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**February 6th, 2022**

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

**Subject: 3rd Circular/ 2023**

**GCC PATENT OFFICE IS BACK IN ACTION**

Dear all,

We trust you are well.

**Recap**: It was back on January 6, 2021, that the GCC Patent Office stopped accepting new patent applications. There was 23 months period of uncertainty about the GCC Patent Office’s future.

**Current:** We have now received the confirmation that the GCC Patent Office started accepting applications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain and The State of Kuwait on January 1, 20231. The application can be filed with or without claiming priority. The implementing bylaws and regulations can be obtained from the official webpage of the GCC Patent Office [ <https://www.gccpo.org/> ]. We have noticed that the official filing fee has been reduced. The filing fee is approximately 24% less than the previous fee structure and the official search fee has been increased to 1000% more than the previous fee.

It is worth noting that the GCC Patent Office has also announced that the supporting documents can be apostilled without further legalization from the Saudi Arabia Consulate/Embassy.

When filing a GCC patent application, the Applicant has the choice to select either one or both of the countries [Bahrain / Kuwait]. The user is then directed to a page where they can upload the documents and pay the prescribed fees. Examination and further prosecution till acceptance are done by the GCC Patent Office.

Although not conclusive, it has been informed that after the successful examination of the application, the patent certificate is issued by the local Patent Offices (Kuwait and Bahrain) once the Applicant has paid the prescribed grant and publication fees.

**Future**: Practically, we are yet to see how this new system and arrangement will be perceived and used by the Applicant. We are also keen to see whether other member states [Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE] will join the GCC Patent filing system to provide further options for the Applicant interested in these jurisdictions.

Reference: <https://www.gccpo.org/AboutUsEn/ShowNews?id=68>

Kind regards,

On behalf of the Communication Committee

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