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ICANN Gives Final Approval for Four Countries to Use Non-Latin Languages in Internet Address Names



WASHINGTON, DC - The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Board of Directors has approved the last application step for four countries to use their national language scripts in the last portion of the Internet address names.

Egypt, the Russia Federation, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E) received approval to use their non-Latin language scripts in the top-level domain (TLD) part of an Internet address name. The TLD follows the dot, such as dot-com or dot-org. “This decision means that, for the first time, we will see non-Latin characters, specifically Arabic and Cyrillic, in an entire Internet address name,” said Rod Beckstrom, President and Chief Executive Officer of ICANN. “This will open the door to the Internet to Arabic and Russian speakers who may have never been online.”

The Board’s action is part of ICANN’s move to internationalize the Internet by facilitating the use of non-Latin characters in the TLD. Until re-

cently, technical constraints meant that all domain names had to end in letters from the Latin alphabet (A through Z). After years of work by ICANN, a global system for the use of other scripts has been designed and tested. It was approved in October 2009.

“Today is a milestone in the development of the Internet,” said Tina Dam, Senior Director of the Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) program. “The Board’s approval means these addresses should be available to users in the four countries very soon.”

IDN program is being rolled out in stages. IDNs will initially be allowed on a limited basis for individual country domain names (known as country code top-level domains or ccTLDs). These four countries can now use non-Latin scripts for dot-eg (Egypt), dot-ru (Russia), dot-sa (Saudi Arabia) or dot-ae (U.A.E). Eventually, IDNs will be allowed in the TLD portion of all Internet address names.



New Legal Platform for Intellectual Property in the EU

BEIJING - Senior officials from the European Commission, the European Union (EU) Delegation to China, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), and Academic Representatives from Peking University came together on May 12, 2010 to launch the 'Europe IP Law Search' – a new addition to the widely-used legal search tool, 'China IP Law Search'.

The China Intellectual Property (IP) Law Search, launched in 2009, provided for the first time a comprehensive, free-of-charge and bilingual collection of legal references relevant to IP protection in China. The tool is now being extended to include Europe-wide IP legislation and will broaden the user-base of business associations, companies, lawyers, academics, students and authorities.

By helping users to find and access legal resources in their daily work, the EU-China 'IP Law Search' aims to be a valuable source of information for everybody working, studying or simply interested in the legal IP environment in China and the EU. The launch also shows the significant progress being made on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) cooperation between China and EU, and as a result it will benefit the business and economic exchanges between China and the EU businesses.

Mr. Koos Richelle, Director General of the EuropeAid Cooperation Office and Mr. Serge Abou, Ambassador of the EU Delegation to China together with Mr. Yang Guohua, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Commerce the People's Republic of China (P.R. China) introduced the new features of the tool and explained how it fits into the overall picture of strengthening connections between China and the EU in both the IP field and economic relations.

Mr. Richelle explained that "The European Commission strongly pursues transparency of its IP protection systems. Making available European IP laws and regulations to Chinese users increases transparency and facilitates access to the European market." He also emphasized the importance of the IP Law Search for industry, "The EU's investment in its cooperation with China aims at supporting business in using their IPRs as a value creating business asset, making new market opportunities possible. IP Law Search can serve to meet the increasing information needs of IPR holders, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)."

Mr. Yang said "MOFCOM welcomes the launch of Europe IP Law Search and also hopes this new legal platform will be helpful to better understanding the EU IPR legal system". Mr. Yang also spoke highly of the Chinese IP Law Search launched in 2009 and emphasized how China and the EU would continue to cooperate to promote communication and understanding between each other.

Furthermore, IP Law Search contributes to raising public awareness of the importance and scope of IP protection by providing direct access to information on the legal framework that support it.

The EU-China IPR2 Project is a partnership initiative launched in 2007 between the EU and China on the protection of IPR. With more than € 16 million in joint funding over four years to 2011, IPR2 aims to strengthen the enforcement of IPR by targeting the reliability, efficiency and accessibility of the IP protection system in China. This is done by closely cooperating with and providing technical support to the different levels of the Chinese legislative, judicial, administrative and enforcement authorities.



Dubai Customs Honors Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal in World Intellectual Property Day



DUBAI- On the annual occasion of the World Intellectual Property Day that coincides April 26, the Intellectual Property Rights section (IPRs) at Dubai Customs invited Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property, UAE (AGIP, UAE) and (TAG-Legal UAE) /Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property TMP Agents in order to honor them for having the highest number in registering trademarks and filing the administrative complaints at Dubai Customs.

The celebration which was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Dubai was attended by many figures including HE Ahmed Butti Ahmed, Executive Chairman of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation and Dubai Customs Director, Mr. Yousif Al Sahlawi, Senior Executive Director of Corporate Affairs at Dubai Customs, Mr. Moutaz Abdullat, a Legal Consultant at TAG-Legal UAE, Mr. Mohammed Malaeb, an Administrative Assistant at Tag-Legal UAE, a number of directors of Dubai Customs as well as a number of managers of Customs offices in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

HE Ahmed Butti Ahmed awarded Mr. Abdullat a trophy for the great achievements of TAG-Legal UAE in filing administrative complaints against counterfeit goods at Dubai Customs and for their cooperation with the said Customs. It is worth mentioning that TAG-Legal UAE represented by Mr. Abdullat has worked hard to strengthen the relationships with Dubai Customs; several meetings with the directors of many sections at Dubai Customs have been held by TAG-Legal UAE aiming at reaching greater degree of collaboration with Dubai Customs.

Teen Sues His Mom for Hacking Facebook Account

facebook®

ARKADELPHIA, ARKANSAS- According to KATV-TV reports, Denise New from Arkadelphia is facing harassment charges from her 16-year-old. Her son, who lives with his grandmother, also requested a no-contact order. Prior to this issue, Ms. New and her son reportedly had a “great relationship” despite their living arrangements.

According to the boy, his mother hacked into his Facebook and email accounts, then changed both passwords. She also allegedly posted remarks that involved slander and information about his personal life.

New admits to changing the passwords, but denies hacking--she claims he left his account logged in on her computer. She also admits to making “maybe three, maybe four actual postings,” but says the rest of it was a “conversation” between her, her son, and his friends.

New reportedly “hacked” her son’s Facebook account because she was disturbed with the things he was posting--including a post that suggested he had driven home one night at 95 mph because he had been upset with a girl. New plans on fighting the charges, as she believes she was fully within her

legal rights as a parent to monitor her son’s online behavior.

“Oh yeah, I’m going to fight it. If I have to go even higher up, I’m going to. I’m not gonna let this rest. I think this could be a precedent-setting moment for parents,” she told KATV-TV.

Prosecutors approved the harassment charges on March 26, and New faces a court date of May 12. Prosecutors declined to comment on the case because of the boy’s status as a minor, but did make a statement saying that New’s alleged statements justified the charge.

ABU-GHAZALEH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PARTICIPATES IN INTA 132ND ANNUAL MEETING

AMMAN- A number of Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) professionals participated in the International Trademark Association (INTA) 132nd Annual Meeting which held in Boston, USA during the period May 22-26, 2010.

The Annual Meeting witnessed the participation of the following AGIP professionals: Mr. Luay T. Abu-Ghazaleh, Mr. Mahmoud Lattouf, Ms. Dima Naber, and Ms. Raghad Arafah (General Admin-

istration), Mr. Charles Shaban (Egypt Office), Mr. Nabil Salame (Montreal Liaison Office), Mr. Motasem Abu-Ghazaleh (UAE Office), Ms. Ridab Abu-Taleb (China Office), Ms. Diana Jarrar (Oman Office), Ms. Rasha Dababneh (Jordan Office).

AGIP Professionals stayed at the Marriott Copley Hotel, and hosted meetings with clients in Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Northeastern University, and Brandeis University.



Tunisian Parliament Adopts Draft Bill to Curb Illegal Fishing

TUNIS- The House of Advisors adopted on April 22, 2010 at le Bardo, the draft bill amending fishery activities. The amendment aims at preventing illegal fishing activities carried out in Tunisian territorial waters and ensuring the protection of fish resources especially after the application of the organic recovery system since last summer. Also, it aims at strengthening financial sanctions imposed against foreign offenders.

The previous fines ranging between 1.000 dinars and 100.000 dinars will increase to be between 30.000 and 300.000 dinars while prison terms remain unchanged.



Moreover, pursuant to the draft bill, the minimum penalty reserved for Tunisian offenders will be increased to reach 2.000 dinars, while the maximum penalty of about 100.000 dinars will not be changed.

The advisors called for adoption of GPS (Global Positioning System) technology in determining the positions of ships and ports to provide storage and packaging equipments.

Mr. Abdesslem Mansour, Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries noted that the bill intervenes to amend and supplement the 1994 law that restricted fishing in territorial waters to only foreign units operating in the sector of research, training and popularization. He stressed that the various measures adopted for the benefit of the sector helped keep the level of production at 99.000 tons in 2009, generating an increase of the production by 3.000 additional tons in the first quarter of 2010 compared to the same period of 2009.

Malaysian and UK Islamic Banks Agree on More Cross-border Liquidity Management Deals

KUALA LUMPUR -Malaysian and UK Islamic banks have agreed to undertake greater collaboration in cross-border Islamic liquidity management transactions.

The decision was made at the end of the Malaysian-UK Islamic Treasurers Workshop, held at the Westminster Conference in London on April 12-13, 2010.

The workshop which aimed at encouraging greater interaction between and harmonizing business practices of Malaysian and UK Islamic banks, was attended by over 40 senior treasury officials of both countries.

The workshop was hosted by the UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), a government agency responsible for promoting international business.

In February 2009, Bank Negara Malaysia and the UKTI signed a memorandum of understanding to promote the development of Islamic finance in both countries.

The workshop was part of a four-day business visit to London by a Malaysian delegation led by Ms. Datin Zaimah Zakaria, Group Treasurer of RHB Banking Group.

She said the business visit is part of the continuous efforts by Islamic banks in Malaysia to link Kuala Lumpur with other major international financial hubs.

“Before London, Malaysian Islamic banks organized similar

business visits to Hong Kong and Jakarta,” she added, in a statement here today.

The visit was supported by Bank Negara and facilitated by the Association of Islamic Banking Institutions Malaysia (AIBIM).

Besides the workshop, the Malaysian delegation had six meetings with senior business leaders of major British financial institutions and UK-based Islamic banks.

The meetings were to explore business opportunities and form potential alliances in tapping the huge business potential across Asia and the Middle East.

The delegation also met Sir Andrew Cahn, Chief Executive of UKTI and the UK’s regulatory body, the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

In addition to these discussions, the delegation also held talks with the British Bankers Association (BBA) to look into the possibility of developing an international benchmark rate for Islamic finance.

Malaysian bankers and their UK counterparts are confident that cross-border business activities between Islamic banks in both countries would be further enhanced as a result of the visit.

Bernama



Drunk Drivers Face Instant Suspension under New China License Rule

BEIJING- Motorists in China who are caught drink driving will immediately have their licenses suspended, according to an amendment to the country's driving license regulations, which came into effect on April 1, 2010.

The regulation was amended and issued by China's Ministry of Public Security.

As per the amendment, drunk drivers found with a blood alcohol level of more than 20 milligrams per 100 milliliters of blood will get 12 demerit points instead of the previous six points for the first violation.

According to the regulation and the Law on Road Traffic Safety, a driver's license will be suspended if the driver has 12 points within a year, and the driver must go through a seven-day course on traffic laws and regulations before retaking the driving license test.

Under the amendment, motorists who reverse or drive

the wrong way or make a U-turn on highways will also receive the harsher 12 demerit points.

Motorist with valid licenses who are found using counterfeit registration plates or forged driving licenses would also receive 12 demerit points and immediate suspension of the license.

On the other hand, the amendment eases restrictions on driving licenses for disabled people. Unlike the previous rule that granted licenses for people with disabled left legs, but not for the ones with disabled right legs, the amendment provides that people with disabled legs who can sit up independently are entitled to apply for a driving license for specially designed vehicles on the condition that safety facilities have been equipped.

The hearing-impaired can also apply for licenses to drive small cars if they wear hearing aids and pass hearing tests.

Xinhua



New Indian Rules on E-waste Management



NEW DELHI-The Indian government plans to enact new rules that make a producer of electrical and electronic equipments responsible for the proper disposal of the e-waste generated at end of the products' lifetime.

The draft of the new rules, called the E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules 2010, was made available for public comment on the Web site of the Ministry of Environment and Forests on April 28, 2010.

Pursuant to the draft rules, the term "producers" refer to the following groups of people: manufacturers of products whose brand is owned by them, sellers of their brand products which are not manufactured by them and importers of products in India.

The proposed rules will also ban the import of used electrical and electronic equipment for charity in the country.

A lot of e-waste is brought into India under the pretext of being reused and donated to local charities, as the import of e-waste is otherwise restricted, Greenpeace campaigner Ramapati Kumar said on May 1, 2010.

A number of social organizations and environmentalists have expressed concern that developed countries are dumping their e-waste in

India, where it is recycled under hazardous and unregulated conditions.

The management and handling of waste in India is currently governed by legislation such as the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986, and Hazardous Material (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules of 2008.

Current rules address mainly the handling and disposal of industrial waste generated in manufacturing, and do not take into account the e-waste generated by products like computers at the end of their lifecycle, said Vinnie Mehta, executive director of Manufacturers Association of Information Technology (MAIT), a trade body of the IT industry.

MAIT, Greenpeace, and other organizations have been pushing the government for the adoption of better e-waste rules.

The new rules proposed by the government attempt to regulate not only producers, but also recyclers and intermediaries such as operators of collection centers. Consumers are also required under the proposed rules to turn in the end-of-life products for recycling.



New Trademark Law in Romania- **PETOŠEVIĆ**

BUCHAREST -The Law 66/2010 on trademarks and geographical indications in Romania came into effect on May 9, 2010, according to PETOŠEVIĆ.

Pursuant to the new law, holograms as well as sound marks can be registered as trademarks. Moreover, a registration of a national trademark will be refused if it is identical or similar to a prior European Union (EU) community registration.

All interested parties can submit observations on absolute grounds and formulate opposition on relative grounds within two months from the publication date of the trademark application in the online database of Romania's Patent and Trademark Office (PTO).

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