



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

Department of Policy and Business Practices

Intellectual property related activities in chambers of commerce

Organisation:	Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut and Mount Lebanon (CCIAB)
Country:	Lebanon
Contact person:	Mr. Sadek Sabbah
Contact details:	Sanayeh, 1, Justinien Street, CCIAB Bldg., 9th Floor Phone: +9611353390 ext 325 or ext 268 Fax: +9611349615 e-mail: library@ccib.org.lb or research2@ccib.org.lb www.ccib.org.lb

1. General comments

The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Committee at the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut and Mount Lebanon was established in 2006.

The IPR Committee, and given its sincere and genuine belief in the paramount importance of IPR issues and the subsequent implications at the economic and social levels, works towards the efficient laying down and adequate enforcement of IPR legislation, as a pathway towards a more attractive operational platform for investors.

The Committee's top priority is to disseminate an adequate IPR culture and to educate not only the stakeholders, but also a wider public base, on IPR-related issues.

For this matter, the Committee acts as a focal point as to synthesize the problems and the needs of firms in IPR matters, and represents the private sector's interests before the concerned public bodies.

2. Communication Tools

What kind of communication tools do you offer? Please elaborate.

a) On-line e.g. website

No

b) Hard copy publications (e.g. guides, newsletters)

No

c) Others

The IPR Committee focuses on lobbying actions and therefore makes use of conferences, seminars, meetings and press releases to raise public awareness on IPR related issues and events.

- Met with the Minister of Economy & Trade (MOET) and stakeholders in the cable industry as to legalize the operations of the illegal cable operators in Lebanon (around 650 operators)
- Met with Microsoft representatives in Lebanon to encourage the use of legitimate software by undertaking proactive actions in this realm such as designing special offers for SME, deals for students, and other promotional packages for the public).
- Met with Lebanon's newly established high-tech crime unit representatives along with DVD distributors in the aim of joining efforts to curb piracy practices and to set a common Anti-piracy Action Plan for the DVD industry in Lebanon.
- Participated in the organization of the IP Day in Lebanon on April 29th, 2006 in collaboration with the MOET, the World Trade Center- Beirut and the American University of Beirut.
- Participated in the organization of WIPO Conference on Collective Management, in March 16th-17th, 2006 at Beirut Chamber premises.

3. Training

Do you offer any training programs? Please elaborate.

a) Seminars/ workshops

See above actions related to workshops and seminars.

b) On-line tutorials

No

c) Others

No

4. Consultancy/ Advisory Services

Do you offer any IP-consultancy services? This could include a helpline, legal/ financial/ commercial/consulting services etc.. Are Intellectual property aspects included in general commercial/business advice provided by your chamber?

The IPR committee provides information and guidance assistance to private enterprises in IP issues.

5. Information gathering/ awareness raising

Do you conduct surveys or gather information in any other way? Do you carry out any awareness raising activities? Please elaborate.

See above section on communication tools.

6. SME case studies

Do you publish case studies of SMEs who have actively used IP in their businesses? Can you provide us with any such case studies?

No

7. Facilitation of IP business opportunities

Do you provide any services to help businesses trade in IP eg IP business matchmaking, marketplaces etc?

No

8. Policy advocacy

Do you engage in policy advocacy in the IP field? Please provide details.

The IPR Committee is involved in the drafting of IPR related legislation (e.g. law on geographical indications, trademarks, etc.).

9. Encouragement of innovation and IP asset development

Do you have any initiatives to encourage innovation or the development of IP assets e.g. awards, competitions, technology showcases etc ?

No

10. Others

No

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We consent to the above information being posted on the ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) website.

Name: Sadek Sabbah

Position: Chairman of the IPR Committee

Organization: Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut and Mount Lebanon (CCIAB)

Date: October 3rd, 2007