Institute adopts best judicial practices

By Rashad Zadeh
Senior Reporter

Dubai Judicial Institute (DJI) has reinforced its position as a leading regional centre for excellence in legal studies through adopting the best judicial practices, said DJI's Director General yesterday.

Speaking during DJI's organisation for the International Judicial Training Programme (IJP) from the University of Georgia yesterday, Dr Jamal Al-Sumaiti, the Director General, said: "Organising this programme is in line with our vision and strategy to implement the best judicial practices and reinforce our position as the region's leading centre for excellence in legal studies. We have become the first Middle Eastern institute to offer this specialised training programme in judicial studies."

The participation of director generals of UAE courts and the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs in Bahrain reflects the significance of this training programme to further enhance the quality of judiciary in the region, added Dr Al-Sumaiti.

The programme shared the US experience in case management and judicial leadership to assist in the development of the country's judiciary.

The event was held under the theme, 'Court Management — USA Experience'. The training sessions marked the first time that IJP partners with a foreign organisation (DJI) and provided training outside the US.

"Our partnership with the University of Georgia brings us a step closer to establishing the DJI as a premier regional and international education and training institution for aspiring judges and public prosecutors," said DJI Director General.

During yesterday's event, which was held at DJI's headquarters, the speakers included Judge Doris Dowens, Chief Judge, Fulton County Superior Court, Judge David E Asian, current member of the Georgia Supreme Court Technology Advisory Committee and member of the Judicial Council of Georgia and Mark Beer, Register of the Dubai International Financial Centre Court.
DJI holds judicial training programme

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Dubai Judicial Institute (DJI), a leading centre of law studies and judicial training in Dubai, is organizing the International Judiciary Training Program (IJTP) from the University of Georgia from Nov 10 to 12 at the Institute's Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Hall. The programme will share the US experience in caseflow management and judicial leadership to assist in the development of the emirate's judiciary.

To be held under the theme, "Caseflow Management – USA Experience," the training sessions mark the first time that IJTP is partnering with a foreign organisation (DJI) and providing training outside the US. The prominent speakers will include Judge Dors Downes, Chief Judge, Fulton County Superior Court, Atlanta Judicial Circuit; Judge David Emerson, current member of the Georgia Supreme Court Technology Advisory Committee and member of the Judicial Counsel of Georgia; and Mark Beer, Registrar of the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts.

The event will usher in a new age in the UAE's judicial system, bringing to the fore the best technologies and techniques for optimising and expediting the dispensation of justice.
معهد دبي القضائي يستعرض التجربة الأمريكية في مجال إدارة القضايا

الدكتور حمد بن محمد بن سهيل، رئيس المعهد، يعترف بأن معهد دبي القضائي، وهو واحد من أكبر المعاهد في العالم، له مسؤولية كبيرة في تعزيز الشفافية والمساءلة في القضايا الدولية. ويضيف أن معهد دبي القضائي، بمثابة منصة لتبادل المعرفة، يفتح أفقًا جديدًا للتعاون الدولي في مجال القضايا، ممكّنًا للدول المشاركة في فهم أفضل للقانون الدولي والقضايا المتعلقة به.

ويضيف الدكتور سهيل أن معهد دبي القضائي، الذي يمزج بين الخبرة المحلية والدبلوماسية، يقدم دوراً هاماً في تعزيز التعاون الدولي في القضايا، ويساهم في تعزيز الشفافية والمساءلة في العالم.

ويختتم الدكتور سهيل أن معهد دبي القضائي، بدوره، يسعى إلى تعزيز التعاون الدولي في مجال القضايا، وتوفير خدمة قانونية عالمية، وتوفير حلول قانونية في قضايا عالمية في مختلف المجالات، وتعزيز الشفافية والمساءلة في القضايا الدولية.
Programme to help boost judicial system

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Dubai Judicial Institute (DJI), a leading centre of law studies and judicial training in Dubai, is organising the International Judicial Training Programme (IOTP) from the University of Georgia from Nov. 10 to 12 at the Institute’s Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hasher Hall.

The programme will share the US experience in caseflow management and judicial leadership to assist in the development of the Emirates’ judiciary.

To be held under the theme “Caseflow Management – USA Experience,” the training sessions mark the first time that IOTP is partnering with a foreign organisation (DIJ and providing training outside the US.

Prominent speakers will include Judge Doris Downs, Chief Judge, Fulton County Superior Court, Atlanta Judicial Circuit; Judge David Emerson; Current member of the Georig Supreme Court Technology Advisory Committee & member of the Judicial Council of Georgia, and Mark Beer, Registrar of the Dubai International Financial Centre Court.

In addition, there will also be a panel discussion on the future of the judicial system in the UAE.

The programme is open to all qualified lawyers and judges from the region and will provide a unique opportunity to learn from the experts and network with other professionals in the field.

For more information, please contact the Dubai Judicial Institute at info@djic.ae.
HER PICTURES TELL A STORY
Palestinian artist Laura Beushnak captures a literacy movement with her camera. LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL
Works of four special needs UAE artists selected for embossing on coffee cups in unique charity initiative NEWS 4
BAD BILL
Group of angry expatriate women go online to voice grievances over “unexpected” surge in water and electricity charges NEWS 5
BOAT AFLOAT
Participants use creativity to fashion crafts from recycled material—a fall for a race aimed at creating environmental awareness LIFE 6
EARTH MARSHALS
The general with a volunteer army vows to ensure the first Dubai World Surf Championship runs smoothly SPORT 8

This huge haul of fake goods was seized in one Sharjah warehouse—and it’s just the tip of the iceberg.
Jay B. Hilotin reports NEWS 6-7

HARVESTING THE SEA
UAE’s Dh21.6 billion desalination thrust NEWS 10
FINES OF DH5,000 WILL NOT STOP GANGS WHO MAKE MILLIONS FROM COUNTERFEIT AND OFTEN DANGEROUS GOODS, SAYS THE BRAND OWNERS’ PROTECTION GROUP.

JAY HILOTIN has the story

COVER STORY

DUBAI: Lack of strict deterrents is impeding the UAE’s battle against counterfeit goods, claim industry experts.

And because strict action is rarely taken against offenders, counterfeiting activities have assumed disturbing proportions in the country. Worse, many of them involve the same gangs.

Industry experts reckon that up to 15 per cent of those caught with knock-off goods are “repeat offenders”.

Omar Shihabi, Chairman of the Dubai Chamber of Originals Protection Group (DCOPG), said that the “thief-proof treatment” carried out in supermarkets makes them continue defying the law with impunity by trading counterfeits in fake goods.

REPEAL OFFENDERS

Dr Jamal Al Sanea, Director General of the Dubai Judicial Institute, said: “In cases of repeat offenders, we can consider submitting possible changes to relevant laws to the review committee at the Ministry of Justice to toughen the punishment, especially since such offenders have a negative impact on the economy.”

The UAE Trademark Law, passed in 1996, stipulates a jail term and/or a fine of not less than DH10,000 for persons who изготовляют a legally registered trademark or imitation a trademark. The fine is doubled to DH20,000 for repeat offenders.

Shihabi termed this “too lenient”.

“The law was entered in 2001 and 2002 but the minimum penalty hasn’t changed since. A fine of DH10,000 may have been a deterrent way back in 1993, not in this age,” he said.

MAKING EFFORT TO INCREASE PENALTIES

He said, as far as he knows, there is no legal provision regarding the importation of goods from the Middle East.

Makar, however, believes that fines are hardly a deterrent and called for stricter measures.

“At least a six-month jail term for violations would make a big difference,” he said, recalling a case he had with a counterfeiter who was willing to pay five million US dollars in exchange for a one-month jail term.

Omar M. Obaidat, partner of one of the country’s biggest law firms, Al Tamimi & Co, said his encounters with “repeat offenders” have “sown the seeds”.

“The minimum penalty hasn’t changed since DH5,000 may have been a deterrent way back in 1992; not in this age,” he told the newspaper.

Chairman of the Dubai Chamber of Originals Protection Group

Said Obaidat: “If we’re to change the situation, we need to look at the law seriously. We’re not proposing any changes in the Trademark Law at all.”

“The court handed out a six-month jail term to an offender, along with a DH100,000 fine, only to reduce the fine to DH50,000 and keep the jail term following an appeal in 2008.”

Omar M. Obaidat, an IP rights lawyer and partner at Al Tamimi & Co, said his encounters with “repeat offenders” have “sown the seeds.”
5,000 DIRHAMS IS WHAT COUNTERFEITERS ARE FINED PER OFFENSE

WE ARE NOT PROGRESSING IN THE TRADEMARK LAW IMPLEMENTATION... UP UNTIL 2003, THE COURTS HANDLED OUT GROSSLY DEFICIENT PENALTIES

OASIS M. OBEIDAT, PARTNER, M. SHRIF & CO

Trademark infringement cases jumped 36% per year to 64 cases from January to March this year, from 47 cases in the same period last year. Mobile phones and accessories were among the top items for which counterfeiters are jailed the year. It followed by auto spare parts and clothing, which accounted for six and five cases, respectively.

Part of the problem against counterfeit goods is education. In the last quarter of 2009, WPC plans to train over 700 customs officers in three Gulf countries, including the UAE.

Scott Walker, Chief Executive Officer of Anti-Counterfeiting Alliance (ACAA) which represents the mobile phone and satellite TV industries, said Dubai's infrastructure makes it attractive for copyright infringers.

Dubai is a major transit/adistribution point for counterfeit products. Improvements in the economy has seen a rise in the cost of doing business.

CIRCUMSTANCES EXAMPLES

In 2002, Dubai authorities caught members of an Anti-Pakistani counterfeit medicine syndicate. Those same labels, but remnants of the syndicate were reconstituted and are active again, according to Xpress sources.

YOU SPEAK

What actions would you take as a retailer against counterfeiters?

Have you ever been sued for copyright violations?

Do you use a legal service to track counterfeit goods?

What can you do to stop the flow of fake goods onto the market?

Tell us what you think.

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