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**Council for Trade-Related Aspects of
Intellectual Property Rights**

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**TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM
OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GCC)

At its meeting of 6 June 2019, the Council for TRIPS agreed to invite intergovernmental organization observers to the Council to update the information on their technical and financial cooperation programmes relating to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

The present document reproduces the information which has been received from the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) by means of a communication dated 2 September 2019.

Communications from other intergovernmental organizations will be circulated as addenda to this document.

1. GCC is an intergovernmental organization with membership of the following States: United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar, and State of Kuwait.

2. Pursuant to Article (20) of the GCC Economic Agreement which states that "member States shall develop programmes encouraging talented individuals and supporting innovation and invention; cooperate in the field of intellectual property and develop regulations and procedures ensuring protection of intellectual property rights; and coordinate their relevant policies towards other countries, regional blocs and international and regional organizations", the GCC Secretariat General directs most of its technical cooperation activities to its member States.

3. This document presents a report on main technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Secretariat General of the GCC from 7 November 2018 to 27 September 2019, which are relevant to intellectual property issues, following the invitation of the Chairman of the WTO Council for TRIPS to provide updated information on such activities.

4. Technical assistance activities undertaken by the GCC Secretariat General during the above-mentioned period have been focused on various IP concrete aspects such as enforcement of IP laws, patent applications drafting, arbitration in the field of IP, trade in counterfeit goods, cooperation in IT System, IP Crime, etc. These activities were conducted in the form of workshop, on-job training, secondment or through supporting the participation in Conferences or in international IP exhibitions, and a number of them was organized in cooperation of some IP national offices. The said activities are listed in Annex.

ANNEX¹

Activity	Date	Location	Attendance	Summary
Arbitration Mechanism Conference in the field of IP issues	7 November 2018	Kuwait GCCIP Training Centre	Specialists from the GCC Member States	A conference took place in cooperation with WIPO, Kuwait Arbitration Centre and GCC IPTC. The objective was to share opinions among participants and making recommendations for appropriate solutions through arbitration aimed at settling disputes in all IP fields.
Cooperation in IT System	11-24 November 2018	Bahrain IP Office	IT Experts of the Bahrain National IP Office	Complete the development on electronic systems and infrastructure of Bahrain Patent Office "E-filing".
Cooperation in IT System	10-12 December 2018	Oman IP Office	IT & IP Experts of the Oman National IP Office	Overview of GCCPO E-Services
One-year Employee Secondment Extension	31 December 2018-31 December 2019	Oman IP Office	Patent Examiners of Oman National IP Office	Examining a number of patent applications filed at the Oman IP Office including Applications filed under PCT and sharing knowledge with the Examiners of the Oman IP Office
One-year Employee Secondment	1 January 2019-1 January 2020	Oman IP Office	Patent Examiners of Oman National IP Office	Sharing knowledge with Oman IP Office Examiners and examining a number of patent applications filed at Oman IP Office including Applications filed under PCT
The 11 th Middle East International Exhibition (IIFME)	27-30 January 2019	Kuwait	Inventors from GCC States	International exhibition held annually in the State of Kuwait in which the GCC Patent Office presents a yearly award of 50,000 SAR for the top three GCC inventions, as well as hosting and supporting inventors from the GCC States
Cooperation in IT System	18-19 March 2019	Kuwait IP Office	IP Experts of the Kuwait National IP Office	Overview of GCCPO E-Services
Trade in Counterfeit Goods	1-4 April 2019	Vietnam	Specialists from the GCC Member States	A workshop was held in Cooperation with the USPTO. Discussing several aspects of IP rights protection such as enforcement mechanisms and other tools to combat trade in counterfeit goods.
A workshop on Patent Applications Drafting	7-11 April 2019	Saudi Arabia GCC-SG Headquarters	Specialists from the GCC Member States	A workshop was held in Cooperation with WIPO. The main subject was the drafting of Patent Application.

¹ In English only.

Activity	Date	Location	Attendance	Summary
IP Crime Conference	17 April 2019	Kuwait Society of Lawyers	Lawyers and patent attorneys	An annual conference took place in cooperation with IP Rights Centre. The conference was an opportunity to address various IP subjects in light of GCC IP Common laws, in addition to criminal protection of trademarks between national laws and international conventions.
World IP Day Celebration	28-30 April 2019	Oman IP Office	Public	IP Day celebration, & IP awareness for public and share GCCPO inventor's success stories
GCC Inventor Forum	3-4 May 2019	University of Dubai, UAE	Inventors from the GCC Member States	Spreading awareness on IP Rights
Cooperation in IT System	26-27 June 2019	Oman IP Office	IT & IP Experts of the Oman National IP Office	Study system integration & Oman payment gateway
Industrial Property of Judicial Authority	16-19 September 2019	France	Arbitrators and experts in the field of IP	In cooperation with the National Institute of Industrial Property Office-France
Enforcement of IP laws	24-27 September 2019	Indonesia	Representatives from law enforcement authorities, rights holders, and IP professionals	In cooperation with the USPTO IP rights enforcement at border