the Director-General for consideration by the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) during the biennium i.e. 2018/2019. However, the Government of India, looks forward to an early consideration in the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) of its existing proposal and to recommend to the WIPO General Assembly to take an expeditious decision to establish a national External Office in India during the current year 2017

4. WIPO has a limited network of External Offices. These offices are located in Singapore (2005), Japan (2006), Brazil (2010), China (2014) and the Russian Federation (2014). With the exception of Singapore, which covers the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Region, the coverage of the other WIPO Offices is national in character i.e. limited to the countries in which they are located.
5. The overall objective of India seeking to host an External office is to develop a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of India, WIPO as well as other relevant stakeholders. WIPO opening an External Office in India would also enhance the quality of service of WIPO, and also promote its unique role as a Global Service organization.
6. The opening of a WIPO External Office (EO) in India would add value, efficiency and effectiveness to the program delivery in a coordinated manner. The proposed EO would complement the work undertaken at the WIPO's Headquarters in Geneva. This will be done keeping in mind that there is no duplication of work, and there is an optimization of WIPO resources. Such an office will be cost effective responding to the growing need for IP services in India; hence playing an important role in the overall economic development of the country and strengthening India's knowledge-based economy. The proposed office will form an integral part of WIPO's Results-Based Management (RBM) and regulatory framework.
7. An External Office in India would also reinforce WIPO's core functionality in following ways:
 - i. Promotion of, and support for, WIPO's Global Intellectual Property (IP) Systems,
 - ii. Effective delivery of technical assistance and capacity building activities,
 - iii. Promotion of WIPO's treaties, and
 - iv. Implementation of effective communication and outreach strategies.

II. Rationale for establishing an External Office in India

8. India has chartered a path to develop knowledge-based economy with high level of emphasis on innovation and technology upgradation. Following pointers would set out the rationale for establishing a new External Office in India.
9. A comprehensive National Intellectual Property Rights Policy has been approved on 12th May 2016 with the clarion call "Creative India; Innovative India" that will not only stimulate innovation and creativity across sectors, but also provide a clear vision on the roadmap ahead. The Policy document is available on the website of the DIPP (<http://dipp.nic.in>).
10. India, the second most populous country in the world, also emerged as the fastest growing economy in the world in 2015. The 2015 Global Innovation Index report has chosen India as an example of an innovation achiever in Central and Southern Asia in the group of lower-middle-income countries. The report presents India as a representative 'innovation achiever' by providing a narrative of how the country has shaped its innovation policy over the years and a perspective on what has worked for India.

11. The Global Innovation Index aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation. In the GII-2016 report released by WIPO on 15th August 2016, India improved its ranking by moving up by 15 places to the 66th rank. GII 2016 reports highlights that “India is good example of how policy is improving innovation environment”. India is the top-ranked economy in Central and Southern Asia. This remarkable achievement is largely due to a better performance in university rankings, in which India is second among middle income economies and 20th overall. India is a top-ranking economy in central and south Asia with particular strengths in tertiary education and R&D, including global R&D intensive firms, the quality of universities and scientific publications, its market sophistication and ICT service exports where it ranks first in the world. In patent families too, the country has made stellar progress and ranks third among middle income economies and 37th overall. India also over-performs in innovation relative to its GDP. The ‘Make in India’ programme of the Government of India has given a fillip to manufacturing in India. It aims to foster an innovation ecosystem in India and would help India in achieving world leadership in knowledge economy and technology.
12. The ‘Startup India’ mission has unleashed entrepreneurial energy among start-ups, as young and bright minds are raring to move ahead. Giving a spur to IPRs of startups, the Government of India has launched a scheme to facilitate IPR protection to startups for patents, trademarks and designs from the stage of filing to final disposal (including grant or registration) of the IPR applications.
13. The ‘Digital India’ Initiative provides a platform for people to display their talent and share ideas on spectrum of topics. The digital revolution has also kicked in innovations, and more and more innovations are expected in India in the sectors like education, agriculture, healthcare and environment in the near future. As a result, the number of IP filings is likely to increase at an exponential level.
14. Technology innovation will have a disruptive impact on outdated traditional models, bringing in welcome changes in tune with the times. Innovation is happening in several sectors in India from pharmaceuticals, automotive, energy, healthcare to media, governance and education. India is at the forefront in terms of IT and IT enabled services. India has received immense praise for service innovation in the past few years; at the same time it aspires to harness the power of product innovation to significantly contribute to increasing demand for Global IP Services.
15. India is working on leveraging the demographic dividend and bridge the innovation gap between the developing countries and the developed world. Real, sustainable economic development and growth in India will come from indigenous innovations, technologies, products and services.
16. Overall IP filings and, particularly domestic filings, in India has been consistently on the rise. For example, patent filings by residents have increased from 18% in 2005-06 to 28% in 2015-16. EO can motivate and encourage domestic applicants for patents in India to file more and more international applications through PCT by providing interactive support, necessary guidance and access to resources. This will also result in enhancing WIPO’s financial resources.
17. In Trademarks, filings have been going up over the years, and crossed the figure of 2,00,000 in the year 2013-14; in the year 2015-16, 2,83,060 applications have been filed - a huge 35% jump over the previous year. Domestic filings have been around 95% of total filings over the last few years. Large number of these Indian applicants, who remain confined to domestic protection, can be motivated to protect their

trademarks internationally through WIPO mechanism of Madrid system that has shown encouraging results in India, if direct facilities and resources are available from the proposed EO of WIPO in India. The pendency in Trademark examination has already been brought down from the erstwhile 13 months to just 1 month already, much earlier than the target date of March 2017 which confirms the commitment of India to the cause of IP.

18. The pendency in Patent examination is targeted to be brought down from the present 5 to 7 years to 18 months of workload by March 2018. To achieve this, 459 new technically competent Patent Examiners in various fields of technology have been recruited on regular basis in addition to the existing 130. This exponential increase will bring the pendency down drastically. Also amendments in Patent Rules have been done to streamline process and to make them more user friendly. Refund of fees for examination upon withdrawal has been permitted. Timelines have been imposed to ensure speedy disposal, even as the number of admissible adjournments have been limited. The applications can be transferred electronically from any of the Patent Office branches to another.
19. India, through substantial reduction of fees for IPR filings by MSMEs & Startups, has already facilitated IPR protection for MSME & startups sector which contributes in a big way for India's industrial progress by providing innovative products and services. Many departments of Government of India have initiated specific programmes to boost IPR promotion among MSMEs which would perfectly complement the WIPO objective set out for MSMEs, if EO is established in India.
20. To bring synergy between IP offices, the administration of Copyright Act, 1957 and Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act, 2000 has been brought under the same umbrella organisation as Patents, Trademarks, Designs and Geographical Indications. This shall enable an integrated approach and synergy between different IP offices and Acts.
21. Thus, in both the short and long terms, it would be a win-win situation for both India and WIPO by locating a new EO in India.

III. Proposed Functions of External Office in India

22. Based on preliminary assessment, we envisage that the External Office in India could undertake the following functions:
 - i. One of the main functions of WIPO is to provide Global IP Services. Overwhelming proportion of the total financial resources of the WIPO comes from these services. Executing Technical Assistance for Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries is another key function of WIPO. WIPO derives around 96% of its revenue from fees for services rendered under its Global IP Systems Viz. Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Madrid System for Marks, the Hague System for designs, the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre, etc. The PCT and Madrid contribute to about 77% and 16% of the total revenue of WIPO. As India is a member of both PCT and Madrid Systems, a WIPO office in India would build a conducive environment for creating more interest in these Systems, thus resulting in more IP filings and consequent increase in the income of WIPO.
 - ii. An essential part of the services that WIPO provides in respect of its Global IP Systems consists of information and assistance services to users of the Systems. For example, in 2015 the PCT Information Service within the PCT Legal Division

of WIPO received 11,192 total inquiries (emails, calls and faxes), that is, an average of 932 inquiries per month or 45 per day. 47% of those inquiries in 2015 came in by phone, so approximately 438 per month. The origin of phone calls could be determined in 2015 for 91.7% of calls. Of the 5,458 calls received in 2015 for which we could determine their origin, 456 calls (8.35%) were from Asian countries. External Office in India can perform a vital service in supporting the Organization's Global IP Systems in the Asian time zones at a very affordable manner.

- iii. A WIPO External Office would provide a valuable addition to WIPO's general customer response network. If a person calls the general number of WIPO before business hours in Geneva, the call could be automatically received and answered, in India.
- iv. External Office in India would be able to provide technical support in relation to various technical assistance programs administered in the Global Infrastructure Sector of WIPO such as the establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) that make available patent information and other scientific and technical information to IP Offices, universities and research institutions throughout India and other developing countries. Providing intensive technical support through an External Office in India may be much more cost efficient through experts attached to the proposed External Office, rather than through the deployment of experts from the Headquarters.
- v. The proposed EO could save substantial cost for WIPO for carrying out various Capacity Building activities such as organisation of Conferences, Training seminars, WIPO Summer Schools, technical training for patent or trademark examiners, study visits and training at Indian Patent offices. This is bound to reduce budgetary requirements of WIPO, especially for travel and other logistical arrangements.

IV. Objectives of the proposed External Office in India

23. Following are the objectives of the proposed EO in India:

- i. **Promote WIPO's Global Services** such as the PCT and Madrid systems, and also coordinate with Government for accession to other Systems in the coming years;
- ii. **Provide efficient and timely services** to users and applicants of the PCT, Madrid systems, global databases such as PATENTSCOPE, Global Brand Database, Global Design Database as well as the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center services;
- iii. **Collaborate** with Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Indian IP offices including that of Controller General of Patents, Designs, Trademarks and GIs as also Registrar of Copyrights, Indian Industries, Business houses, Industry Associations and Chambers of Commerce to develop and promote WIPO's global partnership projects such as WIPO GREEN and WIPO RE:SEARCH;
- iv. **Coordinate** with Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and the Indian IP offices including that of Controller General of Patents, Designs, Trademarks and GIs as also Registrar of Copyrights, and assist WIPO HQ in undertaking activities for the development of the WIPO knowledge database "IP Advantage";

- v. **Collaborate** with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (RGNIIPM) to promote the activities of WIPO academy for the benefit of IP offices in the entire region, including Central Asia, for development of human resources and capacity building activities.
- vi. **Cooperate with the United Nations agencies present in India** to organize outreach program activities as part of inter-agency cooperation;
- vii. **Assist the HQ in coordinating with IP experts** and policy makers from India in order to share India's experience in the use of IP systems for innovation through the participation of such experts in meetings; and
- viii. **Support WIPO's Round-the-Clock service** during the allotted time frame.

V. Linkage between WIPO Strategic Goals & Objectives of proposed EO in India

WIPO Strategic Goals	Objectives of proposed EO in India
II. Provision of Premier Global IP Services	Yes
III. Facilitating the Use of IP for Development	Yes
VII. Addressing IP in Relation to Global Policy Issues	Yes
VIII. A Responsive Communications Interface between WIPO, its Member States and All Stakeholders	Yes
IV. Coordination and Development of Global IP Infrastructure	Yes

VI. Value Addition by the proposed External Office in India

- 24. India believes that establishment of a new External Office in India would add immense value to WIPO's current setup, by way of following advantages:
 - i. It will create a strong communications interface with the local stakeholders in India and the same cannot be created by occasional visits and missions. EO is likely to contribute towards intense cooperation between WIPO & Government of India to meet demands from users of WIPO services;

- ii. It will help result in considerable savings on travel expenditure, as there would be less number of missions that the WIPO HQ teams need to make for undertaking various activities in India;
 - iii. The presence of EO in India will help in holding of more activities such as seminars and workshops, thus strengthening capacity-building and provision of technical assistance activities in India as well as Central Asia;
 - iv. WIPO's geographical coverage will become more comprehensive and global with enhancement of its global customer network by providing WIPO's services which WIPO HQ alone cannot achieve; and
 - v. EO in India would constitute an integral part of a WIPO global office network as a means of providing timely and efficient services to stakeholders both in India and outside.
25. Overall, the beneficiaries of WIPO Services in India will have higher degree of satisfaction and accomplishment of work, thus enhancing the image and reputation of WIPO as the premiere Global IP Service Provider.

VII. Needs of IP Users in India

26. **Patent Applications:** Number of Patent applications filed in India has increased from 17,466 in 2004 to 46904 in 2016, a jump of 168%. India's ranking has also improved from 11 to 7 over the period of last 10 years in terms of filings. This upward trend is likely to continue as the disposal of applications increases. It may also be pertinent to mention that though over 70% of the applications are filed by foreign applicants, domestic filings have been on the increase.
27. **Membership of PCT:** The opportunities afforded by globalization and the digital revolution mean that many more Indian companies are aspiring to gain a foothold in global markets. WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) offers them a cost-effective and efficient way to protect their cutting-edge technologies in about 151 countries.
28. India became a member of the PCT in 1998. In that year, just 14 international applications were filed by Indian inventors under the PCT; by 2014 that figure had risen 100 times to 1,428. To ensure that Indian companies benefit fully from India's membership of the PCT, the Patent Office of India is actively embracing and promoting the use of PCT-related services to expand access to a broader range of cost-effective services that simplify and streamline the process of protecting patents internationally.
29. **International Search Authority:** In October 2013, the Indian Patent Office became an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA) under the PCT, joining 16 other countries in fulfilling that role. Indian companies now have easier access to local high-quality IP services in addition to those already available from other ISAs with acquiring ISA/IPEA status. With its own patent database and access to others around the globe, this offers top quality patent search and preliminary reports at extremely competitive prices. 1365 requests for ISR and 35 requests for IPEA have been received in ISA/IN till 31st March 2016. However, these requests have increased to 2126 ISR by end of 31st January 2017.

30. **Madrid Protocol:** With the accession of India to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks in July 2013, Indian companies also have access to a simple, cost-effective and user-friendly means of protecting their brands in global markets. The Madrid System has become a gateway to global markets for Indian applicants and also opens the door to foreign companies seeking to establish operations in the Indian market. Till 31st March 2016, 23,632 international applications designating India were received at the India's Trademarks Registry which is 17.6% increase over period of one year, and the number is likely to increase manifold in coming years.

VIII. Financial Sustainability/ Budget Neutrality

31. Government of India has offered gratis suitable premises for the proposed office. The Commerce and Industries Minister of India has already conveyed this to DG, WIPO (copy of letter enclosed). It will also provide basic furniture and equipment, as also appropriate security arrangements to operationalize the office. Once the decision to establish an EO in India is taken, privileges and immunities and other facilities similar to those accorded to other UN Specialized Agencies will also be considered.
32. **Resources and Cost Efficiency:** A major benefit of establishing an EO in India would be the financial and in-kind contribution made by the Indian Government. The gratuitous provision of the premises will remove WIPO's long-term liability as far as premises are concerned. Then, India would facilitate as also work in tandem with WIPO to operationalize the office and use it to further the cause of IPRs in India and the entire region.

IX. Geographic Aspects/ Locational Aspects

33. The time difference between India and the WIPO HQ in Geneva is four-and-a-half hours in winter and three-and-a-half hours in summer. As a result, currently only few hours of the standard work day overlap between these two locations is possible. This has been placing a significant constraint on timely and efficient communications between WIPO HQ and Indian institutions. Presence of a WIPO EO in India would address this serious drawback in the engagement of WIPO with India.
34. Presently there is only one External Office in the Asia and the Pacific Region i.e. Singapore. The presence of this EO in Singapore has no direct benefit to India, as it caters at best to the ASEAN region only. As the demand for IP services in India is rising exponentially, the proposed EO in India would be well placed to fulfill the growing demand from India's IP regime, and also benefit the overall objectives of the WIPO.

X. Conclusion

35. India is fully committed to establish a robust, streamlined, cost-effective and transparent IP ecosystem to serve the needs of its innovative and rapidly expanding economy, in particular with a strong emphasis on knowledge-based economy. Opening an External Office in India will provide a strong push towards these efforts and in return, WIPO is also bound to benefit with more revenues from increased filings, enhanced global reach, boost in IP awareness and availability of cost effective services from India.

36. Establishing national External Office in India has a sound scientific rationale as well as grounded on financial prudence for both India and WIPO. There would be a significant value addition to the functioning of WIPO and IP promotional activities without posing any strain on its financial resources.
37. In conclusion, it will be a win-win situation for India and WIPO if a new national External Office is established in India. The Government of India, therefore, looks forward to an early consideration in the Program and Budget Committee (PBC) of its proposal and to recommend to the WIPO General Assembly to take an expeditious decision to establish a national EO in India during the current year 2017 or during the next biennium 2018-19.

XI. Trends in Performance of IPO in India**1. Trends in Patents****1.1 Data on Patent applications, examination, grant and disposal**

Year	Filed	Examined	Granted	Disposal (Granted+ Abandoned+ Withdrawn + Refused)
2007-08	35218	11751	15261	15795
2008-09	36812	10296	16061	17136
2009-10	34287	6069	6168	11339
2010-11	39400	11208	7509	12851
2011-12	43197	11031	4381	8488
2012-13	43674	12268	4126	9027
2013-14	42950	18306	4225	11672
2014-15	42763	22631	5978	14328
2015-16	46904	16851	6326	21987
2016-17 (April-Dec. 2016)	33580	15649	6347	15910

1.2 Data on patent applications filed, granted and in force

Year	No. of applications filed		Number of requests for examination Filed	No. of Examinations (FER) Issued	Number of Patents Granted		Patents in Force	
	Total	By Residents			Residents	Non-Residents	Residents	Non-Residents
2005-06	24505	4521	21926	11569	1396	2924	4486	11933
2006-07	28940	5314	20645	14119	1907	5632	3473	13593
2007-08	35218	6040	22146	11751	3173	12088	7966	21722
2008-09	36812	6161	30595	10296	2541	13520	6158	24664
2009-10	34287	7044	28653	6069	1725	4443	6781	30553
2010-11	39400	8312	31493	11208	1273	6236	7301	32293
2011-12	43197	8921	33811	11031	699	3682	7545	32444
2012-13	43674	9911	36247	12268	716	3410	8308	35612
2013-14	42951	10941	37474	18306	634	3592	7464	35168
2014-15	42763	12071	34958	22631	684	5294	7561	35695
2015-16	46904	13066	35960	16851	918	5408	7306	37218
2016-17 (April to Dec 2016)	33580	9327	26503	15649	819	5528		

1.3 Patent applications filed by residents and non-residents through various routes for last 10 years

Applicants	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Residents	4521	5314	6040	6161	7044	8312	8921	9911	10941	12071	13066
Non Residents											
Ordinary	1008	693	834	681	826	816	1031	1144	1228	1461	1915
Convention	3509	3969	4453	4264	2986	3728	4280	4184	3704	3174	3675
National Phase Applications under PCT	15467	19768	23891	25706	23431	26544	28965	28435	27078	26057	28248
GRAND TOTAL	24505	28940	35218	36812	34287	39400	43197	43674	42951	42763	46904

2. Trends in TRADE MARKS

Year	Filed	Examined	Registered	Disposal (Registered+ Abandoned+ Refused+ Withdrawn +)
2007-08	123414	63605	100857	
2008-09	130172	105219	102257	126540
2009-10	141943	25875	54814	76310
2010-11	179317	205065	115472	132507
2011-12	183588	116263	51735	57867
2012-13	194216	202385	44361	69736
2013-14	200005	203086	67873	104753
2014-15	210501	168026	41583	83652
2015-16	283060	267861	65045	38846
2016-17 (April- Dec 2016)	209563	416821	160363	184168

3. Trends in DESIGNS

Year	Filed	Examined	Registered
2007-08	6402	6183	4928
2008-09	6557	6446	4772
2009-10	6092	6266	6025
2010-11	7589	6277	9206
2011-12	8373	6511	6590
2012-13	8337	6776	7252
2013-14	8533	7281	7178
2014-15	9382	7459	7171
2015-16	11108	9426	7904

4. Trends in GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

Year	Filed	Examined	Registered
2007-08	37	48	31
2008-09	44	21	45
2009-10	40	46	14
2010-11	27	32	29
2011-12	148	37	23
2012-13	24	30	21
2013-14	75	42	22
2014-15	47	66	20
2015-16	17	200	26

(WIPO's Country Profile Database: India (Annexure 'A'))

XII. Letter from H.E. Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce of Industry, Government of India notifying India's wish to host a new External Office in India

Proposal by India for hosting new WIPO's External Office in its National Capacity

निर्मला सीतारमण
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN



वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
भारत
MINISTER OF STATE (Independent Charge)
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
INDIA

D.O.No.4/11/2013-IPR-VI/1569,

२५-December, 2015

Dear Director General,

Please except my congratulations on the successful conclusion of the 55th Series of Meetings on the Assemblies of Member-States of WIPO earlier this month. My deep appreciation for you and your able team may also be placed on record for jointly hosting the exhibition on 'Geographical Indications of India' on the sidelines of the WIPO General Assembly. This event, jointly hosted by the Government of India and the WIPO gave us an unique opportunity to showcase not only India's GIs but also to highlight the flagship "Make in India" programme launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in September, 2014.

As part of India's commitment to promote innovation, protecting IPRs and to meet the developmental challenges in a balanced manner, we are striving to develop a new IPR policy in the country. A number of flagship projects launched by India, including "Make in India" and "Digital India", have a significant IP component. It is believed there would be substantial mutual benefit – both to India and WIPO – if WIPO were to establish a new External Office (EO) in New Delhi. My predecessor had already conveyed India's interest in 2014 in hosting a new EO.

A suitable premises for the new External Office of the WIPO in New Delhi would be provided for gratuitous use. Privileges and immunities similar to those accorded to other UN Specialised Agencies will also be considered once the decision to establish the EO is taken.

The Member-State driven processes, as defined in the Guiding Principles, would be examining proposals for opening of new Eos during the next biennium 2016-2017. It is hoped that our proposal to open a new External Office in India would find suitable reflection among the proposals to be considered by the WIPO. I look forward to your continued cooperation and support in realization of this project.

to issued
18/12/15

Yours sincerely,
Nirmala S

(Nirmala Sitharaman)

Mr. Francis Gurry,
Director-General,
World Intellectual Property Organisation,
Geneva.

XIII. WIPO's Country Profile Database: India – Annexure 'A'

Statistical Country Profiles



India

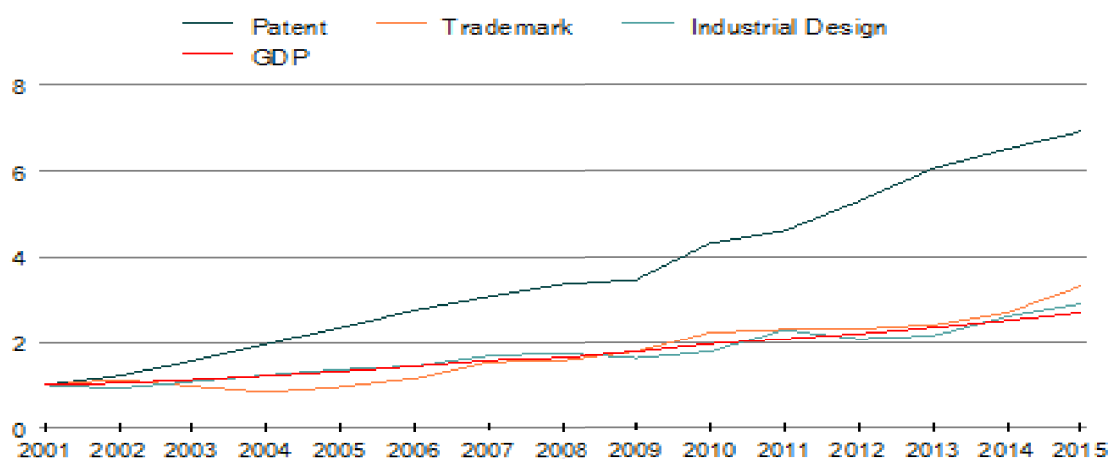
Population (Million): 1311.05 (2015) (Rank = 2)

**Gross Domestic Product (Billion US\$)(Constant 2011 US\$ (PPP)): 7512.5 (2015)
(Rank = 3)**

IP Filings (Resident + Abroad, Including Regional) and Economy

Year	Patent	Trademark	Industrial Design	GDP (Constant 2011 US\$)
2001	3,456	81,494	2,839	2784.32
2002	4,164	90,751	2,618	2890.24
2003	5,370	79,488	3,034	3117.42
2004	6,728	67,504	3,465	3364.41
2005	8,028	77,908	3,867	3676.79
2006	9,434	93,736	4,078	4017.41
2007	10,529	125,078	4,759	4363.23
2008	11,546	128,122	4,949	4533.01
2009	11,939	143,626	4,610	4917.39
2010	14,869	181,621	5,030	5421.92
2011	15,896	186,783	6,472	5781.84
2012	18,202	188,154	5,900	6106.70
2013	20,908	196,262	6,101	6512.11
2014	22,445	218,723	7,404	6983.82
2015	23,844	269,705	8,244	7512.50

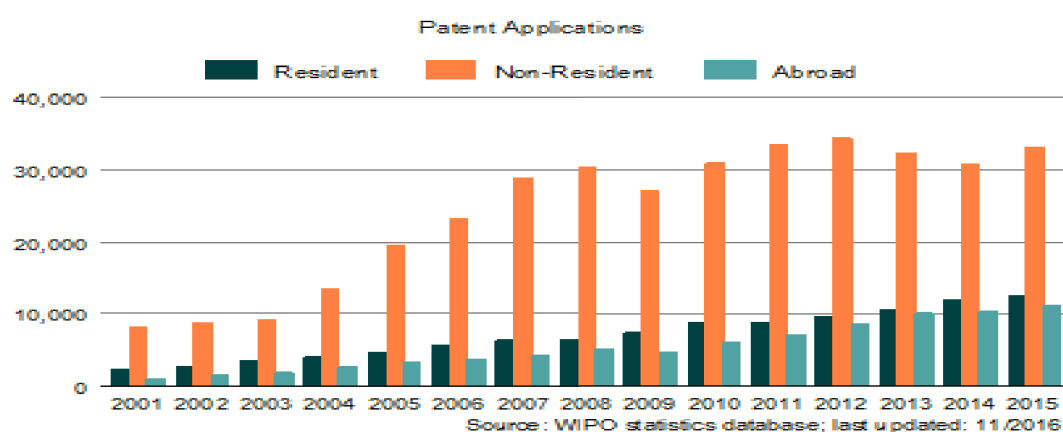
IP Filings and Economic Growth (Set first available year to 1)



Source: WIPO statistics database; last updated: 11/2016

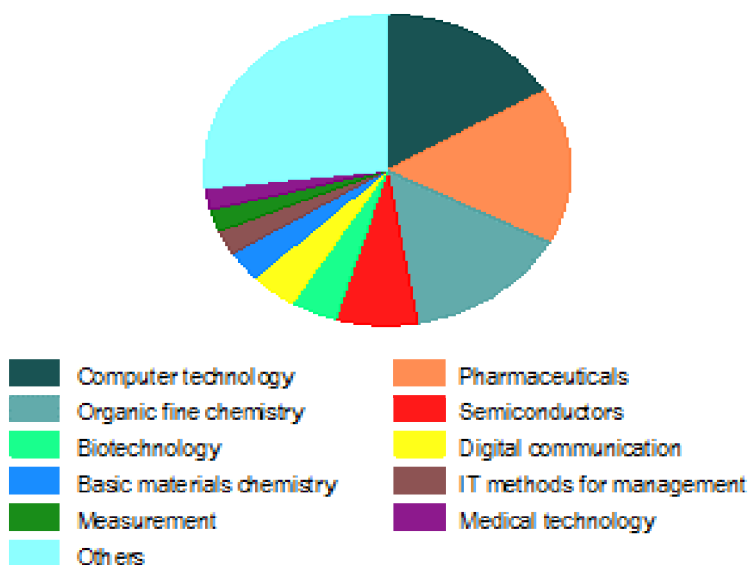
Patent Applications

Year	Resident	Rank	Non-Resident	Rank	Abroad	Rank
2001	2,379	20	8,213	14	1,077	22
2002	2,693	18	8,772	14	1,471	21
2003	3,425	17	9,188	13	1,945	20
2004	4,014	15	13,452	8	2,714	20
2005	4,721	14	19,661	8	3,307	20
2006	5,686	13	23,242	7	3,748	20
2007	6,296	14	28,922	7	4,233	20
2008	6,425	13	30,387	7	5,121	20
2009	7,262	14	27,025	7	4,677	19
2010	8,853	11	30,909	6	6,016	19
2011	8,841	11	33,450	6	7,055	19
2012	9,553	11	34,402	6	8,649	17
2013	10,669	11	32,362	6	10,239	14
2014	12,040	11	30,814	7	10,405	15
2015	12,579	9	33,079	6	11,265	14



Patent Applications by Top Fields of Technology (2001 - 2015)

Patent Applications by Top Fields of Technology (2001 - 2015)



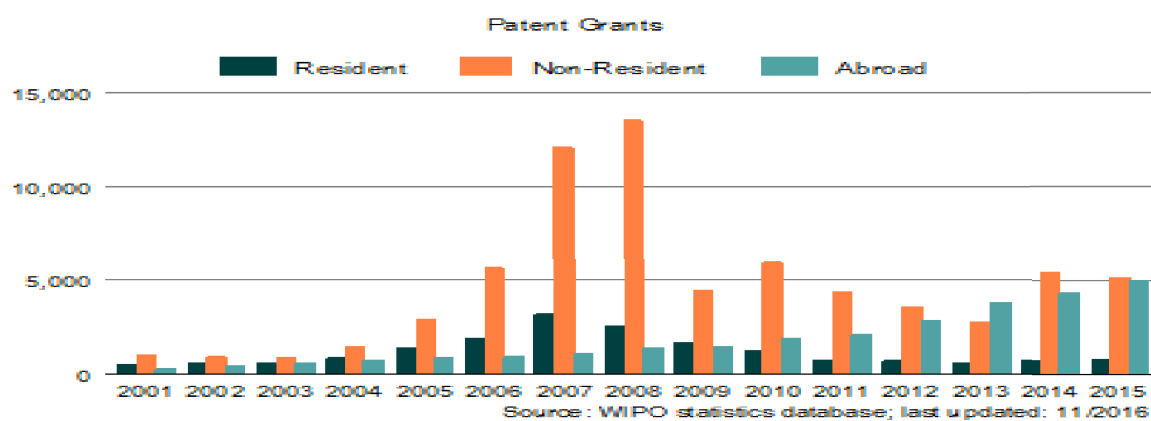
Source: WIPO statistics database; last updated: 11/2016

Field of Technology	Share
Computer technology	16.34
Pharmaceuticals	16.30
Organic fine chemistry	14.67
Semiconductors	7.33
Biotechnology	4.10
Digital communication	4.10
Basic materials chemistry	3.22
IT methods for management	2.56
Measurement	2.34
Medical technology	2.26
Others	26.78

Patent Grants

Year	Resident	Rank	Non-Resident	Rank	Abroad	Rank
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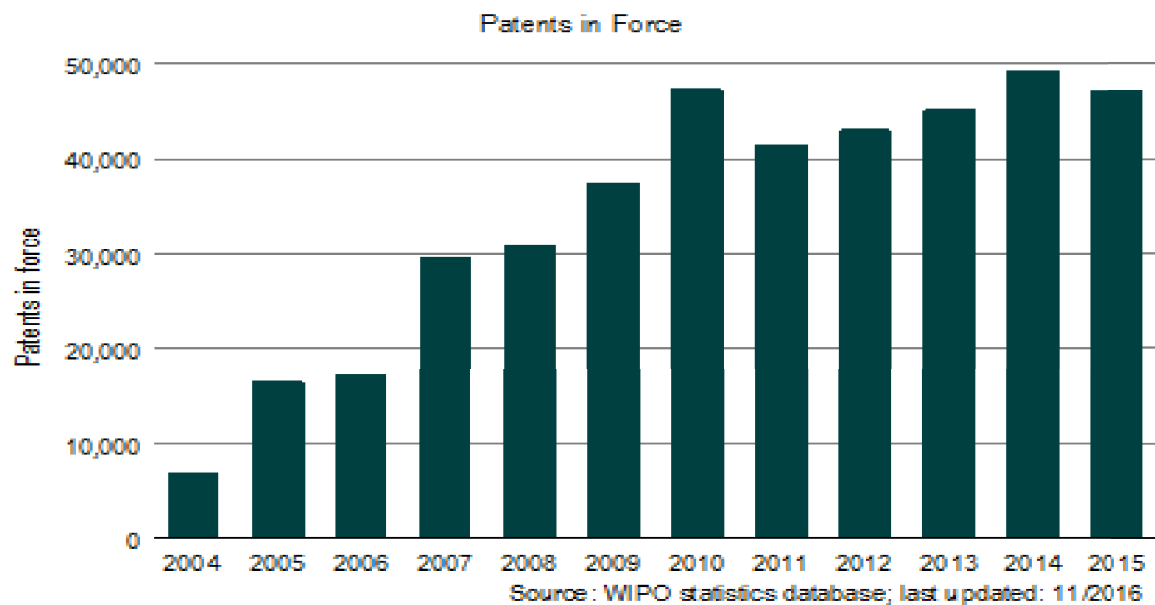
2001	529	25	1,020	28	288	27
2002	619	23	921	28	425	23
2003	615	27	911	28	621	21
2004	851	21	1,466	17	766	21
2005	1,396	19	2,924	16	888	21
2006	1,907	18	5,632	11	919	22
2007	3,173	13	12,088	7	1,119	22
2008	2,541	14	13,520	7	1,394	21
2009	1,725	18	4,443	12	1,460	22
2010	1,208	23	5,930	10	1,926	19
2011	776	26	4,392	13	2,104	19
2012	722	24	3,606	15	2,861	19
2013	594	27	2,783	17	3,806	18
2014	720	26	5,433	11	4,342	18
2015	822	25	5,200	12	4,980	15



Patents in Force

Year	Patents in Force	Rank
2004	6,857	29
2005	16,419	23

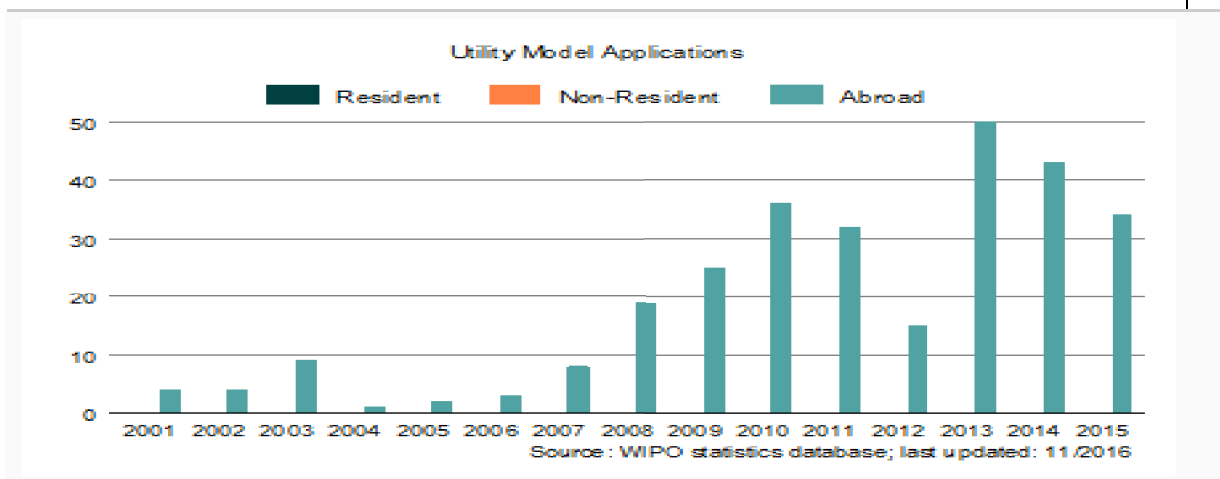
2006	17,066	23
2007	29,688	22
2008	30,822	23
2009	37,334	22
2010	47,224	19
2011	41,361	20
2012	42,991	19
2013	45,103	22
2014	49,272	22
2015	47,113	21



Utility Model Applications

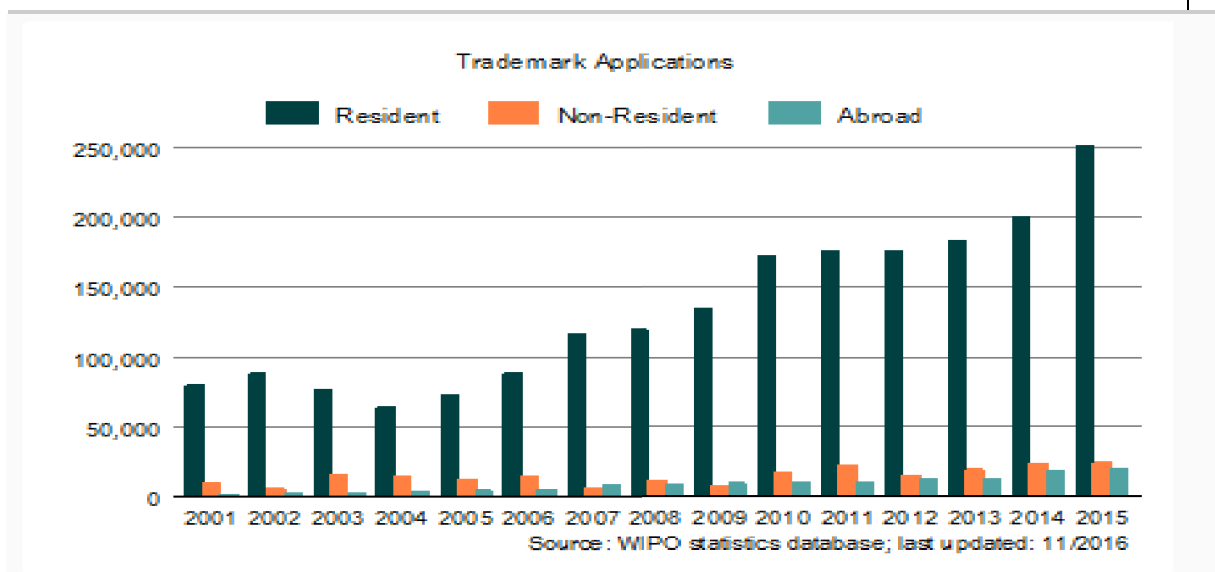
Year	Resident	Rank	Non-Resident	Rank	Abroad	Rank
2001					4	35
2002					4	45
2003					9	40

2004				1	55
2005				2	48
2006				3	42
2007				8	40
2008				19	34
2009				25	32
2010				36	27
2011				32	31
2012				15	39
2013				50	29
2014				43	31
2015				34	32

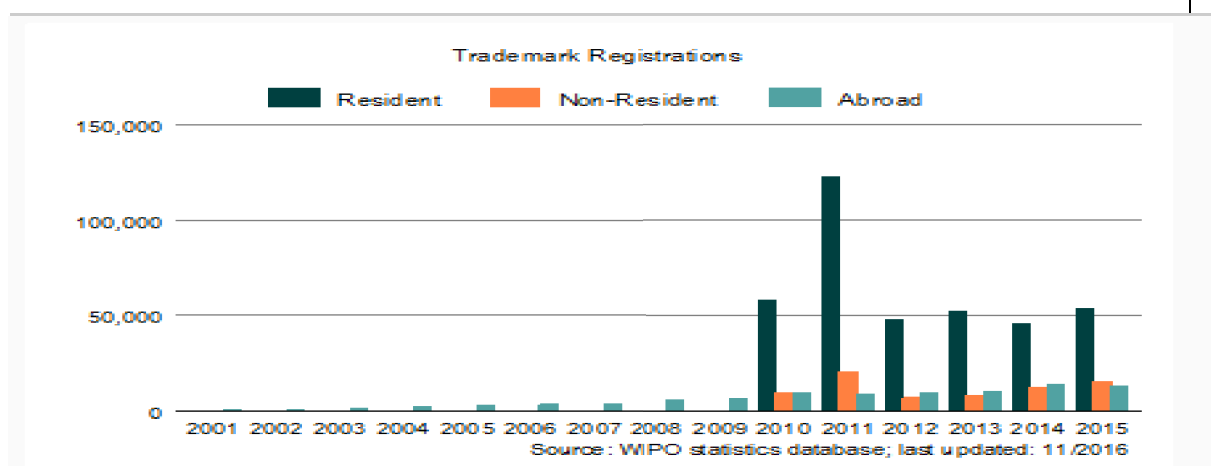


Trademark Applications

Year	Resident	Rank	Non-Resident	Rank	Abroad	Rank
2001	79,746	6	10,490	27	1,748	39
2002	88,190	5	5,930	43	2,561	37
2003	76,801	6	15,450	10	2,687	40
2004	63,906	8	15,090	13	3,598	38
2005	73,308	7	12,361	16	4,600	35
2006	88,210	5	15,210	16	5,526	39
2007	117,014	4	6,500	41	8,064	36
2008	119,371	3	10,801	23	8,751	36
2009	134,403	3	7,540	28	9,223	33
2010	172,120	3	17,805	13	9,501	35
2011	176,386	3	22,161	9	10,397	35
2012	176,044	3	14,807	16	12,110	35
2013	183,172	3	19,646	12	13,090	33
2014	200,140	3	23,611	10	18,583	31
2015	250,585	2	24,183	9	19,120	28

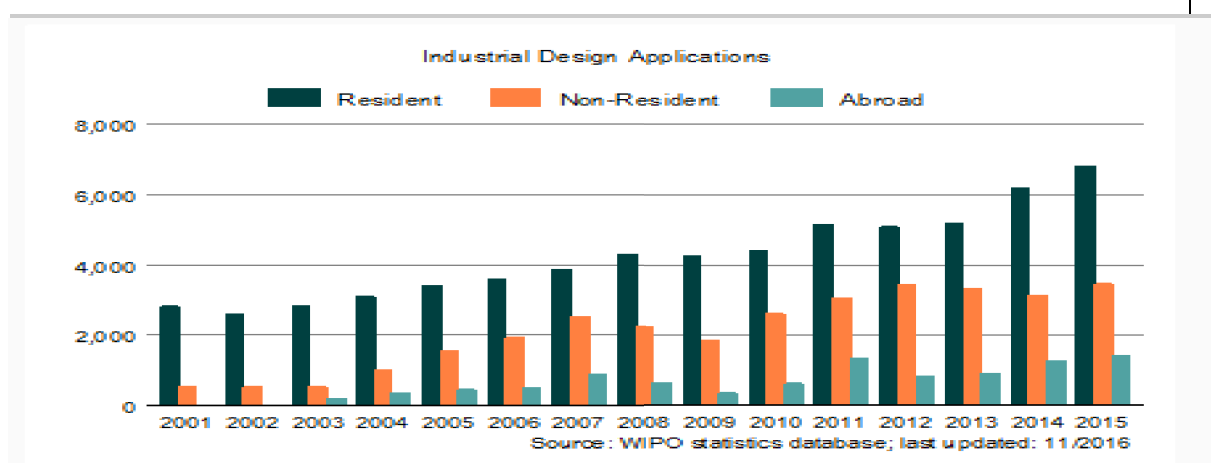
**Trademark Registrations**

Year	Resident	Rank	Non-Resident	Rank	Abroad	Rank
2001					768	37
2002					811	41
2003					1,544	44
2004					2,045	38
2005					3,140	38
2006					3,504	40
2007					4,031	41
2008					5,767	40
2009					6,855	37
2010	58,117	7	9,695	18	9,321	34
2011	122,440	3	20,503	7	8,890	36
2012	48,014	9	7,177	28	9,460	35
2013	52,117	9	8,140	27	10,657	33
2014	45,720	12	12,794	19	13,952	31
2015	53,515	8	15,607	15	13,607	33



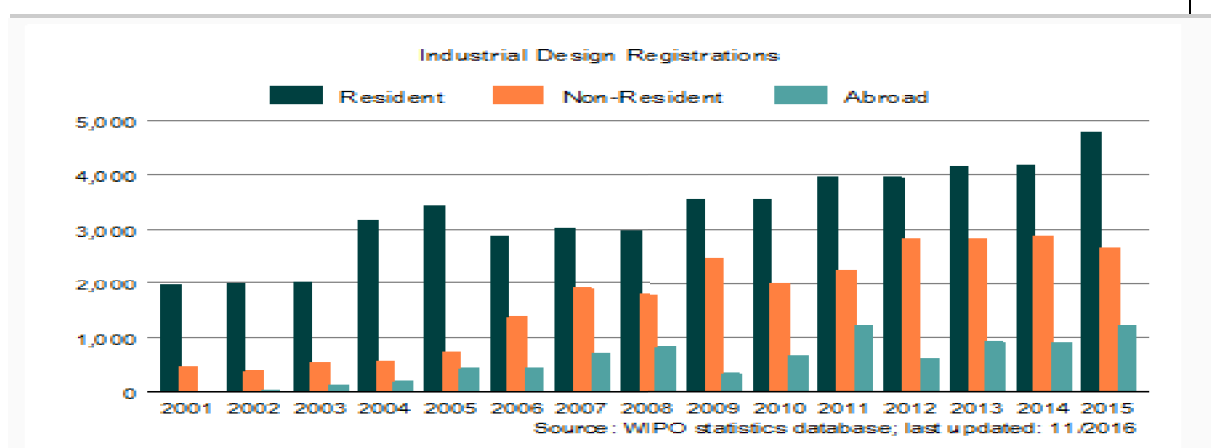
Industrial Design Applications

Year	Resident	Rank	Non-Resident	Rank	Abroad	Rank
2001	2,810	9	540	40	29	47
2002	2,591	11	533	39	27	43
2003	2,816	10	541	42	218	34
2004	3,093	11	1,009	16	372	36
2005	3,407	10	1,542	11	460	35
2006	3,584	10	1,937	10	494	38
2007	3,873	9	2,529	9	886	36
2008	4,308	9	2,249	9	641	39
2009	4,267	9	1,825	8	343	44
2010	4,416	9	2,622	8	614	41
2011	5,156	9	3,060	8	1,316	36
2012	5,100	9	3,445	8	800	43
2013	5,182	9	3,315	8	919	43
2014	6,168	10	3,141	8	1,236	40
2015	6,829	8	3,461	8	1,415	37



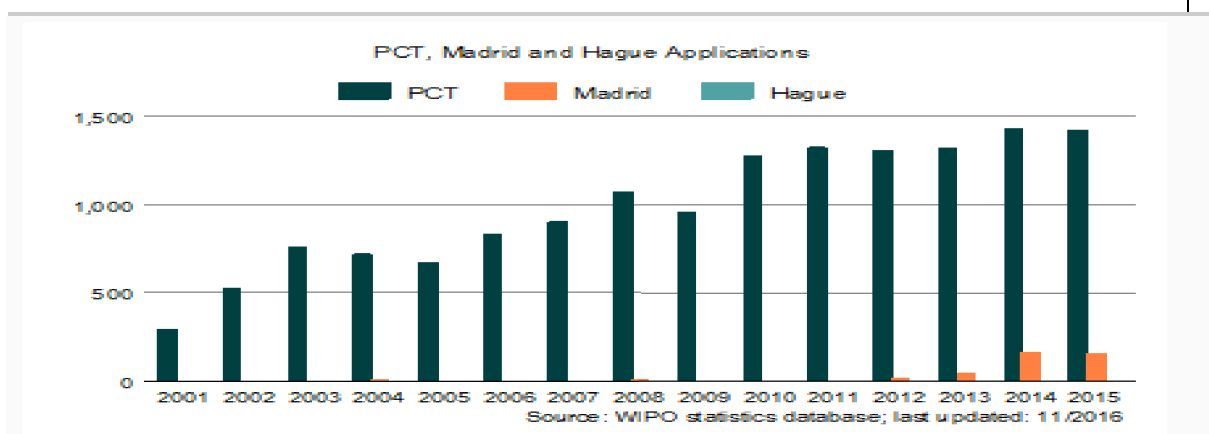
Industrial Design Registrations

Year	Resident	Rank	Non-Resident	Rank	Abroad	Rank
2001	1,969	10	457	43	15	52
2002	1,974	12	390	44	21	40
2003	2,004	10	543	39	126	36
2004	3,166	10	562	29	195	40
2005	3,439	9	736	16	434	36
2006	2,877	10	1,373	10	430	36
2007	3,026	9	1,902	10	709	37
2008	2,985	10	1,787	9	826	36
2009	3,552	7	2,473	8	339	44
2010	3,562	8	2,005	8	657	40
2011	3,971	8	2,266	8	1,239	35
2012	3,959	8	2,819	8	612	42
2013	4,156	8	2,819	8	921	41
2014	4,179	8	2,878	8	901	42
2015	4,801	8	2,660	9	1,228	39



International Applications via WIPO Administered Treaties

Year	PCT System	Rank	Madrid System	Rank	Hague System	Rank
2001	295	23	2	56		
2002	525	22	1	64		
2003	763	19	2	60		
2004	724	19	7	57		
2005	679	20				
2006	833	20	3	66		
2007	904	20	3	70	2	20
2008	1,073	19	7	63		
2009	960	20	5	65		
2010	1,276	17	1	91		
2011	1,323	18	1	88		
2012	1,309	19	16	58		
2013	1,320	17	45	53	1	46
2014	1,428	17	161	36		
2015	1,423	17	152	37		

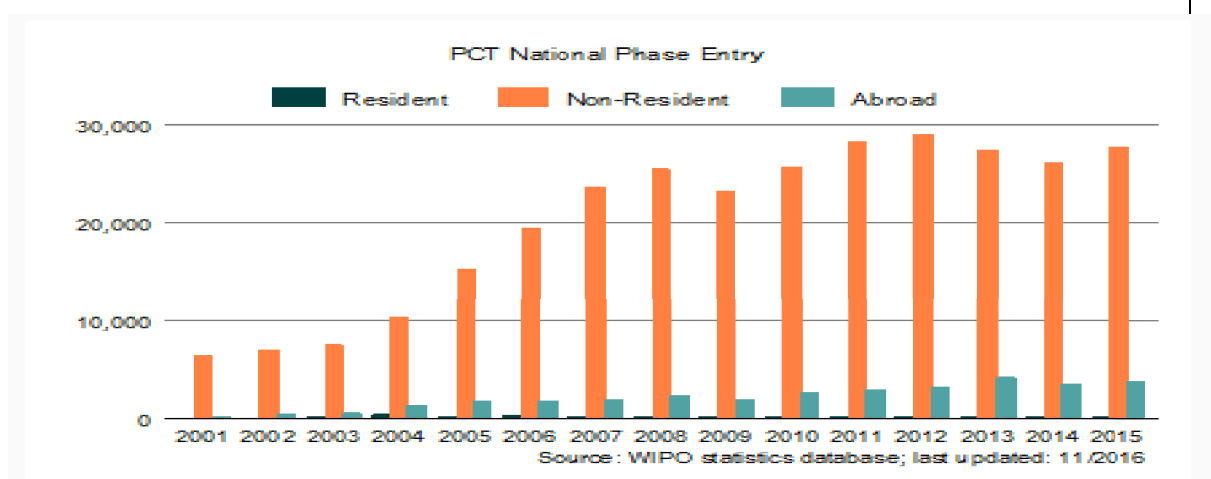


PCT Top Applicants (Publication Year = 2015)

Applicant	Publication	Rank
COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH	110	201
RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED	58	380
WOCKHARDT LIMITED	46	465
RANBAXY LABORATORIES LIMITED	39	555
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	30	716
CADILA HEALTHCARE LIMITED	22	965
PIRAMAL ENTERPRISES LIMITED	22	965
DR. REDDY'S LABORATORIES LTD.	20	1035
MYLAN LABORATORIES LTD.	20	1035
LAURUS LABS PRIVATE LIMITED	19	1093

PCT National Phase Entry (Direct and via Regional Office)

Year	Resident	Rank	Non-Resident	Rank	Abroad	Rank
2001	8	25	6,343	10	159	28
2002			7,049	10	379	23
2003	207	16	7,510	10	563	20
2004	384	17	10,287	10	1,366	20
2005	173	21	15,171	8	1,788	19
2006	349	18	19,411	7	1,829	21
2007	212	22	23,679	7	1,920	22
2008	237	23	25,469	7	2,341	21
2009	209	23	23,222	7	1,866	21
2010	225	23	25,698	7	2,569	21
2011	216	25	28,240	6	2,942	21
2012	247	24	29,071	6	3,292	20
2013	172	27	27,420	6	4,141	19
2014	258	26	26,082	6	3,542	20
2015	129	30	27,753	7	3,852	20



Source: WIPO statistics database. Last updated : 11/2016

The statistics are based on data collected from IP offices or extracted from the PATSTAT database (for statistics by field of technology). Data might be missing for some years and offices or may be incomplete for some origins. The data relating to population and gross domestic product (GDP) are from the UN Statistics Division and the World Bank.

A resident filing refers to an application filed in the country by its own resident; whereas a non-resident filing refers to the one filed by a foreign applicant. An abroad filing refers to an application filed by this country's resident at a foreign office.

Where an office provides total filings without breaking them down into resident and non-resident filings, WIPO divides the total count using the historical share of resident filings at that office.

IP filings and Economy lists patent, trademark and industrial design filings worldwide by applicants from this country (resident + abroad).

One filing at the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BOIP) or the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) is treated as equivalent of multiple abroad filings at each member state; whereas one filing at the European Patent Office (EPO) or the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is counted as one abroad filing due to lack of information on designation.

Contact information: Economics and Statistics Division, WIPO. Tel.: +41-22-338-91-11, email: lpstats.mail@wipo.int.

[Annex III follows]

Proposal

for the Establishment of the WIPO External Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Considering the guide for the establishment of the WIPO External Offices in its Member States adopted by the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization in 2015, the needs, objectives, proposed scope of activities and facilities available for the establishment of the above-mentioned Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran are as follows:

Historical and Geographical Characteristics of IRAN:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran is a large country in the Middle East and West Asia, between the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, and the Caspian Sea, comprising a land area of 1,648,195 km² (18th largest in the world), has a population of about 80 million. It is bordered by Iraq to the west, Turkey, Azerbaijan's Naxcivan enclave, Armenia, and Azerbaijan to the northwest, Turkmenistan to the northeast, Afghanistan and Pakistan to the southeast. Iran has long been of geostrategic importance because of its central location in Eurasia.

2. Iran has 5,000 years of fascinating history, and is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations. It is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations, beginning with the formation of the Proto-Elamite and Elamite kingdoms in 3200- 2800 BC. The Iranian Medes unified the area into the first of many empires in 625 BC, after which it became the dominant cultural and political power in the region. Iran reached the pinnacle of its power during the Achaemenid Empire founded by Cyrus the Great in 550 BC, which at its greatest extent comprised major portions of the ancient world, stretching from parts of the Balkans (Thrace Macedonia, Bulgaria-Paeonia) and Eastern Europe proper in the west, to the Indus Valley in the east, making it the largest empire of the ancient world. The empire collapsed in 330 BC following the conquests of Alexander the Great. The Parthian Empire emerged from the ashes and was succeeded by the Sassanid Dynasty in 224 AD, under which Iran again became one of the leading powers in the world, along with the Roman-Byzantine Empire, for a period of more than four centuries.

3. Iran is an important regional power in the Middle East that has the largest natural gas reserves in the world and the fourth largest oil reserves ever explored and in this respect, has a significant role and influence in international energy market and security. Iran has long been of geostrategic importance because of its central location in Eurasia.

4. The Islamic Republic of Iran shares language, culture and religion with its neighboring countries and Persian language, in addition to Iran, it is the official language in Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

Needs and objectives of the establishment of the WIPO External Office:

1. Due to the unique capacities for intellectual productions in our country and the impressive achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of intellectual property at regional as well as international levels, to the extent that Iran is ranking first in recent years in the region. These achievements have been attained substantively due to the national

Original version in English

emphasis on protection of the development of science, technology and intellectual productions in the 20 years Development Prospective Document (Horizon 2020), the Comprehensive Scientific Roadmap of the Country, the Rules of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Five Years Economic Development Plans which led to quantitative and qualitative growth of students, researchers and universities.

2. In order to achieve these goals and the emphasis given in the mentioned documents to development and promotion of IP in our country, the State Organization for Registration of Deeds and Properties of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Intellectual Property Center) as the competent authority for the registration of industrial properties and the national focal point of the Islamic Republic of Iran at WIPO has notified publicly and privately the importance of IP, especially during the last 15 years.

3. In this regard, in addition to organizing joint programs and events with WIPO, it has organized more than 300 workshops and seminars around the country in cooperation with the Science and Technology Parks, Province Chambers of Commerce, universities and other relevant authorities and agencies.

4. In this regard, it must be added that for the scientific growth and development of the country and in order to benefit from intellectual productions, the Science and Technology Parks which have an important role in commercialization of the ideas, have had a very rapid growth so that we have now almost in all provinces the Science and Technology Parks. The State Organization for Registration of Deeds and Properties of the Islamic Republic of Iran for raising awareness of intellectual property among the public and private, in addition to the national IP training, has had the international IP training, including the workshop for the examiners of the industrial property office of Afghanistan and recently, has received a request from IP Office of Tajikistan concerning the training of the examiners of IP office of this country by Intellectual Property Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

5. Iran has had an excellent cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and hosted the third session of the coordinating committee of ECO on IP in Tehran this year. In this session, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed the organization of the IP workshop in Persian and English for participants from all ECO Member States that was adopted in the session of the ECO Regional Planning Council.

6. Considering the above-mentioned activities and due to more than 90 years of experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the registration and protection of IP and the most prominent IP position that Iran stands in the region, the countries of the region have a positive approach to IP pool of expertise in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

7. However, due to the above-mentioned capacities and promotion and development of IP in the Islamic Republic of Iran and needs and applications for the national and international registration and protection of industrial properties during the recent years that have significantly increased, as indicated clearly in the statistics published by WIPO, the patents, trademarks and industrial designs applications have significantly increased in 2013 and 2014, and the Patent Office and Industrial Design Office of Iran is in the list of the top 20 offices of the Member States of WIPO because of the increasing rate of the applications and also in 2014, Iran ranked first in the region in this regard.

8. It is worth to be mentioned that the increase in applications has been due to the promotion of the public awareness of IP and creation and development of the culture of respect for IP in our country and also providing the strong legal infrastructures, including the up-to-date and comprehensive rules and regulations in the field of industrial property and adhering to the IP Conventions during the last 10 years, including the international registration systems, namely the Madrid Agreement and Protocol Concerning the

International Registration of Marks (The Madrid System), the Lisbon System for the international Registration of Appellations of Origin (the Lisbon System) and recently, The Patent Cooperation Treaty (the International Patent System).

9. Therefore, due to the increase in applications, needs based on the exploitation and commercialization of these properties have increased and it is obvious that the establishment of the WIPO External Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran, considering the description of its activities, could promote increasingly IP and ensure the advance of the goals of the World Intellectual Property Organization in Iran more than ever.

10. Iran is a founding member of the UN, ECO, NAM, OIC, and OPEC. Offices of international organizations represented in Tehran are as follows:

UN, UNODC, UNFPA, ECO Cultural Institute, ECO Secretariat, FAO, Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States Secretariat, IMO, ISESCO, UNIDO, UNIDO South-South Center, UNIC, UNDP, UNICEF, UN- Habitat, UNESCO, UNAMA, UNAMI, WFP, WHO, UNHCR, UNOCHA, Secretariat of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, ICRC.

11. Given the privileged scientific position of Iran and since several Iranian universities have the Master of intellectual property rights; the establishment of WIPO External Office in Tehran can play a key role in advancing the goals of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Iran.

Proposed scope of activities of the WIPO Iran Office:

1. Local support services for WIPO'S Global IP Systems. One of the principal activities of this office after its establishment in the Islamic Republic of Iran is the close cooperation with the National Office (Intellectual Property Center) in helping the better and more effective enforcement of the systems of the World Intellectual Property Organization, including the Madrid, Lisbon and PCT systems of which the Islamic Republic of Iran is a Member, and also providing the registration services to applicants by the above-mentioned systems in cooperation with the International Bureau of WIPO;
2. The provision of technical support in relation to the various technical assistance programs administered in the Global Infrastructure Sector of the Organization;
3. General capacity building and other development cooperation activities.
4. The provision of technical assistance and advice to the owners of the intellectual properties in order to exploit the IP for the development of the country and also the transfer of technology. It must be mentioned that the Islamic Republic of Iran has some joint projects with WIPO, including the carpet project and the start of implementation of technology and innovation support centers (TISC) project;
5. Assisting in the commercialization of IP and facilitation of communication between industry and authorities of the intellectual productions;
6. Responding to the daily-increasing importance of innovation and creativity and the role to be played by IP in a knowledge-based economy in Iran.

Facilities available for the establishment of the WIPO External Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran:

1. The State Organization for Registration of Deeds and Properties of the Islamic Republic of Iran which is, in accordance with the Article 52 of the Law on Registration of Patents, Trademarks and Industrial Designs, the competent authority for Industrial Property and the National Focal Point of the Islamic Republic of Iran at WIPO and the Unions of the relevant conventions, ensures provision of all the facilities for the establishment of the WIPO External Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran. There is a separate suitable building of 500 square meters just next to the seat of the Intellectual Property Center in Tehran that will be allocated to this purpose and could be expanded in later stage, if need will be.
2. Regarding the Administrative expenses of this Office, according to the Article 63 of the Law on Registration of Patents, Trademarks and Industrial Designs, it is possible to use 50 percent of the foreign exchange earnings from International Registrations Systems of Industrial Property for the promotion and equipment of the Office. The State Organization for Registration of Deeds and Properties of the Islamic Republic of Iran ensures provision of all the expenses and needs of the WIPO External Office in Iran, according to its legal authority, through using basic and other revenue sources.

[Annex IV follows]

PROPOSAL FOR THE HOSTING OF AN EXTERNAL OFFICE

NAME OF COUNTRY WISHING TO HOST AN EXTERNAL OFFICE:

SULTANATE OF OMAN
(IN ITS NATIONAL CAPACITY)

RATIONALE FOR HOSTING AN EXTERNAL OFFICE:

1. The Sultanate of Oman wishes to host an External Office in order to contribute to the establishment of a solid basis for strengthened cooperation efforts towards the creation of a knowledge-based economy.
2. *National Innovation Strategy.* The Government's National Innovation Strategy is anchored in its vision to drive Oman among the world top 20 innovating countries by 2040. This will be achieved by establishing an efficient national innovation system for sustainable development, linking and streamlining national policies related to diversified economy, education, research and development, technology transfer, national infrastructure and entrepreneurship.

Chart 1.



This document has been translated into English on the basis of the original Arabic-language version. For this reason, in case of discrepancies or differences of interpretation between the English and Arabic versions, the Arabic version shall prevail.

3. *Intellectual Property (IP)*. The National Innovation Strategy builds on fundamental elements which include intellectual property and commercialization of knowledge. It is centered around effective institutional communication and cooperation among various IP-related entities in Oman, namely the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Research Council (TRC), Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Heritage and Culture, Sultan Qaboos University, Public Authority for SME Development (RIYADA), Public Authority for Craft Industries (PACI), Higher Judicial Institute, Directorate General of Customs, and Information Technology Authority, as well as private sector entities such as law firms, innovation and IP firms and the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Fund (SMEF).

A comprehensive plan has been established for the IP and knowledge commercialization stream, comprising a vision for a knowledge society anchored in an effective IP system at individual, institutional and national level.

This vision has strategic objectives with underpinning operational programs aimed at activating and enabling innovation:

- institution building for IP advice, services and policy development in Oman;
- increased number of ventures and SMEs based on added-value business models and tangible and intangible assets;
- enhanced legal authorities and institutions with knowledge, resources and capabilities to deal with IP issues;
- increased economic revenue through transfer of knowledge from research centers to markets;
- better understanding and awareness of the social contribution of IP-based creativity and innovation.

4. With a comprehensive legislative policy and a legally enforced IP system, Oman is party to: the WIPO Berne Convention, Paris Convention, Brussels Convention, PLT, TLT, WCT, WPPT, Nairobi Treaty, Budapest Treaty, Hague Agreement, Madrid Protocol and PCT. Oman is also party to other IP-related multilateral treaties, including the UPOV Convention, Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression, Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), TRIPS Agreement, Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, as well as other IP-related multilateral, bilateral and regional treaties.

5. Firmly committed to fulfill its obligations under the various treaties, Oman has established Laws and Regulations which underpin and support its effective framework for innovation, investment and IPR protection. These include:

Laws:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic law of the Sultanate of Oman as amended by Royal Decree No. 99/2011 • Royal Decree No. 49/2009 promulgating the Law on the Protection of Breeders' Rights in New Varieties of Plants • Royal Decree No. 67/2008 promulgating the Industrial Property Rights Law • Royal Decree No. 65/2008 promulgating the Law on Copyright and Related Rights • Royal Decree No. 81/2002 promulgating the Law on Consumer Protection • Royal Decree No.29/2002 promulgating the Law on Civil and commercial procedure
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Decree No. 6/1980 promulgating the Law on the Protection of National Heritage • Omani Penal Code No. 7/1974
Regulations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Decision No. 103/2015 issuing the Executive Regulation of the Law on the Protection of Breeders' Rights of New Plant Varieties • Decree No. 103/2008 of Ministry of Trade and Industry issuing the Executive Regulations of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights • Regulation No. 105/2008 under the Law on Industrial Property Rights

6. *Enhanced Intellectual Property Department (IPD) Services.* The Intellectual Property Department, at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is the authority responsible for the provision of IP-related services, including in respect of patents, industrial designs, trademarks, copyright and related rights. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has enhanced and modernized IPD services through human resource development, especially in the field of patent and industrial design examination, international patent reception and trademark registration. In this regard, training of technical examiners is provided in cooperation with WIPO and other national patent offices. In addition, IPD also initiated the entry of patent bibliographic data using the WIPO IPAS system.

7. *Innovation Support Institutions.*

The Research Council (TRC)

Established by Royal Decree 54/2005, the Research Council (TRC) marked a significant turning point in the knowledge-based development process of the country. TRC is responsible for the regulation and promotion of scientific research through technical and financial support. It aims at establishing an innovation environment which responds to both local needs and global trends, reinforces social ties and channels creativity and scientific excellence.

TRC also launched two initiatives:

- **Oman Centre For Animal & Plant Genetic Resources (OAPGRC).** Following His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said's order to review Oman's opportunities in the protection of its globally significant genetic resources, the OAPGRC was established in 2012. Its mission is to promote recognition, sustainable exploitation and valuation of genetic diversity inherent in Oman's animals, plants and microorganisms as a natural heritage resource. Its vision is to develop as a collaborative hub for all animal and plant genetic resources activities, to contribute to local research and capacity building activities in the field of genetic resources, and to promote global research and scientific and practical innovations.
- **Innovation Park Muscat (IPM).** It is one of the major initiatives by the Research Council (TRC) aimed at encouraging scientific research, innovation and activating collaboration between the academic, private and the diverse industry sectors of local and international communities. IPM seeks to provide and enable a healthy milieu for researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs by providing them with the services that help them to develop their soft skills and focus on scientific research. It also strives to build on their ability to utilize knowledge, develop products based on scientific research, and turn ideas into commercial products. This will promote and contribute to the efforts made by the government to diversify sources of national economy.

Industrial Innovation Center (IIC)

Launched in 2010, the Industrial Innovation Center (IIC) works towards sustainable solutions for disseminating an innovation culture in Oman's industries. Its mission is to develop and promote Omani industries and help the industrial sector develop products and increase its

capacities to open new markets nationally and internationally. IIC also seeks to support industrial projects through links with different research centers, as an illustration of the benefits of collaboration with the research community in universities, research labs and science centers.

Public Authority for SMS Development (RIYADA)

Established by Royal Decree 36/2013, RIYADA is tasked with promoting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and strengthening their role in the development of national economy. To that end, RIYADA provides a comprehensive range of technical, training and advisory services. It seeks to reinforce a culture of entrepreneurship and self-employment among the younger generation and enhance competitiveness of existing businesses. RIYADA also helps businesses enhance their capacity to bring added value to national economy and contribute to economic diversification, support innovation and use modern technology.

8. *National Entrepreneurship Support Fund.*

Al Raffd Fund

Established by Royal Decree 6/2013, the Al Raffd's target groups include job-seeking young people, craftsmen working in the handicrafts industries as well as women in rural areas. The Fund develops and implements financing programs for start-ups with high potential and job openings, and ensures that entrepreneurs are able to develop their business and achieve financial and administrative autonomy. It also helps increase their competitiveness through product and service development in local and regional markets.

Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Fund (SMEF)

Capitalized at 250 million Omani Riyal, SMEF is a private sector SME support fund launched as a development and partnership initiative. It contributes to the development of SMEs, identification of new entrepreneurs, enterprises and opportunities for capital and loan investment. It has a four-point implementation strategy:

- Entrepreneurial Campus. Targeted at selected colleges and in coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education, this program's objective is to undertake activities for the creation of small startups in universities in order to promote a culture of entrepreneurship and creation of entrepreneurship societies/clubs, through workshops and training courses.
- SME Financing. Quick and flexible financing for new projects, subsidized interest rates for eligible SMEs, with capitals from 50,000 to 300,000 Oman Riyal, and a repayment period of up to 5 years.
- SME Nurturing. Monitoring, mentoring, accounting support, low cost software, and market competitiveness.
- SME Legitimization. Partnerships and investment opportunities, working with large companies in major projects, especially in the oil and gas sectors.

Oman Technology Fund (OTF)

Launched in October 2016 with a capital of 200 million USD, the Oman Technology Fund (OTF) specializes in startups. It seeks to make investments in emerging technology enterprises in Oman. Through its three investment funds (Early Stage, Accelerated Stage and Growth Stage), OTF's ambition is to act as a technology innovation hub for the region, attracting regional start-ups to relocate their operations to Oman.

Ibtikar Development Oman (IDO)

Ibtikar Development Oman (IDO) was established in 2016 by the State General Reserve Fund, Oman Oil Company SAOC, the Research Council, and Oman Telecommunications SAOG. IDO invests equity capital in world class technology companies, transfer of technology, use of Oman's natural and human capital. IDO seeks to contribute to modern technology transfer and development of the knowledge economy in Oman.

PROPOSED MANDATE FOR THE EXTERNAL OFFICE:

PURPOSE:

9. By hosting the External Office, the Sultanate of Oman aims to develop a comprehensive and effective intellectual property (IP) system which supports the implementation and realization of the National Innovation Strategy vision and objectives.
10. A WIPO External Office in Oman would reinforce IP institution efforts towards the development of a National IP Strategy.
11. The WIPO External Office, through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, would collaborate with innovation support institutions in Oman for the promotion of WIPO's services, effective implementation of technical assistance and capacity-building activities, enhance understanding of and respect for IP, and improve IP systems.

PROPOSED SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:

12. Activities of the External Office would focus on supporting the implementation of operational programs for the IP work-plan under the National Innovation Strategy.
13. National human resource development through a national IP training and education program for primary and secondary schools, academic and research institutions, and legal and judicial authorities.
14. A training and professional program for patent and trademark examiners and technical databases.
15. Support for the elaboration and implementation of an IP Office system and creation of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) to provide higher education institutions and scientific research centers with patent and non-patent information, as well as the deployment of a network for technology transfer.
16. Strengthening research and development activities in intellectual property.
17. Support for sustainable awareness and promotional programs and campaigns on the social and economic benefits of IP-based businesses and the risks related to piracy, counterfeiting and IPR infringement.
18. Support for the development of an effective IP service management based on best practices in IP Offices.

VALUE-ADD OF THE EXTERNAL OFFICE TO WIPO'S PROGRAM DELIVERY:

19. The External Office will contribute to the achievement of WIPO's strategic objectives owing to Oman's commitment to these objectives under its National Innovation Strategy.

20. The External Office would implement technical assistance programs in a conducive institutional framework leading to the development and modernization of new tools and models in the field of intellectual property.

INDICATION OF PROPOSED CONTRIBUTION FROM THE HOST COUNTRY:

21. The Sultanate of Oman will provide office space, furniture, equipment as well as appropriate security arrangements. Oman will also facilitate cooperation with WIPO in terms of office operation and use to enhance and develop the IP system in Oman and the region.

[Annex V follows]



The Republic of Korea's Proposal to Host a WIPO External Office





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I. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Korea (“Korea”) is the optimal place to carry out activities that aim to meet the current demands of WIPO Premier Global IP Services users and to share Korea’s unique experiences in using IP to generate economic development. A WIPO Office in Korea will bring astonishing benefits for performance and strengthen the IP world by boosting a strong IP foundation and global business infrastructure.

II. MAIN GOAL OF A WIPO OFFICE IN KOREA

It goes without saying that WIPO’s main goals are to develop a global IP system for the enhancement of innovation and creativity, and to enable developing countries to benefit from these global IP systems by building their IP capacity, thereby creating an IP innovation cycle. **A WIPO Office in Korea will coordinate global outreach services to improve the aforementioned cycle.**



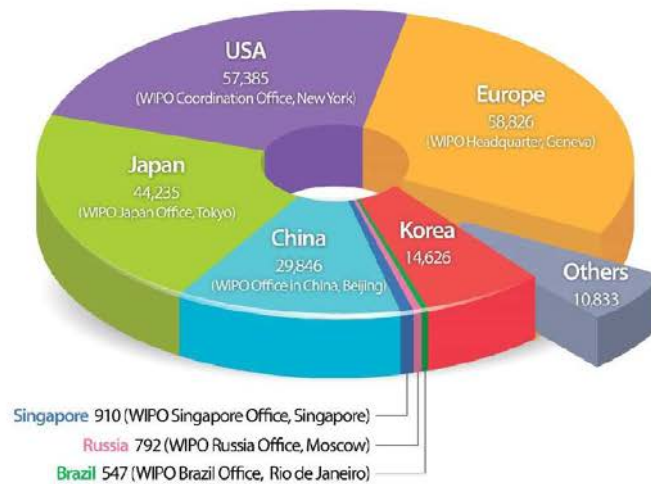
III. RATIONALES FOR A WIPO OFFICE IN KOREA

3.1. Korea is an IP Powerhouse

Korea is a world leader of innovation and creativity when it comes to exploiting the intellectual property system. Currently, **Korea has substantially more users of IP related services, including WIPO Premier Global IP Services, than most countries.** This does not refer to the potential demand reflective of population and national development, instead, it’s the real-life current demand that exists in which WIPO and the IP communities have to answer to.

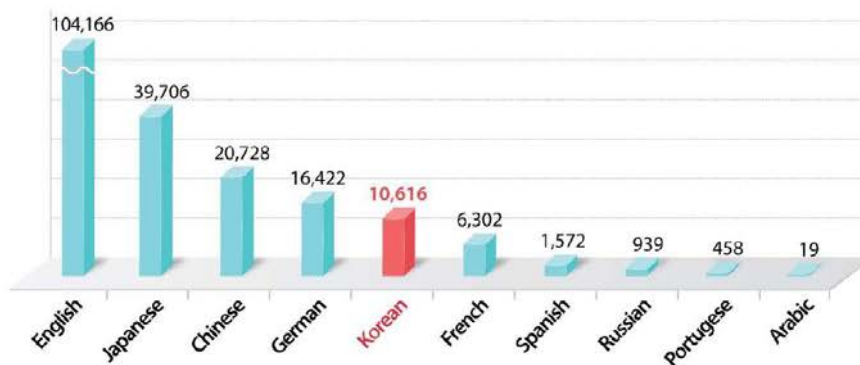
The number of PCT applications by Koreans was 14,626 in 2015, which was the 5th largest amount in the world. As a majority of developed countries are reaching a plateau in terms of PCT applications, Korea has continued to see a gradual increase. Specifically, in 2015, compared to the year before, there was an increase of 11.5% in Korea, whereas there was a 1.7% increase for overall PCT applications.

< PCT Applications by Origin in 2015 >



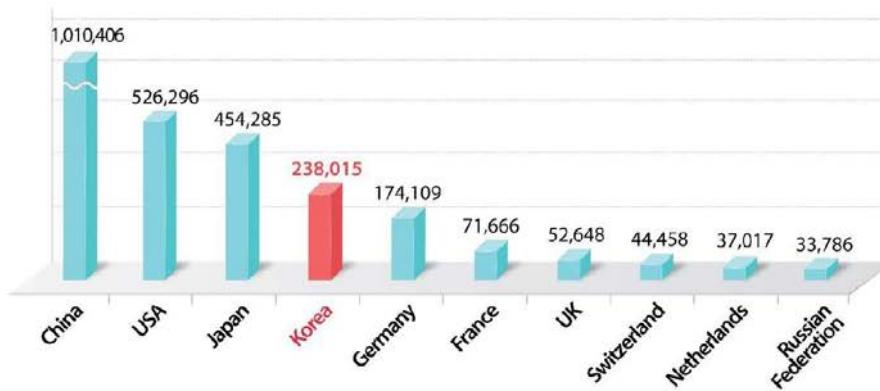
In addition, Korean, which is a PCT publication language, is the 5th commonly used language for PCT applications.

< PCT Applications by Language of Publication in 2015 >

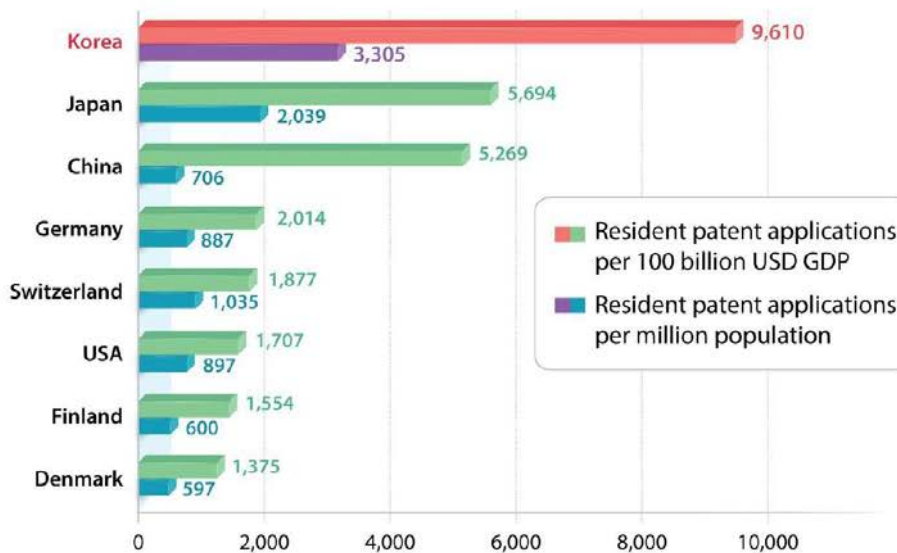


Patent applications by Koreans are consistently the 4th largest in the world, and in 2015, patent applications totaled 238,015. Concurrently, resident patent applications per 100 billion USD GDP (9,610 in 2015) and per million population (3,305 in 2015) are the 1st in the world respectively.

< Patent Applications by Origin in 2015 >

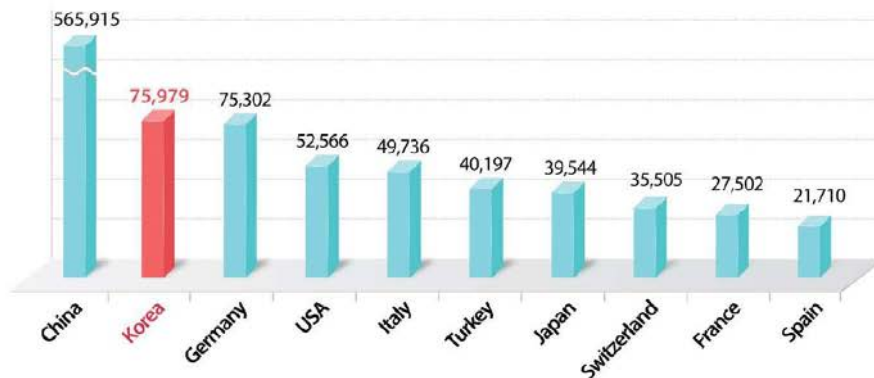


< Resident Patent Applications per GDP and Population in 2015 >



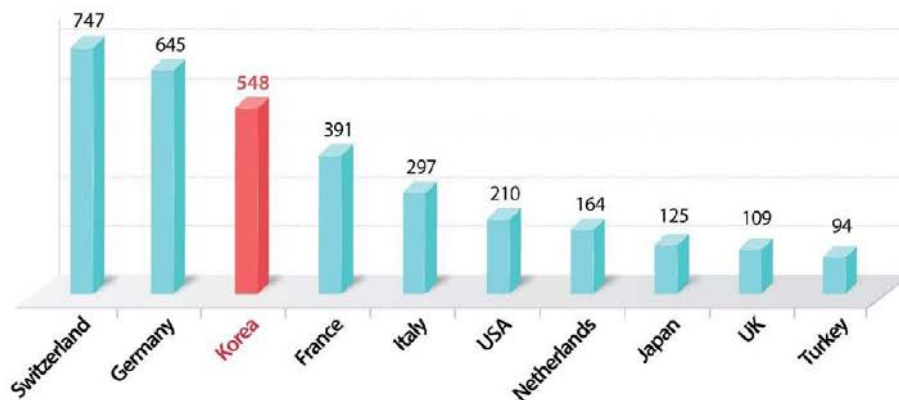
In the case of industrial design, application design counts by Koreans are the 2nd largest in the world. And, the number of Korea's resident application design count per 100 billion of USD GDP and per million population are also the 1st in the world.

< Application Design Counts by Origin in 2015 >



At the same time, the number of Hague international applications by Koreans is the 3rd largest in the world, with a total of 548 applications, and the number of design counts in Hague international application is the 4th largest, with a total of 1,282 designs in 2015.

< Hague International Applications by Origin in 2015 >

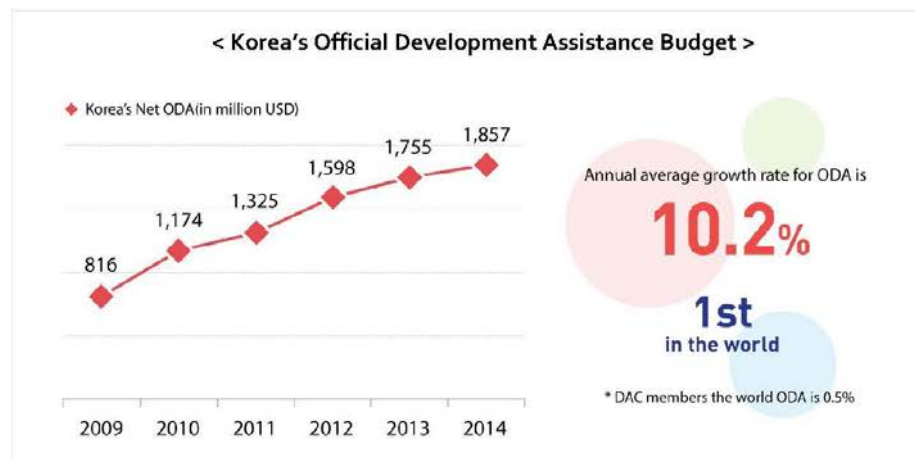


When we look at research and development (R&D) for creating IP, Korea's expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP was 4.3% in 2014, which was the highest in the world.

3.2. Korea has contributed to IP World

In a short span, Korea has been able to utilize IP to successfully transform from an LDC to one of the world's most developed countries. This was only possible due to the help from the international community, and it is time to pay it forward by providing similar help to any country that wants to achieve sustainable development. We strive to do this by effectively transferring Korea's experience in using IP through one single channel.

As of 2015, Korea's official development assistance (ODA) annual budget was 1.9 billion USD, which is a number that has been constantly on a rapid rise since the early 2000s. Further, the annual average growth rate of the ODA budget over the past 5 years was the 1st in the world.



3.2.1. WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust

Since 2004, Korea has contributed about 12.6 million USD to the WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust and applied it to WIPO-Korea joint projects that strengthen the global IP system by promoting economic, social and culture development. Thanks to the WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust, the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) has held yearly appropriate technology (AT) competitions in a total of 10 different countries since 2011, and provided IP educational courses, such as Workshops on Patent and Trademark Law & Examination, Workshops on Trademark Law & Examination as well as implemented IP automation systems.

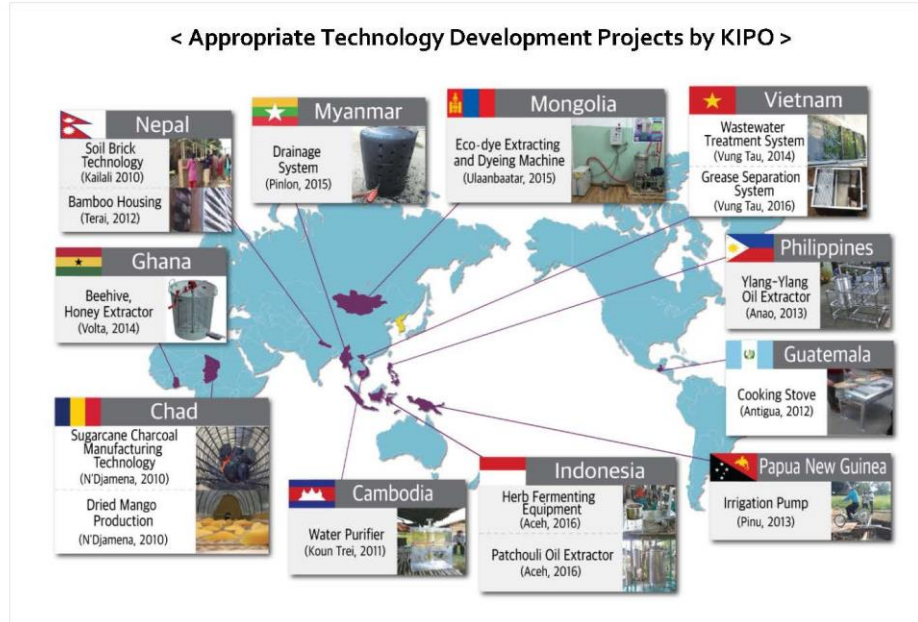


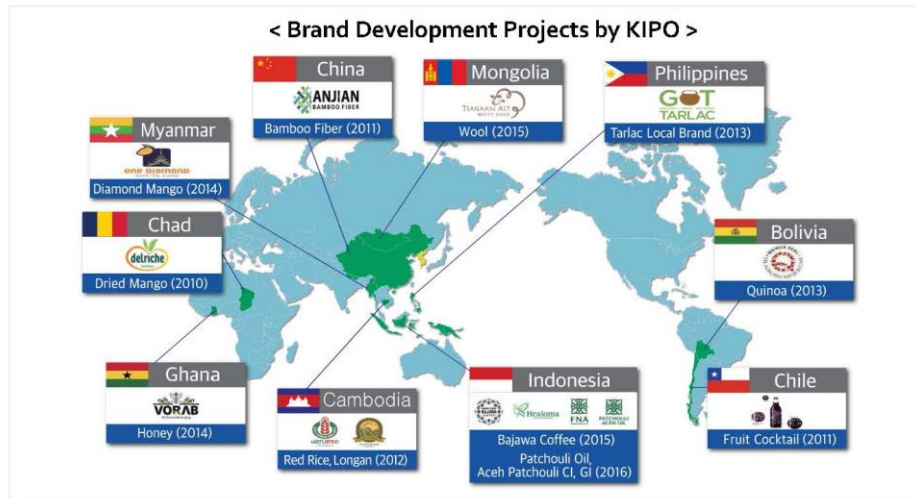
* Korea's various events supported by WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust to strengthen the global IP system

3.2.2. KIPO's Global IP Sharing Projects

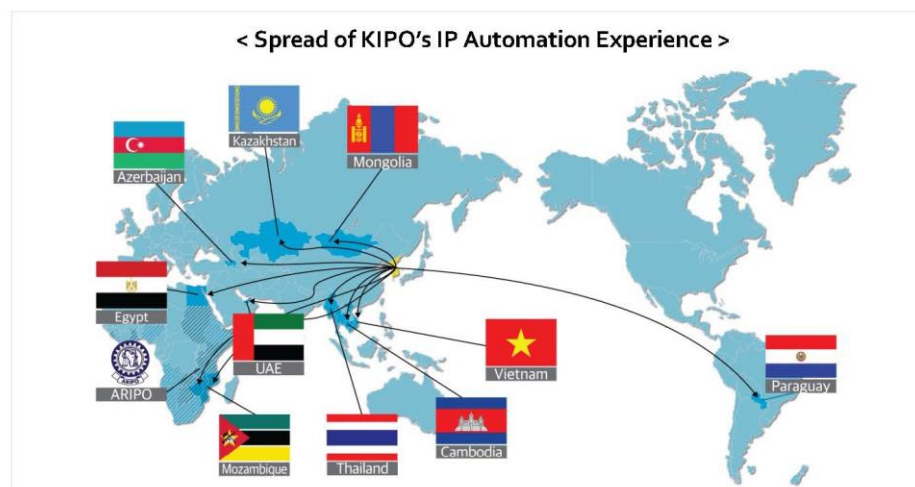
In terms of bilateral ODA, Korea has implemented a variety of Global IP-sharing Projects.

First, KIPO has disseminated appropriate technologies and developed brands for some local products of developing countries to improve quality of life.





Second, subsequent to the development of Korea's IP automation system, KIPOnet, in Korea, the pendency period of examination has been reduced and users' convenience has increased. Based on this experience, Korea is spreading IP information systems and is providing IT consultations to 10 different countries in order to help developing countries modernize their IP administration.



Third, Korea has produced various global IP educational contents that are customized to people in various walks of life. These have seen much success, so much so that 'IP Panorama' is now available in 24 different languages and used all over the world, and 'Getting Creative with Pororo' has over 23 million views.

< Global IP Educational Contents made by Korea >



'Getting Creative with Pororo' is an IP educational animation featuring popular characters, 'Pororo' that gives children a basic understanding of IPRs.



'IP Ignite' is an audio-visually enhanced version of WIPO's DL-101 course developed by KIPO in collaboration with the WIPO Academy.



'IP Panorama' is an e-learning multimedia toolkit developed jointly by KIPO and WIPO to increase IP awareness worldwide.



'IP Panorama Mobile' is an extension of 'IP Panorama', and was designed to provide informational videos anytime, anywhere.



'Invention Savers Jin' is the first mobile-based game created by a national IP office in order to teach children basic principles of inventions.



'Invention City' is a mobile-based game to engage adolescents to learn more about invention, by combining available elements to gain new one.

Fourth, Korea has operated various IP training courses every year. 13 training courses for about 230 people are provisionally scheduled for the year 2017. Additionally, Korea will jointly hold the Head of IP Office Conference with WIPO on April 12-14, 2017. This conference aims to enhance the IP capacity and leadership of the heads of IP offices in Asia by providing them with a learning platform and environment to share information and experiences, and also aims to encourage South-South collaboration and cooperation.

< International IP Training Courses for Foreigners at KIPO for 2016 >

Program	Course	Participants	Dates
WIPO Cooperation Program	WIPO-KIPO Patent Law and Examination Course	Patent examiners and government officials from developing countries	3. 23 -4. 1.
	WIPO-KIPO Patent Examiner OJT Course	Examiners from developing countries	4. 2.-8.
	WIPO IP Summer School	Undergraduates, graduate students, entry-level workers from overseas	7. 11.-22.
	WIPO-KIPO Trademark Law and Examination Course	Trademark examiners and government officials from developing countries	5. 10.-17.
	WIPO-KIPO Trademark Examiner OJT Course	Examiners from developing countries	5. 18.-20.
	KOICA Creative Invention Training Course	Government officials and teachers working in invention education from developing countries	4. 14.-5. 4.
KOICA Cooperation Program	KOICA Intellectual Property Rights Course	Government officials working in IP from developing countries	9. 22.-10. 13.
	KOICA Intellectual Property Policy Course	Undergraduates, graduate students, entry-level workers from overseas	7. 11.-22.
Customized Program	China Patent Examiner Course	Chinese patent examiners	4. 4.-8.
	Saudi Arabia Examiner Course	Saudi Arabian examiners	11. 7.-11.
	GCCPO(Gulf Cooperation Council Patent Office) Examiner Course	GCCPO patent examiners	4. 12.-13. 4. 19 - 20. 4. 26.-27.
	IP5 Examiner Course	Patent examiners from IP5 countries	12. 6.-9.
	Lecturer Dispatch Program	Patent examiners from requesting countries	All year
Total	13 courses		

IV. PERSPECTIVE ACTIVITIES OF A WIPO OFFICE IN KOREA

4.1. WIPO Office in Korea as a Premier Global IP Service Provider

A WIPO Office in Korea can provide customized services to all Premier Global IP Service users in Korea which will in turn increase PCT, Madrid and Hague applications. Around-the-clock, face-to-face services in multiple languages can ease the 8 hour time difference between Korea and WIPO's Geneva headquarters and reduce language barriers.

There is an extremely high potential to increase PCT, Madrid and Hague applications in Korea. For example, only 6.3% of Korean domestic patent applications go abroad through the PCT system. So, if a WIPO Office in Korea can increase this percentage of PCT applications to about 10%, which is a percentage comparable to other countries such as USA and Japan, then **it could lead to about a 14 million USD increase in revenue for WIPO.**

4.2. WIPO Office in Korea as a Hub for Development Projects

A WIPO External Office in Korea can better support developing countries by providing larger scale development projects in a more effective manner. We can manage WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust more effectively and undertake bigger development projects with long-term strategies. In the long run, a WIPO External Office in Korea will become a regional foundation for launching future development projects.

4.3. WIPO Office in Korea as a Hub for Global IP Education

A WIPO External Office in Korea can provide customized online and offline education courses, operated via proven teaching methods and qualified instructors, by using Korea's extensive knowhow and experience. In particular, Korea has knowledge on how to integrate our advanced IT skills into useful IP education, and accumulated teaching knowhow through previous training programs. Korea plans to use a WIPO External Office as a gateway to boost the intake of IP education and ensure various people become educated so as to catalyze advancements to the global IP system. One possible idea for the future enhancement of the global IP system is, Korea hopes, to collect the diverse array of IP backgrounds of many countries and integrate it into one enlightening seminar.

V. CONTRIBUTION FROM KOREA FOR WIPO OFFICE IN KOREA

In order to make a WIPO External Office operate successfully, support from the governments of hosting countries is essential. This means not only providing office space, equipment, internet, and security, but also practical resources such as manpower and budget. **The Korean government will support financial sustainability of a WIPO Office in Korea through the use of WIPO's Korea Funds-in-Trust to ensure optimal performance.** Furthermore, the WIPO Office will be located within a grand and aesthetically pleasing business infrastructure near the world-renowned Incheon International Airport.

An additional benefit will include the fact that the resulting revenue growth coming from an increase in the use of Global IP Premier Services will exceed the expense costs that are required for the operation of a WIPO External Office in Korea.



* Korea ranks 6th in amount of export and 11th in size of GDP in the world.

* Incheon International Airport ranks as 1st for 11 consecutive years in terms of world's best service since 2005.

VI. CONCLUSION

All WIPO Member States have a responsibility to ensure that WIPO and its External Offices are able to deliver its programs in a most effective manner and produce excellent outcomes. Considering the mission of WIPO, the location of WIPO External Offices should be decided based on where an innovation cycle works well. Needless to say, the location must be somewhere the users of proficient IP services are abundant and the knowhow in implementing developmental aspects is extensive.

All in all, there is no better country than Korea for the next WIPO External Office.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA



**Proposal by Romania
to host a sub-regional
WIPO external office**



Bucharest 1920 - Athénée Palace Hotel



Bucharest 2016 - The National Library

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- I. Central-European and Baltic States Region
- II. Romania
- III. Rationale for the WIPO External Office
- IV. Proposed Mandate
- V. Scope of Activities
- VI. Added Value
- VII. Financial and Budgetary Aspects
- VIII. Headquarters. Privileges

Annex 1

Annex 2

INTRODUCTION

Since 2010, the Government of Romania has expressed its readiness to host a WIPO External Office on various occasions.

On 6 December 2013, H.E. Mr. Victor Viorel Ponta, Prime Minister of Romania, sent a letter to the WIPO Director General, Mr. Francis Gurry, expressing the intention of Romania to host a WIPO External Office.

On 10 February 2016, a new formal notification from H.E. Mr. Dacian Ciolos, Prime Minister of Romania, was submitted to the Director General of WIPO and the President of the WIPO General Assembly, followed by the tabling of the application for hosting a WIPO External Office (EO) in Romania, starting with the biennium 2016-2017.

Following the decision of the 2016 WIPO General Assembly on external offices, the Government of Romania decided to present again the candidature for hosting a WIPO external office, by the deadline of February 28, 2017.

Romania considers that the functioning of a **sub-regional External Office** in the Central European and Baltic States region will be beneficial both for WIPO and the Group's Member States and will not prejudice in any way the rights and the conduct of relations by any other Member State in the region with WIPO HQ or the rights of any country with regard to regular WIPO program activity, especially at the national level, including the delivery of any legal or technical assistance to those countries directly from WIPO HQ.

In our assessment, the added-value of the WIPO External Office would consist in the proximity to the beneficiary/recipient of assistance (government, organizations, companies or individuals), which would stimulate their involvement upstream in the drafting of policies and would allow for a better responsiveness to their specific needs.

At the submission date, support letters for the proposal of the Government of Romania have been received from 7 countries in the region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, TFYR of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia).

I. CENTRAL-EUROPEAN AND BALTIC STATES REGION

The Central-European and Baltic States (CEBS) region is composed of the following 18 countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia,

CEBS
membership

Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Population	In terms of demographic data, the CEBS member states count around 133 million inhabitants (close to the Russian Federation population – of 146 million).
Economy	Emerging from decades of socialist centrally-planned economy, starting with the early 1990s, most of the countries in the region decided to transition to free market systems and undertook reforms to open their economies to investment and trade, which in turn led to higher economic growth. Many members of the CEBS region were among the fastest growing in the world (4% to 5% GDP growth) before the global economic and financial crisis occurred in 2008, benefiting from the fact that they had highly educated, but still inexpensive labor force.
GDP dynamics	The countries from the region have succeeded in regaining the momentum after the end of the recession. They have recorded a steady GDP growth over the last five years (see Table no. 1) and they are expected to show healthy growth in the next year (up to 3% or 4 % GDP growth').

Table no.1

GDP (Billion US dollars) (Constant 2011 US\$ (PPP)) in CEBS countries - based on the "WIPO Statistics Database"

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Albania	27.31	28	28.46	28.86	29.41
Bosnia & Herzegovina	35.17	35.51	35.08	35.95	36.40
Bulgaria	110.9	112.27	112.82	114.03	115.97
Croatia	88.31	88.06	86.13	85.32	84.98
Czech Republic	294.44	300.22	297.80	295.71	301.60
Estonia	28.91	31.30	32.75	33.28	33.98
Georgia	26.44	28.35	30.10	31.10	32.58
Hungary	220.62	224.60	221.28	224.66	232.82
Latvia	38.07	39.97	41.90	43.67	44.70
Lithuania	64.29	68.22	70.84	73.15	75.31
T F Y R of Macedonia	23.50	24.05	23.94	24.58	25.50
Republic of Moldova	13.98	14.88	14.77	16.16	16.91
Montenegro	8.46	8.73	8.51	8.79	8.93

¹ European Commission winter 2016 economic forecast,

See: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/eu/forecasts/2016_winter_forecast_en.htm

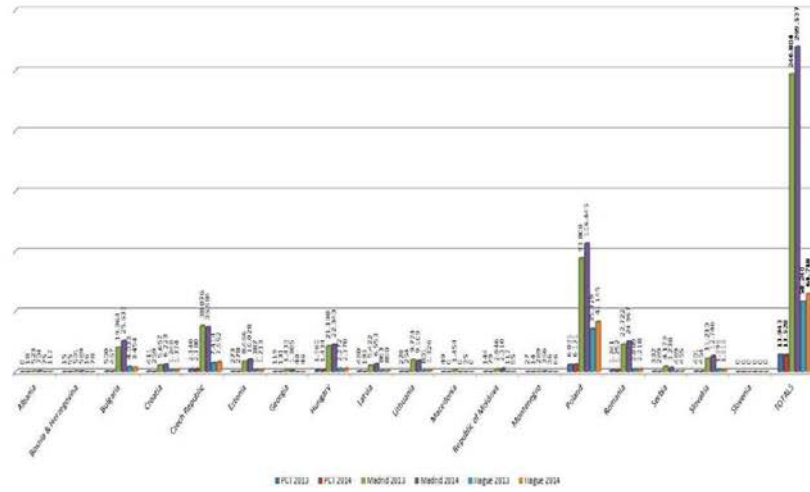
Poland	811.39	850.09	865.56	880.40	910.07
Romania	341.92	349.82	351.06	363.34	369.73
Serbia	89.69	90.95	90.02	92.34	90.66
Slovakia	131.75	135.32	137.48	139.44	142.80
Slovenia	58.13	58.49	56.95	56.38	57.86

When it comes to **intellectual property filings**, the overall results are encouraging, despite notable decline of patent applications in some countries (*see Table no.2*). The majority of the CEBS member states registered growth over the last years in terms of filings for trademarks and industrial designs.

Table no. 2

Country	PCT		Madrid		Hague	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Albania	-	18	523	704	75	117
Bosnia & Herzegovina	15	55	591	589	16	78
Bulgaria	500	467	19,964	25,630	4,033	3,454
Croatia	411	259	5,657	6,223	1,248	1,374
Czech Republic	2,140	2,180	38,076	36,984	7,414	7,952
Estonia	273	278	8,466	10,028	1,387	1,213
Georgia	119	131	1,433	1,305	40	46
Hungary	1,560	1,434	21,198	22,340	2,272	2,370
Latvia	480	193	5,422	6,553	863	890
Lithuania	220	254	9,774	9,109	801	1,326
T F Y R of Macedonia	49	-	1,454	-	35	-
Republic of Moldova	144	79	2,046	2,310	117	95
Montenegro	27	14	289	366	36	66
Poland	6,031	6,171	93,800	106,445	35,329	41,145
Romania	1,241	1,252	22,722	24,967	2,089	2,218
Serbia	332	289	4,179	3,238	489	455
Slovakia	401	454	11,210	12,746	1,996	1,919
Slovenia	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	13,943	13,528	246,804	269,537	58,240	64,718

Data gathered from the statistics published on WIPO's website, www.wipo.int. The above table represents a compilation for the years 2013 and 2014, demonstrating the current potential for filing applications under PCT, Madrid and Hague Agreements coming from the member states of the CEBS Group.



The CEBS member states have the necessary infrastructure in place to cater for the interests of Intellectual Property (IP) applicants. They have adopted national legislation on intellectual property and they have set up national institutions specifically tasked with IP matters.

The majority of the CEBS member states have two separate institutions, one dealing with industrial property rights and the other with copyright. In a number of countries, there is a single authority dealing with both industrial property rights and copyright. The total number of such institutions in the CEBS member states counts for 28.

II. ROMANIA

Location

Romania is located in the Eastern part of Central Europe, north of the Balkan Peninsula. Its neighboring countries are Hungary, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria and Serbia. On the southeast it borders the Black Sea. The country is one of the largest in the Central European region and covers an area of approximately 238,390 square kilometers.

Climate



Romania benefits from a temperate-continental climate, with four distinct seasons, the annual average temperature depending on latitude and ranging from 8°C in the North and 11°C in the South, with temperatures of 2.6°C in the mountains and 12°C in the plains.

According to the final data of the 2011 census, Romania has a population of approximately 20.12 million citizens. About nineteen ethnic groups (such as Hungarians, Germans, Roma, Poles, Slovaks, Ukrainians, Russians, Turks, Greeks, Armenians, Italians, etc.) have been living here for centuries.

Political

Following the Second World War, Romania fell under the influence of the Soviet Union and, from 1948 to 1989, had a communist government and a centrally-planned economy.

In December 1989, a popular revolt led to the downfall of the communist government. A variety of political parties were then established and free elections were held.

On 21 November 1991, a new Constitution establishing Romania as a parliamentary democracy was adopted by the Romanian Parliament and subsequently approved by popular referendum. The Constitution formally separates the legislative, executive and judicial powers of the state.

The Constitution was amended in 2003, in anticipation of Romania's accession to the European Union, without altering the basic principles on which the political system of Romania was based.

[The President of Romania](#) is the head of the Romanian State and is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. Upon election, the President can no longer be a member of a political party. The President nominates the Prime Minister and formally appoints the Government. The President is also the President of the Romanian Supreme Council of Defense and the commander-in-chief of the Romanian armed forces.

[The legislative power](#) is vested in the Romanian Parliament, a bicameral body, consisting of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. Parliamentarians are directly elected for four-year terms.

[The Government](#) exercises the executive power of the State. It comprises the Prime Minister and his cabinet. In practice, the largest party or coalition of parties in the Parliament forms the Government. Each cabinet appointment is subject to the approval of the President and to a vote of confidence in the Parliament.

Internal political stability and a constant orientation towards the values and practices of the democratic states have led to a broad international recognition of the democratic nature of the Romanian political system.

[The judicial authority](#) is entrusted with the High Court of Cassation and Justice and a series of other courts established by law. According to the Constitution, the Constitutional Court is not deemed to be part of the judiciary. The Constitutional Court determines matters of constitutional significance.

**International
relations**



Romania, a UN member since December 1955, has shown a strong and long-lasting commitment to the values of multilateralism. As such, we consider that a rapidly changing world needs a strong and balanced UN, which is able to respond to all future challenges.

Over the past decades, Romania has been active within the United Nations system and has deployed significant efforts aimed at maintaining and enhancing international peace and the development and promotion of the democracy, human rights and rule of law.

Since 2004 Romania is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. On 1st January 2007, Romania also became a full-fledged Member State of the European Union.

As a member of the European and Euro-Atlantic family, Romania liaises and cooperates with its partners, thus further enhancing the cohesion and coherence of the UN bodies, as key prerequisites for an effective multilateral system.

Another key component of Romania's foreign policy is her active contribution to the activities of other international fora, such as the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Romania is also seeking to develop and intensify its relations with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), aiming to obtain full-fledged member status in the near future.

Romania has also a manifest interest in fostering, in the EU vicinity, a common space of stability, security and progress, in deepening relations between the EU and its Eastern and Southern neighbors, based on common interest and values, while attaching a special attention to the Black Sea region.

A series of important initiatives have been launched in Europe with Romania's support, such as the Black Sea Synergy and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. These initiatives are meant to strengthen cooperation and establish partnerships in areas such as: human rights, migration management, security improvement, frozen conflicts, environment, regional development and energy. At the same time, Romania firmly believes in regional cooperation, being a founding member of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and of other regional formats.

Romania maintains diplomatic relations with 185 UN member states, with the Holy See and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and has a diplomatic office in Palestine. All in all, it has a broad foreign representation network (142 diplomatic missions abroad).

Benefiting from a proper climate and a diversified environment, endowed by mountains (the Carpathians), hills, plains and the Danube Delta, Romania's territory has been permanently inhabited since primordial times, the oldest humanoid in

**Romanian
contribution for
the world
heritage**

Europe, which dates from approximately 2 million years ago, being discovered in Bugiulesti/Valcea County.

The existence of areas such as the Carpathian Mountains, still possessing some of the largest virgin forests in Europe, or the Danube Delta, a land in the middle of the waters, have directly led to the preservation of genetic resources as well as ancient knowledge and cultural expressions.

Romania's historical, natural and environmental conditions brought an important contribution to increasing the inventiveness and creativity of the people living in the region.

In the field of science and inventions, a very short list of worldwide famous names comprises Stefan ODOBLEJA (laid the foundations of cybernetics, creator of psycho cybernetics and father of generalized cybernetics), Nicolae Constantin PAULESCU (discoverer of insulin in 1922), Traian VUIA and Aurel VLAICU (aviation pioneers), Henri COANDA (invented the jet engine in 1910, utilized by modern airplanes), Petrache POENARU (inventor of fountain pen in 1827), Ana ASLAN (discovered the anti-aging effects of procaine and pioneer of gerontology and geriatrics), George CONSTANTINESCU (creator of Theory of Sonics), Stefania MARACINEANU (the first scientist who identified the phenomenon of artificial radioactivity), Emil PALADE (Nobel Prize for his contributions to cell biology).

Similarly, a brief list of Romanian creators that achieved international recognition features Constantin BRANCUSI (sculpture), Mihai EMINESCU (poetry), George ENESCU and Dinu LIPATTI (composers), Mircea ELIADE, Eugen IONESCU and Herta MULLER (writers), Nicolae GRIGORESCU (painter), Hariclea DARCLEE, Maria TANASE and Angela GHEORGHIU (singers), Ion VOICU and Gheorghe ZAMFIR (performers).

In the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Romania has included so far Calusul (ritual dance derived from ancient purification and fertility rites), Doina (traditional way of singing and orally transmitted), Colindul (Christmas-time ritual where groups of male perform festive songs) and Horezu ceramics (the drawn traditional motifs combine decoration and color and define its personality and uniqueness).

**Language and
communication
skills**

The official language is Romanian, a language of Latin origin, sharing many features with other languages of the same origin such as French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Swiss Romande. Languages of international circulation are also spoken in Romania and according to a study performed in 2010 by the "*Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie - OIF*" there are 4,756,100 French speakers in the country. Therefore, the OIF decided Romania to host the regional Bureau for

Francophonie. In conformity with the 2012 Eurobarometer findings, English is spoken by 31% of Romanians.

Economy

Romania is the 2nd largest market in Central Eastern Europe (CEE) after Poland. It is one of the most dynamic economies in Europe with direct access to the Black Sea (Port of Constanta).

For foreign investors, Romania is an attractive destination. According to official data from National Bank of Romania, the foreign direct investment in Romania went up by approximately 18% in the first 11 months of 2015 compared to the similar period of 2014, reaching 2,883 billion EUR.

GDP in Romania has registered an increase of 3.7% y-t-y in the first nine months of 2015. According to EC, the forecasted y-o-y GDP growth in Romania is of 4.2% for 2016.

Transportation

Being situated in the geometrical center of Europe, Romania has a well-established transport network, connecting it by train, roads and water with the neighboring countries as well as with the most important cities in Europe and world by air. Meanwhile, Romania represents one of the main industrial and transportation hubs of Eastern Europe.



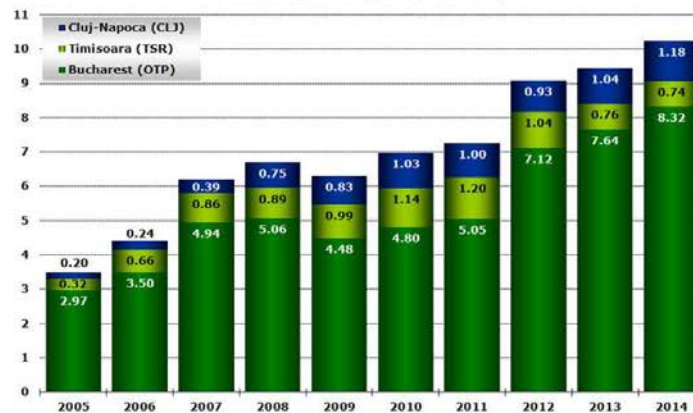
Bucharest International Airport – “Henri Coandă” is an important domestic and international hub connecting the capital city of Romania with almost all capitals in Europe and also with many important cities in Europe and Middle East. The airport is located outside the urban area of Bucharest, in Otopeni, Ilfov County at 16, 5 km distance from Bucharest downtown. It operates 38 airlines, 11 of them on domestic destinations. For foreign destinations there are 51 scheduled flights and 7 regular

charters. Shuttle buses are available to the main hotels, and taxis are plentiful and very inexpensive. The Romania's most important cities are also connected with the capital by air (see the map below).



In the last 10 years, the number of passengers travelling to/from or inside Romania has increased in a significant way. As of March 2015, the top 12 carriers serving the Romanian market account for 92% and 93% of all weekly seats and flights respectively.

Romanian major airports 2005-2014
Annual passengers (millions)



Source: Individual Airports 2005-2014.



Source: OAG Analyser for w/c 10-16 March 2015.

Bucharest, as host of a sub-regional WIPO external office

History

Bucharest, which means 'City of joy', was born in the Middle Age as a modest and peaceful shepherd settling, that quickly evolved into a market town. It is located on the banks of the *Dambovita River*, in the southeast of Romania.

In the 15th century, it became the capital of "*the Land of the Wallachs*", under the controversial rule of Vlad the Impaler, who would later come to be known in history as the ruthless "*Prince Dracula*". In the centuries that followed, the city was repeatedly occupied by foreign armies that were trying to extend either their territory or influence.

In the 19th century, it became the first and only capital of the United Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia, the start-up state from which soon the Kingdom of Romania developed. The King's governance was a cornerstone towards a period of enormous development that left behind many landmarks of great value, making the city earn the nickname of "*Little Paris*" or "*The Paris of the East*".

Economy

Around 10% of Romania's population resides in Bucharest, yet the city's workforce is responsible for producing around 20% of the country's GDP, and a quarter of all industrial production. Consequently about a third of all national taxes in Romania are paid by either Bucharest citizens or by companies who are located in the area.

With more than 2 million residents, Bucharest is the largest city between Berlin and Athens, and is the 6th largest capital in the European Union.

Since Romania became a full-fledged member of the European Union, Bucharest has benefited from a substantial amount of EU investment. Despite Bucharest's economy being affected to some extent by the financial crisis of 2008, foreign investment soon picked up again and the economic trend remains firmly positive. It has become the most affluent city in Romania and makes a critically important contribution to the country's general economy.

The fastest areas of growth in Bucharest's economy are the industry, service, property and construction sectors. Most large Romanian companies choose to locate their headquarters in the capital city, as do many medium and small size businesses.

Information technology and communications provides another aspect to Bucharest's economic growth and various important software companies with offshore delivery centers are based there, along with the Bucharest Stock Exchange.

Culture and arts

Romania's capital city is home to 37 museums, 22 theaters, 2 opera houses, 3 concert halls, 18 art galleries and a wealth of libraries and bookstores.

Many of these are housed in buildings that are attractions in themselves, sporting architectural styles influenced by both eastern and western cultures.

Communication should not be a problem for foreign visitors, as many residents also speak either English, French, Spanish or Italian.

Conference facilities

Bucharest has more than 25 convention centers. Facilities for large meetings include the Parliament Palace, the Exhibition Centre - RomExpo, the conference center of the Chamber of Commerce and the World Trade Centre. In recent years, for example, Bucharest hosted the 11th Francophone Summit (September 2006) and the 20th NATO Summit (April 2008).

Historical buildings, such as the Romanian Athenaeum, the National Museum of Art, the Cantacuzino Palace, the Military Club and the Patriarchy's Palace, can host functions for up to 800 guests.

Leading hotels offering generous meeting facilities include: JW Marriott Grand Hotel, Athénée Palace Hilton, InterContinental, Crowne Plaza and Pullman. A more detailed description of Bucharest facilities could be found in Annex no. 1.

Tourism

Bucharest is one-of-a-kind capital city no tourist should miss when discovering Europe. It is a surprising mix of cultural influences, offering excellent relaxation opportunities and enriching experiences for the business or simply inquisitive traveler.

Contrasting on every cornerstone, "Little Paris" has a manifold identity, reflecting its rich and controversial history through the wild juxtaposition of the timeless aristocratic values, a strong mark of the totalitarian heritage in recent history and the bustling, cosmopolitan lifestyle of the present.

Tourism is growing as foreign visitors discover a taste for Bucharest's temperate weather, the *mélange* of modern and historical attractions, an extremely attractive cost of living, excellent transport system and delicious food.

International agencies in Bucharest

Bucharest hosts the UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and OIM country offices and the Regional Bureau of Francophonie for Central and Eastern Europe.



III. RATIONALE FOR THE EXTERNAL OFFICE

Good economic

As described in Chapter I, the countries in the sub-region are performing well economically, as they have recorded steady GDP growth over the last five years. Yet, such positive economic results are not fully mirrored when it comes to the number of IP applications. More efforts are needed to reverse any descending trend and further consolidate positive data with regard to IP applications.

The great potential of the sub-region

The potential of the countries in the sub-region, in many areas relevant to the intellectual property field, is significant. They show a remarkable propensity to digital environment and Internet. According to Brainbench statistics, countries from the region are situated in the top 10 worldwide regarding skills in computer technical support, technical help desk, network technical support, computer electronics, telecommunications, LAN/WLAN communications, network design, ASP.NET, HTML, PHP, web development concepts and many others. They are also leaders in Europe and on top positions in the world in terms of Adult ICT literacy rate.

Top 30 Adult ICT literacy rate (%) | 2015 or most recent

RANK	COUNTRY	ECONOMY VALUE
1	Latvia	99.9
2	Estonia	99.8
3	Azerbaijan	99.8
4	Lithuania	99.8
5	Poland	99.8
6	Kazakhstan	99.8
7	Tajikistan	99.8
8	Ukraine	99.8
9	Georgia	99.8
10	Russian Federation	99.7
11	Slovenia	99.7
12	Armenia	99.7
13	Kyrgyz Republic	99.5
14	Moldova	99.4
15	Croatia	99.3
16	Italy	99.2
17	Cyprus	99.1
18	Hungary	99.1
19	Trinidad and Tobago	99.0
20	Romania	98.8
21	Montenegro	98.7
22	Uruguay	98.5
23	Taiwan, China	98.4
24	Bulgaria	98.4
25	Mongolia	98.4
26	Serbia	98.1
27	Spain	98.1
28	Argentina	98.1
29	Macedonia, FYR	97.8
30	Israel	97.8

Source: World Economic Forum - based on *The Global Information Technology Report 2015*, page 301

See: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GITR2015.pdf

As regards Internet speed, the Internet Society official rankings list several countries from the CEBS region on top positions in the world (see Table no. 3, based on November 2014 NetIndex Data; for more information, see: http://www.internetsociety.org/map/global-internet-report/?gclid=COaytPj2_8oCFWLnwgodtpUNQA#download-speed-fixed)

Table no. 3

Average download speed in Mbit/s

Position	Country	Download Speed	Upload Speed
1st	Singapore	97.67	78.69
2nd	Hong Kong, China	96.12	89.25
3rd	Romania	62.53	31.85
4th	Sweden	49.25	27.66
5th	Lithuania	47.93	45.64
6th	Switzerland	46.32	8.7
7th	Netherlands	44.03	19.03
8th	Iceland	43.4	36.95
9th	Latvia	42.03	38.07
10th	Denmark	41.76	31.01

The great potential of the region as regards research and innovation is definitely demonstrated by the construction of the **Extreme Light Infrastructure-Nuclear Power** (ELI-NP) Research Centres², being set in Măgurele town, near Bucharest and built on three pillars, including the world's most powerful laser, generating 10% of the sun's power on a square centimeter.

² See: <http://www.eli-np.ro/>



The ELI - nuclear physics facility

Two other facilities are dedicated to the study of **secondary sources** in the region, in Dolni Brezany, near Prague/Czech Republic, and to the **attosecond pulses** in Szeged/Hungary.

Therefore, from 2017 ELI-NP project will create in the region one of the most important laboratories in the world, to consistently investigate a very broad range of science domains, from new fields of fundamental physics, new nuclear physics and astrophysics topics, to applications in material science, life sciences and nuclear materials management.

Not the least, over the last years, the innovative work of representatives of specialists from the sub-region was acknowledged within prestigious trade fairs and international competitions worldwide. A considerable number of inventions received the gold medals and highest prizes and distinctions in international exhibitions of inventions.

The creative industries play an important role in the region (*see Table no. 4*).

Table no. 4

Economic Performance of Copyright-Based Industries of Countries from the Region (According to WIPO Studies³)

Country / Year of the Study	Total contribution (in national currencies)	Percent of national production output	Percent of national GDP	Jobs Generated
Bulgaria (2008)	2124823.77 EUR	4.5%	2.81%	104.814
Croatia (2010)	19.2 billion Kuna	4.7%	4.3%	62.930
Hungary (2004)	HUF 3.412 billion	9.64%	6.6%	278.000
Latvia (2004)	832 Million EUR	-	4.4%	41.225
Lithuania (2010)	5.390 million LTL	5.4%	4.93%	57.354
Republic of Moldova (2015)	3.327.948 Lei	3.98%	3.31%	39.280
Romania (2010)	-	3.89%	5.55%	180.450
Serbia (2014)	1104266.23 EUR	4.61%	4.00%	90.493
Slovenia (2011)	4.2 billion EUR	5.8%	5.1%	54.506

Based on the creativity, talent and skills of individuals and with a great potential in creating jobs and generating prosperity through the production and management of IP, these industries include advertising, architecture, art, handicraft, design, fashion, film, video, photography, music, visual arts, television and radio, publishing, software, video games and electronic publishing. Most of the studies in the field emphasize the faster growing potential of the creative industries than other sectors of the economy. Moreover, according to a recently published World Economic Forum study⁴, creativity will be on the third place in Top 10 skills by 2020, while in 2015 it was situated only on the tenth position.

The crucial role of SMEs in the sub-region

SMEs represent a majority significant component of the private industry in the countries of the sub-region and they represent a potential powerhouse for economic growth. While during the first decade of transition they were more concerned with maintaining the value of their assets as compared to producing a profit, later on they started to become more dynamic, investing in growth and modernization. With rising GDP per capita and higher labor costs, the ability of the countries in the sub-region to

³ See: <http://www.wipo.int/copyright/en/performance/>

⁴ See: <http://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/the-10-skills-you-need-to-thrive-in-the-fourth-industrial-revolution>

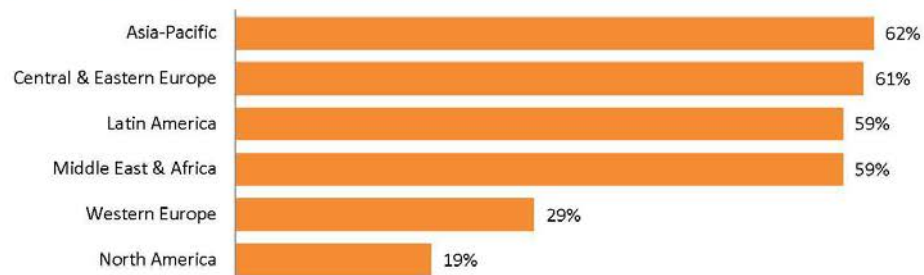
Counterfeiting and piracy

attract foreign direct investment will inevitably decrease. Encouraging innovation among the SME sector, therefore, is particularly important in order to offset the loss of current advantages.

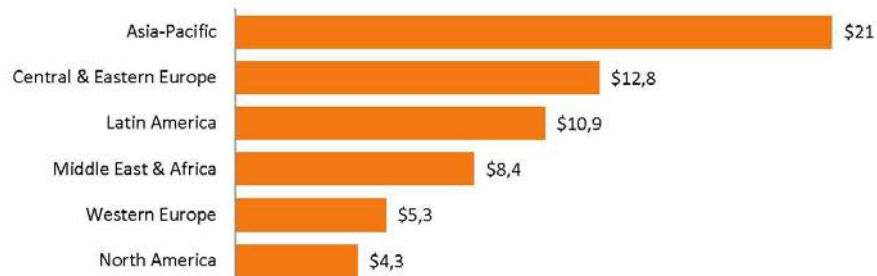
Counterfeiting and piracy still register disturbing rates in the region⁵ (see the 2 graphics below). There is recognition among countries of the region that "this poses significant threats to global trade, national economic growth, consumer health and safety and is a leading cause in the growth of organized crime and corruption (...) and that attacking the trade in counterfeit and pirated goods at the national, regional and global levels should be elevated as a top priority".

GLOBAL TRENDS IN UNLICENSED SOFTWARE USE

Average Rate of Unlicensed Software Use



Commercial Value of Unlicensed Software Use (in Billions)



⁵ See: <http://www.ccapcongress.net/archives/Regional/Files/Bucharest%20Declaration.pdf>. Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy - the "Bucharest Declaration" of 12 July 2006

**The needs of
countries**

Source: BSA/The Software Alliance - *The Compliance Gap, Global Software Survey pg.7, June 2014*

As the aspiration for more competitive economies can be fulfilled through research, development and innovation, as well as technology transfer, it is only natural for countries in sub-region to seek for improving their overall IP performance. They also need to continue combating counterfeiting and piracy, as more respect for IP will lead to greater economic growth.

While the large majority of the countries in the sub-region have joined the WIPO Systems, in particular the PCT, Madrid and Lisbon Systems, the full potential of the IP Systems in the region has not yet been fully achieved.

In relation to WIPO, the countries in the sub-region have asked for support with respect to the following:

- the development of tailored, long-term, results-oriented national IP strategies and plans aligned with national economic and cultural goals;
- developing research and innovation and reaping the benefits of the IP system, with a special focus on SMEs;
- the further development of the creative industries;
- promoting excellence for CMOs in transparency, accountability and governance;
- improving the fight against counterfeiting and piracy;
- increasing awareness of WIPO services and activities among a broader audience in the countries;
- enhancing the interaction between WIPO and all IP stakeholders from the countries;
- establishment of a common, reliable and broadly utilized platform for sharing various experiences in the IP field, facilitating better knowledge, awareness, and coordination between different IP stakeholders.

IV. PROPOSED MANDATE**WIPO
Service
Center**

The External Office in Bucharest/Romania would act as a WIPO Service Center for the sub-region, similarly to the other five existing WIPO External Offices.

Its overall objective would be to bring the Organization closer to the member States and stakeholders in the sub-region, in order to stimulate the promotion of innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of the countries, through a balanced and effective international intellectual property system.

As an integral part of the Organization, the External Office is supposed to contribute to the achievement of the Expected Results and to the achievement of the WIPO Strategic Goals⁶, by working with the majority of Programs at Headquarters.

More specifically, it will contribute, in coordination with the Headquarters, to the following **Strategic Goals** and their relevant **Expected Results**:

Strategic Goal I: Balanced Evolution of the International Normative Framework for IP

- Tailored and balanced IP legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks **(I.2.)**

Strategic Goal II: Provision of Premier Global IP Services

- Wider and more effective use of the PCT system for filing international patent applications **(II.1.)**
- Wider and more effective use of the Hague system, including by developing countries and LDCs **(II.4.)**
- Wider and more effective use of the Madrid System, including by developing countries and LDCs **(II.6.)**
- International and domestic intellectual property disputes are increasingly prevented or resolved through WIPO mediation, arbitration and other alternative dispute resolution methods **(II.8.)**
- Wider and more effective use of the Lisbon system, including by developing countries and LDCs **(II.10)**

Strategic Goal III: Facilitating the Use of IP for Development

- National innovation and IP strategies and plans consistent with national development objectives **(III.1.)**
- Enhanced human resource capacities able to deal with the broad range of requirements for the effective use of IP for development in developing countries, LDCs and countries with economies in transition **(III.2.)**
- Strengthened cooperation mechanisms and programs tailored to the needs of developing countries, LDCs and countries with economies in transition **(III.4.)**
- Increased capacity of SMEs to successfully use IP to support innovation **(III.6.)**

Strategic Goal IV: Coordination and Development of Global IP Infrastructure

- Enhanced access to, and use of, IP information by IP institutions and the public to promote innovation and creativity **(IV.2.)**

⁶See: http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/about-wipo/en/budget/pdf/budget_2016_2017.pdf

- Enhanced technical and knowledge infrastructure for IP Offices and other IP institutions leading to better services (cheaper, faster, higher quality) to their stakeholders and better outcome of IP administration **(IV.4.)**

Strategic Goal V: World Reference Source for IP Information and Analysis

- Wider and better use of WIPO IP statistical information **(V.1.)**
- Wider and better use of WIPO economic analysis in policy formulation **(V.2.)**

Strategic Goal VI: International Cooperation on Building Respect for IP

Strategic Goal VIII: A Responsive Communications Interface between WIPO, its Member States and All Stakeholders

- More effective communication to a broad public about intellectual property and WIPO's role **(VIII.1.)**
- Improved service orientation and responsiveness to inquiries **(VIII.2.)**
- Effective engagement with Member States **(VIII.3.)**
- Open, transparent and responsive interaction with non-governmental stakeholders **(VIII.4.)**

The External Office will also address the specificity of the region, namely the need to exploit the full potential of the IP system, and local priorities (use of IP by SMEs, enforcement of IP rights, developing new and innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships, topic-based cooperation in the region in order to support sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda etc.).

It will also establish cooperation with various regional organizations (the European Union, the European Patent Office and the Office for the Harmonization in the Internal Market), the private sector, academia and NGOs, as well as with some other international organizations (e.g.: the INTERPOL, World Customs Organization).

V. SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

Broadly speaking, in order to achieve the mandate presented above, the External Office would engage in the following type of activities: provide support services for WIPO's Global IP Systems; deliver capacity building activities in order to facilitate the use of IP for development; promote WIPO treaties, including the most recently adopted ones; provide more effective communications to a broad public, through a targeted outreach and closer relationships with stakeholders; support the creation of fora for exchange of experiences, lessons learned and best practices between countries in the sub-region.

Capacity building programs will be demand-driven and adapted to different country needs. Institutional capacity required to administer, manage and use intellectual property is to be consolidated through WIPO dedicated programmes.

**Collaboration with
national IP Offices**

Such collaboration will take place based on the specific requests of the national IP offices, in order to facilitate the implementation of national objectives in the IP field (elaboration of IP strategies, design of public awareness campaigns, etc.).

**Promoting
effective use of IP**

The international filing and protection systems of industrial property rights, as set up by WIPO, allow the applicants to take advantage of geographically extended protection. The External Office would provide training to stakeholders (SMEs, researchers in universities, etc.) in the use of the PCT, Madrid, Hague and Lisbon systems and WIPO's alternative dispute resolution services.

Moreover, an increased level of awareness by copyright owners of the need to establish a profitable copyright management climate can be achieved. As collective management organizations are often criticized, the External Office could assist them in implementing the TAG project, which can contribute to a better functioning of the legal creative market and provide benefits for both right holders and users.

**Raising
awareness,
understanding
and respect for IP
activities**

Raising awareness, understanding and respect for IP activities will focus on:

- Public education, by using (among other means and ways) the large array of communication means such as the Internet, social media channels, TV spots, radio adverts, flyer distribution, etc.;
- Cooperation with public and private organizations to combat counterfeiting and piracy, engaging with the networks of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, with the Police and Gendarmerie forces, with Customs offices, attorneys, lawyers and judges (such activities could include, for example, the public destruction of pirated and counterfeit products);
- Assistance offered to national IP offices, such as for the elaboration of modern, attractive and complex packages designed for high-school and university curricula of IP courses;
- Coordination to undertake national and regional training programs for all relevant stakeholders;
- Exchange of information on enforcement issues between national authorities. The Office could act as a liaison point, supporting the establishment of a network for IP enforcement policy in the region, bringing together representatives of public and private organizations.
- Organization of special events to celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day on April 26th, each year.

Promotion of WIPO treaties and agreements	The External Office would be called upon to encourage and provide assistance in the ratification and accession process of WIPO treaties and conventions by countries in the region, including the most recent WIPO treaties in the field of copyright and industrial property (namely the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances and the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Blind Persons, Visually Impaired or Print Disabled, as well as the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications). Since most of the countries in the region have not yet ratified the latest international legal documents, raising awareness, understanding and knowledge on the granted rights and the related obligations would be beneficial to the decision-makers.
Delivery of customer services to users of global IP services	The External Office would carry out activities aimed at filling any information gaps and promoting a better understanding and knowledge as regards IP, in general, and WIPO's services, in particular. Moreover, the proximity to the users would allow direct benefits via supplying fast, complete answers, fully adapted to the regional realities and to their inquiries.
Assistance for using IP as a tool for promoting development and technology transfer	<p>The External Office would assist countries in the region to make effective use of the IP system in the context of their specific economic circumstances, as well as the promotion of their national plans of actions according to the 2030 Development Agenda. In more concrete terms, it could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help the national authorities to address, from the IP perspective, the challenges that countries in the region are facing, such as climate change, food security, public health and the protection of biodiversity; • Assist relevant authorities (e.g. ministries of research) in designing policies supporting research and innovation; • Grant support for SMEs, research institutions and universities in order to obtain and protect IP rights and on IP evaluation and commercialization, including by creating and disseminating tailored information products; • Offer consultancy in establishing new Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) in the region.
Provision of policy and technical support to national IP	In a permanently changing environment, due to the fast-paced development of new technologies and business models, new policies may be needed to cope with latest developments. The External Office could share best practices in order to assist countries in developing new policies.
WIPO statistical information and economic	The External Office could assist national IP offices and other institutions (relevant ministries) in increasing the use of the WIPO statistical information, data basis and economic analysis in policy formulation.

Human capital The External Office could work with the WIPO Academy and other organizations and institutions in the region (the European Union, EPO, EUIPO, etc.) in order to provide training to practitioners in the IP field.

Networking The Office could create its own portfolio of contacts, including all stakeholders in the IP field, and encourage public-private partnerships, in order to stimulate cooperation in the field of protection, promotion and respect of IP.

Activities mentioned above may be undertaken through a variety of events: conferences, seminars, round tables at national and sub-regional, events providing constructive platforms for dialogue and exchange of relevant information; training sessions; public campaigns; IP contests; exhibitions; study visits; book releases; dissemination of promotional materials; public destruction of counterfeited and pirated products, etc.

Many of these activities can use modern means of communication, with broad range of exposure and impact, such as the Internet.

An ample advertising of WIPO will raise the level of awareness of all interested parties and of civil society in terms of its noble purposes, activities and services offered in the region.

VI. ADDED VALUE

Romania is confident that the External Office in Bucharest will bring added value both to the Organization and to the countries in sub-region.

The Office will contribute to a better promotion of WIPO, as an international organization specialized in the IP field, as well as of its values and services. It will also enhance the Organization's responsiveness to the specific needs of the region, which may be conducive to more trust in the IP system.

For the countries in the region, in general terms, the added value of a sub-regional External Office would consist in the proximity to the beneficiary/recipient of assistance (government, organizations, firms or individuals), which would stimulate their involvement upstream in the drafting of policies and would allow for better IP results.

In concrete terms, the foreseen benefits of the WIPO Bucharest/Romania Office are the following: a clear political message about the commitment of the CEBS member states to the further development of their intellectual property system; a more dynamic IP filing activity and a better return in the field; an enhanced coordination in fighting against counterfeiting and piracy (which will have a positive impact on the economic, social and cultural data); a more accurate assessment of the impact of IP policies and evolution of the IP system in the sub-region; a more enhanced cooperation of countries in the sub-region.

The External Office will also ensure cost effectiveness, both for WIPO and countries in the sub-region, as a more dynamic IP activity in the region will be achieved through less costs than if the same level and dimension of activities had been provided by the Headquarters.

Moreover, there will be savings in travel costs for the participants from the region in various events to be organized by the Bucharest Office (many countries from the region still do not have direct flights from capitals to Geneva and would be geographically located nearer to the Office's headquarters).

VII. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS

Romania considers that the establishment of the WIPO External Office for the sub-region will not impose any additional financial burden on Member States, other than the approved budget allocation.

According to our estimates, the costs related to the operation of the Office will not hamper the financial and budgetary sustainability of the WIPO External Offices network. The Government of Romania offers the necessary space for the external office at no rental costs.

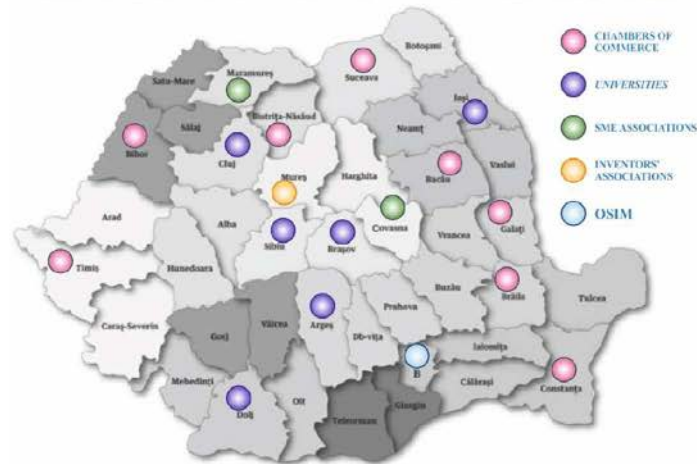
The Office will benefit from the whole support of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks and the Romanian Copyright Office in the carrying out of its activities. In this respect, as an *in-kind* contribution, OSIM will be ready to make available its network of 17 regional centers, distributed across the country (*see the map below*).

The network of regional IP Centers is in place since 1999 and it is currently located in 5 universities, 8 local Chambers of Commerce, 2 SMEs owners' associations and one inventors' association. The main purpose of these centers is to promote the values of industrial property among their stakeholders.

By request, OSIM can provide specialized logistic assistance to the IP attorneys and to the inventors' associations.

The centers act as intermediary links between OSIM and the local communities, the academic environment, the business environment, high-schools, inventors, local institutions.

REGIONAL PROMOTION AND INFORMATION CENTRES COORDINATED BY OSIM



In addition, the Romanian institutional partners of the Office will make efforts, at the national level, to raise extra-funding for different activities from the private sector, non-governmental entities or other stakeholders. Requests for financial support could also be submitted to the European Commission.

The relocation costs for WIPO staff to Bucharest, the rental fees for staff accommodation, the living cost in the capital city and the flight fares from/to Geneva (and to/from other capitals of the region) are affordable.

VIII. HEADQUARTERS. PRIVILEGES

The External Office will be located in downtown Bucharest, in the National Library of Romania building, benefiting from a generous space (240 square meters), with state of the art facilities. Photos of the building and of the space made available to the External Office are herewith attached (see Annex 1).

The Office location provides opportunities to collaborate. It is situated within the administrative quadrant (Government, Parliament), close to the business district (Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania, the Court of International Commercial Arbitration, Banking institutions) and is reachable from the capital international airport in around 45 minutes.



The WIPO External Office shall, in respect of its Premises, be accorded all the privileges and immunities stipulated in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, adopted in New York on 13 February 1946 and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies adopted in New York on 21 November 1947 (ANNEX XV).

Annex 1

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ROMANIA

Address: *Bulevardul Unirii 22, București, Postal code 030833, Romania*

The National Library is a cultural institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture. Its goal is to administer the national patrimony of publications, by purchasing and preserving documents and making them available to the public, for research or personal study.



The National Library



The Grand Lecture Room

The most important chapter in the biography of the National Library of Romania can be considered the year 1955 when the Central State Library was established (through the Governmental Decision M.C.D. No. 1193/ 25.06.1955) as the main public library of the country, an institution created on modern biblioteconomic bases and having the typical attributions of a national library in conformity with the UNESCO standards.

According to most historians and researchers, the National Library of Romania finds its origins in one of the oldest and most emblematic libraries in Romania - the "Saint Sava" College Library of Bucharest. The latter made its collections available to the wider public in 1838, when near upon 1000 French volumes were catalogued.

After the 1859 Unification, it achieved the status of **national library** by being alternatively known as the National Library as well as the Central Library.

In 1864, through the public law regulation, it was named the **Central State Library**, name and status which were kept until 1901 when it was closed down and its collections were transferred to the Romanian Academic Library which received the status of national library.

Throughout this period only one national function could be acknowledged as relevant to the library, namely its patrimonial function. In 1955 the book fund was reassigned to the newly established main public library, the Central State Library.



The Main Lobby



Creative Arts Show in the Main Lobby

Shortly after the fall of communism, in early January 1990, the Central State Library became the **National Library of Romania** as a result of the decision adopted by the new leadership, and after Romania's accession to the European Union, it expanded its functions by actively involving itself in numerous national and international projects such as TELplus, Manuscriptorium, Rediscover, and many others.

In 1986, a new, larger location began to be built for the library, between Piața Unirii and Nerva Traian. The initial lead architect was Cezar Lăzărescu, who died in 1986 before the building was finished.

Shortly after 1989, although some parts of the building were finished or in an advanced state, due to lack of funding, the construction had stalled for several years. In 2009 the project was reassigned to the Ministry of Culture, which completed the construction in 2011 and set the official opening date to take place in 2012.

The National Library of Romania's senior management would be much honored to host the WIPO sub regional External Office within the Library's premises.

In this respect, three different spaces have been allocated, with a total surface of 240 square meters, well displayed in the building.

The first space (the conference/the seminar room, of 95 sqm), being placed at the ground floor, benefits from a very convenient access for the delegates or trainees.



The Conference room

The two other spaces could host different offices, both having the same surface (of around 75 sqm).



Office space 1



Office space 2

Annex 2

BUCHAREST – How to get to, how to travel in, accommodation facilities and attractions



HENRI COANDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Address: Calea Bucurestilor 224
Tel: (21) 204.12.00 or 204.12.10
Web: www.ctp-airport.ro

Transportation between H. Coanda International Airport and City Center:

Express Bus 783 offers daily service to the city centre, with stops at **Baneasa Airport**. The bus leaves from the international departures terminal every 15 minutes (every 30 minutes after 8:30pm and during weekends), from 5:30am until 11:00pm. The journey to downtown

takes approximately 40 minutes.

Public transportation between H. Coanda International Airport and the main train station (Gara de Nord):

• **By Bus**

Express Bus 780 offers daily service to the main train station (*Gara de Nord*) with stops at: **Henri Coanda Airport** - Baneasa Airport - Piata Presei Libere - Clabucet - **Gara de Nord** - Str. Fluviului.

The bus runs every 30 minutes from 5:15 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. seven days a week. It leaves from the international arrivals terminal; the journey to the train station takes 40 minutes to 60 minutes.

• **By Train**

Henri Coanda Express Trains offer daily service from Balotesti (0.5 miles from the airport) to the main train station (*Gara de Nord*) with one stop at Mogosoaia. Trains run hourly from 5:56 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; the journey from the airport to the train station takes about one hour and 10 minutes.

Note: Tickets can be purchased at the CFR booth International Arrivals Terminal.



BUCHAREST BANEASA - AUREL VLAICU AIRPORT

Address: Sos. Bucuresti-Ploiesti 40
Tel: (21) 232.00.20 or 971.3
Web: www.baneasa-airport.ro

The airport is located in the North side of Bucharest city on National Road DN-1 (that leads to Prahova Valley).

Advantages: it is located 8.5 km distance from the city centre, 1.5 km distance from World Trade Centre Complex, only 8 km distance from the hotels: Intercontinental, Hilton, Parliament. The distance between Bucharest Băneasa - Aurel Vlaicu International Airport and the city center could be ridden in about 10 minutes.

Public transportation between Baneasa airport and city centre:

- Bus #131 to downtown Bucharest
- Bus #205 to the main train station (*Gara de Nord*)

Getting to Bucharest by train

To check international trains schedule to/ from Bucharest please visit:

<http://www.RomaniaTourism.com/Transportation.html#ByTrain>

To check schedules and fares for all other trains / domestic routes please visit :

www.infofer.ro

Note: For Bucharest please select Bucuresti Nord (Bucharest North) or "Gara de Nord"

Bucharest's main station, **Gara de Nord**, is located 5 kilometers from downtown and is a major rail centre with daily connections from/to cities throughout Europe and main cities in Romania.

Address: Blvd. Garii de Nord 2

Tel: 9521

International trains

There are daily trains from/to **Athens, Belgrade, Budapest, Istanbul, Kiev, Moscow, Prague, Sofia, and Vienna**. Trains from/to Western European cities run via Budapest.

Public Transportation

Bucharest's public transportation network includes:

- bus (*autobuz*), tram (*tramvai*), trolley bus (*troilebuz*) and subway (*metrou*).
Buses, trams and trolley buses operate - between 5:00am and 11:59pm. The subway operates - from 5:00am until 11:00pm. Tickets must be purchased beforehand and validated upon boarding. Travelers may be asked to show the validated ticket during the trip. Tickets or passes can be purchased at any kiosk displaying the RATB logo.
- The subway (Metrou) is best for travel to longer distance and for getting to the city centre; metro trains operate between 5:00am and 11:00pm. There are four subway (Metrou) lines (M1, M2, M3 and M4) that covers the city quite extensively. Subway stations are indicated with the letter "M" (blue, on a white board). The metro is usually a cheap and easy way to get around even though there are surprisingly few stops in the city center, since the system was originally built to transport workers and commuters from outlying neighborhoods through the city to peripheral industrial areas. If you're staying outside the city center, or even if you want to travel within it, the Metro can be a very fast and convenient way of traveling to your destination, avoiding the traffic jams and crowds that frequently characterize surface transport.

The network is arguably frequent and fairly comfortable, reliable and easy-to-use. Surprisingly for some, it is by far the safest way to travel through the city. Since 2002, Bucharest Metro has

embarked on a comprehensive modernization plan, including the replacement of old train-sets with state-of-the-art Bombardier Transportation trains and the renovation of stations and tracks in collaboration with Alstom.

Accommodation facilities

Total Capacity:

- 6000 bedrooms with the city centre
- 650 bedrooms with the Conference Centre area
- 1500 bedrooms within a 10 minutes walk of congress venue
- 2200 bedrooms within a fifteen minutes walk of congress venue

Prices:

- 5 stars hotel = 120-250 EURO/ night
- 4 stars hotel = 80-150 EURO/ night
- 3 stars hotel = 50-100 EURO/ night

Range of accommodation from budget to four–five star/boutique



JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel **5***

The Marriott Bucharest offers finest European elegance and comfort with 402 deluxe rooms, 6 restaurants, a convention center, a health club and spa, a shopping gallery and the Grand Casino. The classical building located next to the Parliament Palace is frequented by heads of state and royalty. This "city within a city" houses everything the most demanding travelers may expect: a luxurious health club and spa providing for optimal relaxation after a busy day, enhanced services, 6 restaurants

offering gourmet cuisine and facilities to handle all banquet needs with meeting room suitable for board meetings and presentations.

Web: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/buhro-jw-marriott-bucharest-grand-hotel/>



Crowne Plaza Bucharest 5*

Fresh, contemporary and welcoming. **Crowne Plaza Bucharest** offers a reassuring blend of global standards, first-class accommodations and facilities. This luxuriously furnished hotel is complemented by an outstanding reputation for individual and friendly

service and ensures personal comfort 24 hours a day.
Hotel Rooms: 164, Hotel Chain: Crowne Plaza
Hotels & Resorts.

Web: <http://www.ihotelsgroup.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/bucharest/buhm/hoteldetail>



Radisson Blu Hotel Bucharest 5*

Situated on the main street, Calea Victoriei, across from the former Royal Palace, the **Radisson Blu Hotel**, is ideal for exploring the rich local area. A 20-minute drive from Henri Coanda International Airport and 15 minute drive from Baneasa International Airport, the hotel makes travel easy for guests and offers airport pick-up and drop-off service upon request. With metro stations only a short walking or driving distance, the hotel's idyllic location in Bucharest city centre affords guests optimal proximity to both Romania's best business and shopping districts.

Web: <http://www.radissonblu.com/hotelbucharest>



InterContinental Bucharest Hotel 5*

InterContinental Bucharest is one of the city's favorite international high-rise hotels, a distinction owed to its ideal location, fine appointments and impeccable service. Within walking distance are business and shopping boulevards, embassies and the Metro. The National Theatre, four significant museums, the old city featuring the famous Lipscani Street and Cismigiu Gardens are just a few minutes away. Overlooking Bucharest's center, this 5-star hotel is situated at University Square. It offers accommodations with private balconies, free Health Club access and a Piano Bar with live music. Hotel Rooms: 257, Hotel Chain: Intercontinental Hotels & Resorts.

Web:

<http://www.ihotelsgroup.com/intercontinental/en/qb/locations/bucharest>



Epoque Hotel Bucharest 5*

Epoque Hotel is a unique concept business boutique hotel in Bucharest downtown. The suite-only concept is destined to fit the exclusive tastes of independent travelers of business and leisure who cultivate a deeply individual, original and inspirational traveling philosophy. Hotel Epoque is the only hotel in Romania member of World hotels, the world class network of independent hotels that reunites an exclusive collection of leisure and business properties worldwide. Hotel Epoque signs "Retreat in the heart of the city", promising a private oasis of serenity, right in the heart of Bucharest, near Cismigiu Park.

A place of privilege and uniqueness, Hotel Epoque is a personal journey. You can now follow our two characters for a sample of their Epoque experience.

Web: <http://www.hotelepoque.ro>



Pullman Hotel Bucharest 4*

Ideally located within the World Trade Center complex in the commercial center of the city, the **Pullman Bucharest** is only 5 minutes from central Bucharest and 15 minutes from the airport.

The hotel offers 203 modern rooms, including 15 spacious suites. Perfect for business or leisure, you will benefit from facilities able to accommodate up to 800, and a fully equipped fitness center and spa.

Web: www.pullmanhotels.com/gb/hotel-1714-pullman-bucharest-world-trade-center/index.shtml



Ramada Majestic Bucharest Hotel 4*

The Ramada Majestic Bucharest Hotel is located in the heart of Bucharest, in the business, financial, cultural and shopping center of the Romanian capital. Located right on Calea Victoriei, the most elegant and one of the oldest main streets of the city, the hotel offers excellent services provided by a helpful and dedicated staff. The comfortable rooms boast free internet access and all necessary amenities. Ramada Majestic is the ideal choice for business or tourists, offering a wide range of meeting rooms as well as a spa and fitness

center to unwind after a busy day. The sauna is at your disposal free of charge. Hotel Rooms: 111, Hotel Chain: Ramada.

Web: <http://www.majestic.ro>



Ramada Hotel & Suites Bucharest North 4*

Positioned in the northern part of the Capital, within 10km from the Henri Coanda International Airport, in the midst of business centers and a few minutes away from the city center, in the proximity of the Romexpo Fairgrounds and the Baneasa Business Area, Ramada Bucharest Parc offers a perfect atmosphere and accommodation for business travelers, combined with the best facilities for business meetings.

Ramada Bucharest Parc hotel offers 267 modernly designed rooms with all comforts and facilities for business travelers; 180 single room (queen size bed), 79 twin room, 8 apartments.

Web: <http://www.ramadanorth.ro>



Novotel Hotel Bucarest 4*

Novotel Bucarest city center is your perfect choice for either a business trip, short break or city break. Ideally located right in the heart of the city, the 4-star hotel offers not only an exceptional location, but also a unique blend of classical architecture and modern, functional design. Enjoy the restaurant, bar and summer terraces and unwind in the Wellness Centre. Free WIFI, 5 fully equipped meeting rooms, private underground parking.

Hotel Rooms: 258, Hotel Chain: Novotel.

Web: <http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-5558-novotel-bucharest-city-centre/index.shtml>



Ambassador Hotel 3*

The impressive **Ambassador Hotel** enjoys a central location, 330 yards from the Romanian Athenaeum and the National Museum of Art of Romania. Wi-Fi is available for free in all rooms. The hotel has 209 rooms out of which 8 are apartments, 4 studio flats, 41 single rooms, 156 doubles equipped with bathrooms, TV cable, minibar, internal and international phone line, free wireless internet. Most of the rooms offer a panoramic view of the city center. An elegant bar, a casino, a fitness center, a

sauna and lots of stores are located on site.

Web: <http://www.ambasador.ro/>



Ibis Bucharest Parliament House Hotel 3*

The **Ibis Bucharest** Parliament House hotel is close to the Parliament House the largest convention center in the city. Close to the financial district and 20 km from Otopeni Airport, the hotel has 161 air conditioned rooms and 6 meeting rooms for organizing seminars and conferences. In addition to a restaurant, a bar open 24 hours and paid parking, the hotel offers free Internet access in the room for guests on a business trip.

Web: <http://www.ibishotel.com/gb/hotel-5938-ibisbucuresti-palatul-parlamentului/index.shtml>

City Highlights



ROMANIAN ATHENAEUM

Perfect for private concerts and events. Considered one of the architectural jewelry of Romania, the building of the Romanian Athenaeum from Bucharest is the "Cultural Society Romanian Athenaeum's result, founded in 1865 by an enthusiastic group formed of Constantin Esarcu, V. A. Ureche, C. Rosetti, N. Kretulescu, Al. Odobescu and others.

The architect Albert Galleron conceived the plans, in neo-classical style, and in 2 years the building was almost done, being inaugurated on 14 February 1888.

Practically, the construction hardly ended in the 30's of the XX century. From the outside, the Romanian Athenaeum is formed from a peristyle of six columns in Ionic style, giving the impression of a Greek temple, under which there are, in medallions, the faces of five voivodes of Romania: Neagoe Basarab, Alexandru cel Bun, Vasile Lupu, Matei Basarab and King Carol I. A team of architects gave the dome's initial former and engineers after Galleron handed over the project. The inside is maybe more impressive than the outside. In the entrance hall there are four winding stairs surrounding some marble columns of Carrara and decorative sculptures. The auditorium (28 meters in diameter and 16 meters high) having a special acoustics, seats 600 in the stalls and another 52 in loge seating. However, what really moves you in a special way is the 70 meters long fresco and high of 3 meters, realized round about.



TRIUMPHAL ARCH

It is situated in the northern part of Bucharest. The

Triumphal Arch was built in 1922 and it is made of wood and plaster. This arch was built, as a celebration for The Great Union, after the victory of the Romanian armies in the World War I. This wooden arch was replaced by a stone arch somewhere between 1935 and 1936 (this was architect Petre Antonescu's work). The southern façade is beautifully ornamented with two bronze medallions that present the faces of King Ferdinand and Queen Maria. On the northern façade, there are two other medallions on which two symbols are carved: "Manhood" and "Faith". "Manhood" presents a warrior with a sword (work belonging to I. Jalea) and "Faith" is symbolized by a young man with a cross and was created by C. Baraski. The victories above these silhouettes are created by the sculptors D. Onofrei and C. Medrea. The names of the battles from World War 1 are carved (Marasesti, Oituz etç) on the pillars of the Triumphal Arch.



"GRIGORE ANTIPA" NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

"Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History possesses a great patrimony that includes zoological, paleontological, ethnographic, minerals and rocks collections. Thanks to the researches done by specialists from abroad and Romania, the donations and acquisitions, the collections of the museum have constantly developed, so that today there are more than 2 million items. It is the largest and oldest museum of this kind among all the Danubian countries, including more than 3000.000

exhibits. The richest and most important collection of butterflies in the world can be found here.



MUSEUM OF THE ROMANIAN PEASANT

It is situated in Bucharest on Kiseleff Street, Number 3, near the Victory Square. The museum was built between 1912-1941, according to the architect N. Ghica- Budesti's plans. The museum holds ceramics collections, traditional clothes, woven materials for the inside of the house, wooden items, furniture pieces, iron items, wall carpets, all of these being placed according to the main areas of our country and their traditions. There is also a shop here where you can buy various souvenirs. In the inner yard of the museum which leads to Ion Mihalache Boulevard, there is a wooden church, which is a

historical monument belonging to the 17th century (the church was shifted here in 1992).



ROMANIAN NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

It is the most important Romanian museum and it contains historical valuable items that have been discovered on the Romanian territory since prehistoric times till contemporary times. It contains more than 50,000 original pieces and documents belonging to various fields. Among the exhibits with great historical

value, we may mention "The brood hen with golden chickens" (it dates from the 4th century AD-attributed to the Visigoth king, Athanaric), pieces from the famous "Pietroasa Treasure", that weigh almost 19 kg, and also a copy of Trajan's Column" from Rome.



BOTANICAL GARDEN

Situated in Cotroceni neighborhood from Bucharest, "Dimitrie Brândza" Botanical Garden of the University from Bucharest is an institution of culture, education and research. It was founded in 1860 during A.L.I. Cuza's reign. Nowadays, it has an area of 17, 5 ha and it is organized into sectors: outdoor sectors, populated by annual and perennial plants, (the decorative sector, the sector of rare plants, the sector of Mediterranean flora, the sector of Dobrujda flora, "Italian Garden" Sector, the collection of iris flowers, the sector of useful plants and the systematic sector),

exhibit greenhouses that shelter the special compounds for plants belonging to different regions of the planet (palm trees, orchids, exotic ferns, tropical and subtropical plants, succulent plants, cactus plants, bromelii) and production greenhouses.



CANTACUZINO PALACE

It was built according to architect I.D. Berindei's plans in the French Baroque style (1956). "George Enescu" Memorial Museum was inaugurated in Cantacuzino Palace and after 1990 it became a national museum. Beside the violin that Enescu received when he was 4, one can find here the scores of his works, diplomas and medals that he won, the most important one being the medal of the French Legion of Honor. The edifice (declared an architecture monument) has four levels: a basement that represents the base of the building, a ground floor with circle arch-shaped windows and with banisters made of stone, a floor

with straight windows equipped with forged iron balconies and an attic richly ornamented skylights. The interior is decorated with monumental paintings realized by G.D.Mirea, Costin Petrescu, Arthur Veron a, Nicolae Isidor Vermont and sculptures realized by Fr. Storck and Em. W. Becker. Its façade is dominated by the entrance, neatly unhooked, preceded by ample stairs made of marble, "defended" by two stony lions.

The Palace served as the residence of the Ministries' Council, just before the World War II was about to burst.



COTROCENI NATIONAL PALACE

The Cotroceni ensemble stands alone in the Bucharest and national architectural scenery through its various components, each one with different functions and destinations.

Its uniqueness is reflected in the lay architecture that dominated the Cotroceni ensemble: the palace, the pavilion, the annexes, the manege, the gardener's house, the greenhouses, the monastery, the chapel of the asylum for orphan girls, the funerary monuments (those

of princess Maria and of the Davila family), a large garden (part of it would later become the Botanical Garden). By a law issued in 1990, the old wing of the ensemble was opened to the public as Cotroceni National Museum, envisioned as an insight into past ages.

Cotroceni is also hosting the Office of the President of Romania. The Palace is the only official residence in Romania that has been used for over 4 centuries.



GHIKA PALACE

Ghika Palace - history The Ghika Palace is one of the oldest Bucharest palaces. Situated closed to the crossroad of Lacul Tei Boulevard and Doamna Ghica Street, the Ghika Palace encloses the south side of lake Plumbuita. The Palace is built in the well-known neoclassical style of the Italian architecture, with a touch of French Renaissance, according to the western trends of the 19th century. Along the years, Ghika Palace kept its initial shape, and during the 1978 it was

heavily restored.

Nowadays, the Ghika Palace combines historical elements with modern ones, having a very up-to-date surveillance system, a fire-alarm, complete heating, Internet and telephony, as well as a parking lot of its own. What really makes this palace unique is the huge green garden surrounding the palace, the Palace's Gardens and thus assuring a quiet and peaceful environment all around the place. This is indeed a historical piece of architecture speaking about a long gone period in Romanian history, a troublesome past and a vivid tradition.



MOGOSOAIA PALACE & BRANCOVENESC MUSEUM

Located in the village of the same name on the shore of Mogosoaia Lake, this palace reflects the Brancovenesc architectural style, featuring traditional Romanian staircase balconies, arcades and columns. Built by the Walachian Prince Constantin Brancoveanu between 1698 and 1702 as a summer residence, the palace features a beautiful Venetian style loggia on the facade facing the lake and a balcony with intricate Brancovenesc-style

carvings overlooking the main courtyard. Today, the palace houses the Brancovenesc Museum with exhibits of valuable paintings, wood and stone sculptures, gold and silver embroideries, rare books and precious manuscripts. Inside the complex, there is also a church built in 1688 and decorated by a team of Greek artists. The original interior murals have been well-preserved, including a painting showing Constantin Brancoveanu with his wife, Maria, and their four sons and seven daughters, all wearing royal dress.



BRAGADIRU PALACE

Situated in the heart of Bucharest, the Bragadiru Palace is located in Sector 5, near the Palace of the Parliament. It is at walking distance from the Piata Regina Maria, Flower Market and Marriott Grand Hotel. Over the years, the Bragadiru Palace has accommodated an amazing array of events, from intimate dinner parties of 50 or more guests to grand cocktail parties with dancing of up to 400 guests. However, most events range from 100 to

250 guests.



The VILLAGE MUSEUM

The Village Museum is one of the first ethnographic museums in the world and the second ethnographic museum placed outdoors in the world, next to Ethnographic Museum from Stockholm. Aiming at offering the best view of the life of the peasants, of their originality, of their remarkable artistic sense, the museum tries to recreate the intimate ambient of every house and succeeds in doing this, presenting to visitors elements specific to traditional households: bams, stables, fences

made of wood, twigs or adobe, the simple or imposing gates, the inside of the house with the specific furniture pieces, working tools, traditional vessels, carpets and other woven items.



The ROYAL PALACE – THE NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

Inaugurated in 1950, The National Gallery shelters the works of many famous painters, like Theodor Aman, Nicolae Grigorescu, Stefan Luchian, Nicolae Tonitza, Theodor Pallady and sculptors: Dimitrie Paciurea, Constantin Medrea, Ion Jalea and the famous Constantin Brancusi. The patrimony of the museum contains 4000 engravings and sketches

belonging to several Romanian and foreign artists.



The hall consists of three galleries and two collections of decorative art.

The European Art Gallery is situated in the Kretulescu wing and has been recently reopened. The paintings of the most representative painters of Europe can be seen here, painters from the Renaissance period till the first decades of the 20th century. Beside the painting collection of the Romanian Royal House, the masterpieces of the European Art can be as well admired: "Madonna with child" by Domenico Veneziano, "Haman begging Esther for forgiveness" by Rembrandt, "Man with ring" by Jan Van Eyck, "Camille" by Claude Monet, "The age", "The kiss", "The Spring" by Auguste Rodin etc.

The Old Romanian Art Gallery: is situated at the first floor of Stirbei Sector and contains 9500 masterpieces, which are exposed in 7 halls. These items conjure up the cultural life from Walachia, Moldavia and Transylvania. In three of the 7 halls, you can see laic and cult items made of precious metals; jewelry and costume accessories belonging to 14th-19th centuries.

The Modern Romanian Art Gallery: there are 8479 paintings and 1817 sculptors and it is situated at the second floor of the Stirbei Sector. One of the galleries is exclusively dedicated to the sculptor **Constantin Brancusi** and it exposes works from his youth and later years: "Torture", "Child Head", "The Slumber", "Prometheus", "Prayer".

The decorative art collection used to be part of the Universal Art Gallery, alongside the European painting and sculpture and an assembly of Oriental Art items. The collection consists of nearly 10000 items of European Art, including Romanian Art as well, being the most important collection in Romania and exposes Romanian tapestry works, furniture pieces, ceramics, a collection of clocks and also silver ware items done in Augsburg, Berlin or Numberg.

The Oriental Art collection gained its autonomy in 1990 and it contains the most representative set of items from The Islamic Orient, China and Japan that have ever existed in a Romanian museum. There are almost 400 carpets, woven items, paintings, ivory items, Chinese and Japan porcelains, wooden sculptures, weapons and textiles.



OLD CITY CENTER – HISTORIC CENTRE

The cobblestone streets between Calea Victoriei, Bulevardul Bratianu, Bulevardul Regina Elisabeta and the River Dimbovita still comprise Bucharest's most atmospheric area and increasingly are home to an alternative culture of dubs, bars, trendy coffee houses and restaurants - most lively when they spill onto the cobbled streets during summer. At its heart is the 15th-century Curtea Veche (Old Court), attributed to Vlad Tepes, which contains a few walls, arches, tombstones and one restored Corinthian column. Next door is Bucharest's oldest

church, the 16th-century Biserica Curtea Veche. Just east of here is the oldest inn, Hanul lui Manuc, Strada Franceza 62-64, which is still an inexpensive hotel with a basement restaurant and courtyard cafe-bar. North of here is Strada Lipskani, an old merchant street where everything from bridal gowns and handmade hats to cheap jeans are sold. Near its east end is a small alley called Hanul cu Tei, filled with antique shops. A block south of Strada Lipskani to the west is Strada Stavropoleos where the remarkable Biserica Stavropoleos can be visited. This church, completed in 1724, could easily qualify as the city's most beautiful, not least because its frescoes and icons have recently been restored and it is surrounded by a peaceful cloister garden filled with various antiquities and 19th-century tombstones. The church was

designed by Constantin Brancoveanu (1688-1714), a Wallachian prince known for his religious architectural achievements.



Regular festivals & events

- Bucharest International Film Festival (*April*)
- International Music Festival "Jeunesses Musicales" (*May*)
- Bucharest International Music Festival "EuropaFest" (*May*)
- Bucharest of Old Festival (*May*)
- 'GayFest' Gay Pride Festival (*May*)
- Bucharest 'ArtPhoto' Image & Photography Festival (*May - June*)
- Bucharest "D'Ale Bucurestilor" Street Music Festival (*June*)
- Craftsmen's Fair (*June - July*)
- Bucharest City Challenge - Car Racing (*August*)
- George Enescu Music Festival (*September- every two years*)
- International Furniture and Interior Design Fair / BIFE-TIMB (*September*)
- Romania Tennis Open - an ATP event (*September*)
- Winter Gifts Arts & Crafts Fair - Museum of the Romanian Peasant (*December*)

[Annex VII follows]



PROPOSAL BY SAUDI ARABIA TO HOST A WIPO EXTERNAL OFFICE



This document has been translated into English on the basis of the original Arabic-language version. For this reason, in case of discrepancies or differences of interpretation between the English and Arabic versions, the Arabic version shall prevail.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in its national capacity, wishes to host an External Office of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Thanks to its prime strategic location, diverse natural resources and a prosperous economic, industrial and commercial activity, Saudi Arabia has the ambition to provide optimal protection for intellectual property rights (IPRs). Inspired by its vision for the future, the 'VISION 2030', Saudi Arabia seeks to offer a more secure and attractive commercial environment for global businesses. The country's future aspiration is to become one of the leading economies in non-oil sectors and achieve transition into the knowledge economy.

PART I

COUNTRY BRIEF: NATIONAL BACKGROUND

I. CONSTITUTION AND BASIC PRINCIPLES

Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab Muslim State. Islam is the religion of the country. Its constitution is the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Tradition. Arabic is its language.

II. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

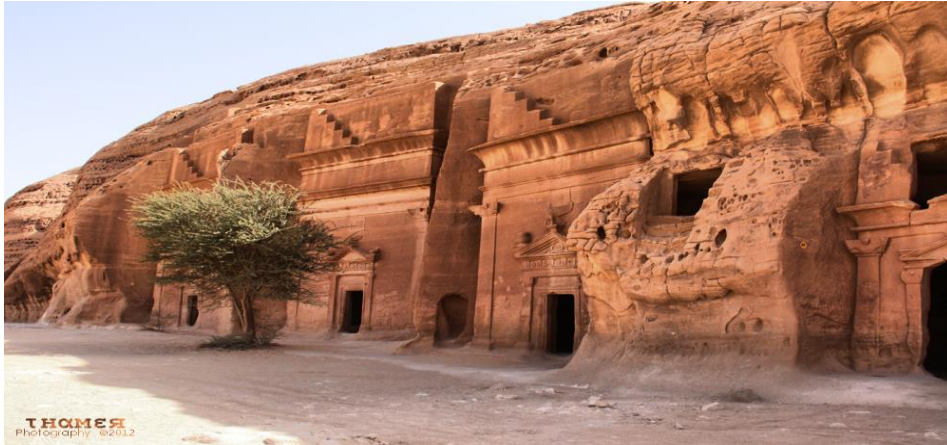


Strategically located in the south western part of Asia, Saudi Arabia is one of the major countries of the Middle East, with a population totaling 31,742,308 according to the latest 2016 census. Spreading over three-fourth (2,250,000 m²) of the Arabic Peninsula, Saudi Arabia is bordered by eight countries: Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Yemen. To the East, it is connected to Bahrain through the King Fahd Causeway across the Arab Gulf.

It is bordered to the West by the Red Sea coast, and to the East by the Arab Gulf. Both are considered among the busiest maritime lanes in the world. Connecting three continents, they include the Strait of Hormuz in the Arab Gulf, the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, the Strait of Tiran, the Strait of Jubal, and the Strait of Aden in the Red Sea. These serve maritime as shipping and transport for Asia, Africa and Europe. At a strategic meeting point of these maritime routes, Saudi Arabia is considered as one of the most important trade hubs worldwide. In addition, the country enjoys a central location amid Arabic-speaking countries.

On a larger scale, and thanks to its political and economic stability, Saudi Arabia provides a starting commercial hub for over two billion consumers within three-hour reach by air.

III. NATURAL RESOURCES



Endowed with a varied geographical landscape, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia rests on an abundance of resources, including agricultural, animal, mineral and oil riches. The country ranks among the top 20 world economies.

1. Oil Resources

Saudi Arabia has the world second largest oil reserves and the world first source for crude oil, with around 90% of the world oil exports. Saudi Arabia is the biggest oil producing country worldwide with a daily average production of 10.60 million barrels, according to the 2016 figures. In addition, Saudi Arabia holds 22% of the world oil reserves, accounts for 12% of the global oil production, produces 20% of the petroleum sales in the global markets, and possesses a daily refining capacity of over 3 million barrels.

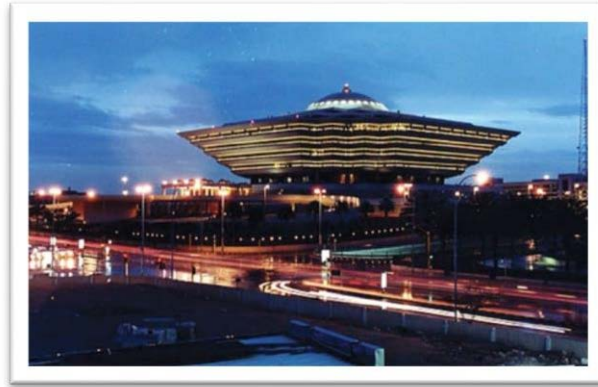
2. Natural Gas

Saudi Arabia holds an estimated natural gas reserve of over 303 billion ft³ located in 103 gas fields.

3. Metals

Saudi Arabia has the largest and most diversified mineral deposit resources in the Middle East. The Saudi soil is rife with various metals, including gold which attract major mining investments in the country. Silver, platinum, copper, zinc and lead are also abundant in the country. Other raw minerals include niobium, titanium lithium as well as rare radioactive elements. Saudi Arabia also has the world largest phosphate reserves located extensively in northern Jalamid region.

IV. STABILITY, SAFETY AND SECURITY



The Ministry of Interior of Saudi Arabia has jurisdiction over the 13 regions, and is responsible for the overall security across the Kingdom, including border control, safety and security of citizens, residents and tourists, as well as Mecca pilgrims. The Ministry of Interior ensures the protection and security of the whole population by combatting and preventing crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, vice and corruption. The Ministry of Interior makes use of advanced modern technology to provide services to citizens and residents, including passport services, traffic, civil and other services through its e-services portal.

V. HEALTH SERVICES



The Ministry of Health of Saudi Arabia is responsible for providing the population with healthcare, prevention and rehabilitation services. It also supervises and oversees healthcare services provided by private medical institutions. The Ministry ensures the delivery of general healthcare services through a network of 2,225 medical centers across the Kingdom. Based on the 2015 statistics, Saudi Arabia has around 274 public specialized and general hospitals, with a total capacity of 41,297 care beds.

The Ministry of Health is also the central government agency responsible for medical healthcare administration, management, planning and financing.

In addition, Saudi Arabia has internationally recognized specialized public hospitals which see patients in critical conditions and requiring third-level specialized care. Such patients are referred from major Saudi hospitals but also from abroad. These specialist hospitals include:

- King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center (KFSH): using cutting edge techniques, this is the referral hospital for patients requiring specialized and advanced care; it also undertakes research on general health issues as well as those issues specifically related to Saudi Arabia.
- King Khaled Eye Specialized Hospital (KKESH): a specialized medical facility of world renown which provides state of the art eye treatment and surgery services. It is a regional research center and maintains an Eye Bank for imported corneas. Since its establishment and up to December 2013, KKESH undertook 17,114 cornea transplant operations. It also provides health services to private medical institutions through a network of medical centers throughout the Kingdom, including hospitals, dispensaries, laboratories, pharmacies and physiotherapy centers.

By end 2015, the medical private sector in Saudi Arabia included 145 hospitals with a capacity of 16,648 care beds, 2,747 dispensaries and medical centers, 104 medical laboratories, 122 physiotherapy centers, 2,262 opticians, 77 orthodontists and 7,815 pharmacies.

VI. EDUCATION



Saudi Arabia has a strong human capital strongly rooted in a solid educational system of small-scale classrooms and high spending on education. The Saudi educational system ranks seventh internationally, with over 7 million students very year in primary and secondary (ages 7 to 18) and 100,000 pupils in elementary (ages 3 to 5). The number of students per class in Saudi Arabia is considered to be the lowest and most favored in the world, with one teacher per 11 students only.

Foreign residents are offered a wide selection of 17 international schools, most of which are located in the major cities of Riyadh, Jeddah, Jubail and Yanbu.

For higher education, Saudi Arabia has 25 public and 28 private universities and faculties. Graduation requires 4 to 6 years of university education. On average, there are around 133,833 graduates every year (93,248 males and 91,874 females).

Leading Saudi universities include Umm Al-Qura University (est. 1949) and King Saud University (est. 1957).

By international standards, Saudi public universities are regarded as big-scale universities, with around 271,453 new admissions every year (127,641 male students and 143,812 female students), and a total of 65,404 university staff (37,776 males and 27,628 females).

Other universities include specialized institutions, such as the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dahrn city, and the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Thuwal city. In addition, there is the Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University, the largest university for women in the world, attracting over 46,813 female students and more than 2,000 female staff members.

VII. INFRASTRUCTURE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Substantial investments were specifically made to develop the Saudi national infrastructure. Major roads, railways, airports and ports emerged. Saudi Arabia now offers investors high capacity and high quality infrastructure and telecommunications networks which create a successful and prosperous business environment.

- **Roads.** Saudi Arabia has a network of roads extending over 66,300 km and connecting all corners of the Saudi territory, linking cities and provinces, including 3,900 km of double-lane highways.
- **Railways.** The Saudi Railways Organization (RSO) operates 59 locomotives, 75 passenger cars and 1,860 cargo cars, over a 1,400 km network. At the heart of the network, a central line of 449 km connects the capital Riyadh and the eastern coastal city of Dammam. During 2014, RSO transported around 1.1 million passengers and 3.5 tons of goods. These figures are expected to increase significantly upon completion of the following major projects:
 - (i) North-South Line: passenger and cargo line over 2,400 km, connecting northern and north-eastern mines, cities and villages to the capital Riyadh. It is expected to be completed in the course of 2017.

- (ii) **Land Bridge:** a longer term project to build a 950 km passenger line connecting the cities of Jeddah and Riyadh, and a 115 km cargo line connecting the cities of Jubail and Dammam.

In 2016, the Haramain High Speed Rail (HHR) was completed. Operating over 444 km, the HHR connects Medina, Jeddah and Mecca. It is complemented by an 18 km underground line within Mecca. Currently, works are underway for the new underground line in Riyadh. A future underground line is also planned for the city of Jeddah.

- **Air transport.** Saudi airports are the most dynamic in the Middle East, accounting for 29% of total air transport in the region, followed by the United Arab Emirates (21%), Iran (13%), Egypt (12%), in addition to the remaining nine Middle East countries.

International Airports, Saudi Arabia
King Abdulaziz International Airport, Jeddah
King Khalid International Airport, Riyadh
King Fahd International Airport, Dammam
Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz International Airport, Medina
Regional Airports, Saudi Arabia
Yanbu Airport, Yanbu
Prince Naif Bin Abdulaziz Airport, Al-Qassim
Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Airport, Tabuk
Abha Airport, Abha
Al-Ahsa Airport, Al-Ahsa
Taif Airport, Taif
Hail Airport, Hail
Al-Jouf Airport, Al-Jouf
Nejran Airport, Nejran
King Abdullah Airport, Jizan

In addition, Saudi Arabia are 15 domestic airports and 9 Aramco airports.

Saudi airports are constantly developed for improved services and increased capacity. For instance, King Abdulaziz International Airport now has the capacity to handle aircrafts of the size of the Airbus A380. The modernization masterplan for this airport aims at increasing its capacity to host 70 to 80 million passengers by 2035.

In addition, King Abdulaziz International Airport hosts the headquarters of the national Saudi airline carrier Saudi Arabia Airlines (Saudia). Established in 1946, Saudia is the second largest air carrier in the Middle East and transports over 18 million passengers every year to 90 destinations worldwide.

- **Maritime Transportation.** Saudi Arabia is bordered by maritime lanes: the Red Sea to the West, connecting the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal; and the Arab Gulf to the East, considered as a continuation of the Indian Ocean and used mainly for oil and gas exports.

The Saudi network of maritime ports is considered as the largest in the Middle East. Saudi ports comprise 183 docks with a total capacity of 252 million tons.

Investments in Saudi maritime ports include the extension of the Jeddah Islamic Port for an increased yearly handling capacity of up to 13 million containers by 2020. Investments also include the development of the infrastructure of the Ras Al-Khair Port, situated 134 km east of Jubail, with a total surface of 23 km², and an overall investment of up to 700 million US dollars per year.

VIII. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



The vast territory of Saudi Arabia, with its diverse natural landscape and resources, offers investors wide options and opportunities for the selection of sites which support domestic industry. The Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu (RCJY) of Saudi Arabia is responsible for the management and development of many industrial sites which contribute to job creation and generate substantial revenue for the country. For instance, RCJY created around 107,000 job opportunities in Jubail and Yanbu, as a result of private and public investments worth 144 billion US dollars.

In addition, the Saudi Industrial Property Authority (MODON) is responsible for the management and development of a total surface of 114 km² in over 32 industrial cities. In turn, MODON-accredited and authorized innovative companies are developing five additional private industrial cities, namely, the Obaikan Private Industrial City, the Water & Energy private Industrial City, the Al-Fanar Private Industrial City, Al-Ajaimi private Industrial City and Industrial Gate Private Industrial City.

IX. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)



The development of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector in Saudi Arabia is keeping up at a high and uninterrupted pace. Facilities and services are expanding in order to respond to increasingly high market demands. The economic ICT contribution to the 2013 GDP represented 2.78%, ICT spending topped 102 billion Saudi Riyal (SR) in

2013 compared to 36 billion SR back in 2005, with an average yearly growth of approximately 14%. Spending on IT alone represented 36% of the total expenditure, mainly on IT equipment and services.

Some of the major ICT developments in Saudi Arabia are the following:

- **Landline.** The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) is the supervisory authority of all aspects of modern communications in the Kingdom. The Saudi Telecom Company (STC), on the other hand, is one of the largest telecom operators in the world. Partly privatized, STC is the main telecom provider in Saudi Arabia. Landline services in the country are modern, reliable and efficient, using wide-range microwave radio frequency systems, coaxial cables as well as optic fiber technology. Compared to 2.9 million landlines back in 2000, Saudi Arabia's fixed-line network reached 4.7 million landlines by end 2013, using seven terrestrial stations linked to the Intelsat system.
- **Mobile.** Cell phones are very widely used in Saudi Arabia. Mobile communications use the GSM standard. By end 2013, mobile services reached around 51 million subscribers, compared to 5 million back in 2002, with a penetration rate nearing 170%. Mobile data usage soared to a billion GB, with a daily average of 2,8 TB. In addition, mobile broadband attracted 14,27 million subscribers in the country, representing 47,6% of the population.

Five mobile service providers operate in Saudi Arabia: Saudi Telecom Company (STC), mobily Mobile KSA, Zain Mobile KSA, Virgin Mobile KSA and Lebara Mobile KSA. Both Virgin and Lebara are MVNO operators, hosted respectively by STC and mobily. A sixth mobile operator is expected to be granted a license as a third MVNO in Saudi Arabia.

- **Internet.** The Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) has a supervisory role over all operations related to the internet in Saudi Arabia. Under the National Home PC Initiative, CITC also provides assistance for Saudi families wishing to acquire PC equipment and internet connections.

Internet use in Saudi Arabia is growing at a high pace. More internet broad-band connections are provided regularly in order to satisfy increasing demand, including through DSL and other fast connections reaching 200 Mbit. Internet users increased to 16,5 million, with a penetration rate exceeding 55%. Currently, the maximum internet speed available is 200 Mbit/s, but SCT is planning to deploy faster connections up to 500 Mbit/s and 1 Tbit/s. According to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) 2015 broadband speed figures, Saudi Arabia is 36th internationally and second in the Arab region in terms of internet speed connections.

- **Satellite.** The Satellite Technology Center (ST) of the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) of Saudi Arabia is responsible for development of satellite systems and applications in the country. To date, 13 satellites were designed, built and launched by the Center. In addition, other satellite communication devices are also designed and built by the Center, including terrestrial control stations. Currently, the Center is working on the development and production of next generation satellites, being at the forefront of global trends towards using small-size low-orbit satellites for communications and remote sensing purposes. These new models provide wider field coverage at a lower cost, compared to traditional fixed satellites.

X. BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES



The Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA), is the Saudi central bank and the supervisory authority of commercial banks in the country. The financial system of Saudi Arabia is governed by the Banking Control Law. In Saudi Arabia, there are 12 commercial and 13 international banks.

In 1990, the Saudi Payment Network (SPAN) was established. It is a national payment network established under the authority of SAMA. In Saudi Arabia, SPAN is the only electronic payment network which connects all automated teller machines (ATMs) and point-of-sale (POS) terminals throughout the country to a central payment switch that in turn re-routes the financial transactions between a merchant's bank and the card issuer bank (Visa, Amex or MasterCard).

SPAN provides fee-free end-consumer services irrespective of the ATM, POS terminal or card-issuing bank used by the customer. In 2014, there were more than 14,500 ATMs and 138,000 POS terminals connected to SPAN. More than 990 million financial transactions were routed through SPAN, with a total value of more than SAR 533 billion (142,2 billion USD).

SAMA also established the SADAD System to serve as the national electronic billing and payment (EBPP) service provider for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. SADAD's core mandate is to facilitate and streamline the bill payments of end consumers through the Kingdom's Banks.

The SADAD system is associated with many participants to ensure service quality. Associated participants include all government authorities and agencies, major public universities, ICT companies and public service providers. The system also provides electronic payment services for financial agencies, insurance companies and transport services. The SADAD is also ISO 27001 certified (Information security management systems).

XI. MACRO AND MICRO ECONOMIC CONTEXT



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has an oil-based economy, with a strong government supervision of core economic activities. Saudi Arabia possesses 22% of proven oil reserves in the world. It is the largest oil exporting country and plays a leading role in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Development Plan: Vision 2030 & National Transformation Program 2020

- **Vision 2030.** The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia adopted the Vision 2030 as a methodology and roadmap for economic and developmental action. In its aim to grant the Kingdom a leading position in all fields, Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 sought to identify the general directions, policies, goals, and objectives for the Kingdom.

Accordingly, some ministries, institutions, and government entities underwent a restructuring process to align them to the requirements of this phase. This would enable them to perform their tasks, and expand their competencies. Ultimately, this will enhance the level and quality of services provided to beneficiaries; and achieve a prosperous future and sustainable development.

In order to build the institutional capacity and capabilities needed to achieve the ambitious goals of "Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030", the National Transformation Program 2020 was launched across 24 government bodies operating in the economic and development sectors in its first year. It is notable that the program's strategic objectives are linked to interim targets for the year 2020. Furthermore, the first phase of initiative implementation will be launched in 2016 and will be followed every year by phases involving more public bodies.

- **National Transformation Program 2020.** Realizing and consolidating its quantum leap into the knowledge economy is one of the major objectives sought by the government of Saudi Arabia through its National Transformation Program 2020. This will include developing and modernizing laws and regulations on intellectual property right (IPR) protection for organizations and individuals, providing a conducive environment for investment and promoting the creation of innovation-based industries. This, in turn, will facilitate the transfer of technology to Saudi Arabia while ensuring IPR protection.

Under the National Transformation Program 2020, the Saudi Intellectual Property Commission will be established to strengthen the role of Saudi Arabia in IPR protection and modernize IP-related legislation. The Commission will also enable users to register and maintain their IP rights and offer them prosecution measures against right infringement. The Commission will also have an awareness role to

promote and encourage creativity and innovation through quality IP programs, exhibitions and fora in various IP fields. Cooperation will also be strengthened with IP stakeholders and users, including the General Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), the Social Development Bank (SDB), the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA), universities and scientific research centers, as well as members of the public at large.

On the international level, owing to the increasingly prominent role of Saudi Arabia in the global economy and the resulting trade relations between governments on one hand, and on the hand between commercial partnerships between Saudi and foreign companies abroad, Saudi Arabia is keen on protecting its rights (while committed to safeguard others' rights) by playing an active role in relevant international treaties, in particular treaties and agreements under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Economic Strength

Saudi Arabia plays a pivotal role in world economy; Saudi economy (GDP amounts to USD 649 billion) ranks among those at the top of world scale. GDP grows on a yearly basis by 3.59 percent. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia is Member of G20, a group that consists of industrialized economies with rapid growth. Due to its Islamic role, economic wealth, impact on oil prices and supplies, and presence in the media with a vast number of satellite TV channels and printed news, Saudi Arabia is considered as a political and economic influential world power.

Saudi Arabia is also a main producer of industrial products in the Middle-East and North Africa and, in this respect, ranks 14 worldwide. Similarly, the tertiary sector is blooming, particularly as far as tourism, education and retail sale activities are concerned.



Saudi Arabia enjoys a stable economy with a low inflation rate. In 2007, Saudi Arabia ranked first in macro-economy among 121 countries, according to Milken Institute.

In addition, Saudi Arabia is a strong and stable country, with continuously high surplus; the banking system is solid and Saudi Riyal (local currency) stable. The Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (Central Bank) reserves amount to USD 416 billion, thus ranking as fifth worldwide. As such, Saudi Arabia has a solid financial health.

Investment Opportunities



Saudi Arabia is a fast-growing, business-friendly, pro-trade and highly popular location for foreign investors. As of 2015, it has attracted USD 224 billion of foreign investment.

Foreign companies enjoy all the benefits, incentives, guarantees and support offered to Saudi-owned companies, including:

1. Establishment of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) that issues investment licenses to foreign investors and coordinates with other pertinent government agencies.
2. largest market in the Middle East and North Africa.
3. Young, fast-growing population.
4. No individual income tax nor property tax.
5. No restrictions on capital remittance.
6. Possibility of carrying over losses in the balance sheet statement for unlimited time.
7. Possibility to benefit from the local and international specialized funding institutions, including:
 - Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), finances projects for economic and social development in Arab countries.
 - Arab Monetary Fund, which seeks to enhance development of Arab financial markets and intra-regional trade of member states, and provides advice to member states on resource investment.
 - Arab Trade Financing Program, grants medium to long term loans to individuals and commercial establishments, in support of trade exchange and financial transactions of the private sector.
 - Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, provides insurance coverage for investments and credits on exports in Arab countries against commercial and non-commercial risks.

- Islamic Development Bank, contributes to capital investment projects, grants loans for production projects and enterprises, and accepts deposits for the mobilization of financial resources, in line with provisions of Islamic Sharia.
8. There are a number of other financial incentives that support national and foreign investments in Saudi Arabia, including
 - Human Resources Development Fund, supports activities related to development, training and employment of the Saudi labor force.
 - Preferential quota of natural gas.
 - Competitive prices for water, electricity and land services for commercial and industrial projects.
 - Financial grants for research and development in King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), and King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology (KACST).
 9. Possibility for full foreign ownership of companies, plant, equipment, projects and property, excluding Makkah and Madinah.
 10. Full repatriation of capital, profit and dividends allowed, subject to 5% tax.
 11. Investment capitals made easily available by private or public investors and funds.
 12. More than 32 industrial or economic zones, and royal lands in Jubail and Yanbu.
 13. No duty tax within all 17 countries of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area.
 14. Few restrictions on currency conversion, exchanges and bank transfers.
 15. Twenty percent tax on foreign corporate profits, with tax payment postponed in case of losses.
 16. No restrictions on sponsoring foreign workers.
 17. Customs duties exemption on imported machinery, equipment, raw material and spare parts intended for industrial use, if unavailable locally.
 18. Duty drawback, a customs refund for raw material imports to be locally processed, and for material to be re-exported as final products.

Innovation Indicators

In 2016, Saudi Arabia ranked 49th globally, second among Arab countries and fourth in the Islamic world, just after Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey. It surpassed some well-ranked countries such as Brazil and India, improving gradually its rank from 54th in 2011 to 38th in 2014. However, it stepped back to 43rd position last year. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia ranked 5th in the Middle East and North Africa.

According to the International IP Index, "The Roots of Innovation 2017", Saudi Arabia achieved the top rank in the Arab world and ranked 21st globally. The said index is based on

six pillars: patents, trademarks, copyright, trade secrets, access to markets and ratification of international treaties.

XII. ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEIGHT

Saudi Arabia enjoys a global economic and political weight. It is among the leading and most important members of most international organizations, including:

1. G20.
2. United Nations.
3. League of Arab States.
4. Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) (host country). The GCC has a Regional Patent Office serving its six Member States.
5. Non-Aligned Movement.
6. Muslim World League (host country).
7. Organization of Islamic Cooperation (host country).
8. International Monetary Fund.
9. World Intellectual Property Organization.
10. World Trade Organization.
11. Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
12. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
13. World Customs Organization.
14. International Maritime Organization.
15. World Tourism Organization.
16. International Atomic Energy Agency.
17. World Health Organization.

PART II

SAUDI ARABIA AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP)

I. NATIONAL ROLE OF SAUDI ARABIA IN PROMOTING IPR PROTECTION



Saudi Arabia, first Arab country in IP protection

Makkah

Saudi Arabia achieved top ranking in the Arab world in 2017 and ranked 21st globally, according to the International IP index, "The Roots of Innovation 2017", issued by the Center for Intellectual Property Rights Protection, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

In February of this year, U.S. Chamber launched its fifth edition of the report, which looks at 45 State economies, based on 4 categories: very high income, high income, middle Income and low income.

Saudi Arabia-specific strengths

- Strong patent environment enabling patent filing online
- Patent filing for biopharmaceuticals through the link system under 2013 mechanism.
- Customs may confiscate suspected trademark counterfeiting goods.

Ranking of some Arab States

01	Saudi Arabia	16	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arab ranking ● Marks ● Global ranking
02	UAE	15.2	24	
03	Egypt	9.4	41	
04	Algeria	9.3	42	

Saudi Arabia strives towards increasing public awareness about IP and stimulating innovation and creation. This is done by undertaking diverse activities and programs, including:

1. Seminars, meetings and workshops to increase awareness of and building respect for IP.
2. Global Innovation Index (GII) monitoring to raise the level of innovation in Saudi Arabia through:

- Establishing a National Working Group to monitor GII with a view to raise the level of innovation in Saudi Arabia hence achieve the National Transformation Program 2020 according to Vision 2030.
 - Coordinating with WIPO on indicators related to Saudi Arabia.
3. Amending and developing systems, policies and legislation in support of innovation and creativity in Saudi Arabia, in line with latest development in the field of IP.
 4. Creation of the Public Body for SMEs, a specialized agency to foster innovation development environment.
 5. A Saudi IP Body to be soon created in order to integrate all IP fields under the same umbrella.
 6. Launch of the *Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques* award for inventions and talents contributing to the development of science, technology and innovation in Saudi Arabia, and award-related products in support of the transition to a knowledge-based society; and encourage and honor inventors and outstanding talents in the fields of science, technology and intellectual production; and promote creativity and innovation and motivate talents and capacities.
 7. Launch, in 2017, of the Badir Program for Technology Incubators, a comprehensive national program aimed at accelerating the growth of start-ups in Saudi Arabia.
 8. Launch of a program, Support Innovative, Scientific and Technological Ideas, which provides research grants for practical innovative ideas that solve problems relating to development and production; the Program provides financial support for the development innovations.
 9. Launch of Careers Program, designed to provide financial support for young entrepreneurs; the Program comprises, among other projects, Invention Process Project, which aims at lending money to young inventors wishing to create their own start-ups or SMEs, and Localize Communications Project, which provides financial loans to support micro-enterprises in the trade and maintenance of telecommunication equipment and related accessories, in addition to four other projects designed to support individual entrepreneurship and small enterprise.

II. TREATIES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ADMINISTERED BY WIPO

Saudi Arabia has signed WIPO Convention in 1982 and became an active Member State, participating to various events and substantive meetings, including the Assemblies attended by high officials.

IP International Treaties

As WIPO Member State, Saudi Arabia is bound by several treaties administered by WIPO or WTO:

1. Paris Convention, 2004;
2. Berne Convention, 2004;
3. Patent Law Treaty (PLT), 2013; and
4. TRIPS Agreement, 2005.

Saudi Arabia is also a WTO member.

National Legislation

In application of WIPO-administered treaties by which Saudi Arabia is bound, a number of national acts for the protection of national and foreign rights, namely

- Main IP Legislation
 1. Law of Patents, Layout-Designs of Integrated Circuits, Plant Varieties, and Industrial Designs;
 2. Copyright Law;
 3. Law on Trademarks;
 4. Commercial Names Law;
 5. Geographical Indication Act (pending)
- IP-Related Legislation
 1. Basic Law of Governance;
 2. Council of Ministers Statute;
 3. Shura Council Law;
 4. Company Law;
 5. Law of Arbitration;
 6. Penal Law on Dissemination and Disclosure of Classified Information and Documents;
 7. Anti-Commercial Fraud Law;
 8. Law of Judiciary;
 9. Law of the Board of Grievances;
 10. Anti-Cyber-crime Law;
 11. Electronic Transactions Protection Law;
 12. Unified Law for Anti-Dumping and Compensatory and Preventive Measures for Countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf;
 13. Law of Sale by Installment;
 14. Competition Law;
 15. Anti-Concealment Law;
 16. Law on Pharmaceutical Installations and Products;
 17. Law of Commercial Data;
 18. Law on Trade in Agricultural Fertilizers;
 19. Law of Criminal Procedure;
 20. Law of Press Establishments;
 21. Telecom Act;
 22. Law of Printed Materials and Publication;

23. The Law of Procedure Before Shari'ah Courts;
24. Commercial Register Law
25. Deposit Law
26. Law of Regions
27. Law of King Fahd National Library
28. Procedural Rules before the Board of Grievances
29. Law of the Flag of Saudi Arabia of Saudi Arabia
30. Law of Commercial Courts
31. Commercial Agencies Law

III. IP RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT

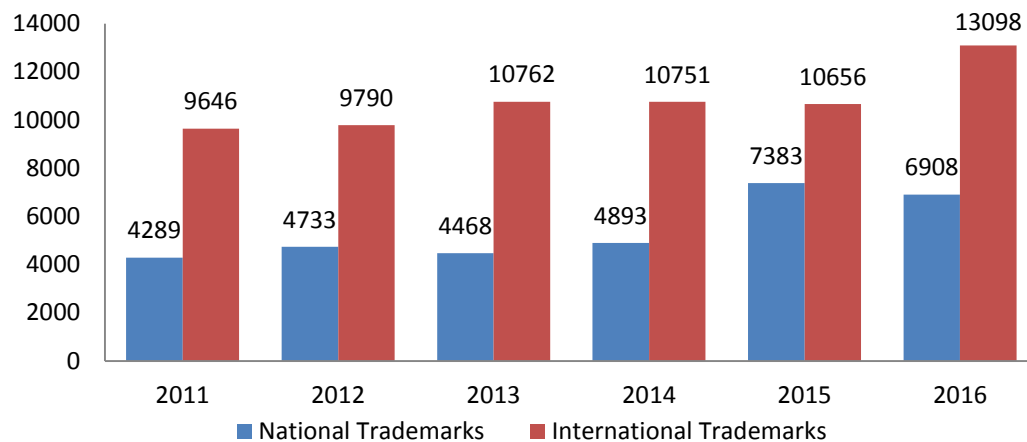
Saudi Arabia has made significant progress in safeguarding IP rights: a Permanent Committee of Intellectual Property Rights was created, consisting of a number of government agencies and reporting to the Ministry of Commerce and Investment. Furthermore, a number of departments were created for the implementation of IP legislation and for the control, investigation and enforcement of IP rights. Judiciary staff were trained on dispute settlements.

Ministry of Commerce and Investment

The Ministry is the backbone for the protection of IP rights; as such, it oversees the above-mentioned Permanent Committee and includes in its organizational structure the General Administration of Trademarks (GAT) which is responsible for the implementation of the Law on Trademarks and administering of processes such as, reception, examination as to form and substance and registration of trademark and commercial name applications. Furthermore

- GAT provides e-services for registration and renewal;
 - Organizes workshops and awareness-building campaigns;
 - GAT staff consist of 21 officers, one holding a master's degree, eight bachelor degrees and 12 high school or less.
- **GAT Main Activities and Initiatives in 2016**
 - New e-service for trademark renewal;
 - Implementation of the GCC Trademark Act;
 - Increase in administrative staff.
 - **GAT Initiatives in 2017**
 - Full automation of GAT services;
 - New services for customers, namely registration of representatives and grievance and appeal service.

- **GAT Trademark National and International Registration Statistics**



Ministry of Culture and Information

The Ministry is responsible for a major branch of intellectual property and oversees the General Administration of Copyright (GAC) which is charged with the task of implementing the Copyright Law. For that purpose, the following specialized Administrations were created:

1. Administration for the Protection of Literary Works;
 2. Administration for the Protection of Artistic Works;
 3. Administration for the Protection of Computer Works;
 4. Administration for Censorship and Inspection;
 5. Administration for International Organizations, Public Relations and Training.
- Ever since Saudi Arabia joined WTO, GAC has been working on the implementation of obligations provided for by the Copyright Law, the Berne Convention and TRIPS Agreement. Government agencies are encouraged to use only original works, particularly computer programs.
 - Inspection campaigns were launched in all commercial establishments that use computer programs for their activities, to verify whether the original computer programs were used; sanctions were applied in case of violations and injunctions have been issued requiring that original programs be used.
 - GAC participates in security campaigns for prosecuting offenders. A large number of piracy dens were identified throughout Saudi Arabia. Offences included making illegal copies of intellectual works of all sorts, such as computer programs, films, audio works, and illegal code decryption of satellite TV channels.
 - GAC makes sure to be all the time present in markets; field inspectors control commercial and information activities for irregularities.

- **GAC Key achievements**

- Examination pendency of infringements reduced and two committees established in Riyadh and Jeddah to bring down the pendency rate to two months from the date of control.
- Both committees instructed to set a yearly-progressive fine since IP awareness has now become an integral part of business practices.
- Deterring sanctions initiated by referring to the Board of Grievances (BoG) cases where fines would exceed SAR 100,000 or incur imprisonment unless overturned by BoG.
- Steps taken to ensure stores selling satellite equipment and channel decryption cards are properly regulated. Within the next few months, it is expected to close down all such stores which are either not accredited by the Ministry of Culture and Information (MCI) or infringing relevant laws and regulations.
- Regular information on infringements and sanctions disseminated and visual contents on the disposal of illegally reproduced or counterfeited works published.

- **GAC Initiatives in 2016/17**

- Space dedicated to the GAC on the MCI website enabling right holders to file, monitor progress and result of their complaints. The website is currently undergoing changes to meet GAC needs and allow for further interaction with right holders.
- Human resources reinforced to double field inspections of businesses reported by right holders for illegal exploitation of IP works.
- Work papers presented in national seminars and workshops.

- **GAC Statistics for 2015/16**

#	Type	Number	Notes
1	Decisions taken	186	
2	Fines imposed in accordance with public right of action	2,395,800	
3	Fines imposed in accordance with private right of action	17,502,885	
4	Number of articles seized	89,832	63 publications, 12 computers, 89,143 CDs, 243 tapes, 263 flash memories and 108 HDDs
5	Closure days imposed	502	
6	Number of defamation sanctions	6	
7	Number of imprisonment sanctions	3	70 days per sanction in average
8	Warnings issued	1	
9	Number of complaints and field inspections	662	278 inspections and 384 complaints

- **Cases reviewed by the Copyright Violations Committee (CVC) in 2016, by type and number**

Type	Decisions	Fines	Damages	Closures	Seizures
Audio	31	508,200	47,000	208	4,221
Films	11	207,150	105,400	105	3,864
Literary works	31	330,250	135,140	0	3,055
Images	11	240,000	55,000	0	0
Computer games	35	415,100	42,050	132	304,256
Legal entities	55	404,000	142,000	7	2,209
Service centers	6	130,100	60,000	50	2,065
TV channels	3	115,000	16,899,295	0	0
Internet blocking	0	0	0	0	0
Media violation	3	46,000	17,000	0	0
Total	186	2,395,800	17,502,885	502	319,670

- **Number of sanctions in 2016, by type**

Type	Total
Cases reviewed	186
Defamation cases	6
Imprisonment cases	3 (average of 70 days per case)
Warnings issued	1
Closures imposed	22 (502 days in average)

- **Cooperation between GAC and WIPO in 2017**

GAC seeks cooperation with WIPO in organizing several courses and workshops for the public as well as tailor-made expert training for GAC staff members.

KING ABDULAZIZ CITY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (KACST)

King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) is an innovation cornerstone of Saudi Arabia, comprising the Saudi Patent Office (SPO) whose main features include:

1. Responsibility for the implementation of the Law on Inventions, Layout Designs of Integrated Circuits, Plant Varieties and Industrial Designs.
2. Responsibility for receiving, examining and granting patents for inventions and plant varieties, and certificates for layout designs of integrated circuits and industrial designs in Saudi Arabia.
3. Fully operating under e-procedures.
4. Delivery of general and specialized courses and workshops in areas of expertise.
5. Facilitating partnerships between universities and TISCs to foster innovation and technology transfer.
6. Composed of 136 staff members, 122 men and 14 women, holding the following degrees: PHD (1); Master's degree (27); Master's degree in intellectual property (3); Bachelor (68); diploma or below (37).
7. 157 employees benefitted from 11 distance learning courses during 2015/16 delivered by WIPO Academy.
8. Eight participants enrolled in summer school programs.

- **SPO key achievements and initiatives**

1. Twitter @Kacst_SPO;
2. E-filing and management system;
3. Smart devices application;
4. Handbook for patents and industrial designs examination;
5. Translation of Locarno classification;
6. Guides on administrative procedures;
7. Development of SPO visibility (logo and website); and
8. ISO 9001:2008 certification obtained

- **Ongoing Initiatives**

1. Proposing licensing regulations for patent agents and lawyers in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Saudi Bar Association (in line with relevant legislation and regulations).
2. Delivering training programs on IP management for SMEs.
3. Developing IP policies for research institutions.
4. Enhancing access to patent information to foster innovation and creativity.
5. Designing IP training for trainers programs.

6. Establishing a platform for exchanging examination reports with patent offices.
7. Drafting up-to-date manuals on patent and industrial design examination.
8. Developing a translation engine (Arabic-English) for patents.

- **Main Cooperation Activities Between SPO and WIPO in 2017/18**

1. Joint master's programs with WIPO Academy, universities and national IP offices.
2. Startup academies project.
3. Preparation of teaching materials on IP.
4. Developing patent agents' licenses.
5. WIPO-WEF Inventor Assistance Program
6. WIPO GREEN
7. WIPO Re:Search

- **Events jointly attended/organized by KACST and WIPO in 2016**

#	Title
1	High-Level Conference on Intellectual Property for Countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt (Beijing)
2	World IP Day Symposium – Intellectual Property: Towards a Better Economy, 2016 (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Thuwal)
3	Advanced workshop on PCT and E-PCT system (Riyadh)
4	National seminar on Public health, Innovation and Business (Riyadh)
5	“Global Innovation Index and the National Role” workshop (Riyadh)

- **Number of Applications Received by SPO as of 2016**

Patents	
Patent	Total
Filings	25,581
Grants	5,181
Processed applications	20,934
Processing rate	82%

Industrial designs	
Industrial design	Total
Filings	6,932
Grants	4,868
Processed	6,753
Processing rate	97%

- **Applications in 2016**

	Saudis	Non-Saudis	Total
Patent applications	1,001	2,265	3,266
Patent grants	111	484	595
Industrial designs applications	370	567	937
Industrial designs grants	326	472	798

- **PCT applications from beginning of 2014 to 25/01/2017**

	Total
Number of international patents filed as RO	42
Number of national phase entries	4,053

- **Cooperation Agreements Between SPO and Other Offices**

- (i) MoU on cooperation between SPO (KACST) and the European Patent Office (EPO) - in the final stages to conclusion;
- (ii) Cooperation program between the *Office Marocain de la Propriété Industrielle et Commerciale* (OMPIC) and SPO (KACST); and
- (iii) MoU between the State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) and SPO (KACST) in Saudi Arabia of Saudi Arabia.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The Department of Customs (DoC) is the representative body of the Ministry of Finance mandated to safeguard intellectual property rights (IPRs) by preventing fake or counterfeited goods from entering Saudi Arabia. To that end, DoC has reinforced its IP operations with 30 customs agents, dispatching about 3 agents to each entry point to Saudi Arabia. Those agents have been trained on fraud, counterfeiting and IPRs protection.

- **DoC Activities and Initiatives**

1. Delivered general and specialized workshops in its areas of expertise, benefitting 468 agents;
2. Held a biennial conference on IPRs which brought together relevant stakeholders.
3. Organized a biennial high-level forum on IPRs gathering relevant experts from countries in the region.
4. Laureate of a World Customs Organization (WCO) award for excellence in IPRs protection.

- **Seizures in 2015**

	Total
Number of seizure reports	630
Total seized goods (by article)	3,191,533
Value of seized goods (in SAR)	24,038,087

BOARD OF GRIEVANCES (BOG)

The Board of Grievances (BoG) is a judiciary body mandated to review individuals' grievances against administrative decisions and adjudicate IP-related commercial and penal disputes. However, in 2016, such penal competence was transferred to the penal courts of public judiciary; with the BoG remaining competent for commercial disputes until relevant courts are established within the public judiciary. In addition, the BoG has launched judicial blogs to regroup all IP-related commercial and penal judicial precedents as well as administrative rulings where actions were brought against a public body subsequent to a refusal or cancellation of registration amongst other things.

Finally, the BoG strives to strengthen its judiciary capacities in enforcing various IP legislation, guided by Saudi Arabia's National Transformation Program by 2020 by establishing the Saudi Intellectual Property Authority.

Judicial blogs are available at

<http://www.bog.gov.sa/ScientificContent/JudicialBlogs/Pages/default.aspx>

PART III

RATIONALE FOR HOSTING A WIPO EXTERNAL OFFICE
IN SAUDI ARABIA

RATIONALE FOR HOSTING A WIPO EXTERNAL OFFICE IN SAUDI ARABIA

I

Saudi Arabia has substantially distinguished itself in the world of intellectual property rights by, *inter alia*:

- (i) Ranking 49 worldwide on the Global Innovation Index (GII) in 2016 and second among Arab countries.
- (ii) Ranking first among Arab countries on the “Roots of innovation” index.
- (iii) Not being inscribed on any lists or subject to any international restrictions due to non-respect of IPRs such as the USTR special 301 Watch Lists.

II

Saudi Arabia hosts a number of important Gulf and Islamic organizations, namely the Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the GCC Patent Office (GCCPO). Opening an external office in Saudi Arabia would reinforce and facilitate cooperation and communication with these organizations.

III

Saudi Arabia is a member of G20; an external office would contribute to further cooperation with WIPO by raising and discussing IP-related issues such as the transition to knowledge-based economies or transfer of technology on both international and regional levels through the G20 and Arab group respectively.

IV

Saudi Arabia is currently exploring a number of strategies for moving towards a knowledge-based economy conducive to development. In that spirit, a number of universities was established during the last few years in all governorates as well as a number of economic and industrial cities and tech hubs. Such efforts encouraged universities and large companies such as Aramco and SABIC to create units specialized in intellectual property, fostering and protecting innovation and creativity. Opening an external office in Saudi Arabia would build on these efforts and reinforce direct cooperation and coordination between WIPO and such institutions.

In addition, Saudi Arabia has developed a national development strategy (Saudi Vision 2030) as a turning point in its efforts to make the country one of the top non-oil economic powers in the world. A WIPO external office would contribute to achieving that vision by:

- Strengthening capacities of SMEs;
- Ensuring a conducive learning environment for innovation and creativity;
- Establishing valuable tech startups;
- Promoting foreign investment; and
- Reinforcing IP-relevance and leveraging mechanisms.

V

Saudi Arabia is currently exploring a number of strategies for moving towards a knowledge-based economy conducive to development. In that spirit, a number of universities was established during the last few years in all governorates as well as a number of economic and industrial cities and tech hubs. This new economy and knowledge-based dynamic drove universities and large companies such as Aramco and SABIC to set units in specialized intellectual property, fostering and protecting innovation and creativity. Opening an external office would build on these efforts and reinforce direct cooperation and coordination between WIPO and such institutions.

VI

Saudi Arabia is not inscribed on any international lists or subject to any restrictions due to non-respect of intellectual property rights. For instance, Saudi Arabia of Saudi Arabia is not on the USTR 301 Watch list. Furthermore, it has ranked second for two successive years in cross-border seizures of fake and counterfeited goods according to the World Customs Organization (WCO).

VII

Saudi Arabia has achieved substantial progress on consolidating intellectual property topics under a unified financially and administratively-independent body expected to be followed by a unified strategy prepared in cooperation with WIPO.

[Annex VIII follows]

PROPOSAL AND AIDE MEMOIRE ON HOSTING AN EXTERNAL OFFICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Country background

1. The Republic of Turkey has a population of around 78 million with a total surface of 780,580 sq. km spanning on two continents—Europe and Southwestern Asia, between the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, and having borders with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Bulgaria, Greece, Syria, Iraq and Iran.

2. Turkey has a young population (average age of 28 years - 27% younger than 15, 67% between 15 and 64 years, and less than 6% older than 64 years), over 68% of the population lives in cities.

Turkey was one of the first countries to become a member of the Council of Europe in 1949, and was also a founding member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1961 and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 1973. Turkey signed a Customs Union agreement with the EU in 1995 and was officially recognized as a candidate for full membership on 12 December 1999, at the Helsinki Summit of the European Council. Turkey's application to accede to the European Union was made on 14 April 1987 and negotiations started on 3 October 2005.

3. Turkey is a member of many international organizations, including WIPO, WTO and EPO, OECD, all UN specialized agencies.

4. Turkey is a member of the EPO since November 1, 2000. The Turkish Patent Institute is one of the most active members of the EPO.

Based on statistics published by WIPO, Turkey is among top countries in terms of IP applications and activities. Turkey ranked 6th and 7th in terms of Designs and Marks respectively regarding the IP filling activity by origin in 2014.

Economy Overview

5. Turkey's economy is increasingly driven by its industry and service sectors, although its traditional agriculture sector still accounts for about 30% of employment. An aggressive privatization program has reduced state involvement in basic industry, banking, transport, and communication, and an emerging cadre of middle-class entrepreneurs is adding dynamism to the economy. Turkey's traditional textiles and clothing sectors still account for one-third of industrial employment, despite stiff competition in international markets that resulted from the end of the global quota system. Other sectors, notably the automotive, construction, and electronics industries, are rising in importance and have surpassed textiles within Turkey's export mix. Oil began to flow through the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipe line in May 2006, marking a major milestone that will bring up to 1 million barrels per day from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean market. Several gas pipelines also are being planned to help move Central Asian gas to Europe via Turkey, which will help address Turkey's dependence on energy imports over the long term.

6. Turkey's economic performance over the last decade resulted in an average annual real GDP growth rate of 4.7%. In addition, R&D expenditure in Turkey went up by 18.8% in 2014 to reach USD 6.1 billion, and it is expected to account for 3% of the country's GDP by 2023. In relation to the economic performance and policies established to foster innovation and R&D activities, IP system in Turkey has shown a significant development. According to

the IP indicators published by WIPO, resident patent applications have grown around 20 times in the last 15 years, and Turkey improved its ranking from 45th to 15th in this period.

7. Turkey is also a member of G20. Turkey held presidency of G20 in 2015.

Current Situation of the IP system and IP Awareness in Turkey

8. In 2008 the Turkish Government announced an action plan that IPR Protection is one of the main concerns for the economic development of Turkey. That declaration triggered a new development of the IPR system.

9. National policy documents such as the *Specialized Commission Reports* and the 7th, 8th and 9th Five Year Development Plans comprise since 1995 statements concerning the need for setting-up training and education in IP programs not only in the university law faculties, but also in other related departments such as economics, management, engineering, arts and social sciences.

10. These policy documents emphasize mainly the need for more professional and academic staff in the field of IP, as well as the relatively low level of public awareness for IP matters and propose to be taken appropriate measures.

11. There are several coordination and supervisory bodies of the Government that deal in one or another way with intellectual property rights and with IP education.

12. The Coordination Board for Improvement of the Investment Environment has been continuously concerned with securing the appropriate climate for both domestic & international investors. This Coordination Board has been dealing with IPR related issues directly, as well as in its related technical IP committee. With the involvement of the private sector, NGOs and the most influential businessmen and tradesmen in Turkey, specific actions with timetables, performance indicators and responsible government bodies' action plans have been prepared. These action plans have been evaluated by the Steering Committee, which is composed also of NGOs and private sector representatives, before being sent to the Board of Ministers.

13. One of the Technical Committees of the Coordination Board for Improvement of the Investment Environment is the IP Committee. Each Technical Committee has its own action plan within the general statements and objectives of the Board. The 2010 Action Plan of the IP Committee provided for an action aimed at IP education in universities and proposed IP courses to be obligatory in the relevant departments.

14. In 2009 the Cabinet adopted a Ministerial Decision to establish the Turkish Design Council. A draft paper on Strategy was prepared and its discussion began in a Council meeting and will be finalized in the near future.

15. The Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights Coordination Board was established with a circular of the Prime Minister. Its objective is, *inter alia*, to coordinate the relevant governmental bodies in order to increase the effective enforcement and implementation of IPRs.

16. Undersecretaries of Ministry of Industry and Trade and Ministry of Culture and Tourism head the Council of the Board. The Council of the Board is composed of not only representatives of the government entities, but also of representatives of the private sector, including the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges, which is the highest body representing the private sector.

17. In 2015, a comprehensive Intellectual Property Strategy Paper and an Action Plan was adopted, which foresees four priority development areas concerning capacity increase, IP commercialization, awareness and legislative development. These objectives are to be met under 51 actions. Simultaneously, a more specific paper on Geographical Indications Strategy and Action Plan was adopted in 2015, foreseeing development of an effectively functioning registration system through increased capacity and legislative enhancement.

An External Office in Turkey Will Bring Lots of Benefits

18. Turkey has a constantly growing economy for the last decade. The average annual real GDP growth rate is 4.9% between 2002-2013. This has been one of the best figures attained in the world.

19. Turkey has well established institutions, government agencies and universities. It has more than 160 universities with at least one in each city. Many governmental and private research institutions have been operating in various cities of Turkey. The link between universities and the industry have been strengthened through various tools.

20. Being an EU candidate country and the process for becoming a full member has been a constant motivation to update and better its legislation, implementation thereof, including IP related ones.

21. In this general framework, the Turkish Patent Institute has an important role to play in undertaking work related to industrial property. In such a fast growing economy with increasing volume of trade, industrial property rights and their applications have had a huge impact on the competitiveness and innovation. Beyond proper application of the relevant laws in industrial property rights, the spread of knowledge among the relevant circles are critically important. In this regard, TPI has put its utmost effort in every possible way to enhance the IP knowledge domestically and internationally to the extent possible particularly with the countries in Central Asia, the Middle East and Balkans.

22. Turkey is a bridge between west and east. It is one of the most active countries in this region and beyond not only in terms of its trade volume, but also in terms of its cultural and social interactions with its neighbours. IP is no exception to that, not only with the EU countries, but also with Central Asian countries through the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and the members of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) as well as Balkan and Black Sea countries via Organization for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) with which it has close ties and relations. Both in ECO and the OIC, Turkey has brought forward IP related agenda items for the first time and has proposed project proposals related to IP to maintain and strengthen the cooperation between ECO and OIC Member States. For that, various conferences were held in Turkey, the first one in Turkey and other countries. Given its location, it has close contacts with the countries in Central Asia, Balkan and the Middle East also through its memberships of international organizations such as ECO, BSEC and OIC to which the countries from the region are also members.

23. It is strongly believed that establishment of an EO in Turkey would provide many benefits within its mandate and also complement WIPO's and TPI's efforts of firstly on the dissemination of the IP knowledge, raising awareness, respect for IP and further enhancement of innovation and creativity by promoting effective use of IP services.

24. The foreseen EO in Turkey will supplement the activities of the TPI, as well. The very first mandate of the EO will be to ensure the raising of knowledge on IP matters with all its aspects and delivery of programs in cooperation with the TPI. Currently TPI has been running programs mainly for the dissemination of knowledge such as regular training,

Hezarfen project, University valley project and Technology Transfer Platform. The EO's contributions would be adding value with its experience and international perspective to all already running programs and for the newly created ones.

25. Turkey is one of the frequent users of the Madrid, Hague and the PCT Systems and it is expected that regular trainings on these Global Systems sometimes with tailored approach adapted to the needs of the business community by the EO would further increase the use of Global IP systems in Turkey.

26. In this regard, it is believed that the foreseen EO in Turkey will have a regional dimension not only because of Turkey's location between Asia and Europe, but also for the close cultural and social ties with the countries in the region. Thus, it is always possible to organize regional workshops/seminars through the EO for the benefit of the countries in the region.

27. In addition to supporting and promoting WIPO's Global Intellectual Property Systems, delivering technical assistance and capacity building activities and awareness enhancing activities, it is envisaged that the IP related educational activities would be given more importance by the EO in Turkey. The level of educational activities and endeavours related to the IP subjects in Turkey, even though has been increasing in recent years, not in a level commensurate with desired level. The very same situation is true for the countries in the region, either. Thus, for example, the intensification of cooperation with the WIPO Academy in this regard would be immensely vital and would prove to be helpful in the very structuring phase of the EO in Turkey.

28. The main part of the work undertaken by the EO in Turkey would be complementary to the program delivered by the WIPO Academy in many respects and would not duplicate the already initiated programs/services such as WIPO Distance Learning Courses and launching a master program on IP Law at a selected university in Turkey. First and foremost, since it will be more capable of determining and identifying the specific needs and requisites having the advantage of being in the field where the actual needs arise, the EO would work like an interface mostly between the WIPO Academy and the beneficiaries would be served in a more efficient and effective way without any duplication with the WIPO's related programs. The EO, being in constant contact with the domestic actors such as universities, Technology Transfer Offices and other relevant educational institutions in Turkey, would possess deeper knowledge on the priorities and needs of the stakeholders. This would secure to be able to respond to the needs in a more comprehensive and effective manner without any duplication. Being in the field and working with the stakeholders directly would inevitably be more cost effective for many reasons. No doubt, it will be much more effective and cost efficient to reach the targets identified in the programs with their performance indicators in WIPO's Program and Budget if the priorities and needs are identified locally by the EO.

29. Turkey is one of the member state of WIPO which is underrepresented in terms of WIPO Staff. Turkey has pointed her inequitable geographical representation in many fora in WIPO. Having an External Office would well ameliorate geographical representation of Turkey within WIPO.

Conclusion

30. Turkey has been benefiting from the programs and assistance offered by WIPO. There has been no difficulty in establishing connection with the WIPO personnel. The activities carried out in cooperation with WIPO through the programs have resulted in success and satisfaction. However, there is always room for improvement of the programs designed and delivered by WIPO. The programs usually designed by the relevant divisions in WIPO such as Arab Bureau, some European Countries and Asian countries. When designing the

programs including tools for delivery such as workshops, training modules, and assistance delivery, the very essence needs of the countries could not be entirely addressed or estimated given the fact that many countries are the potential beneficiaries and a central approach to contain all of their priorities and needs of each different country prove to be difficult. In the current situation where there is only limited number of EOs for certain countries, this challenge could only be solved effectively with intense communication between WIPO personnel in the relevant division and by traveling to the field/country where the delivery of the program is projected. These challenges could be overcome in a cost efficient and effective way through an EO in the country where the programs to be delivered and implemented.

31. It is believed that the more clearly the mandate is defined, the better the integration with the WIPO and with the TPI will be. In a broader sense, the general field of activity of the EO will be education related to the IP. However, that does not necessarily mean that other WIPO related activities will not be pursued or implemented. Global IP Systems related activities will be carried out regularly, as well. Once the Member States and WIPO decide on the mandate of the EO in Turkey in consideration of the advantages it provides, the required human resources, financial resources, physical infrastructure and the location (either Ankara or Istanbul) where the EO can best fulfil its mandate would be jointly decided with the WIPO's services.

32. In line with the adopted "Guiding Principles regarding WIPO External Offices", the EO in Turkey would be an integral part of WIPO's results-based management and regulatory framework. Once the EO is established and operational, its performance and activities will be monitored and evaluated on the performance indicators and targets, and reported to the PBC which will, in turn, transmit recommendations to the General Assembly, as appropriate.

33. Turkey attaches great importance to host international organizations, international and multinational companies. Istanbul in particular occupies a unique hub for its geographical proximity and ease of travel to many regions. Turkey, therefore, aims to build under one UN principle, a UN Home that complies with the UN Standards in Istanbul. In this regard, UN FPA/EECARO, UN DPIIICPSD, UNDP/RCS, among others are already located in Istanbul. UN Women and UNICEF regional offices are also to be located in Istanbul. FAO sub-regional office is to be established in Ankara. Turkey's location as well as her logistic and financial support to the offices of international organisations based in Turkey has constituted an incentive for those institutions to prefer Turkey for their headquarters and/or regional bureaus. In this respect, it goes without saying that, if so decided, the WIPO External Office would also benefit from this support.

[Annex IX follows]



To the attention of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Proposal

Establishing a WIPO Office in the UAE

14 February 2017

The aim of this note is to propose the establishment of a new WIPO office in the UAE. Consistent with the WIPO Guiding Principles, the UAE WIPO office will have a strong development orientation, offering a unique intellectual property capacity building service to WIPO members in the Middle East and Asia. The UAE's strategic location, at the heart of the Asian, African and European continents, make it an ideal destination for WIPO members. The WIPO office will raise awareness about intellectual property rights and WIPO's services, strengthen the legislative and institutional environment for intellectual property, and build greater capacity to manage IPRs.

This proposal is divided into six sections:

- 1- Introduction
- 2- UAE's achievements in the area of innovation and intellectual property rights
- 3- The UAE motivation to host a WIPO office
- 4- Proposed mission and objectives of the UAE WIPO office
- 5- The UAE's contribution to the WIPO office
- 6- Summary and final considerations

1- Introduction

The United Arab Emirates is a recognised leader in innovation, located at the crossroads between Asia, Africa and Europe

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is strategically located at the crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe, on the border of the Arab Gulf and the Gulf of Oman (see figure 1).

Figure 1: The United Arab Emirates in the World



With a population of 9.3 million, the country is recognised worldwide for its innovation, creativity and open economy. The UAE was ranked 26th out of 190 countries in the 2017 Doing Business Report, 16th out of 138 countries in the 2016-17 Global Competitiveness Index and 41st in the Global Innovation Index 2016.

The UAE has a thriving economy, with an average growth rate of more than 3% over the last 3 years and the 5th highest GDP per capita in the world. The country enjoys a stable political and judicial regime, fiscal and monetary discipline, and excellent infrastructure. In 2016, the UAE was ranked by the Arcadis Global Infrastructure Investment Index as one of the top three most attractive countries for long-term infrastructure investment, together with Qatar and Singapore. The Dubai metro, inaugurated on 9 September 2009 by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Emir of Dubai, is the world's second longest fully automated driverless metro network with a total route length of 75 km. The UAE is one of the safest countries in the Middle East, with a very low crime rate and strict law enforcement

Significant efforts in economic diversification have reduced the portion of GDP based on hydrocarbons to 25%. Attractive trade and investment conditions are reinforced by numerous regional and bilateral agreements and membership to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) since 1996. More than 120 accredited universities, many R&D Centers, and a strong legal framework governing intellectual property rights make the UAE an ideal destination for research and development.

The UAE is multi-cultural global hub, connected to over 140 destinations and hosting major international organisations

The UAE's central east-west position between Asia and Europe, CIS and Africa on the north-south axis gives it market access to more than two billion people within four-hours' flying time and provides an ideal gateway to emerging world economies in MENA, Africa and Asia. Abu Dhabi offers non-stop connections to 104 airports across 55 countries. Dubai, which is one hour away by road from Abu Dhabi, is home to the world's most active international airport with more than 100 airlines. From its hub in Dubai, Emirates alone operates 3,000 flights a week across its network of 140 destinations in 70 countries across six continents.

The UAE hosts the headquarters of United Nations International Renewable Energy Agency, and offices for numerous other international organisations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Bank. Furthermore, major international events are held in the UAE, such as the Global Innovation Summit, the World Government Summit, the SME World Summit, the Social Media Summit, the World Future Energy Summit and the Annual Investment Meeting.

As a multi-cultural melting pot in which English and Arabic are widely spoken, the UAE attracts people from all over the world for both tourism and business. It is one of the safest countries in the Middle East, with a very low crime rate and strict law enforcement. The recently launched Ministry of Happiness, which aims to monitor the level of happiness in the UAE and ensure that actions are taken to enhance individuals' lives, demonstrates how the government is continuously thinking of new ways to ensure the overall well being of the people in the country.

The UAE is also part of League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council

The UAE is part of the League of Arab States and one of six member states in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the Saudi Arabia (see figure 2).

Figure 2: Map of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries

GCC countries have implemented a number of policy reforms to support the development of more innovative and diversified economies. Four out of six GCC states are now ranked among the top 40 in the Global Competitiveness Index. Significant investments have been made in infrastructure to increase connectivity between countries of the region, such as the GCC rail network which will be completed in 2018. World class events such as the Dubai World Expo 2020 in the UAE and FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar should bring even greater visibility to the impressive achievements that have taken place in this region over the last two decades and now make it a destination of choice.

WIPO is expanding its geographical reach to enhance its global impact

In order to extend its geographical reach and bring its services closer to member states, WIPO has established External Offices in Beijing (2014), Moscow (2014), Rio de Janeiro (2010), Singapore (2005), and Tokyo (2006). In addition, the WIPO Assembly recently decided to launch two additional offices in Lagos and Algiers. With the exception of Singapore, which covers the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Region, the coverage of the other WIPO Offices is national wise. According to Francis Curry, the Director General of WIPO, the external offices “provide cost-effective support services in relation to the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems; arbitration and mediation; collective management; and development and capacity building.”

Establishing a WIPO office in the UAE represents a unique opportunity for WIPO to boost its development impact in the Middle East and Asia

The UAE proposes to establish a WIPO office that will offer WIPO services and expertise, including unique intellectual property capacity building opportunities, to Gulf Cooperation

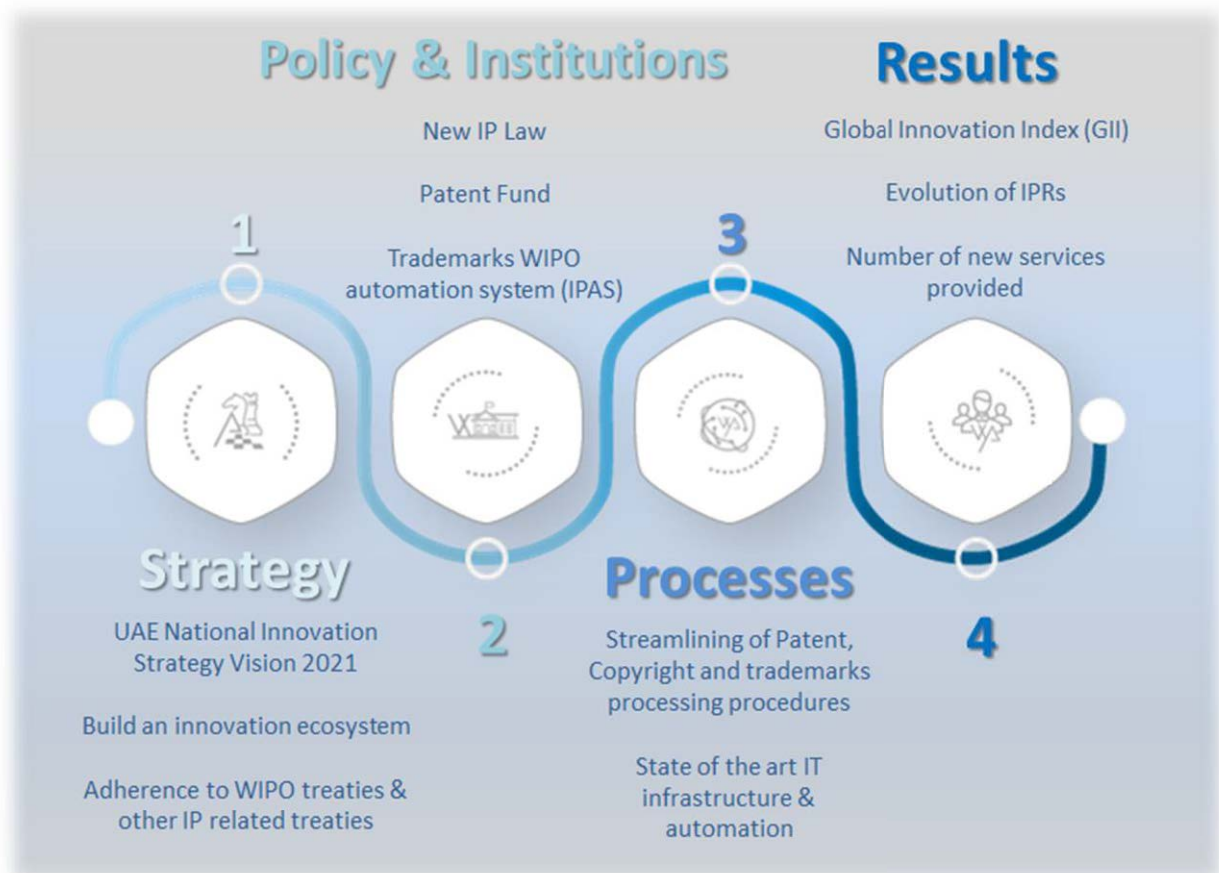
Council (GCC)¹ states and developing countries in the Middle East and Asia. The UAE's strategic location, at the heart of the Asian and African continents, will make it an ideal destination for its WIPO partners in these regions. Ultimately, the UAE WIPO office will raise awareness about intellectual property rights and WIPO's services, strengthen the legislative and institutional environment for intellectual property, and build greater capacity to manage IPRs in the public sector, private sector and civil society.

2- UAE achievements in the area of innovation and intellectual property rights

The United Arab Emirates joined the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in 1974 and firmly adheres to its mission "to lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property (IP) system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all."

The UAE's achievements in the area of innovation and intellectual property rights can be summarised around four pillars: strategy, policy & institutions, processes and results (see figure 3)

Figure 3: Four Pillars of UAE Achievement in Innovation and Intellectual Property



¹ GCC member states include Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia

1. Strategy

The UAE has an ambitious Vision 2021 and National Innovation Strategy launched in 2015

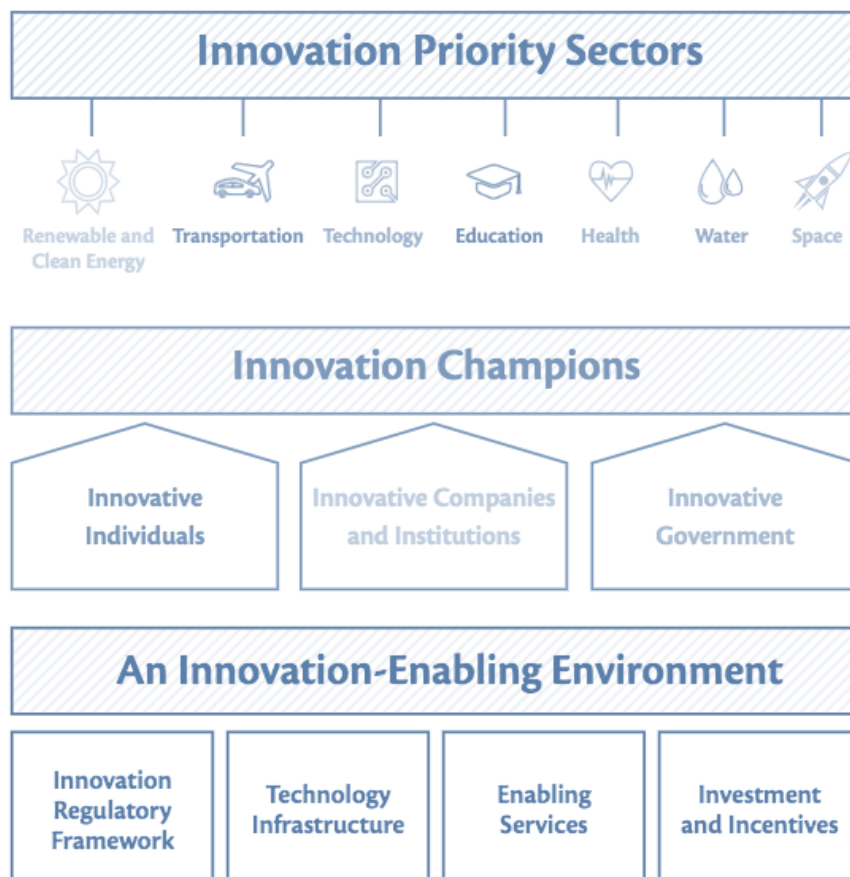
According to the UAE's Vision 2021 the country aims to be among the most innovative nations in the world where "Innovation, research, science and technology will form the pillars of a knowledge-based, highly productive and competitive economy, driven by entrepreneurs in a business-friendly environment where public and private sectors form effective partnerships."

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, launched the National Innovation Strategy in 2015 to help the UAE sustain its leading position in the GCC region and achieve its ambition of becoming "one of the most innovative nations in the world."

The UAE Innovation strategy is composed of three core pillars (see figure 4):

1. Innovation-enabling environment
2. Innovation champions
3. Innovation priority sectors

Figure 4: The Three Core Pillars of the UAE National Innovation Strategy



Source: The UAE National Innovation Strategy

Each of these pillars rests on a solid legislative and institutional foundation to support intellectual property rights (in particular the pillar which promotes an innovation enabled environment).

Since joining WIPO, the UAE has adhered to a number of IP-related treaties, including 8 WIPO treaties

The UAE has ratified eight WIPO treaties since it joined the organisation:

- Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled
- WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
- Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations
- Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works
- WIPO Copyright Treaty
- Patent Cooperation Treaty
- Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property
- Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization

The UAE was the third country that ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (the Marrakesh VIP Treaty) on 15 October 2014, which entered into force on the 30 September 2016. In addition, the UAE recently acceded to the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances which aims to strengthen the economic rights of film actors and other performers as well as enable performers to share proceeds with producers for revenues generated internationally by audiovisual productions. The treaty will also contribute to safeguarding the rights of performers against the unauthorized use of their performances in audiovisual media, such as television, film and video.

Furthermore, the UAE has adhered to an additional 23 IP-related multilateral treaties, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property rights (TRIPS Agreement), on April 10, 1996 (see appendix).

The regional Economic Agreement between the GCC states adopted by the UAE on January 1st 2003 also includes IP related statutes.

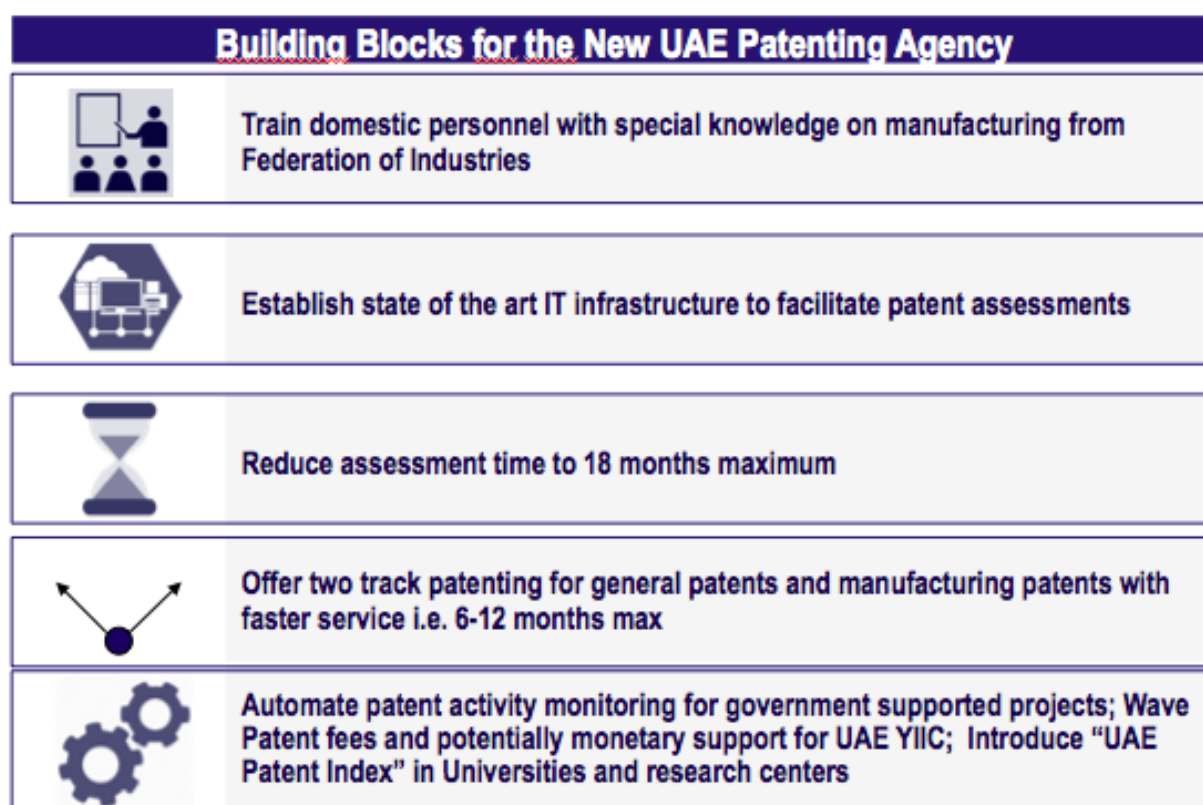
2. Policies & Institutions

The UAE has implemented a number of institutional and policy reforms related to innovation and intellectual property

Following the best practices from WIPO and its members, the UAE has implemented a number of new measures to support intellectual property rights. For instance in 2016 a patent fund was established in order to help process up to 200 patent applications from young innovative and industrial companies, business competitions, and academic patentable research projects.

The UAE is also currently implementing a Patent Processing Agency to streamline patent processing time, decrease backlog, reduce cost and increase demand for patents (see figure 5).

Figure 5: The New UAE Patenting Agency



As part of the efforts to accelerate the application process, The Ministry of Economy has also further allowed for a 90 day grace period for applicants to submit translated documents and Public Notary approvals. A new IP law is currently in the process of being drafted, taking into account feedback from a selection of Universities, businesses and relevant institutions.

The Ministry of Economy have been closely engaged with WIPO regarding the automation project with the Trademarks department materialized in the deployment of WIPO Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) in February 2012. The Trademarks department in UAE has been using the system since then for the electronic administration of Trademarks applications of UAE. The IPAS deployment in UAE is considered one of the successful projects we have in the region with the feedback that we have probed from the users and applicants especially on the accuracy, speed and quality of service following system deployment.

3. Processes

Armed with improved policies and institutions, UAE's policy makers have been designing and implementing better innovation and IP processes, such as streamlining patent procedures to limit patent registration delays to 180 days, implementing a two-track patenting system to further accelerate patents for industrial products and introducing trademark related smart services. What is more, the UAE is currently investing in state-of-the-art IT infrastructure and automation. The government introduced 13 trademark related smart services in 2016 and a host of measures to support the financing of patents and trademarks. It is also boosting access to information by providing a comprehensive list of IP lawyers and grant or funding opportunities.

4. Results

As a result of these efforts related to strategy, policy, institutions and processes, registration of patents, trademarks and industrial designs increased to more than 20,000 in 2015. Moreover, as already mentioned, the UAE was ranked 41 out of 128 countries in the 2016 Global Innovation Index (GII). The UAE has leveraged publications such as the GI to define actions plans for improvement in a number of areas related to policy, institutions and processes.

3- *The UAE's motivation to host a WIPO office*

The UAE is now highly motivated to launch a new WIPO office

Building on its numerous achievements in the area of innovation and intellectual property, the UAE is now highly motivated to launch a WIPO office that would have a high development impact.

There are a number of advantages to opening a WIPO office in the UAE. The WIPO office will:

- Strengthen the development impact of WIPO by offering a unique intellectual property capacity building service to WIPO members in the Middle East and Asia.
- Leverage the UAE's strategic geographic location, at the crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe, and highly connected international airports.
- Raise awareness and understanding about intellectual property rights and WIPO's services.
- Assist target countries to deepen their application WIPO treaties already adopted and expand their adoption of additional WIPO treaties.
- Support the development of existing initiatives, such as the new UAE IP examination office announced in November 2016.
- Enhance access to WIPO research, statistics and publications.

The UAE is highly committed to the establishment of a new WIPO office and willing to commit the necessary budget to have a high visibility office that is fully operational (see section 5 regarding the UAE offer). The net result will be an increase in the registration of patents and trademarks in target countries as well as a strengthening of WIPO's image as the "go to" international institution for support services to protect intellectual property, resolve disputes, form international IP policy, train policy makers, access data and knowledge as well as promote international cooperation and development.

4- *Proposed mission and objectives of the UAE WIPO office*

The UAE WIPO will be focus on 3 pillars and 9 key objectives

Consistent with WIPO's mission, the objectives of the office would be structured around 3 core pillars: strategic convergence, policy and process enhancement, improved awareness and capacity (see figure 6).

Figure 6: Proposed UAE WIPO office objectives



Strategic convergence

1) Boost the development impact of WIPO and the UAE on WIPO member countries in the Middle East and Asia

In order to boost development impact through innovation and creativity, the UAE WIPO office will extend its services not only to its neighbours from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), but also to other developing countries in the Middle East and Asia. These countries will enjoy full access to the IP expertise and capacity building offered by the UAE WIPO office.

2) Support the UAE's National Innovation Strategy (NIS) to foster an innovation enabling environment, namely by strengthening the regulatory and institutional framework

While the UAE's IP legislation currently covers the main pillars of IPR protection, it still has areas for improvement, some of which have been highlighted through exchanges with relevant stakeholders in universities, judiciary, business and other institutions. The UAE WIPO office will contribute additional expertise in updating the UAE's IP legislation and help ensure that it reflects the main concerns of key stakeholders while striking a balance with the UAE's strategic objectives and WIPO best practices in this field.

Moreover, the UAE is currently preparing the design and implementation of a new Patent Centre that will greatly benefit from synergies and expertise provided by an Abu Dhabi WIPO office.

3) Deepen and expand the application of WIPO treaties already adopted

The UAE and other target countries covered by the scope of the proposed WIPO office have great potential to further leverage WIPO treaties already adopted. For instance, by deepening and expanding the application of the eight WIPO treaties it has already ratified, UAE stakeholders will develop greater awareness of patent registration options and deliver stronger patent registration results. This objective will be achieved through a more effective communication of the services provided by existing WIPO treaties and tailored coaching in how to best access these services.

4) Accelerate the adherence to WIPO treaties not yet adopted by the UAE²

In addition, the UAE and the other target countries for the WIPO office have still not adopted a number of WIPO treaties that could be relevant to enhancing their innovation and creativity. Examples of treaties that have not yet been adopted by the UAE include the Madrid System, the Hague International Design System and the Budapest International Microorganism System. The UAE WIPO office will help target countries better understand the rationale to adopt these treaties, how to do so, and provide guidance in getting the most out of the related WIPO services.

Policy & Process Enhancement

5) Streamlining of patent and trademark procedures

Countries under the scope of the UAE WIPO office will benefit from expert advice on ways to streamline their patent and trademark procedures, taking inspiration from the strengths, weaknesses and adaptability of existing models adopted by WIPO members. The UAE has already taken a number of initiatives to accelerate procedures related to intellectual property rights, as outlined in its National Innovation Strategy. With the expert support of a local WIPO office, further improvements will be made in patent registration and other IP procedures, taking to account the lessons learned from other WIPO members. The end objective is to establish the most efficient and effective patent registration procedures in line with leading international standards.

6) Facilitate dispute resolution

The WIPO office will also provide information, advice and support in helping partner countries to resolve IPR disputes at both the national and international level, through mediation, arbitration and expert determination. When relevant and applicable, it will encourage and guide stakeholders to fully leverage the services of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center which offers “timely and cost-efficient alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options.”

7) Encourage public–private dialogue on IPR related matters to improve policy

Building on existing UAE and partner government initiatives to consult the private sector and universities on ways to improve the protection of IPRs, including IPR legislation, the registration process and enforcement, the WIPO office will promote and coordinate more systematic public-private consultations on IPR related matters. An annual event will be

² As noted in *The Guiding Principles Regarding WIPO External Offices* in point B.8, support in accelerating the adoption of WIPO treaties would not include « any activities related to processing of international applications filed under the PCT, Madrid, and Hague Systems, or any related financial transactions. »

organised to take stock of progress made on IPR legislation and enforcement and identify measures for further improvement.

Improved Awareness and Capacity

8) Raise awareness, understanding and respect for intellectual property rights and the role of WIPO

By establishing an expert WIPO office in a prestigious location of Abu Dhabi, the UAE will be sending a strong message about the importance of intellectual property rights, of WIPO and its extensive commitment in promoting and enforcing IPRs. Furthermore, the UAE WIPO office will be responsible for organising IP communication campaigns, leveraging all different forms of media platforms, including social media. The office will further organise a series of activities in conjunction with the annual UAE Innovation Week held during the month of November, to highlight IP achievements and display the rich palette of services at the disposal of government, businesses, universities and other relevant institutions.

9) Build IPR capacity in collaboration with the WIPO Institute

The proposed capacity building seminars targeted at government officials from the UAE and partner countries, will cover areas such as intellectual property law and institutions, IPR processes, best practices in IPR knowledge management, public-private dialogue, and getting the most out of WIPO treaties and other services. Capacity building sessions will be organised on a quarterly basis and be systematically evaluated by participants in order to continuously improve their relevance and timeliness.

10) Facilitate communication and exchange of best practices in IPR

The UAE is already an active in promoting knowledge exchange on innovation and intellectual property rights, namely in forums such as the UAE Innovation week held in November every year. Building on this UAE experience, communication and knowledge exchange between the UAE and partner countries will be further expanded by dedicating a session to best practice sharing between partner countries during the UAE Innovation Week and capturing the most compelling IPR best practices on the office's website.

5- The UAE's contribution to the WIPO Office

The UAE proposes to host the WIPO office in the Ministry of Economy, a high profile and convenient location. Located in the Liwa Tower, Exhibition Area, the Ministry of Economy is a 15 minute drive from the airport and adjacent to the attractive Embassy area (see figure 7).

Figure 7: Proposed location for the UAE WIPO Office in Abu Dhabi

In order to encourage maximum synergies, the WIPO office will be adjacent to the Department for Intellectual Property and the newly formed Intellectual Property Centre.

A total of 250 m² will be dedicated to the WIPO Office, including a fully equipped working space, with office furniture, printers, telephones and any other relevant equipment not provided by WIPO.

In addition, to further boost impact and visibility, the UAE proposes to start a secondment programme between the Ministry of Economy and the new WIPO office. The Ministry of Economy will second two staff members on a rotating annual basis to support the WIPO team. Other secondments may also be accepted from interested partner countries. Through their daily interactions with WIPO experts, seconded staff will strengthen their knowledge and expertise in the area of intellectual property.

The total estimated annual budget dedicated to the new WIPO office by the UAE Ministry of Economy will be 1,314,000 AED or 355,000 USD (see table 1).

Table 1: Breakdown of UAE WIPO Office Budget

Budget Breakdown	AED Monthly	USD Monthly	AED Annual	USD Annual
Rental of fully equipped office space for 25 staff (250m ²)*	700,000	100,000	8,400,000	1,176,000
Electricity	100,000	17,000	1,200,000	174,000
Telephone and internet	100,000	18,000	1,200,000	174,000
Consumables (paper, ink, etc)	100,000	16,400	1,200,000	174,000
Miscellaneous	150,000	27,500	1,800,000	258,000
Training budget	100,000	18,000	1,200,000	174,000
Subtotal for office	950,000	187,650	8,400,000	1,176,000
Secondment of 2 staff from the Ministry of Economy	100,000	18,000	1,200,000	174,000
Total budget	1,050,000	205,650	9,600,000	1,350,000

*Includes desks, chairs, telephones & any other relevant equipment not provided by WIPO.
Exchange rate: 1 AED = 0.27

Over a five-year period, the estimated budget allocated by the UAE to the WIPO office is approximately 6.9 million AED or 1.86 million USD (see figure 6). WIPO members can be assured of the financial sustainability of this offer, which has the full support and commitment of the UAE government.

Figure 8: WIPO Office Budget Breakdown over Five Years

Pillars	WIPO Mission / Objectives	UAE WIPO Office Objectives	Budget 2018-19*	Budget 2020-21	Budget 2022-23
1. Strategic convergence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property (IP) system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boost development impact Support the UAE's NIS to foster an innovation enabling environment Deepen and expand application of WIPO treaties already adopted Accelerate the adherence to WIPO treaties not yet adopted 	107,325	171,720	171,720
2. Policy & Process Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form international IP Policy Resolve IP disputes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlining of patent and trademark procedures Facilitate dispute resolution Encourage public-private dialogue on IPR related matters to improve policy 	107,325	171,720	171,720
3. Improved Capacity & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train policy makers Promote international cooperation & development Access IP data & knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness, understanding & respect for IPRs & the role of WIPO Build IPR capacity in collaboration with the WIPO the WIPO Institute Facilitate communication and exchange of best practices 	228,825	366,120	366,120
Total (USD)			443,475	709,560	709,560

Independent evaluation of 11 WIPO regional offices

Note (*): Budget spread over 15 months assuming WIPO office agreement is signed in October 2018.

6- Summary and final considerations

Building on its longstanding relationship with WIPO and numerous achievements in the area of intellectual property, the UAE is highly motivated to finance and host a new WIPO office. The UAE WIPO office will have a strong development orientation. In addition to GCC states, it will offer a wide range of WIPO services and expertise to other developing countries in the

Middle East and Asia. The UAE's strategic location, at the crossroads of the Asian, African and European continents, make it an ideal destination for WIPO members. Ultimately, the WIPO office will raise awareness about intellectual property rights and WIPO's services, strengthen the legislative and institutional environment for intellectual property, and build greater capacity to manage IPRs.

The UAE is ready to host the WIPO office in the prestigious location of the Ministry of Economy and provide an annual budget of 355,000 USD to cover not only office costs, but also training and additional staff through secondments. Ultimately, by delivering on its ten objectives, the UAE office will help WIPO make significant progress on its mission to "lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property (IP) system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all."

Appendix: UAE ratification of IP-related multilateral treaties

- [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (December 11, 2014)
- [Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (December 11, 2014)
- [Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005](#) (September 6, 2012)
- [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (April 18, 2010)
- [Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#) (April 20, 2006)
- [WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control](#) (February 5, 2006)
- [International Plant Protection Convention](#) (October 2, 2005)
- [Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (April 26, 2005)
- [International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#) (June 29, 2004)
- [Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#) (May 17, 2004)
- [Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage](#) (August 11, 2001)
- [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (May 10, 2000)
- [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa](#) (January 19, 1999)
- [Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#) (April 10, 1996)
- [World Trade Organization \(WTO\) - Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights \(TRIPS Agreement\) \(1994\)](#) (April 10, 1996)
- [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (March 28, 1996)
- [Protocol \(I\) Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts](#) (September 9, 1983)
- [Protocol \(II\) Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts](#) (September 9, 1983)
- [Convention \(I\) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field](#) (November 10, 1972)
- [Convention \(II\) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea](#) (November 10, 1972)
- [Convention \(III\) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War](#) (November 10, 1972)
- [Convention \(IV\) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War](#) (November 10, 1972)
- [Convention on International Civil Aviation](#) (May 25, 1972)

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