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**January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

**To all the Members of the AIPPI - UAE National Group**

**Subject: 1<sup>st</sup> Circular/ 2023**

**AGM and legal updates**

Dear all,

We trust you are well.

We hope you had a great holiday season and a fresh start for the year. We look forward to working with you in 2023 for a better IP community and meeting all goals of the AIPPI UAE National Group.

- **Annual General Meeting “AGM” of AIPPI UAE members:**

It was a great pleasure to see many members at the AGM for the AIPPI UAE Group on December 15, 2022. On behalf of the Board members, Communications Committee and all other committees, we want to thank you for attending and participating in the AGM and we look forward to delivering on all points agreed at the AGM.

For those who were traveling or were unable to attend in person, we would love to see you in 2023. In the meantime, here is a summary of some key take outs and decisions taken during the AGM, as follows:

- 1) President Hoda Barakat welcomed the group, presented on AIPPI UAE Group journey in 2022 and the new board's vision, challenges and priorities. She provided the annual report for the General Assembly on the 2022 activities and the action plan for 2023 which was approved by a vote of the members.
- 2) Treasurer Nevin Koshy presented the financials. AGM voted to approve the financial statement for 2021/2022 and the budget plan for 2023.
- 3) Membership Committee Chair (Omar Obeidat) presented a report on the activities of this Committee, plan for 2023 and strategy to increase number of members, targets and recruiting of members.
- 4) Communications Committee Chair (Munir Suboh) presented a report on all delivered tasks in 2022, priorities of CC for 2023, launching of social media pages and statistics, approval to create WhatsApp group for all AIPPI UAE Group members, circulars among other projects in the pipeline. Members were encouraged to continue contribution and interaction with posts on social media page. Members were also informed that Sara Foudah (AIPPI UAE Group social media freelancer) will be conducting interviews with members at the AGM to create content and prepare for future posts at social media pages.
- 5) Legal Study and Training Committee (LSTC) Co-Chair and VP of UAE Group (Bassel El Turk) presented on the "GROW" initiative, summarized the importance of study questions, participation and urging members to contribute to both international study questions as well as local study questions. The AIPPI 2023 Study International Questions were presented, and voting took place. The members voted to work on the following International Study Question for 2023: Responsibility of online marketplaces for online infringement. The LSTC will also suggest a local Study Question in due course.
- 6) Young AIPPI Members Advisory Committee (YAC) co-chair: (Samantha Yung) presented on the Committee's priorities, mandates, projects, importance of supporting young practitioners to participate and be involved in all tasks of AIPPI. The discussions resulted in encouragement to members to enroll and involve younger members in the AIPPI UAE Group and to support the establishment of a Young Members Committee for the UAE Group as and when enough members were in place.
- 7) A great general discussion was held where some topics for upcoming events were suggested amongst other things and members were encouraged to get involved and make suggestions to the Board on what they would like the Group to do.

Pictures and posts from the AGM are available online at the AIPPI UAE Group social media pages.

- **Update of Laws and News:**  
**Unfair Competition: A NEW UAE Commercial Transactions Law in UAE:**

The UAE legislator has recently announced a new law that includes more details on unfair competition in the field of IP and other areas. The UAE Federal Law No. 50 for the year 2022 in relation to Commercial Transactions, has been published in the Official Gazette and come into force on January 2, 2023. This will repeal the old law and will modernize the existing law that governs commercial transactions. We believe that this is an important Law for IP practitioners to be aware of as it will impact us when advising on IP matters, infringement activities on trade names and/or unregistered trademarks, advertising and/or protection of traders' rights.

*Enclosed is a copy of the law as published in the UAE official gazette.*

- **The Fundamentals of the UAE Copyright Law by Faisal Daudpota:**

Our member Faisal Daudpota has kindly forwarded the link to his latest article on the Fundamentals of the UAE Copyright Law, and we wish to thank him for his contribution on this important topic. It is available for free download at the prestigious scholarly research website of Social Sciences Review Network (SSRN) at: [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=4309679](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4309679)

This comprehensive article provides a simplified overview of the important matters identified in the new UAE Copyright Law and its implementing regulations.

We encourage all our members to get in touch with us to discuss any topic of interest to you and to explore ways to be involved with future updates and circulars. We thank you again for your support to the AIPPI UAE Group and please do support, interact and participate in all news, posts, study questions and circulars.

Thank you from the CC Committee and the Board and we wish you a wonderful 2023.

On behalf of the Communications Committee

Authored by: Munir Suboh

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