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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**

COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF

At its meeting of 30 July 2020, 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 Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) by means of a communication dated 6 October 2020.

1 INTRODUCTION

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

2. According 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 the 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 Members.

3. This document presents a report on main technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Secretariat General of the GCC from 9 September 2019 to 9 September 2020, which are relevant to the intellectual property (IP) 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 has focused on various concrete IP aspects such as enforcement of IP laws, patent applications drafting and electronic filing cooperation in IT System, innovation and invention, etc. These activities were conducted in the form of workshops, on-job training, secondment or through supporting the participation in Conferences or in international IP exhibitions. A number of these activities were organized in cooperation with some IP national offices. The said activities are listed in the Annex.

5. The COVID-19 outbreak affected in one way or another the technical cooperation activities undertaken by the GCC Secretariat General during the above-mentioned period.

ANNEX¹

Activity	Date	Location	Attendance	Summary
Innovation Support and IP Strategy in SABIC	1 October 2019	Saudi Arabia SABIC Headquarters	Inventors from GCC States	A Workshop was held in cooperation with SABIC to enhance the awareness of the innovation support among participants from the GCC States
GCC and EU policies in the field of IPRs	20 October 2019	Oman	Specialists from the GCC Member States	During this workshop, the GCC Patent Office submitted a working paper on the IPRs in the GCC region.
Cooperation in IT System	24 October 2019	Saudi Arabia GCC-SG Headquarters	IT Experts of Bahrain National IP Office	Developing electronic systems at the Bahrain IP Office and launching E-filing system by IT experts of the GCC Patent Office
The 2nd Qassim Forum for innovation and invention	03-05 November 2019	Saudi Arabia Qassim	Public	This forum is taking place to spread awareness on the importance of the creativity and innovation in entrepreneurship, providing youth with knowledge and skills, and supporting talents to transform real innovations into successful investment projects.
Seoul International Invention Fair (SIIF 2019)	27- 30 November 2019	Seoul Korea	Inventors from GCC States	The GCC Patent Office participates to opening up the Seoul International Invention fair in Germany and hosting and supporting the participation of inventors from the GCC States.
Launching "WIPO Publish" Search Platform	05 December 2019	Saudi Arabia GCC-SG Headquarters	Officials and specialists of the GCC Patent office	Launching an electronic platform called "WIPO Publish" it allows researchers from the GCC States to have access to all patents granted by the GCCPO and the documents related to the granted patents by searching through different tools.
One- year Employee Secondment Extension	31 December 2019-31 December 2020	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 extension	31 December 2019-31 December 2020	Kuwait National Patent Office	Patent Examiners of Kuwait National Patent Office	Examining a number of patent applications filed at the Kuwait National Patent Office including Applications filed under PCT and sharing knowledge with the Examiners of the Kuwait National Patent Office

¹ In English only.

Activity	Date	Location	Attendance	Summary
Cooperation with Oman IP Office in IT System	22 December 2019-02 January 2020	Oman IP Office	IT Experts of Oman IP Office	Continuing to develop the electronic filing system at the Oman IP Office and its trial launch. In addition to completing data transfer processes between the systems, and developing the system and the online services in compliance with the patent law in the Sultanate of Oman.
IP Day Celebration	26 April 2020	Online through GCC-PO digital channels	Public	Enhancing awareness on the big role of IP in stimulating innovation and creativity.
On job training-	08-12 May, 2020	Saudi Arabia GCC-SG Headquarters	Patent Examiners from Oman National IP Office	Examining a number of patent applications filed at the Oman IP Office and sharing knowledge with the Examiners of the Oman IP Office.
Arab Virtual Forum for Innovation	21 May, 2020	Virtual event	Public at the GCC States	Virtual event where the experts of the GCC Patent Office shared knowledge with inventors from the GCC States about the processing of patent application at the GCC Patent Office.
Innovators Virtual Dialogue Forum	23 June, 2020	Virtual event	Public at the GCC States	Virtual forum seeking to support innovations and inventions in the GCC region and empower innovators from the GCC States.