



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge
Knowledge for All

Workshop 13
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**Innovation and Development of Knowledge Societies – The
Transformational Impact of Intellectual Property on Knowledge Based
Economic Growth with a Focus on Emerging Technologies, Artificial
Intelligence and IP financing**

Workshop Directors

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1. Abstract

This Workshop is offered within the GRCC preferred theme of “Innovation and the Development of Knowledge Societies in the Gulf”.

The Workshop proposes to examine the notion and understanding of innovation and knowledge societies as they particularly apply to the Gulf states and their broad range of communities. Key to this examination will be the role that technological development - its promotion and protection through intellectual property – plays in fostering both innovation and the knowledge society. In brief, innovation, knowledge, society, emerging technology, economic growth and intellectual property are intertwined and inseparable.

Creativity and the generation of new knowledges across the broad spectrum of technological development and associated intellectual property, are the essential sources of nourishment if the knowledge society is to flourish – or even survive. However, creation of intellectual property also needs nourishment in the form investment, recognition of risk, and opportunity for reward.

The Workshop will examine the issues of emerging technologies and their impact on society generally and intellectual property, specifically within the context of the World Economic Forum’s

so-called “fourth industrial revolution” driven by global and rapid technological advancements which society is currently experiencing.

In this regard, the Workshop takes note of the societal and cultural character of the Gulf and its member communities and will confront the challenging question of the application of frontier technologies as being currently considered by WIPO, new methods of IP financing, commercial transactions, blockchain, NFT’s, risk sharing and equitable reward. At the same time, intellectual property requires adequate and appropriate protection to enable innovation to contribute to the development of the knowledge society. With emerging technologies and artificial intelligence comes new challenges and opportunities for the GCC to expand its innovation capabilities and develop knowledge-based societies.

2. Objectives and Scope of the Workshop

2.1 Objectives

The objectives of the Workshop include the following, namely to:

- Raise awareness of Innovation and knowledge-based societies generally, and their development in the Gulf region.
- Encourage debate on differing understandings of the very nature and core characteristics of what might constitute a ‘knowledge society’, of ‘innovation’, and ‘intellectual property’ in the contemporary world.
- Discuss the nature of the emerging “4th industrial revolution and its potential for creation of knowledge-based societies.
- Discuss and make recommendations on the current GCC laws concerning the transformational impact that emerging technologies through intellectual property law can have on growing the creative economy, fostering new frontier technologies and innovation.
- Suggest laws and regulations with potential impact on inventions, technology and sciences, including but not limited to Artificial Intelligence, NFT’s, metaverse and blockchain.
- Suggest regional or national policies in respect to IP in the emerging technology and frontier technology.
- Propose ideas and recommendations for the unification of IP laws and policies in the GCC member states to promote innovation and creativity.
- Examine the potential for inclusion of initiatives for the advancement of innovation and the knowledge societies in current and upcoming free trade agreements, such as the UK-GCC free trade agreement and other international agreements.

This Workshop is offered under the GRCC's preferred topic area of "Innovation and the Development of Knowledge Societies in the Gulf". The Workshop will cover the importance for the GCC of forums such as the GRM series of meetings to serve as avenues for the offering and examination of proposals for enacting unified laws in regard to new developments in intellectual highlight the challenges facing the GCC member states and the wider Muslim communities in becoming a real union with common operational or at least compatible sets of laws and regulations. Finally, the Workshop will provide applicable solutions to innovation growth and the development of knowledge societies regarding the expansion of emerging technologies, digital assets and artificial intelligence in all member states.

2.2. Scope

The scope of the Workshop will generally encompass innovation and knowledge-based societies in the GCC with a special focus on emerging technology and how it can be transformed to support innovation and growth.

However, the Workshop directors would also welcome papers which examine the application of these principles beyond the GCC and even the Muslim world. The frontier technology elements of Intellectual property growth is gaining increasing attention and, there are important lessons to be learnt from non-Muslim economies.

3. Contribution to the Expansion of Gulf Studies

The Workshop will contribute to the expansion of Gulf Studies by providing a forum for discussion and analysis of the current GCC and member state laws and regulations in regard to emerging technologies and artificial intelligence incentives and developments in the areas of IP protection. The Workshop will examine whether both GCC laws and regulations and the local laws of the member states need to be revised, especially since some laws in these areas are now somewhat outdated, and out of step with current international standards.

Provision of adequate standards of innovation and the financing models to emerging fields of technological development, artificial intelligence and IP will have an enormous impact on regional and local economies, technology and its transfer, and creativity and inventions. The key factor is to enforce effective laws in each country.

Furthermore, member states must restart working in harmony in regard to international

commerce. Enhancing laws and supporting IP offices inside the GCC can shrink the gap between local businesses within Gulf countries and with the world at large.

The Workshop will give recommendations and suggestions to expand and protect innovation and knowledge-based societies in the region.

4. Draft of Workshop Agenda and Anticipated Papers

The Workshop Agenda will be influenced by the number, subject matter, quality and coherence of the contributions received from participants. The Directors will be seeking 15 quality papers for presentation. As a guideline, both days will open with a Director presenting a welcome, scene setting and any housekeeping matters. The following individual presentations will comprise 20 minutes presentation and 10 minutes Q&A. The first day will close with a discussion moderated by a Workshop director on the papers/subjects presented. The second day will close with a longer session encompassing both the day's presentations and the Workshop as a whole. For either day, if there are papers on a singular topic that present either similar views or contrasting views, a panel session with extended Q&A time will be offered.

The following key areas for papers are suggested as focus points but they should not necessarily be viewed as exclusive:

- Knowledge societies and Gulf societies – collaboration or conflict?
- Gulf intellectual property as both a domestic and an export industry – new principles for investment, risk, and reward;
- The global emerging “4th Industrial revolution” – what does it mean for the Gulf societies and the GCC?
- Development, management, and exploitation of Gulf IP rights for the benefits of GCC member states;
- Innovation in the GCC, emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, NFT's and blockchain.
- Intellectual property financing and valuation growth both in the GCC and Muslim countries, and the development of financial models for intangible assets.
- Protection of Gulf traditional knowledge and cultural heritage systems, either within or in addition to the proposed EU-GCC FTA, the UK-GCC FTA and other trade agreements;
- Redefining GCC free trade agreements and bilateral investment agreements – are the interests of the Gulf states adequately protected;
- Is there a place for Islamic financial, banking and investment principles in investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) arbitration agreements – do they belong in a Gulf trade agreement?

- Other papers encompassing ideas within the scope of the above Workshop objectives.

5. Publication Plan

The Directors propose a two-tier paper selection process for publication. For tier 1, they intend to select at least 8 quality papers from the targeted pool of up to 15 presentations. While these numbers are subject to publisher requirements and thus remain flexible, it is quite possible that academic publishers will place a limit of 12 chapters or around 100,000 words. For tier 2, the remaining papers will be supported for further publication.

The following strategy on publisher selection is proposed, in order of preference:

- Should the GRM have an appropriate publication agreement with an academic publisher, as existed previously with Gerlach Press, the Directors will respect that agreement;
- Submit a proposal to Taylor & Francis either as a standard book or under its subsidiary Routledge-Cavendish CRC Shortbook scheme. All three co-directors have previously published with Routledge-Cavendish and Professor Price also has a current contract;
- Negotiate with a Q1 journal for a special issue focusing on the Workshop subject matter. This will result in a diminished access to publication, which could be offset by encouraging selected Workshop participants whose presentations were closely aligned to co-author joint papers based on their presentations for publication;
- Seek publication support from the GRC if the above avenues are unsuccessful and if circumstances arise which are in accord with the GRC's publication assistance provisions as stipulated in the Workshop Directors Guidelines.

6. Proposed Workshop Directors

6.1 Dr Nadia Naim

Dr Nadia Naim is senior lecturer in law at the University of Aston, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

She has research expertise in the area of intellectual property rights and Islamic finance in the Gulf countries and completed her PhD thesis on the area in 2016. Dr Naim has published extensively in the field of intellectual property rights development with Islamic finance principles with several articles and book publications. Her most recent publication is Islamic Legal principles and Intellectual Property Rights in the Gulf States with Gerlach Press. She works on policy development with the UK Intellectual Property Office to initiate the creation of new financial modelling of IP that is compliant with Islamic finance. Further, Dr Naim influences policy making and she has been invited by the UK Parliament to act as the research expert on IP rights in the Gulf to advise on the upcoming UK-GCC FTA.

Dr Naim has research interests in Artificial Intelligence and IP rights. She is the editor of *Intellectual Property Development: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence, Robotic and Digital Technologies* with Palgrave MacMillan and the book is due to be published February 2023. She has presented at several conferences on areas of intellectual property rights including most recently; 2022 Symposium on Contemporary Issues in Global Studies: 'Intellectual Property, Technology, Culture and Health' in Sweden, IP & Innovation Researchers of Asia (IPIRA) Conference in March 2022 and the Global Forum on Law, Justice, and Development facilitated by the World Bank in the UAE, 2019.

6.2 Dr. Alhanooof AlDebasi

Dr Alhanooof AlDebasi, is the executive director of copyrights at the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP). She manages and supervise the copyrights and related rights sector while representing the Kingdom in various national and international conferences and events. Dr. AlDebasi focuses on raising importance of intangible IP assets in the creative industries including music, film and arts, and the role of collective management organizations (CMOs) in creative economies, as well as identifying the relationship between IP and emerging technology.

Dr AlDebasi is also assistant professor of law at Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University (PNU). She has previously held positions as a director of innovation department, legal IP policy advisor and legal consultant. She is one of the founding members of the PNU law school, as well as a founding member of quality of life initiative focusing on enhancing a productive and positive life style.

Dr AlDebasi also works as a senior advisor for Saudi governmental entities, providing insights on critical matters relating to IP rights. She has published several publications on the protection of intellectual property rights. She holds an LLM from University of Pittsburgh and an SJD (PhD) in IP from American University Washington College of Law, United States.

6.3 Professor David Price

David Price is Professor of Public International Law at Charles Darwin University, Australia. He holds degrees in law as well as international relations, industrial history, and Chinese. His primary research work has encompassed the interrelationship between, and strategic dynamics of, the intersection of public international law, intellectual property law, and international trade agreements. His law doctoral research entitled "*Intellectual Property Legal Regimes in the Arabian Gulf States: Infidels at the Gates*", was published by Routledge-Cavendish, UK in 2009, with an updated 2nd edition with Dr Alhanooof AlDebasi published in 2018.

This research has extended to the dispute settlement provisions in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements and the application of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) claims involving

variously the GCC member states, Indonesia and Australia as exemplars. He has published extensively, presented conference keynote addresses and supervised and examined theses in these areas of research.

Professor Price has worked, consulted, and researched in institutions in Australia, Indonesia, UK, Europe, China and the Sultanate of Oman. He has published widely on intellectual property protection regimes in the Middle East and in other developing regions, including Indonesia, and the impact of bilateral and regional trade agreements on domestic intellectual property protection. He has held visiting professorships at universities in Indonesia and China and is on the journal editorial boards of institutions in Indonesia, Oman and Australia.

6.4 Directors' Previous GRM Involvement

Professor Price and Dr AlDebasi co-directed a GRM Workshop in 2015 on the development of intellectual property protection regimes and their enforcement. Dr Naim presented a paper at the Workshop. Feedback from the participants evidenced that the Workshop was deemed a very positive experience that enhanced the participants' knowledge base of IP in the Gulf region and the participants and engendered ongoing research collaborations and interactions that continue to grow. This application is an example of those collaborations.

Proceedings from that Workshop were published by Gerlach Press in 2016.

7. Workshop Director and Publication Guidelines Acknowledgement

The Workshop Directors acknowledge and accept the GRM terms and conditions as stated in the Workshop Director Guidelines and the Publication Guidelines.
