IRAN-COUNTRY REPORT

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Intellectual Property Law (IP) teaching task is designed and directed through two systems: University system and organizational system. Plans and functions of these two systems are briefly described below.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

(1) Current Position

In current Iranian university teaching curriculum, IP law is not offered as a compulsory subject for law degrees. However, any law student has an option to chose IP law unit during his/her LLB course. Because of the modern nature and practical aspects of this subject, almost all law students voluntarily choose this subject in one semester, mostly in the last semester. During this semester, different issues such as historical background of IP law under Western Countries—particularly English IP law—and Islamic Iranian law, justification of IP rights, Iranian copyright, patent, trade marks and software law are taught to the law students. The students are also made aware with different international documents on IP, particularly with Paris Convention, Berne Convention and TRIPs agreement. During the same semester, the students are encouraged to make a working paper on IP law.

Although IP law is not offered to LL.M. and Ph.D. law degree students, students are advised and encouraged to choose their dissertation and thesis subjects in the field of IP law. This teaching method has been recently successful and as a result, a number of LL.M. and Ph.D. students have chosen their dissertation and thesis in various sections of IP law.

(2) Future Perspective

The law department of Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran is currently working on two projects. First is to define a comprehensive unit for IP law. This unit will be offered as a compulsory one for LL.B. and as an optional one for LL.M. and Ph.D. law students. The same department has also a plan to design and offer comprehensive course in the field of IP in the near future. The course would be two years and the students will be awarded LL.M. degree on IP law.

ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM

IP law is also trained by the Registration Organization for Deeds and Properties. This institution is an expert organization controlled by Judiciary Power. This organization consists of different offices one of which is Industrial Property Office. The education department of Industrial Property Office has a regular program for its officials. For this purpose, for instance, it managed three educational courses in last year with cooperation of WIPO Experts: classification of registering inventions, classification of registering marks and using the modern industrial property system.

To improve its officials', students' and judges' knowledge in the field of IP law, the same department has a regular plan to send its officials, law students and a number of judges to WIPO symposia and training courses in different countries.

In order to encourage law students and to involve different departments of other governmental organizations, the same department has held a number of international and national symposia on IP law with cooperation of WIPO.