



# Afghanistan Central Business Registry & Intellectual Property

ACBR-IP

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## Brief History

- ▶ 2008: Central Business Registry Establishment
  - ▶ Business Registration
  - ▶ Business License Issuing Authority
- ▶ 2012: Took over IP Registration from Commercial Court
- ▶ Became OSS (One-Stop-Shop) in 2013
- ▶ Laws Developed So far
  - ▶ Implemented/Enforced Laws
    - ▶ Trademark Registration
  - ▶ Resource Required for Implementation
    - ▶ Patent
    - ▶ Integrated Circuits
    - ▶ Industrial Designs
    - ▶ Geographical Indications



## Overall Registration

- ▶ IP Certificate Issued : 18743
- ▶ Avg # of Monthly Applications: approx. 560
- ▶ Allowed Multiple Class Under Single Application Until September 2017
- ▶ Current: Single Class Registration for New and Renewals
- ▶ Total Business License Issued Approx. 175000
  - ▶ Online Verification Portal: [www.acbrip.gov.af/companyverification](http://www.acbrip.gov.af/companyverification)



## Current Infrastructure (IT)

- ▶ In house Development of the Trademark & Patent Registration System
- ▶ Process Automation System
- ▶ Documents Management Systems (Thorough Digitization & Indexing)
- ▶ Image Processing for Robust Examination
- ▶ Compliance with Best International Practices
- ▶ Well Equipped Office
- ▶ Online Gazette (Jan-2018)
- ▶ Online Trademark Registration Verification & Search Portal (Jan-2018)
- ▶ Online Filing (Jan-2018)



# Human Resources

- ▶ Total # of Staff: Approx. 100
- ▶ IP Related Staff: 18
- ▶ 90% Staff Use Computer Systems
- ▶ Lack of Staff with English Understanding
- ▶ Lack of Staff in IP Unit
- ▶ Gender Imbalance



## Success Factors

- ▶ Staff Training
- ▶ Automation Systems
- ▶ Digital Archive
- ▶ IT Infrastructure
- ▶ Reforms
- ▶ 3 Years Planning For Meeting IP Applicants & Consumer Protection Requirements Through Incentive Programs
- ▶ Gradual Implementation of Laws



## Opportunities

- ▶ Directorate General of ACBR-IP (A Strong & Modern Entity With Suitable Premises)
- ▶ Availability of IP Process Automation System & Digital Archive
- ▶ Well Trained & Young Staff (in the Systems)
- ▶ Online IP Registration and Verification System
- ▶ Substantial Increase in # of Applications Due to Single Class Registration
- ▶ Establishment of New Legal Firms
- ▶ Extension of the OSS
- ▶ Enthusiasm Towards International Registration



## Challenges/Obstacles

- ▶ Lack of Public Awareness
- ▶ Patent Substantive Examination
- ▶ Lack of IP Related Curriculum
  - ▶ Lack of IP Degrees
  - ▶ IP Professional Education
- ▶ Low Literacy Rate
- ▶ Insufficient Salary/Stipend
- ▶ Low Inter-ministerial Coordination





# Getting Ready for Madrid Membership

- ▶ Inter-ministerial works completed
- ▶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ▶ Further Extension of the IP Automation Systems
- ▶ IPR Reforms and Process Streamlining
- ▶ Planning and Conduction of Public Outreach Programs about International Registrations
- ▶ Establishment of Attorneys Association



# ACBR-IP OFFICE





THANK YOU



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS