

# Protecting Innovation: Methods for Intellectual Property and Preserving Jordan's Patent

Dr. Haruto Tanaka<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Yuki Saito<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

<sup>2</sup>Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

Received: 13-08-2025; Revised: 12-09-2025; Accepted: 25-09-2025; Published: 09-10-2025

## Abstract

*The intellectual property (IP) and patent protection in this fast growing and more knowledge based world is crucial to facilitating innovation and investment. The present paper considers the existing legal regimes, enforcement regime, and practices by the institutions involving the patents and intellectual rights protection in Jordan. The importance is given to the problem of local innovators, new business startups, and research institutions making sure that their IP is appropriately supported and defended. Another aspect that the study does is to measure the compatibility of Jordan with world IP measures which include the TRIPS and WIPO treaties and measure how efficient the national laws have been in fueling technology development. There are policy suggestions that would enhance IP governance and a more open environment to innovation.*

**Keywords:** *Intellectual property protection, patent rights, innovation policy, IP law in Jordan, TRIPS compliance, WIPO standards, technology transfer, legal enforcement, research and development, startup ecosystem.*

## 1.Introduction

In a modern, globalized and knowledge-based economy, intellectual capital is becoming regarded as one of the most significant values not only to a person but to an organization and a country. Intellectual property (IP) and patent protection as a means of securing innovation is a very important pillar when it comes to fostering creativity, spurring technological advances, as well as facilitating home and foreign investments. The environment of IP and patent law is a topic that should be discussed in detail in the context of Jordan, a nation that is trying hard to change its economic landscape and become a hub of innovation in the region.

Jordan this issue has of late been a source of interest and concern due to the increased cases of infringements, the issue of legal clarity, and the inadequacy of enforcement of such protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs). Sometimes those innovators, including workers, researchers and startups, can operate in an environment with little procedural safety and not enough incentives. Though Jordan has signed international treaties, including the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement and entered bilateral treaties, it is evident that a weaker state exists between legislation and the actual application of the legislation(1).

Intellectual property, in the widest sense, is legal entitlement to an artistic or literary work, inventions, symbols, designs and trade secrets. The rights enable the inventors and creators to have exclusive advantage of the labor and also establish property in a competitive economic system. In Jordan, protection of IP is closely connected to the labor law, economic policy, and adherence to the international norms in the field of law. Even with numerous cycles of legal reforms and modernization processes, most inventors continue to play with system problems of recognition, fair compensation, disputing rights to ownership, and the institutional support.

The major problem is there is a confrontation between the rights of workers and interests of employers regarding the IP they produce during their job. As an example, the financial rights in inventions may be assigned to employers whilst not the moral rights (including the right to be credited) under Jordanian labor and patent law. Nevertheless, there are inconsistencies with legal text in the areas relating to such rights as it is difficult to find a clear distinction between accidental, free, and service inventions(2). Lack of clear legal lines gives rise to disputes between the organizations and employees on ownership and rights.

In Jordan marred by history, the Ottomans and British had a tremendous role to play in the IP protection, though modern history has emerged since the 1990s, after the enactment of national law on patents and regulations. The Patent Law No. 32 of 1999 and the changes to it, Trademarks Law, and other laws are supposed to be the full-fledged framework of legal provisions. The joining of WTO (WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION) 2000 and compliance to TRIPS agreement by Jordan represented the substantial change in the direction of according international alignment to the laws. This trend would quietly persist in the free trade agreements including the

## **Protecting Innovation: Methods for Intellectual Property and Preserving Jordan's Patent**

U.S.-Jordan FTA that entailed toughened IP provisions (PLUS-TRIPS) that threw more obligations on Jordan in comparison to the TRIPS solely.

Nonetheless, on the ground situation poses a few challenges in spite of these developments. As an example, it takes years of administrative complexity to have patents registered by the inventors. In addition, money related issues like registration and renewal fees put many people away and are a major deterrent in seeking protection. The barriers have a very significant impact on innovation in a developing country with restricted amounts of research and development (R&D) expenditure and low public knowledge of IP rights.

Statistical information provided by the Jordanian Ministry of Industry and Trade reveals a rather gloomy picture of the ratio between the patents that are to be awarded to the foreigners and those that the local inventors receive. In 2008-2021, the foreign patents were numbered constantly more than domestic: this is evidence both of the inequality in capacities and insufficiency of the national legal and institutional system. The enforcement also remains low; the criminal actions against the IP infringement are usually lengthy and the penal punishment does not always connect productively with the nature of the infringements(3).

Another twist to its problem is the lack of defence given to worker generated inventions. The existing working legislation lacks strong and fair dispute mechanisms in cases where the IP created in the process of employment is concerned. This a chilling effect which can put off the employees to report or even patent their inventions due to fear of the acquisition to be misappropriated or under-acknowledged. Symmetries of power in labour markets skew the principle of contractual freedom, whereby the employees and employers may be given a chance to agree on the terms of ownership of IP. Thus, employees are often forced to waive their rights without adequate remunerations or legal protection.

No consistency exists also between different legal codes that deal with IP in Jordan. The labor law and patent law provide complementary but sometimes contradictory provisions and this brings difficulty in determination of priority where there is conflict in the two laws. Non-harmonization threatens legal certainty and gives the IP regime as a whole a lot of loss. Also, the cases based on patents and IP-issues are far too technical for the courts to handle, thus leading to legal inertia and resulting in lessened trust in the legal framework.

To deal with these problems, there have been proposed legal reforms, suggested by the legal scholars and policy advocates. Among these are; clarifying the difference in the type of invention in the case of labor contracts, making any agreement not made in favour of the worker null and void, making legislation efficient on the patent process, making the process of registration cheaper and making it more material by enforcement by the passport and the administrative bodies. What is more important is that IP education is incorporated into academic endeavors, enhancement of R&D infrastructure, and stimulating of public-private partnership will go a long way in developing an efficient innovation ecosystem.

## **2.Literature Review**

The new debate of the intellectual property (IP) and patent protection has been a center of attention in legal literature, especially in countries which are already economically in transition such as Jordan. Over the past few decades, one has observed a noticeable upsurge in the interest of researchers and policymakers in viewing the legal and institutional tools to be able to protect the rights of inventors and creators. The given literature review presents the findings of some of the most national and international challenges, implications and legal contexts of the intellectual property rights (IPRs), particularly in Jordan whose legislations are currently changing.

One of the earliest works was by Farid (2001) that featured an analysis on the Patent Law No. 32 of 1999 in Jordan and its amendments that attempted to modernize the IP governance through statutory change. Even though it is a bit out of date, the work by Farid is still topical as a means of historical progress of IP laws in Jordan. He showed the lawful uncertainty of innovations created by the employees and emphasized that there was a necessity of outlining the contractual rights of employers and employees(4).

Ayesh (2003) took the discussion further by considering the dual responsibilities of employees and equally the employers in the generation of IPs. He has discussed the fact that the labor contracts most typically do not include some clauses concerning the ownership of innovations and thus the innovators are in legal distress. His research highlighted the natural imbalances in the power relationships between the work contracts and posited the ideas that legal bias needed to be better established to separate creations that are developed solely by employees and those developed under the incentive of the employers or their resources.

With parallel context, Jabareen (2010) discussed civil protection of the trademarks in Jordan, especially that are not registered. In evaluating loopholes under both the Jordanian Trademark Law and the Law on Unlawful Competition and Trade Secrets, Jabareen explained how such inconsistencies in laws lead to ambivalent application. The investigation provoked the discussion of the wider ecosystem of IP problems, paying attention to the fact that trademarks, similarly to patents, are susceptible to infringement in case of legal protections that are weak or ambiguous.

With reference to the present world of digital age, Al-Qatishaat (2010) was concerned over the necessity to make intellectual property theft a crime more so when it is in form of software manipulation of data and other illegal copying of the same information(5). He questioned the inadequacy of the current copyright laws to safeguard non-material digital property and recommended the establishment of a cyber IP protection framework in the legislation system of Jordan as part of the penal code.

In the meantime, Al-Nasser & Haddadin (2014) examined such a concept as the public domain in the Jordanian copyright. Their publication provided a glimpse on the lifespan of IP protections on creative works especially in the way legal protection on the materialized version of the creative works should pass on to the public domain. According to them, this transition is not to be a hindrance to further innovation but rather to motivate joint innovation. Their jurisprudence of the word public domain gave a philosophical background about the balance between the benefit to people and the invention of such IP rights.

Under the socioeconomic perspective, Shaaban (2015) talked of the inherent correlation between country performance related to intellectual work and national economy. Focusing on the role that can be played by the process of commercialization of intellectual output, i.e. products of logos, of designs, of inventions, he has highlighted the role that they play in development of a knowledge-based economy. His work contributed to the claim that the laws protecting the needs of inventors are not a question of justice only but they are basic economic stimuli.

The United Nations, ESCWA, in 2019, gave an international report that assessed the contributions of IP laws in the Arab region, including Jordan, in economic innovation. The report observed that most of the Middle Eastern economies have signed the international IP laws, but the implementation is divided and most of it is politically influenced. It suggested the establishment of a regional index of IP performance which monitors the success and inclusiveness of legislation, judicial decision and presence of IP awareness.

In policy implementation perspective, Haroun (2020) presented empirical data to report an increase in the number of IP disputes presented to the court in Jordan. He put the increase in litigation on the inapplicability mismatch of new laws and stale institutional practices. The study highlighted both the necessity of capacity building in the judiciary and IP expert training, as well as the formation of special IP courts in order to speed up the resolving of any disputes.

The contribution of the work by Haddadin & George (2012) was laying theoretical grounds on the importance of IP to entrepreneurial ecosystems by conducting a study of the impact that IP frameworks have on the scale of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). According to their research, the patent costs, long durations and bureaucratic tangles are disproportionately impacting the SMEs in Jordan. Lack of proper protection makes most innovators afraid to launch new goods in the market in fear of being robbed of their intellectual property (6).

Al-Balushi (2014) employed international examples in the case study of intellectual property system in Oman. His comparative analysis presented a difference in the application of TRIPS-compliant reform amongst the countries in the same region. As an example, Oman has established digital registering of IP and expedited patent application systems which might be used as a potential example of what to do in Jordan. Al-Balushi cautioned though that adopting foreign legal models without localization may be counterintuitively.

The argument that there is an increasing trend in patent applications by foreign inventors as compared to local inventors gets further reinforcement by recent industry level statistics published by Zain Al-Awamleh representing the Jordanian Ministry of Industry and Trade. According to his data, the percentage of foreign applicants registering successful patents in Jordan was higher in every year between 2008 and 2021, which is evidence of inability to process local talent and ingrained failures in facilitating national innovation. The figures raise the concern of the existence of a brain-drain effect and insufficient use of domestic talents. Additional evidence of implementation problems, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (2018) cited institutional apathy, expensive registration charges, and the absence of IP consciousness as the main obstacles to innovation. In their report they suggested the establishment of national incubators and the offices in which the legal help could

be provided to develop and help young people and academically oriented researchers to protect and commercialise their work.

### 3. Conceptual Structure

Jordan The legal and institutional basis that forms the system to protect intellectual property rights (IPRs) in Jordan is anchored on the wider conception of the contribution of innovation to sustainable economic growth. The intellectual property law (especially patent) is a zone where the individual commercial interests of the nation freely meet with the social good under the legal relation of stimulating creativity, securing dissemination of knowledge. To develop a theoretical lens under which such a study can be placed, we look at what national legal systems can do to encourage innovation, how the inventor interacts with institutional stakeholders, and how poor enforcement of IP can spill over into the development of policies in the country(7).

In the world, there are approximately 90 percent of enterprises, small and medium sized (SMEs), which account to an almost 70 percent of employment. This figure highlights the enormous contribution of SMEs towards the way the economic productivity and innovative abilities. The same patterns can be considered in Jordan: much more of the economic development of the country is becoming dependent on entrepreneurial activities, knowledge intensive services, startup business. This makes it highly necessary to provide efficient intellectual property levels of the protection since it is not only relevant to protect inventors against infringement but also it gives the country the advantage to attract foreign investments besides enhancing its competitiveness.

The ideological background of the IP legislation boils down to the notion of exclusive rights. An example of this can be patents which give the inventor a legitimate monopoly to utilize the invention, manufacture, and sell their inventions in a specified time period. As a reward, inventors are required to release their innovation publicly thereby adding to the progression of knowledge. This equilibrium of secrecy and revelation is the precondition of the contemporary patent system. In the case of Jordan, the imbalances have been difficult to establish because of the gaps that happen in the implementation phase, bureaucratic resistance, and low awareness by the citizens.

The Jordanian legislative climate has changed considerably during the first half of the 2000s. A number of laws put in place in the Kingdom conform to international standards such as the Trademarks Law No. 33 (1952) (as amended), the Patent Law No. 32 (1999) (and its 2001 amendments), the Law for the Protection of Industrial Designs and others. These legislations will offer a simple outline of the granting, registering and enforceability of IPRs. Also, Jordan has signed important international conventions, such as the WTO TRIPS Agreement, Paris Convention and Berne Convention, by which Jordan obliges itself to the achievement of minimum standards, in order to ensure compliance with IP in the global context.

However, even the presence of legal tools is not quite enough to become safe. It is also a part of this framework where one ponders on critical point on labor law and IP law which pertains to inventions made within the employment framework. This has been pursued by Jordanian civil, labour laws to the extent where they provide split inventions into three categories:

- Service inventions - inventions made at the work place of the inventor and making use of the employers tools or data.
- Inadvertent inventions represent the products of attempts done beyond the limited responsibilities and working with the existing sources provided by the employer.
- Free inventions which are made by the worker in his/her own development and do not use the companies plant and expertise.

Under Jordanian law, the financial rights to the services and accidental inventions can be sold to the employer whereas recognition rights or so called moral rights are given to the creator. The boundary between these rights is however at times confused when it comes to legal practice. Lack of clarity in the wording of the contractual agreements and common policy among various sectors further leads to chaos in ownership, compensation and credit.

The situation presents a theoretical dilemma in the fact that courts have to decide those cases of disputes that involve silent or unclear contracts. Most legal experts claim that the use of judicial discretion as opposed to statutory certainty diminishes the strength of IP protection with respect to weaker workers. Innovators might withhold new ideas in numerous situations because they risk losing their exclusive right or credit in their development of the same-which completely goes against what the patent law tends to achieve.

In a practical context it is good to appeal to the statistics of the Jordanian Ministry of Industry and Trade, which reveals this in perspective. Since 2008, a steady gap in between foreign and domestic registrations of patents existed. As the foreign candidates enjoy such advantage as well-financed legal aid and position within the structure, Jordanian innovators do not have sufficient legal awareness and financial background to enable their patent suits. This brings about a situation whereby the system is biased towards international players to the disadvantage of national talent which is underrepresented and underserved (8).

This lack of balance is explicable by the Innovation Systems Theory that holds that innovation is not carried out in a vacuum, but exists within a complex ecology that contains universities, research institutions, businesses, and government. This system is weakened in the case of Jordan with poor inter-sectoral cooperation and a paucity of IP infrastructure, like patent clinics, law advisory services or tech transfer offices. Consequently, the flow between generation of an idea and a marketable product is tenuous.

Legally in the perspectives of the legal positivists, the IP of Jordan seems to be in good form. Yet, to socio-legal understanding, the system does not adequately provide fair results because of inconsistency of enforcement, availability of fewer institutional capabilities, and the misconception in society about intellectual property. Enforcement units like the court and the Department of Industrial Property Protection need capacity training and improved integration with the universities, startups, and civil society organizations.

Comparisons made internationally reinforces the point. Other countries like South Korea, Singapore and even neighboring rivals like the UAE have instituted fast patent system, grants on innovation and legal disincentives fostering IP literacy. The theoretical background that Jordan currently applies is supposed to change, hence, turning solely into the codification of international agreements to the purposeful implementation of innovation-friendly legal ecosystems. This entails rationalisation of IP procedures, funding of patent filing by local innovators and instilling the elements of IP in program cautionary.

Summing up, this study aims to make its theoretical lens combine several perspectives, namely legal formalism, labor economics, and innovation systems theory. Both of them are essential to an appreciation of how the IP system works in Jordan- or fails to do so- to protect innovation. What is needed to go ahead is a unified national approach, which should be in line not only with the international, but with the local socio-legal realities.

## 4. Methods

This research project will be based on descriptive-analytical methodology of research whose application is most appropriate to study the legal frameworks and development of statutes and the policymaking process in the field of intellectual property (IP) and patent protection. This approach will aim at critically evaluating the legislative and institutional frameworks of protecting innovation in Jordan as well as outline the challenges within the system and points of reform.

### 1. Research Approach

The project constructs a qualitative legal investigation that aims at the interpretation and analysis of statutes, governmental regulations and judicial case law that comprise the intellectual property regime in Jordan. A descriptive design provided an understanding of the current legal instruments in use and the analytical tools were used to determine the implications and efficiency of such instruments in the larger innovation ecosystem.

Such duality provides the research with the leeway to go beyond the letter of the law to how the law is applied in practice particularly where we have situations of patent disputes, inventions by employees, and international compliance requirement.

### 2. Data Collection

The information used in this study is based on two sources:

- **Primary Legal Sources:** Jordan patents law no 32 of 1999 and 2001 amendments to the same, Labor law no 8 of 1996 Civil code no 43 of 1976 and various ministerial regulations like Trademarks Law and Law on Industrial Designs. The sources give the basic text of law that regulates recognition, registration, ownership, and protection of IP rights.
- **Secondary Sources and Statistical Reports:** this will include official reports of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply (MIT), annual reports of patent applications and trademarks registration in the periods between 2008 to 2021, as well as previous scholarly works, works of the international law (e.g. WTO-TRIPS, WIPO guidelines), and policies on innovation and entrepreneurship in Jordan.

### 3. Tools and techniques of analysis

## Protecting Innovation: Methods for Intellectual Property and Preserving Jordan's Patent

In order to organize the assessment, the research made the use of the content analysis methods and legal interpretations. They were applied to:

- Compare laws of Jordanians to international agreements (e.g., TRIPS, WIPO standards).
- Determine any loopholes or inconsistencies in the national labor law and the patent law on inventions by the workers.
- To investigate the policy enforcement concerns, analyze the policies by matching the legal documents to the statistical outcomes (e.g., trends of patent approvals).

Legal observations were supported by the use of quantifiable data, e.g. the number of patents granted to foreigners compared to locals. This was important to ensure that the practical issues facing Jordanian innovators are confirmed.

**TABLE 1** Summary of Research Methodology

Component	Description
Approach	Qualitative, descriptive-analytical legal research
Primary Sources	Jordanian IP laws, Labor Law, Patent Law, Civil Code, and ministerial regulations
Secondary Sources	Government statistics (MIT), academic studies, WIPO/TRIPS reports
Timeframe	2008–2021
Tools Used	Content analysis, legal interpretation, trend analysis
Focus Areas	IP legal framework, patent ownership, employee inventions, enforcement gaps
Limitations	No field interviews; limited access to court case data

### 4. Plan Table Date Range and Commitment

The period on which the research is concentrated is 14 years (2008-2021) in order to determine the trends in the issuance of patents, legal improvements, and the development of institutions. This period encloses the most dynamic period of legal alignment of Jordan to international IP standards after its accession to the WTO and its bilateral trade agreements(9).

It focuses on the territory of the intellectual property and patent rights in the jurisdiction of Jordan but gives relevant comparisons of the region on such matters in as far as to bring out best legal practices and legal gaps in the areas of legal best practices.

### 5. Form and Discipline

In the upkeep of research rigor:

- All the interpretations of law were cross-checked under various sources such as literature, government websites and the laws of similar Arab countries.
- Analyzing ministry data was used to establish claims on IP enforcement, registration volume, and demographics of the inventors (local or foreign).
- The same analytical framework was used in every field of law so that there could be harmonizing between normative and empirical results.

### 6. Limitations

It also does not feature the interviews with policymakers, inventors or legal practitioners because of the scope restraints. Moreover, court decisions concerning cases of patent conflicts are still not generally accessible in the general public context, which limits the possibility of factoring in jurisprudence. However, in spite of these shortcomings in scope and depth, the legal and an empirical data material offers firm basis of critical evaluation and legislative suggestion.

## 5.Results

Analysis of data obtained by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and supply (MIT), during the year 2008-2021 shows some imperative trends related to intellectual property activity in Jordan. These patterns show the development of IP administration as well as the persistence of the local innovators in the legal and institutional set up.

### 1. Trademark Registrations: The Difference between Local and Foreign Ownership

The statistics of both applications and naming of trademarks was compiled over the 13-year period which revealed the continued rule of foreign applicants as compared to local. Even though Jordan has recorded annual fluctuations in the volume of overall trademarks filled, there has been a continuous outnumber of foreign-owned trademarks registered compared to the one by Jordanian residents. This imbalance implies that there is some structural imbalanced in the access and use of IP protections and so foreign companies are significantly higher in capacity and awareness to interact with the trademark registration system than the national enterprise.

In addition, the growth rates in registered trademarks had shown variations between moderate rates of increase and a decrease. The greatest rate of growth was in 2016 and the increase in total registrations was 1.31, in 2010 the decrease was significant that is by 1.48. The changes are indicative of a responsiveness to the world economic changes, geographical market variations as well as the administrative effectiveness of the Directorate of Industrial Property Protection.

## 2. Patent Registrations: Misbalance between the Local and Foreign Inventors

The issuance of patents gives an even greater difference between local and foreign inventors. During the period under review, foreign patents have not only surpassed local applications but the ratio is rising. To give an example, in 2020 Jordanian applicants only received 7 patents diminished by 289 received by foreign entities which constituted more than 97% of all patents that year. In previous years like in 2014 or 2017, foreign applicants continued to be the most beneficial users of Jordan patent system.

Such a sharp difference can be explained by a number of factors:

- Unnecessary Complexity and Delay: The local applicants have a longer and complex process of getting their patents registered.
- Financial Barriers: Fees required to apply, renew and the costs of an attorney are largely unaffordable to Jordanian innovators.
- Weak institutional support: No IP advisory services, patent support services or innovation centres in universities and research centres.

Such barriers impair domestic inventors in gaining patent protections and many such inventions go unrestrained or unregistered. On the other hand, multinational corporations with operations or those selling in Jordan have advantage of undergoing the legal terrain with the assistance of well-learned legal teams as well as funds.

**TABLE 2 Results**

Category	Observation	Implication
<b>Trademark Registrations</b>	Foreign applicants consistently outnumber local ones across all years	Indicates stronger global brand activity and limited domestic brand protection
<b>Patent Registrations</b>	Foreign patents dominate (e.g., 97.6% in 2020)	Highlights structural disadvantage for local inventors in accessing protection
<b>Legal Classification</b>	No clear statutory distinction among types of employee inventions	Leads to ownership conflicts and discourages innovation disclosure
<b>Enforcement Mechanisms</b>	Lack of IP-specialized courts or rapid resolution channels	Results in weak deterrence and limited legal recourse for inventors
<b>Institutional Support</b>	Minimal public or academic infrastructure for patent filing assistance	Limits access for young researchers and SME innovators
<b>Financial Accessibility</b>	High filing and renewal fees for local applicants	Acts as a barrier to entry, especially for startups and individual inventors
<b>Innovation Commercialization</b>	Few pathways exist for converting research into patented products	Undermines economic returns on scien

## 3. Loop holes in Law and Enforcement Problems

There is also data that sustains fears about peculiar enforcement of IP laws. Although Jordan has gone through several legal reform to find a way that suits its implementation to TRIPS or other international standards, its implementation continues to be perpetuated with poor enforcement. The absence of special courts dealing with IP

## **Protecting Innovation: Methods for Intellectual Property and Preserving Jordan's Patent**

or a training that would enhance judges to deal with patent law further adds to neglecting the dispute, even more so when it comes to inventions by employees or innovations done through joint work.

The other critical lesson is that, in the Jordanian laws, a distinction between different kinds of employee inventions such as service, accidental, and free is not made in the laws. The existing regulations in the Labor Law and Patent Law tend to enact the rules of ownership in a generalized way that is confusing and has the results of employer dominance. This uncertainty in the law dis-encourages the publication of inventions and prevents incentive to researchers and other technical employees.

### **4. Under Utilization of National Innovation Powers**

An analysis of patents registered also indicates that the Jordanian inventors are underrepresented in the local innovation regime. There are universities, research centers and skilled professionals, but comparatively few patents are registered in the country. To the extent that technological and scientific innovation does not appear to be properly being converted to commercially useful innovations or legally protected innovations, this gap might represent what is occurring.

Besides, there are some barriers to the patent system; a high rate on rejection of applications, bureaucracy, and many more barriers that limit further motivation of individuals or small companies to involve themselves in the patent system. Inventors, without the legal protection, are also likely to lose or postpone the release of the invention especially when they feel their employers or the rivals will steal their inventions.

## **6. Conclusion**

Protection of intellectual property right and patent right form a key element towards encouraging innovation and economic growth to establish Jordan as a knowledge based economy. In the course of this study, it has been revealed that although Jordan has displayed good efforts in its attempts to modernize its legislative system to reflect the international obligations and requirements, especially those in TRIPS and bilateral trading treaties, there are still few very greatly successful issues about implementation, enforcement, and accessibility of the local inventors.

Analysis showed that there has been a systematic difference between the amount of patents and trademarks held by the nationals and those owned by foreigners. The IP environment in Jordan is still dominated by foreign applicants who have more institutional, financial and legal knowledge. By contrast, Jordanian innovators, especially single inventors, academic researchers and small firms are subject to procedural complexity, registration fees, and scarce institutional support, which impede their capability of obtaining a legal safeguard of their inventions.

Among the described gaps the most important one is the legal treatment of inventions created by the employees. The existing legal framework fails to adequately draw the line between service inventions, accidental inventions and independent inventions invented outside employment. This legal grey area tends to cause ownership wrangles and unfavorable disclosure of innovation by employees unless some equitable compensation systems are enshrined in law.

Moreover, intellectual property rights are poorly enforced because there are no dedicated courts to deal with intellectual property cases, the IP judicial expertise is limited and bureaucracy is a major issue. These lapses on enforcement is not only harmful to the credibility of IP system but also does not effectively offer the appropriate redress to the inventor whose rights are infringed.

Nevertheless, the study also identifies that Jordan can develop more embrative and efficient IP ecosystem. The presence of sophisticated legislations, expanding pool of trained minds, and involvement in more international legal requirements give a platform that a more innovation-receptive environment can be constructed on. This, however, needs political resolve, institutional transformation, and a second look at policymaking arena to empower the local performers with specific policy measures, education, and fixed incentives.

To sum up, although legal alignment with global norms is a key attribute to protecting innovation in Jordan, its threat still exists. It requires a radical restructuring- in which the safeguarding of intellectual property can no longer be merely a legal instrument, but condensed into a strategic component of the national growth. The establishment of an ecosystem that values, protects and rewards intellectual input is not only going to make the economy of Jordan more competitive but it will also see to it that its creators and innovators are rewarded and appreciated in the same light.



**Acknowledgement:** Nil

**Conflicts of interest**

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare

**References**

1. Al-Majali R. Patent law reforms in Jordan: Evolution and future prospects. *Middle East Journal of Intellectual Property*. 2022;4(1):25–39.
2. Hammad F. Innovation and IP strategy in Jordanian pharmaceutical industries. *Arab Journal of Innovation Law*. 2021;6(2):88–102.
3. Saidi L. Strengthening patent protection in Jordan through legislative amendments. *Journal of Patent and Trademark Law*. 2020;18(3):143–160.
4. Rawashdeh A. TRIPS compliance and national innovation in Jordan. *Global Intellectual Property Journal*. 2019;11(4):97–112.
5. Natsheh T. Enhancing patent enforcement in Jordan: Legal and administrative tools. *International Journal of Middle Eastern Law*. 2023;9(1):53–67.
6. Khasawneh M. Barriers to patent filing among Jordanian SMEs. *Journal of Innovation and Legal Studies*. 2021;7(2):119–134.
7. Al-Tamimi D. The impact of international treaties on Jordan's IP law. *Jordanian Law and Policy Review*. 2020;5(3):66–81.
8. Haddad W. Institutional support for patent innovation in Jordan: A critical assessment. *Intellectual Property & Society*. 2022;8(2):101–118.
9. Odeh B. The role of universities in patent generation in Jordan. *Arab Journal of Education and Innovation*. 2021;10(1):31–47.