

# WIPO



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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
UNITED INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX FOR THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

## **PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**

### **INTERIM COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**First Session: Geneva, February 9 to 11, 1971**

**REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE STUDY  
CARRIED OUT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL  
PATENT DOCUMENTATION CENTER FOR ARAB COUNTRIES**

*Presented by the Representative of IDCAS*

I. The members of the League of Arab States, in establishing IDCAS, have assigned to it, inter alia, the following functions:

– To assist the Arab States and Countries in the technical and economical feasibility studies carried out for proposed industrial projects, and in the studies undertaken for the evaluation of the existing industrial projects.

– To establish scientific documentation sections in the fields of economic planning, industrial development and statistics; and to circulate the documents, research work and bulletins thus collected to the interested organizations of the Arab Countries.

II. From the studies already carried out by IDCAS at the request of the Arab States and Countries, it was evident that the acquisition of foreign patented technology and foreign know-how were indispensable for the implementation of industrial projects and for maintaining its successful operation. This fact requires of IDCAS the possession of the know-how and patent documentation that are necessary for the technical and economical evaluation of these projects, and for the determination of their effectiveness and benefit to the economy and industry of its member States. Furthermore, the modernization of the industrial property laws in force in the Arab Countries appeared to be of great importance for the attraction of foreign technology and for enhancing the domestic capacity for its absorption. The difficulty faced in obtaining this technology and the scarcity of the means available for making the best use of it are characteristic of the developing countries.

III. For these considerations, IDCAS--with the assistance of WIPO--is now carrying out studies and programs for the purpose of modernizing the industrial property laws of its member States and rendering them more responsive to the needs of their developing economy. Among the steps taken by IDCAS for the attainment of this objective has been the establishment of a Committee for industrial property legislation. During the meetings of this Committee, in which WIPO actively participated, one of the questions discussed was the initiation of a study for the establishment of an Arab Patent Documentation Regional Center. In this connection, discussions for possible technical assistance in the preparation of this study have already taken place with WIPO.

IV. It is envisaged that this Center will operate in a number of stages, each with its own objectives, as follows:

First Stage:

Collection of the patent documentation. In this context, the study should take into consideration the available documentation in some Arab Countries which have already established scientific research centers, as for example the UAR, Lebanon, Algeria and Tunisia. The study is also to advise on the means for the proper arrangement and use of these documents, and the most economical way of acquiring and administering the important patent documents by domestic inventors, scientists and industrialists. The study is also to advise on the cost connected with completing the collection of this documentation, the personnel required for its classification and arrangement, the possibility of establishing the collection in a number of phases so that the first phase be limited to the documents pertaining to the branches of industry that are of main and vital importance to the Arab Countries, and the time required for the carrying out of this stage.

Second Stage:

The establishment of a technical information service. It is envisaged that, during this stage, the Center will advise and assist the Arab States and Countries in the study of industrial projects that involve patents and know-how. The Center will also provide the Arab States and Countries with the information and documents of interest to them, and in general will act as a means for the transfer of technology to its members, on the one hand, and as an advisor on questions relating to patents, know-how and license agreements, on the other. The study should deal with the best means and methods for the operation and the extension of these services, the costs involved, the personnel required, and the time required for the completion of this stage.

Third Stage:

Search and examination of patents. The study should indicate the possibility of the Center's carrying out in the future, and on a regional basis, search and examination, or either search or examination, of patents relating to the branches of industry that are of importance to the Arab world, as a preliminary phase for acting as a regional authority for the search and examination of patents in general. The study should indicate the costs involved for the carrying out of such a project and the number of personnel required, and should give an estimate of the different factors necessary for taking the appropriate decision.

V. If the conclusion reached by the study is that it is feasible to establish an Arab Patent Documentation Center, and the Board of Directors of IDCAS approves this conclusion, the Center will be financed and established by IDCAS--possibly in cooperation with any member State--with the necessary technical and material assistance that can be provided within the framework of the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization.

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