



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

COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF

At its meeting of 14-15 June 2023, 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 3 September 2023.

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**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 State of Kuwait.
2. According to Article 20 of the GCC Economic Agreement which states that member States "shall develop programs 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 member States.
3. This document presents a report on the main technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Secretariat General of the GCC-GCC Patent Office, either alone or in cooperation with other parties, from 1 September 2022 to 1 September 2023 which are relevant to intellectual property issues, following the invitation of the Chair of the WTO Council for TRIPS to provide updated information on such activities.
4. Technical assistance activities undertaken by the GCC secretariat General or in cooperation with other parties during the above-mentioned period has been focused on various concrete IP aspects. These activities were conducted in the form of workshops, on-job training, and secondment or through supporting the participation in conferences or in international IP exhibitions. The said activities are listed in the Annex below.

## ANNEX<sup>1</sup>

Name of programme or project	Patent Applications Drafting and Searching in Patent databases
<b>Date and end date</b>	5 September 2022 - 5 September 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Oman
<b>Brief description</b>	The Patent Application Drafting and Searching in Patent Databases is a specialized training program in patent field highlighting the general rules in patent drafting and novelty searching in patent databases.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Patent specialists from Sultanate of Oman and some GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC-IPTC and patent competent authority in Sultanate of Oman
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Enhancing their capabilities to how to draft the patent application and the mechanism of searching for what was previously published among the prior art.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.gccpo.org">www.gccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

Name of programme or project	Trademark Examination Program
<b>Date and end date</b>	12 September 2022 - 12 September 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	The State of Kuwait
<b>Brief description</b>	The GCC Intellectual Property Training Center held a program on how to examine trademarks according to the GCC Trademark Law, in cooperation with the Egyptian trademark competent authority.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Specialists from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC-IPTC and Egyptian trademark competent authority
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Enhancing the examiner's capability on trademark examination.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.gccpo.org">www.gccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<sup>1</sup> In English only.

Name of programme or project	Novelty Search for Pharmaceutical Patent Applications
<b>Date and end date</b>	14 September 2022 - 14 September 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain
<b>Brief description</b>	The GCC-IPTC held a program on how to conduct a novelty search for pharmaceutical patent applications, in cooperation with the patent competent authority in the kingdom of Bahrain and Norwegian Patent office.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Patent examiners from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC-IPTC and Norwegian Patent Office
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Enhancing the novelty search capability in pharmaceutical patent applications.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.gccpo.org">www.gccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

Name of programme or project	Trademark Offices Management
<b>Date and end date</b>	19 September 2022 - 19 September 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain
<b>Brief description</b>	The GCC-IPTC held a program on management of the trademark offices, in cooperation with the competent authority in the kingdom of Bahrain and Norwegian trademark authority.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Trademark specialists from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC-IPTC and Norwegian trademark authority
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	It aims to provide participants with information and knowledge related to the management of the Trademarks Department, giving the participants a full understanding of how the National Trademark Office develops and operates.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.gccpo.org">www.gccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

Name of programme or project	Information Exchange on AI Innovations.
<b>Date and end date</b>	21 September 2022 - 22 September 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	How GCC member States and their Intellectual Property Offices support and enhance innovation in artificial intelligence
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Specialists from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	WIPO
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Enhancing awareness of innovation in the field of artificial intelligence
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.wipo.int">www.wipo.int</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

Name of programme or project	Intellectual Property as a Tool for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, and Intellectual Property in Digital Content
<b>Date and end date</b>	4 October 2022 - 5 October 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	The GCC-IPTC in cooperation with the Emirates Intellectual Property Association, held a workshop entitled "Intellectual Property as a Tool for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises" and "Intellectual Property in Digital Content".
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Specialists from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC-IPTC
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Raising awareness on the challenges facing intellectual property rights in the digital age, and the role of intellectual property in enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.qccpo.org">www.qccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>Bank Al Jazira Innovation Support Program (Creators)</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	10 October 2022 - 10 October 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
<b>Brief description</b>	Workshop aims to support the innovators and inventors students.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Group of school students
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC Patent Office
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Highlighting the importance of IP and encouraging the students to invent and innovate and protect their rights.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.bankaljazeera.com">www.bankaljazeera.com</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>A Campaign to Enhance Awareness of Intellectual Property among schools' Students</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	6 November 2022 - 6 March 2023
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	the State of Kuwait
<b>Brief description</b>	The GCC-IPTC has launched a campaign to enhance awareness of intellectual property among schools' students in cooperation with the Kuwait Oil Company, the Kuwait National Library and the Ministry of Education in the State of Kuwait.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Schools' students - State of Kuwait
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC-IPTC, the Kuwait Oil Company, the Kuwait National Library and the Ministry of Education in State of Kuwait
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Increasing awareness and knowledge of the role and importance of the different types of Intellectual Property rights.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.qccpo.org">www.qccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>International Virtual Conference on Innovation, Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	15 November 2022 - 17 November 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	International Virtual Conference on Innovation, Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem aims to bring leading practitioners, academic scientists, researchers, and industry experts together.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Public
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	Ecosystem Consultants - Kuwait
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Exchanging and sharing the experiences, ideas, and research results about innovation, artificial intelligence, technology, entrepreneurship ecosystem.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.ecosystemconsultants.com">www.ecosystemconsultants.com</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>Examination of Patent Applications workshop</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	20 November 2022 - 23 November 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	Workshop in the field of examination of patent applications, in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Examiners from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	WIPO
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Enhancing patent examination capability of patent examiners from GCC member States.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.gccpo.org">www.gccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

Name of programme or project	Intellectual Property for Judicial Authority
<b>Date and end date</b>	21 November 2022 - 23 November 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	The GCC-IPTC in cooperation with the National Institute of Industrial Property in France, held a specialized program for officials from the judicial authorities at the GCC member states.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Specialized judges from GCC member states
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC-IPTC and the French National Institute of Industrial Property
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	To enhance the capabilities of the participating judges to understand the different nature and experiences of litigation in various fields of intellectual property.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.qccpo.org">www.qccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

Name of programme or project	Lessons Learned and Best Practices Related to Intellectual Property in the Arab Region
<b>Date and end date</b>	5 December 2022 - 6 December 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	Workshop on the role of modern intellectual property systems in promoting innovation
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Specialists from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	WIPO
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Provide an opportunity for representatives of the intellectual property offices to enhance their capacity in IP ecosystem.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.wipo.int">www.wipo.int</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>Intellectual Property and Vaccines during Global Pandemic</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	5 December 2022 - 6 December 2022
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	Seminar about the role of Intellectual Property in reaching to new vaccines and other therapeutic medicines.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Specialists from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC-IPTC, WIPO, WHO and WTO
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Enhancing the knowledge regarding the relationship between IP rights and new medicines and vaccines.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.gccpo.org">www.gccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>High Growth Technology Business Forum 2023: Funding Growth</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	1 January 2023 - 1 January 2023
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	This forum highlights the key role played by IPR (intellectual property rights) portfolios and strategy in attracting investments and increasing company value. The featured live case study will be discussed from the perspective of both founders and investors.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Specialists from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	European Patent Office (EPO)
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Learn strategies for attracting investments and increasing company value with the help of intellectual property rights.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.epo.org">www.epo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office



<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>The third session of the Asian Intellectual Property Dialogue</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	31 January 2023 - 1 January 2023
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	The dialogue aims to provide an opportunity to exchange views and information on intellectual property policy, including patents, and emerging trends in the field of intellectual property, and to identify best practices in the use of the intellectual property system in order to enhance aspects of development, in addition to Explore possible areas of cooperation.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Specialists from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	WIPO, JPO and Arab League.
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Discussing the implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and IP on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and the future of IP in the digital era.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.wipo.int">www.wipo.int</a> , <a href="http://www.jpo.org">www.jpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>The thirteenth International Exhibition of Inventions in the Middle East</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	12 February 2023 - 15 February 2023
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	The General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, represented by the Patent Office, participated in the 13th International Exhibition of Inventions in the Middle East, the selection of inventors from citizens of the GCC countries to participate in this international exhibition is done by a specialized team of arbitrators in the GCC Patent Office to choose the best among the inventions that have been submitted .
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Public
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	The Kuwait Science Club, Kuwait
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Provide supports to inventors from the GCC States.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.ksclub.org">www.ksclub.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>Malaysian International Exhibition of Inventions ITEX23</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	11 May 2023 - 12 May 2023
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	The General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, represented by the Patent Office, hosted inventors from each GCC member states to participate at the Malaysian International Exhibition of Inventions ITEX23 to encourage them and contribute to the marketing of their inventions .
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Inventors from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	ITEX23, Malaysia
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Provide support to inventors from the GCC member states.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.itex.com.my">www.itex.com.my</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>An introductory lecture on the Patent Office at the GCC General Secretariat</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	15 May 2023 - 15 May 2023
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
<b>Brief description</b>	The GCC Patent Office presented an introductory session on the GCC Patent Law and work at the GCC Patent Office to the students of college of Law at King Saud University.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	King Saud University - Riyadh
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC Patent Office
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Enhancing the students' knowledge on Intellectual Property and its different legal rights.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.qccpo.org">www.qccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>Search Matters 2023 Conference</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	23 May 2023 - 25 May 2023
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	The aim of this conference is to fostering innovation by sharing patent knowledge and supporting innovators in finding technologies that contribute to a smarter, safer and more sustainable world.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Specialists from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	European Patent Office (EPO)
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Finding out the best search strategies for more sustainable world.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.epo.org">www.epo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>Business Visit to IP Authority in State of Qatar</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	15 June 2023 - 15 June 2023
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Qatar
<b>Brief description</b>	To offer the services provided by the Patent Office at the GCC, as stipulated in Article 1 bis 1 of the GCC Patent Law (05 January 2021) in addition to electronic linkage between the two sides.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Patent authority at the State of Qatar
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC Patent Office
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	The Patent authority at the State of Qatar has authorized the GCC Patent Office to receive, formally check and technically examine national Patent applications starting from 1 July 2023.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.qccpo.org">www.qccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>The fourth GCC Virtual Conference to Support Ecosystem Innovation, Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Entrepreneurship</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	20 June 2023 - 22 June 2023
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Bahrain; the State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates
<b>Brief description</b>	It aims to bring leading practitioners, academic scientists and researchers together.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	Specialists from GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	Ecosystem Consultants - Kuwait.
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Exchanging and sharing experiences, ideas about innovation and artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship ecosystem in the GCC region.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.ecosystemconsultants.com">www.ecosystemconsultants.com</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

<b>Name of programme or project</b>	<b>Paralegal training program for Patent Examination</b>
<b>Date and end date</b>	17 July 2023 - 30 July 2023
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
<b>Brief description</b>	The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, in cooperation with the US Patent and Trademark Office, conducted the semi-regional training program for patent examination.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	GCC Patent Office and Patents Offices in the GCC member States
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	The US Patent and Trademark Office
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Enhancing the examination capability of the patent examiners.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.saip.gov.sa">www.saip.gov.sa</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

Name of programme or project	Supporting the Young Inventors Laboratory in the State of Kuwait
<b>Date and end date</b>	26 July 2023 - 26 July 2023
<b>Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)</b>	the State of Kuwait
<b>Brief description</b>	The Patent Office at GCC General Secretariat conducted a workshop to support and encourage young Inventors.
<b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>	The Young Inventors Laboratory – State of Kuwait
<b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>	GCC Patent Office
<b>Outputs or impact</b>	Enhancing their capabilities to come up with new ideas and solutions.
<b>Website for further information</b>	<a href="http://www.gccpo.org">www.gccpo.org</a>
<b>Contact point for further information</b>	GCC Patent Office

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