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**Dubai – December 16th, 2021**

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

**Subject: 6th circular/ 2021-**

* **Signing Memorandum of Understanding between AIPPI and DIFC.**
* **Enactment of new Federal legislation: Decree law (36 of 2021) in relation to Trademarks and Decree law (38 of 2021) in relation to Copyright.**

Dear all,

We are pleased to share with you our last circular for 2021. We take this opportunity to wish you, your colleagues and families in advance a Happy Holidays season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In this circular, we will report to you some interesting updates in relation to AIPPI - UAE Group activities as well as providing some information on recent IP related laws enacted by the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

1. **Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding “MOU” between the AIPPI - UAE National Group and Dubai International Financial Centre “DIFC”**

The first board of directors of AIPPI - UAE National Group concluded its term by signing an MOU with DIFC to cooperate and deliver a number of objectives in the field of IP. The MOU covers a range of activities in which AIPPI - UAE and DIFC may cooperate, which include setting up a joint working gr0up to act as a consultation and review body for IP related matters within the DIFC.

The MOU also identifies specific areas of cooperation between AIPPI - UAE and DIFC, which include:

* raising awareness of the regime for IP rights within the DIFC;
* reviewing potential further developments for the regime for IP within the DIFC; and
* reviewing the option of using the dispute resolution mechanisms within the DIFC for resolving IP related disputes.

The MOU signature ceremony took place in the DIFC and was attended by members of the AIPPI - UAE board and communications committee. The president of AIPPI - UAE National Group (Mr. Rob Deans) signed the MOU on behalf of AIPPI - UAE while the DIFC Commissioner for IP (Dr. Tarek Hajjiri) attended the signature ceremony and executed the MOU on behalf of DIFC.

Among many promising areas of cooperation agreed between parties, AIPPI - UAE National Group looks forward to following up on this initiative by working with DIFC to establish to review and progress further the IP regime within DIFC.

The final signed version of MOU will shortly be available online at the AIPPI - UAE website (<https://www.aippiuae.org/>). We invite all members to visit the website, read the MOU and feel free to contact members of our board and/or our communications committee to share any thoughts. In particular, please let us know if you are interested in contributing or participating in the areas of cooperation identified in the MOU.

1. **Enactment of new Federal legislation: Law (36 of 2021) in relation to Trademarks and Law (38 of 2021) in relation to Copyright**

We have all witnessed recently the largest legislative reform in the history of the UAE by enacting more than 40 different decree laws and amendments in 2021.

Following to the new Industrial Property Law published earlier in May 2021, the two most recent IP laws: The Federal Decree Law (36 of 2021) in relation to Trademarks “Trademark Law”, and Decree Law (38 of 2021) in relation to Copyright “Copyright Law” have also been published. Both Decree Laws were gazetted in the annex of Official Gazette No. 712 (Supplementary) dated September 26, 2021, with the final text of both laws being made available to public when the Cabinet released the set of federal laws in November. The new Trademark Law and Copyright Law will come into force on January 2, 2022.

In summary, the new federal IP laws published in 2021 are:

1. Decree Law number 11 of 2021 in relation to the protection of Industrial Property rights.
2. Decree Law number 36 of 2021 in relation to the protection of Trademarks.
3. Decree Law number 38 of 2021 in relation to the protection of Copyrights.

Other laws published in 2021 that are potentially relevant to IP practitioners in the UAE include:

1. Decree Law number 34 of 2021 in relation to the Electronic Crimes.
2. Decree Law number 46 of 2021 in relation to the Electronic Transactions and Trust services.
3. Decree Law number 37 of 2021 in relation to the Commercial Registrar.
4. Decree Law No. 45 of 2021 regarding the Protection of Personal Data
5. Decree Law number 31 of 2021 in relation to Penalties and Crimes.
6. Decree Law number 33 of 2021 in relation to the Employment relationships.

We will in due course upload all these decree-laws on the AIPPI - UAE National Group website for all members to access.

We hope you find this circular, and all communications shared with you in 2021, helpful and informative.

The communications committee always encourages you to get in touch with any of its members to discuss any topic of your interest and explore ways to engage you with future writeups and circulars.

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