

Monthly Report of April 2002

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THAILAND

News in April 2002

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1. Fee disclosure demanded to counter overcharging

(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Business Section, Page 1, Thailand, 1 April 2002)

The Commerce Ministry plans to force music and software companies to disclose their copyright fees in order to prevent users from being charged unfairly. The Department of Intellectual Property has no authority under the 1994 Copyright Act to force companies to disclose information about copyright and licensing fees and conditions.

Transparent fee disclosure would protect users of copyrighted works as well as consumers, who normally bore costs passed along by users such as karaoke operators, said Newin Chidchob, a deputy commerce minister. He said that being listed would in

effect force copyright owners to enter the system by disclosing their rates and conditions required for the use of their works.

Article 26 of the Trade and Services Act authorities the committee to require producers and distributors of listed goods or services to inform the government about costs, prices, standards and quality of their products. Violators face one year jail terms or fines of 20,000 baht, plus 2,000 baht in daily charges until they abide by the requirements.

2. Cartoon firm to reduce prices

(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Business Section, Page 1, Thailand, 4 April 2002)

The licence holder for cartoon characters such as Garfield is moving to narrow the price gap between copyright and counterfeit products in an attempt to combat rampant piracy in Thailand. Hong Kong-based RM Licensing said it would keep the prices of the licensed items only 5% higher than those of the fake products.

The company would join with more than 40 licensees to offer competitive prices in different categories from gifts to appeal to attract more buyers, said Nantanat Vacharapichart, general manager of RM Licensing (Thailand) Co. The company promoted copyright products in the area at affordable prices, while emphasizing their higher quality, she said.

3. Bilateral pact

(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Business Section, Page 1, Thailand, 4 April 2002

The Nation Newspaper, Business Section, Page 1B, Thailand, 5 April 2002

Bangkok Post Newspaper, Business Section, Page 1, Thailand, 6 April 2002

The Nation Newspaper, Business Section, Page 2B, Thailand, 9 April 2002)

Robert Zoellick, the US Trade Representative is in Bangkok for talks with Thai and other Asean trade ministers. Protection of intellectual property rights, a longstanding thorn in US-Thai relations, was likely to be on the agenda for discussion, as well as trade tariffs and Thailand's overall business climate for US investors.

Darryl Johnson, the US ambassador to Thailand, noted that Thailand had made "some progress in legislation and enforcement" in intellectual property protection over the past few years, but added that more needed to be done.

4. Software police raid 4 firms

(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Database Section, Page 1, Thailand, 10 April 2002)

The Economic Crime Investigation Division (ECID) with the Business Software Alliance (BSA) conducted surprise raids on four companies, both international and local

operations, for suspected use and possession of pirated and unlicensed software last month.

The raids were conducted each week in March by a group of specially-trained police officers from ECID, with the support of a team of technicians and lawyers representing the BSA.

5. Law to protect Thai traditions

(from The Nation Newspaper, Business Section, Page 2B, Thailand, 12 April 2002)

Parliament House approved the Trade Secret Law in a move to protect Thai traditional pharmaceutical and food ingredients. The law will take effect within 90 days. The law was designed to protect a variety of Thai products, such as medicines derived from local herbs, food ingredients, soft drinks and cooking techniques.

Once in effect, the law will protect commercial formulas and business patterns, including contract forms, customer lists and marketing strategies.

Those found guilty of infringing on registered material could be fined as much as Bt200,000, face imprisonment of up to one year, or both. In addition, any state officers found guilty of releasing trade secrets without permission could receive a jail term of between five and ten years, a fine of Bt1-2 million, or both.

The law also covers manufacturing processes. If manufacturers develop new products using existing methods, they can register their products using the Patent Law.

6. Thailand will patent new rice strain in the US

(from Thai News Service, 17 April 2002)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives will patent its recently developed rice strain, Pathum Thani 1, with related authorities in the United States to prevent copying by foreign researchers.

Pathum Thani 1 is a fragrant rice strain resistant to pest and diseases. When cooked, the rice will be soft and slightly sticky, similar to jasmine white rice 105.

7. Music pirates plunder big player's profit

(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Business Section, Page 10, Thailand, 18 April 2002)

The recent return of rampant music piracy is making it more difficult for GMM Grammy Plc to achieve its projected revenue growth of 10-15% this year on 4.5 billion bath earned last year.

“Music copyright collection and the lower prices for CDs and VCDs have produced good results this year. I believe both are among the key goals to help the group achieve its revenue goals,” Apirak Kosayodhin, CEO of GMM Grammy said. But he declined to project the profit this year.

8. Europe and Asean forge new plan to fight piracy

*(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Business Section, Page 3, Thailand, 23 April 2002
Thai Daily Digest, 29 April 2002
Thai News Service, 30 April 2002)*

The European Union and Asean agreed to step up efforts to protect intellectual property rights by launching a new five-year plan to be co-ordinated from an office in Thailand. Deputy Commerce Minister Newin Chidchob and European Commission Ambassador Klauspeter Schmallenbach presided over the launching of the EC-Asean programme to develop regional structures, policies, a legal framework, and an enforcement system for protecting intellectual property rights.

Ingo Kober, the chairman of the European Patent Office, said producers not afflicted by rights violations would not appreciate the extent of the damage. Yanyong Phuangrath, the director general of the Department of Intellectual Property, said he would like Asean to co-operate more to reduce the costs of producers in the registration of patents.

9. BSA wants action on Net-based piracy

*(from The Nation Newspaper, Business Section, Page 2B, Thailand, 24 April 2002
The Nation Newspaper, Byteline Section, Page 2F, Thailand, 30 April 2002)*

The BSA has urged Thailand to improved its copyright protection laws, and educate people on the importance of intellectual property rights to address the fast-expanding problem of Net-based piracy.

Robert Kruger, BSA vice president for worldwide enforcement said that Thai policy makers should consider whether current legislation has sufficiently addressed the piracy problem, which has spread rapidly worldwide. More, Thailand should also heighten local awareness that breaching copyright law on the Internet was as illegal as breaching it in the physical world, such as in retail shop. He added that law enforcers should be prepared with all the resources they need to enable them to investigate and tackle Net-based intellectual property infringements.

Pajchima Thanasanti, director of the Copyright Office, Department of Intellectual Property said that office paying serious attention to the problem, and is now working on the copyright law amendments to increase its powers to crackdown on copyright infringements. The office has also had several meetings with local Internet service

providers to seek their collaboration in monitoring and blocking copyright infringements by their subscribers, she said.

The revision process is expected to finish before the end of this year, and once the first draft is complete, the department will put it before the Commerce Ministry and the Cabinet for approval.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

News in April 2002

1. DVD's Patent Fees
2. Imitate Foreign patent medicine to pay 1 billion US dollars
3. DVD makers plan new-technology alliance
4. Law on fake goods is genuine article
5. First Pesticide Patent in China
6. China marks WIP Day

1. DVD's patent fees

*(from Hong Kong Imail, 2 April 2002
China Online, 2 April 2002
China Daily, 2 April 2002
Asiainfo Services, 3 April 2002)*

Negotiations are likely to continue between a coalition of six developers of DVD technology and mainland makers of DVD players after a key deadline lapsed on Sunday.

The coalition, known as the "6C" had earlier threatened to sue Chinese makers of DVD players if talks on patent fees payments were not concluded by Sunday. However, after several rounds of negotiations, the 6C have agreed not to take legal actions against Chinese DVD makers over patent disputes for the time being.

The 6C said that they own about 200 patents for DVD players, and all of them had applied for patent protection in China. According to them, only six or seven out of the 200 patents are recognized in China. The 6C demands patent fees of 20 percent of a product's unit price, which is about US\$20 per product. But Chinese manufacturers found the rate too high to be acceptable.

2. Imitate Foreign patent medicine to pay 1 billion US dollars

(from Asiainfo Services, 3 April 2002)

It was revealed that those medical factories, imitating the foreign patent medicine without permission, would be asked to pay 0.4 – 1 billion US dollars. The news came from the WTO and China's Medicine Meeting just held in Shanghai.

It was introduced that Chinese medial enterprises could use the patents gratis, which foreign companies have not applied in China. However, companies exporting the imitate medicine would be asked to pay for the patent which has been applied in the country that the medicine was exported to.

It was reported that TRIPs, the most important agreement on the medical industry among the agreements of the WTO, provided at least 20-year patent protection for all products and production modes from the original application date.

3. DVD makers plan new-technology alliance

(from China Online, 5 April 2002)

China's DVD makers, seeing that paying royalties to DVD-patent holders is unavoidable, are seeking to take a lead in developing near video on demand (NVoD) technology and establish a league on NVoD standards.

Therefore, the manufacturers have decided to explore the NVoD technology, which is an interactive multimedia system that works like pay-per-view television but allows limited DVD-like functions such as fast forward and rewind by transitions in discrete time intervals.

NVoD is achieved by multiple channels with the same program skewed in time, and it is regarded as an DVD alternative in the Internet era.

4. Law on fake goods is genuine article

(from China Daily, 10 April 2002)

A new set of measures governing the marketing and renting of audio-visual products becomes effective today, bringing stronger restrictions against the pirating and smuggling of these products.

The measures, issued by the Ministry of Culture on April 4, have strengthened actions against illegal audio-visual products and activities. Retailers and renters of these pirated and smuggled products will have their licences revoked and not be permitted into the business again for 10 years. They will also be fined a much higher penalty than before.

5. First pesticide patent in China

(from China Chemical Reporter, 16 April 2002)

Flumorph fungicide developed by Liu Changling from Shenyang Research Institute of Chemical Industry in 1994 has got invention patent in China and the United States and the commercial production started in 1999. It uses catechol as starting raw material and is mainly used to control Peronospora and Phytophthora diseases.

Flumorph is China's first pesticide variety with real commercial production and independent intellectual property. It is also the first agricultural fluorine-containing fungicide developed in China, the first agricultural fungicide winning invention patent in China and the first new pesticide variety winning invention patent in the United States.

6. China marks WIP Day

(from BBC Monitoring Service, 27 April 2002)

The Chinese capital and a number of other major Chinese cities held various activities to mark World Intellectual Property Day. In Beijing, the SIPO and some Beijing officials and experts gave free information sessions to the public. A painting exhibition was also held while books on intellectual property rights were presented to primary and secondary school students in downtown areas.

WIP Day was initiated by China and Algeria at the 34th Convention of the WIPO in 1999.

HONG KONG

News in April 2002

1. Hard line looms for users of illegal software
2. Some medicines sold in Hong Kong could be pirated drug
3. US lauds SAR's war on piracy
4. CR logic units get Sanyo trademark rights
5. Hong Kong hosts international Patent exhibition

1. Hard line looms for users of illegal software

(from South China Morning Post, 1 April 2002)

The Government will make a final push to discourage local companies from using pirated computer applications next month before it starts a crackdown on illegal software. The

amended Copyright Ordinance went into effect last April, making it a criminal offence for a business owner or employee to knowingly use pirated software in the workplace.

However, a recent survey of 300 SMEs in Hong Kong by the BSA found that one-third of the companies polled had not heard of the recent amendments to the Copyright Ordinance.

The director of the Government's Intellectual Property Department, Stephen Selby, said: "To maintain Hong Kong's competitiveness as an international city and a commercial hub, and to develop its software industry, the use of licensed software in business operations is essential."

Hong Kong authorities are planning another crackdown on pirated software on May 1. Next month, the Intellectual Property Department and BSA will hold programmes to educate SMEs about the amended Copyright Ordinance. Among the programmes will be a series of free seminars on software asset management starting April 17.

2. Some medicines sold in Hong Kong could be pirated drugs
(from South China Morning Post, 4 April 2002)

The report by the US Trade Representative office also criticized Hong Kong's Hospital Authority and the Department of Health's approval process for new drugs. The report, required by the US Congress, was released yesterday in Washington.

The industry believes that certain pirated pharmaceuticals enter Hong Kong and are then repackaged as legitimate products for sale. The Department of Health's approval procedures for new drugs shortened the effective patent life of the products by six months. The Hospital Authority's approval process for new drugs was also described as non-transparent.

3. US lauds SAR's war on piracy
(from Hong Kong Imail, 12 April 2002)

The United States praised Hong Kong's efforts in combating piracy and reaffirmed the SAR's export control system in its annual report on the city. The US State Department's latest United States-Hong Kong Policy Act Report, issued annually since 1992, said the SAR had "made dramatic progress" in its fight against piracy and to protect intellectual property, "starting with the creation of the Customs Department's anti-piracy task force".

The Office of the USTR now regularly cites Hong Kong as a model for other Asian economies struggling with their own problems of IPR piracy.

4. CR logic units get Sanyo trademark rights

(from Reuters News Service, 17 April 2002)

China Resources Logic Ltd said that Japanese electronics maker Sanyo Electric Co will give rights to their joint venture companies to use the Sanyo trademark for five years. Under the agreement, Sanyo will give China Resources Sanyo and Shengrun Sanyo the right to use the Sanyo trademark on their air-conditioner compressors.

China Resources Logic, the technology flagship of mainland Chinese conglomerate China Resources (Holdings) Co, said the annual licence fees from the deal will not exceed HK\$10 million.

5. Hong Kong hosts international patent exhibition

(from Asiainfo Service, 28 April 2002)

Hong Kong Patent Exhibition 2002 was opened in Hong Kong Exhibition Center yesterday. About 20 famous patent renderers, agencies and professional service units came to this exhibition, and over 4500 buyers and professionals presented.

The hosts also held a forum for Asia-Pacific patent rendering which was called "Patent Rendering: Numerous Opportunities". They invited many international patent rendering authorities to give speeches on topic such as patent rendering, patent products trades.

MALAYSIA

News in April 2002

1. RM420,000 worth of computer hardware, software seized
2. Move to reduce pirates' share of CD market
3. Move to give orchid breeders patent rights

1. RM420,000 worth of computer hardware, software seized

(from New Straits Times Newspaper, Malaysia, 4 April 2002)

The State Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry's enforcement unit has seized computer hardware and software worth RM420,000 over the past three weeks at several companies in Petaling Jaya, Klang and Muar.

The first raid was at a manufacturing company in Klang. Several copies of software and nine computers were seized. The second one, 10 suspected unlicensed software worth RM150,000 and six computers were confiscated from an architect's firm in Muar. The final raid was conducted at an Internet and telecommunications company in Petaling Jaya. All items worth about RM150,000 were seized.

2. Move to reduce pirates' share of CD market

(from New Straits Times Newspaper, Malaysia, 22 April 2002)

The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry is aiming at reducing the share of pirated CDs to 20 per cent of the total CD market from 45 per cent at present. Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the Ministry's ongoing fight against pirated CDs had achieved some success.

The Minister lashed out at record-producing companies for not reducing their prices despite calls to do so by the Ministry. He said recording companies should reduce their prices and suffer a little loss now than incur bigger losses in the future

3. Move to give orchid breeders patent rights

(from New Straits Times Newspaper, Malaysia, 28 April 2002)

Orchid breeders in Malaysia will soon be able to patent their latest hybrids following a move by the Agriculture Ministry to introduce the Plant Varietal Protection Act. The draft Act is being finalized and it is expected to be tabled in Parliament in six months.

The Plant Varietal Protection Act is similar to a copyright as it protects the works of orchid breeders, and anyone who wants to mericlone a particular hybrid for commercial purposes will have to pay royalty to its creator.

SINGAPORE

News in April 2002

1. IPOS seeks to spread awareness of intellectual property in Singapore
2. Intellectual property in Singapore gets boost with 'HIP' Alliance
3. Customs officers seize largest VCD haul at Tuas Checkpoint
4. Singapore Trek 2000 granted patent for storage device
5. Singapore launches landmark copyright licensing scheme

1. IPOS seeks to spread awareness of intellectual property in Singapore

(from Channel News Asia, 3 April 2002)

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) aims to spread the awareness of intellectual property here. And starting this month, IPOS has organized a host of activities to spread a life-style that rewards ingenuity and ideas.

This includes any original idea they have written down, drawn or designed which, if successful, could end up making millions of dollars.

2. Intellectual property in Singapore gets boost with 'HIP' Alliance

(from Channel News Asia, 3 April 2002

Business Times, Singapore, 4 April 2002)

The IPOS hopes to encourage more Singaporean firms and individuals to identify, commercialise and market their intellectual property. Intellectual property registrations, such as trademarks, patents and other forms of protection for ideas and inventions, are becoming increasingly important as economies shift towards a knowledge base.

While most indicators turned south amid a slowing economy last year, Singapore saw an 11 per cent rise in new intellectual property registrations to 8,500 in 2001. But only 500 or so of those applications were from Singaporean parties and IPOS hopes to lift that number.

To do so, they have set up the HIP Alliance, which stands for Human and intellectual property, and will release a White Paper towards the middle of the year.

3. Customs officers seize largest VCD haul at Tuas checkpoint

(from Channel News Asia, 4 April 2002)

Customs officers at Tuas seized their largest haul of illegal VCDs and cigarettes since the checkpoint opened in 1998. The contraband goods were hidden in a secret compartment under the rear seat of a Malaysian-registered vehicle, which was stopped during a routing customs check. Inside were 3,700 uncensored and obscene VCDs and pirated CD-ROMs, as well as 207 cartons of untaxed cigarettes.

4. Singapore Trek 2000 granted patent for storage device

(from Dow Jones International News, 16 April 2002

Reuters News Service, 16 April 2002

Channel News Asia, 16 April 2002)

Singapore's Trek 2000 International Ltd said that it has been granted a patent for its popular ThumbDrive, a portable data storage device that can connect to personal

computers and laptops. The engineering company said the grant of its first-ever patent by the IPOS would allow it to stamp out copies based on its own technologies that have surfaced in the market.

5. Singapore launches landmark copyright licensing scheme

(from Managing Intellectual Property Magazine, UK, Issue 118, Page 12, April 2002)

The Copyright Licensing and Administration Society of Singapore Limited (Class) and INSEAD, the French business school, have inaugurated the first copyright licence scheme in South-East Asia for academic book publishing.

Under the agreement, Class will issue a statutory licence to INSEAD for photocopying books, journals and other publications belonging to its members and those of other organizations from the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisation (IDRRO).

This had been effect retrospectively from September 1 2000. A statutory licence is a copying licence provided by the Singapore Copyright Act to educational institutions. The statutory licence scheme provided by Class, a member of IFRRO, which represents 35 national reproduction rights organizations worldwide, offers sampling surveys instead of full photocopying record keeping.

THE PHILIPPINES

News in April 2002

1. Plant Variety Protection Act ok'd by House committee on agriculture
2. US willing to play soft on RP's IPR breaches
3. BSA to renew drive against software piracy in Philippines
4. Crackdown on counterfeiters

1. Plant Variety Protection Act ok'd by House committee on agriculture

(from Business World, Philippines, 4 April 2002)

The House committee on agriculture, food and fisheries recently approved a proposed measure protecting the country's plants from illegal commercial distribution. House Bill (HB) 4518 or the Philippine Plant Variety Protection Act seeks to secure the exclusive rights of plant breeders through the establishment of an effect intellectual property system

in agriculture. Once enacted, the government will be able to punish individuals or firms which illegally distribute protected Philippine plants.

The National Plant Variety Protection Board (NPVPB) will issue plant variety protection certificates which would ensure the rights of the breeders are secured.

HB 4518 also uses the “first to file” rule, where the first person to file an application would be given the plant variety protection certificate. If two or more persons develop a new plant variety separately and independently of each other, the certificate is not extended for acts done for noncommercial purposes, experimental purposes, breeding of other varieties and use of harvested materials by small farmers.

Enactment of the measure will automatically make the Philippines a member of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). This would entitle Philippine plant varieties to the protection of other member nations, while the Philippines would safeguard the varieties of other members.

2. US willing to play soft on RP’s IPR breaches
(from *Business World, Philippines*, 12 April 2002)

The US government acknowledged the country’s resource constraints in effectively running intellectual property rights enforcement. It assured it would take the problem into consideration should sanction be imposed on the Philippines.

The US National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers for 2002 noted the total annual loss resulting from copyright piracy in the Philippines in 2001 was estimated at about \$120 million.

Assistant USTR Ralph Ives acknowledged the country’s efforts in eliminating IPR violations. He added the US government continuously work with the Philippine government to develop work programs to totally curb the problem.

3. BSA to renew drive against software piracy in Philippines
(from *Asia Pulse*, 18 April 2002)

The BSA will renew the campaign against software piracy in the Philippines at the start of next month. The BSA suspended its enforcement efforts until the end of April to give companies a chance to look at the software they are using and replace any pirated software.

“By next month, there will be a focus on nationwide enforcement,” said BSA regional marketing manager for Asia Pacific, Roland Chan.

4. Crackdown on counterfeiters

(from Philippine Daily Inquirer, 27 April 2002)

National Bureau of Investigation agents seized P300,000 worth of fake Time-Warner Bros. products during raids on RG Creation in Marikina, Gain Marketing in Quezon City, IS 18 General Merchandising in Manila, and Aspen Paper Products Corp. in Caloocan last week. The owners will be charged with violating the Intellectual Property Rights Law.

INDONESIA

News in April 2002

1. 5,000 illegal VCDs seized
2. Police seize pirated VCDs
3. RI recommended to be in priority watch list
4. Stiffer prison sentence sought for IPR violators
5. President calls for integrated program to eradicate piracy

1. 5,000 illegal VCDs seized

(from The Jakarta Post Newspaper, Indonesia, 5 April 2002)

The police have impounded at least 5,000 pirated VCDs from 20 vendors in four locations here. The raids were conducted at Lippo Supermall in Karawaci, Mahkota Mas shopping center on Jl. M.H. Thamrin, the Robinson department store on Jl. Daan Mogot and along the street of Jl. Ki Asnawi.

2. Police seize pirated VCDs

(from The Jakarta Post Newspaper, Indonesia, 10 April 2002)

South Jakarta Police detective chief, Comr. Mardisyam, led an operation which resulted in the seizure of thousands of pirated VCDs at Blok M Plaza in South Jakarta. However, it was alleged that an “insider” was suspected to have leaked the information about the impending raid to many of the vendors, who in turn left their kiosks vacant during the raid.

Officials of the Indonesian Recording Industry Association and Indonesian Video Recording Association joined the police force during the operation.

3. RI recommended to be in priority watch list

(from Bisnis Indonesia, 16 April 2002)

The International Intellectual Property Alliances (IIPA) recommends to the USTR to remain placing Indonesia at priority watch list position in violation to the intellectual property rights. The recommendation was one of the organisation's inputs addressed to the USTR, as a reference to position US trade partner countries in protection to the IPR.

IIPA suggested to put Indonesia still in the position of priority watch list since it is deemed as being ignorant to the protection of intellectual property rights. Director general for intellectual property rights at the Department of Justice and Human Rights Zen Umar Purba said his office submitted report to USTR on Indonesia's efforts in enforcing the intellectual property rights last month.

He added US government would not mind Indonesia's law on intellectual property rights since it is deemed as quite complete. It only underscore the weak law enforcement in the country toward hijacking to VCD, CD and computer software.

4. Stiffer prison sentence sought for IPR violators

(from The Jakarta Post Newspaper, Indonesia, 16 April 2002)

A high-ranking government official urged the country's judges to impose harsher sentences on those found guilty of violating intellectual property rights. Heavier punishment are needed to deter people from violating intellectual property rights, the director general of intellectual property rights at the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, A. Zen Umar Purba, said. He insisted that the regulations and laws dealing with intellectual property rights were comprehensive and adequate to cope with piracy.

According to Law No. 12/1997 on copyrights, violations of intellectual property rights carry a maximum sentence of seven years in jail. However, in most cases those convicted under this law are sentenced to several months in prison at the most. The government and the House of Representatives are in the process of revising the country's intellectual property rights law so it meets international standards.

5. President calls for integrated program to eradicate piracy

(from Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies, 26 April 2002)

Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri asked the Justice and Human Rights Ministry and the Indonesian Police to adopt an integrated program on the eradication of rampant piracy of intellectual property rights and patents.

Megawati, accompanied by Justice and Human Rights Minister Yusril Ihza Mahendra, said the rampant piracy of intellectual property rights and patents will not only discourage inventions but also create legal and trade problems.

If other countries feel that their products are being pirated by Indonesia, they can use the piracy as an excuse to press Indonesia in every trade negotiation to open its market to their products, she said.

VIETNAM

News in April 2002

Minds the meet on intellectual property

(from Vietnam Investment Review, 15 April 2002)

Intellectual property and Asia's future is the main topic for discussion at a seminar held by the Vietnam-France Law House in coordination with the National Industrial Property Institute and the Ministry of Justice in Vietnam.

During the seminar, from May 13 to 15, delegates heard French and Asian legal experts make presentations on the globalisation of international legal regulations on intellectual property and various ways to appraise intellectual property by international multilateral organizations.

An introduction to the legal instruments for drafting of bilateral commitments and in particular, the application of legal regulations on intellectual property in Vietnam, with the cooperation of state management agencies such as the Customs and Taxation Department was also covered during the seminar
