Challenges and Opportunities in Digitalizing Uzbekistan's IP System

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Legal and Digital Transformation of Uzbekistan's IP System

- The Strategy for the Development of the Intellectual Property Sphere in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026 has been developed and adopted.

- The Strategy specifically addresses the implementation and enhancement of information and communication technologies in relations pertaining to intellectual property.

- The Strategy establishes comprehensive frameworks for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

- The legislation in the sphere of intellectual property has been systematically improved and adapted to facilitate digital transformation processes.

Legal and Digital Transformation of Uzbekistan's IP System

- The Ministry of Justice has established the "Industrial Property Protection" electronic state services portal for intellectual property management.

- Business Process Reengineering (BPR) has been conducted for services in the intellectual property sphere.

- Services have been systematically automated and implemented as transactional services operating in a 24/7 mode, ensuring continuous accessibility.

Intellectual Property Categories in the Electronic Portal

- Inventions and Utility Models

- Industrial Designs

- Trademarks

- Geographical Indications and Well-Known Trademarks

- Selection Achievements (Plant Varieties)

- Computer Programs and Databases

The portal offers the following capabilities, available 24/7

1. **Automated Submission and Processing of Applications**
   - Applications are now submitted and processed entirely automatically, without human intervention;
   - This ensures the ability to establish priority dates for applications objectively and without human bias.

2. **Streamlined Communication on Applications**
   - Efficient communication channels have been established between applicants and the examination authorities
   - This has significantly reduced the time required for reviewing applications.

3. **State Registry Registration**
   - The registration process within the State Registry has been fully automated and operates in a 24/7 mode;
   - As a result, the time required for registration has been substantially shortened.

4. **Transition to Electronic Official Bulletins**
   - Official bulletins have been digitized, further enhancing accessibility and efficiency.

5. **Extension of Validity and Maintenance Periods**
   - The processes for extending validity periods and maintaining rights have been fully automated, eliminating human involvement.

Significant Reduction in Review Timelines Through Automation

1.Invention Patents:

- In 2021, the average time to obtain a patent for an invention was 1,221 days;

- By 2024, this timeline has been reduced to 655 days, with the current average standing at 792 days.

2.Utility Model Patents:

- In 2021, the average time to obtain a patent for a utility model was 509 days;

- By 2024, this timeline has been shortened to 319 days.

3.Industrial Design Patents:

- In 2021, the average time to obtain a patent for an industrial design was 262 days;

- By 2024, this timeline has been reduced to 211 days.

Significant Reduction in Review Timelines Through Automation

1.Trademark Expertise

- In 2021, the official expertise for trademarks took approximately 1 month;

- Currently, this process is completed in an average of 3 days.

2.Trademark Registration

- Following a successful expertise, registration in the state registry used to take 1 month in 2021;

- This process has now been fully automated.

3.Increase in Trademark Applications

- The number of trademark applications submitted for registration increased by 1.7 times from 2021 to 2024.

Automation of Key Services in the Expertise Process

1. **Extension of Response Periods for Inquiries**
   - The system now automatically extends the timeframes for responding to inquiries.

2. **Automated Suspension of Applications**
   - In cases where responses to inquiries are not received, the system automatically suspends proceedings related to the application.

3. **Application Renewal**
   - The process of renewing applications is now automated.

4. **Extension of Patent and Certificate Validity**
   - The system automatically extends the validity periods for patents and certificates for future terms.

5. **Patent Renewal Services**
   - All patent renewal services have been fully automated.

Ongoing Projects to Enhance Intellectual Property Protection in Uzbekistan

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1.Integration of State Agencies into a Unified Platform

- Unifying all authorized state bodies responsible for intellectual property (IP) protection onto a single platform in order to enhance communication and coordination between agencies to enhance enforcement measures and improve IP protection.

2.Development of a Counterfeit Product Registry

- Creating a comprehensive registry to document counterfeit products identified within Uzbekistan.
- The registry will include detailed information such as instances of IP rights violations, types of goods involved, profiles of violators, nature of infringement, geographic location, and comparative data on counterfeit and authentic products.

Ongoing Projects to Enhance Intellectual Property Protection in Uzbekistan

3. Data Sharing and Collaboration

- Establishing a system for real-time data exchange among government entities, law enforcement, and relevant stakeholders in order to provide transparency in identifying and addressing IP infringements, facilitating faster responses to violations.

4. Strengthening Enforcement Mechanisms

- Enhance legal enforcement by providing accurate data for investigations, facilitating faster responses to violations, and improving regulatory oversight.
- By this, support the reduction of counterfeit goods in the market and encourages compliance with international IP standards.

Ongoing Efforts in the Field of Copyright Protection in Uzbekistan

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Creation of a unified platform to systematically manage and store information on copyrighted works;

Objectives:

- Facilitating quick and easy search capabilities for users and stakeholders;

- Ensuring rapid access to relevant copyright information;

- Providing a reliable source of official electronic evidence in cases of copyright disputes or violations;

- Strengthening international cooperation by aligning with global standards for copyright protection and data sharing.

Challenges in Implementing New Technologies

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Data Quality Issues in Intellectual Property Databases

- Ensuring the quality of data in intellectual property databases is of paramount importance. However, as large volumes of data are stored and processed, issues such as data inconsistency, outdated records, and inaccuracies emerge.

- These challenges highlight the critical need for Data Cleaning to maintain the accuracy, reliability, and efficiency of intellectual property data management.

Challenges in Implementing New Technologies

Lack of Infrastructure in Developing Countries:

A strong infrastructure is essential for the effective implementation of modern technologies, especially artificial intelligence (AI) and digital transformation in the field of intellectual property. However, in developing countries, the lack of adequate infrastructure remains one of the key challenges, significantly slowing down the modernization of intellectual property management and protection.

Enhancing Cooperation in Intellectual Property Data Management

All national patent offices are actively structuring and cleaning intellectual property data to improve its accuracy and usability.
To ensure faster big data processing and optimize labor resources, Uzbekistan announces its readiness to engage in intellectual property data exchange, fostering international collaboration in this field.

Thank you for your attention!