COOPERATION AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made between

The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre
World Intellectual Property Organization
Geneva
Switzerland

and

The Gulf Cooperation Council
Commercial Arbitration Centre
Manama – Bahrain

Whereas,

A) The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is an intergovernmental organization and a specialized agency of the United Nations system of organizations with its headquarters located in Geneva, Switzerland, established to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world.

B) The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre was established in 1994 as an administrative unit of the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization to provide services for the resolution of international commercial disputes involving intellectual property, in particular by administering dispute resolution procedures under the WIPO Rules for Mediation, Arbitration and Expedited Arbitration, as well as on-line procedures for the resolution of Internet domain name disputes.

C) The Gulf Cooperation Council Commercial Arbitration Centre was established by the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) when the Charter of the Centre was adopted by the GCC Supreme Council during the 14th Summit in December 1993 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In March 1995 the Centre had become fully functioned and ready to fulfil its duties as an independent body having a separate juristic entity with its headquarters situated in Manama - Bahrain. The centre is empowered to examine commercial disputes arising between GCC nationals, or between them and others, and also administer commercial disputes arising from implementing the provisions of the GCC Unified Economic Agreement and the Resolutions contained therein if the parties agree in a written contract or in a subsequent agreement on arbitration within the frame work of the Centre.
D) The Parties wish to promote alternative dispute resolution procedures for the settlement of international commercial disputes, in particular those involving intellectual property rights, as neutral dispute settlement mechanisms that are responsive to the needs and rapid pace of international trade and its evolving interdependent environment.

E) The Parties desire to disseminate information on the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures to contribute to a better understanding and accessibility of mediation and arbitration.

F) The Parties recognize the need for an increased awareness of the importance of intellectual property protection for the creation of an attractive framework to encourage foreign investment and transfer of technology.

G) The Parties wish to cooperate in the promotion of their common objectives.

Now the Parties agree as follows:

Article 1
Information and Assistance

I) Exchange of Information

The Parties shall provide each other regularly with copies, free of charge, of:

(i) their publications and other published materials on their respective activities;

(ii) any relevant information made available to them which may be of interest for the conduct of alternative dispute resolution procedures such as arbitration laws and awards, when not confidential;

(iii) disseminate information on the services provided by each party.

II) Assistance in the Conduct of Proceedings

On request, the Parties shall give advice and shall use their best endeavors in rendering assistance to each other in:

(i) providing technical facilities and support such as hearing rooms, administrative services, interpretation, translation of documents, transcription and other related organizational arrangements. Prior written authorization of a Party is required before any expenditure is incurred on its behalf by the other Party in connection with these arrangements;

(ii) the selection and appointment of technical experts;

(iii) the selection and appointment of qualified mediators or arbitrators;

(iv) expanding their respective lists of mediators and arbitrators;
(v) any other matters of mutual interest which are conducive to the goal of this Agreement.

**Article II**

**Training activities**

The Parties shall examine possibilities, whenever appropriate of organizing jointly training programs on mediation, arbitration, domain name dispute resolution procedures as well as organizing seminars, conferences and research studies in the field of alternative dispute resolution and intellectual property.

**Article III**

**Duration**

This Agreement has been concluded for an indefinite period, and may be terminated by each Party at three months’ notice in writing.

**Article IV**

**Amendment**

This Agreement may be amended by agreement of the Parties.

This Agreement shall become effective as of the date of its signature.

Done at Geneva on Friday, 4th December 1998.

In two original copies in English.

Francis Gurry  
Director  
WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre

Yousif Zainal  
Secretary General  
GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre.