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January 6th, 2022

To all the Members of the AIPPI - UAE National Group

Subject: 1th Circular/ 2022

Updates from the UAE Ministry of Economy/ Trademarks and Copyrights Office

Dear all,

We trust you are well.

- **General Assembly Meeting:**

It was a great pleasure to see many members at the General Assembly Meeting for the AIPPI UAE Group in December 2021. On behalf of the Communications Committee and the Board Members, we wish everyone a great start to 2022.

We also hope that we will all adapt soon to the new weekend days in the UAE (Saturdays and Sundays). We look forward to hearing your experiences and sharing your thoughts with the members in the coming months on the practice that your firm/company has adopted for your weekly weekend (which and how many weekly days off).

- **Ministry of Economy update:**

As the new set of IP regulations, i.e. Federal Decrees listed in our 6th circular of December 2021 came in to force earlier this week, we understand that the AIPPI UAE Group members have many valid questions. Therefore, our Board took the initiative to approach senior officials at the Ministry of Economy to seek clarification and guidance. The Ministry official confirmed that they were currently finalizing the rules and systems and would be organizing an online meeting for all agents/attorneys to explain, clarify and answer questions.

We are compiling a list of queries which we are sure you will all have such as the implications of applying Madrid system and when international services will be permissible to users, procedures, time frames, fees, POA, requirements to extend based on existing applications filed before entering Madrid, incoming filings designating to UAE and/or international filing based on UAE national application...etc. Furthermore, the new arrangements under the new Trademark law and when to expect the implementing regulations, availability of multi-class applications, fees impact, cessation of the publication in new local newspapers, appeal/grievance committees...etc.

- **Virtual session and changes on Ministry's Portal:**

We are pleased to learn that the UAE Trademark and Copyright office has on 5th January 2022 sent a circular to all registered agents and trademark attorneys advising that all new services will reflect shortly in the portals to allow applicants or interested parties to use and adapt to the new services and they will also set a time for a virtual session to be attended by agents and trademark attorneys to answer all questions. The Communications Committee will inform all AIPPI members about this session once we have more details.

We also learnt that the implementing regulations for all new Federal Decrees are still not issued and published. However, the Ministry of Economy confirmed that it is updating its services portals to reflect all the changes in accordance with the Madrid Protocol and the new Trademark and Copyright laws. Therefore, we expect some imminent practical updates to the current position.

- **List of questions:**

As mentioned above, in preparation for the Ministry of Economy's proposed session, the AIPPI Board will aim to prepare a list of questions to be shared with the Ministry of Economy. We invite members to send any suggested questions to the Communications Committee and we will try to consolidate a list of valid and practical questions to the officials.

We fully understand the challenge that our community is facing to adopt the new laws and procedures. However, this is a transitional period and the AIPPI UAE Group will do its best to hear your feedback, comments, suggestions and address the same on a group level to ease the transitional period. The Ministry is also willing to support, and we understood that officials will work on putting in place some practical measures to enable smooth access to all services, information, requirements and fees.

After we pass this transitional period, we are confident that the IP community will benefit and be stronger from the new IP landscape.

We encourage you 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.

Thank you,

On behalf of the Communications Committee

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