

Monthly Report of March 2005

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THAILAND

News in March 2005

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1. Amended law

(from Post Today Newspaper, business Market Section, Page B3, Thailand, 7 March 2005)

Intellectual Property Department said that the future prospect of developing IP law under the 4 years legislation in 2005 would amend in two areas which are trade secret law and copyright law, including draft of ministerial regulation and any announcements.

2. Pirate 'cost industry Bt660m'

(from The Nation Newspaper, Business Section, Page 4B, Thailand, 9 March 2005)

The first Internet pirate of the year has been arrested for causing an alleged Bt660 million worth of damage, said the Business Software Alliance (BSA), an anti-piracy organization. The man is thought have used the popular auction site Pramool.com over a period of 22 months to sell illegal CDs for a minimum of Bt50 each.

Tarun Sawney, the BSA's director of anti-piracy efforts in Asia, said the alliance studied the activities of the man for three months and eventually tracked his operation down to a small office on the second floor of a tailor's shop in Samut Prakan. He said raids on Internet pirates have increased significantly, not only in Thailand but also throughout the Asia Pacific.

3. Rejected the appeal

(from Agence Europe, 12 March 2005)

The European Court of First Instance has rejected the appeal by Thai company Osotspa, registered in Bangkok against the decision by the Alicante Trademark Office to register the trademark 'Hai' because Ostotspa owns the 'Shark' trademark. The Hai trademark has been requested by German company Distribution & Marketing.

Both companies are active in the soft drinks market. The Court says there are differences between Shark and Hai in terms of visuals and phonetics, but they are similar in terms of concept because both trademarks mean 'shark'. It adds, however, that energy boosting drinks are bought by young people who go for visuals since they buy 'on sight' or 'orally' in bars and restaurants, which counteracts the conceptual similarity. Osotspa argued there was the danger of confusion between the two trademarks.

4. Thai researcher develops paper type clay
(from *Thai News Service*, 15 March 2005)

A researcher at the National Metals and Materials Technology Centre (MTECH) has developed paper type clay. Somneuk Sirisunthorn, a researcher at MTECH, has applied for a patent for the process he developed to produce clay in thin flexible sheets for making decorative ceramic products.

The process is similar to that used to make some ceramic products for the electronics industry. The paper type clay Sirisunthorn developed can be made in different colours, in one-metre-long sheets that are from 30 microns to one millimeter thick. After glazing and firing the ceramic looks and feels similar to an eggshell.

The new kind of clay is not expensive to produce, so MTECH plans to teach local ceramics craftspeople how to make it for use in handicraft projects.

5. Eucalyptus application runs into flak
(from *Bangkok Post Newspaper*, Home News Section, Page 8, Thailand, 18 March 2005)

Farmer and biodiversity advocates have urged the Plant Variety Protection Committee to scrap its plan to list the eucalyptus plant on the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives' new plant variety protection list.

Decha Siriphat, an alternative farming activist and also a member of the committee, said registering eucalyptus on the protection list was a violation of a clause in the 1999 Plant Variety Protection Act (PVP) against listing any plant variety that causes an adverse impact on the environment, health or public welfare.

Research had shown that eucalyptus plantations could harm the environment because the plant consumes a large amount of water and releases a kind of "toxic" substance that could kill small insects, he said.

The committee, chaired by Agriculture and Cooperatives permanent secretary Banphot Hongtong, has registered 26 plant varieties, including rice, mango, sugar cane, orchid, melon, maize and soybean, on the new Plant Variety Protection list.

Charoen Khampeerapab, vice-rector for intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge at Silpakorn University, said putting eucalyptus on the protection list would give the applicant a monopoly over the plant variety.

Agriculture Department chief Chakan Sangraksawong said the application was submitted by a leading forestry plantation company, which had developed a new variety of eucalyptus with better quality and productivity than existing varieties. He refused to reveal the company's name. He said the committee would base its decision on scientific information and the environmental impact of the plantation of new eucalyptus types.

6. Civic groups to counter talks

(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Home News Section, Page 2, Thailand, 22 March 2005)

FTA Watch has teamed up with WTO Watch, the Senate committee for foreign affairs and social development, as well as the National Human Rights Commission, to organize a discussion on March 28 and to call for a halt in negotiations unless key issues like intellectual property rights were axed from the agenda.

The comprehensive agreement would cover not only trade and investment but also services, government procurement and intellectual property rights, modeled on the US-Singapore FTA. The negotiations have attracted strong opposition and raised concern among many Thai social advocates, trade union and NGO activities, as well as academics and farmers.

7. Raided the factory

(from Thai Rat Newspaper, Page 1 & 19, Thailand, 20 March 2005)

Police raided a factory in Pathumthani, found pirated CDs worth Bt20 million. This raid had done after the report from Motion Picture Association (Thailand).

8. Warning on trade protection

(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Home News Section, Page 5, Thailand, 25 March 2005)

Speaking on the second day of the Fourth Session of the World Commission on the Ethics of Science and Technology, Mr Korn Dabbaransi, Science and Technology Minister, said international trade rules on intellectual property do not take into account the interests of developing countries.

Efforts to promote access by less developed countries to new technologies had always been countered by sanctions by countries that hold proprietary rights.

Some trade agreements, including the intellectual property regime, were likely to be revised to accommodate even more restrictive levels of protection. They would give wealthy nations a competitive advantage and make it even harder for developing countries to catch up.

9. Knowledge of patents lagging in Thailand

(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Business Section, Page B10, Thailand, 26 March 2005)

Bangkok Post Newspaper, Opinion & Analysis Section, Page 10, Thailand, 26 March 2005

The Nation Newspaper, Business Section, Page 1B & 2B, Thailand, 26 March 2005

Post Today Newspaper, Business Market Section, Page B3, Thailand, 26 March 2005

Krung Thep Thurakit Newspaper, Economic Section, Page 3, Thailand, 26 March 2005)

Raising patent awareness should be a key priority for Thai authorities and European partners in promoting intellectual property rights in Thailand, according to Professor Alain Pompidou, president of the European Patent Office (EPO).

He said that issues related to trademarks and copyrights had already received high attention from the public but awareness about patent issues was still weak as evidenced by low number of patent application at international offices.

On the contrary, applications to protect trademark and industrial designs from Thailand in Europe totaled 339 from 1996 to 2003. Singapore led the region with 708 trademark applications during the period.

Prof Pompidou said as the knowledge about patents was still limited, EU experts in this field would work with both the public and private sectors in Thailand to train patent attorneys, judges, researchers as well as companies about the rising role of patents and potential benefits of patenting their inventions.

10. Civic groups oppose FTA negotiation

*(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Home News Section, Page 6, Thailand, 29 March 2005
Krung Thep Thurakit Newspaper, Commerce Section, Page 7, 29 March 2005)*

Civic groups are to petition to the Foreign Ministry and the US embassy ahead of the third round of FTA talks in Pattaya next week demanding negotiations be called off unless “disadvantageous” issues like intellectual property rights were excluded from the agenda.

Jakkrit Kuanpote, a law lecturer from the University of Wollongong, Australia, said a recent survey in the US revealed that up to 155 affiliates of big business corporations, numbering around 500, had been convicted at least once of criminal offences ranging from the discharging of contaminated waste, violating environmental and consumer protection laws, privacy rights, and dodging taxes.

Thailand has no effective mechanisms or measures in place to deal with the unethical and profit-hungry behaviour of corporations, he warned. Not only would it give a loose protection to Thailand’s national interests, it would also allow investors to sue and seek compensation from an arbitrator, he said.

11. FTA foes appeal to Democrat

*(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Home News Section, Page 3, Thailand, 30 March 2005
The Nation Newspaper, Local News Section, Page 8A, Thailand, 30 March 2005)*

A watchdog coalition has appealed to the opposition for help in keeping the government from signing a FTA agreement with the United States which could threaten people’s access to cheap medicines.

The group believes Washington would again call for the protection of its intellectual property rights and trade marks, and the liberalisation of investment in the upcoming third round of talks. The US was also likely to seek extended protection for its patents beyond 20 years.

The watchdog group was concerned that patenting some plant and animal species would eventually lead to the monopolization of farm products and ingredients highly valued for their medicinal properties. Patients in turn would face restricted access to cures.

The coalition added that Thailand was only following intellectual property regulations under the WTO agreement, which should not be the case. It would be unreasonable and unfair if the country was subjected to similar restrictions under the FTA with the US.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

News in March 2005

1. Jurors to judge copycat trials
2. IPR seminar attracts experts
3. RIAA calls for action against China
4. China arrests 2,505 suspects for making marketing life-threatening fake products
5. International patent applications from China surge: WIPO
6. China's HiSense settles trademark dispute with BSH
7. Pirated 'Hulk' hauled to court
8. Firm raided over pirated software
9. Hong Kong customs officers seize pirated software, arrest two men
10. Trademark registration soars in China
11. Microsoft ties up with China PC makers to fight piracy
12. Chinese software firm wins copyright suit
13. Intellectual property raised on Australia-China FTA agenda
14. China's progress on intellectual property 'slow and uneven'
15. China stresses protection of famous foreign trademarks
16. Customs raid nets 18 and \$6m in illegal discs
17. HK companies steal names of Japanese electronics giants
18. Chinese government to eliminate using pirated software
19. China court hears Pfizer appeal against Viagra patent ruling
20. China denies US accusations of inaction on product piracy

1. Jurors to judge copycat trials
(from *Financial times*, 1 March 2005)

Recent reforms to China's legal system will make it easier to try intellectual property cases by jury, starting later this year. The changes, which will come into effect on May 1, could have a significant impact on how companies' intellectual property rights are protected in China.

The reform is particularly interesting because juries are not always used in intellectual property trials in other countries, such as the US, because the subject can be highly technical.

China has jurors – or “people's assessors” – in its courts for more than 40 years, primarily for cases where specialist knowledge is required. At the end of last year, it had about 24,000 people's assessors. Last August, the National People's Congress Standing Committee approved reforms to expand their use.

Under the new system, people's assessors may be called upon in criminal, civil and administrative cases with “significant social influence”; in other criminal cases at the defendant's

request; in civil cases at the defendant or plaintiff's request and in administrative cases at the plaintiff's request. This definition would include intellectual property-related cases.

2. IPR seminar attracts experts

(from Business Daily Update, 2 & 4 March 2005)

A seminar attended by IPR experts and related and related officials called for Chinese companies to put more effort into protecting their trademarks overseas. Germany's Bosch-Siemens Household Co Ltd (BSH)'s registration of seven Chinese companies' trademarks overseas became a focus of the seminar.

HiSense, one of the seven companies, said they would not give up and vows to regain their trademark through the courts.

3. RIAA calls for action against China

(from Billboard, 5 March 2005)

The Recording Industry Association of America and other intellectual property trade groups have stepped up their calls for action against piracy in China. The RIAA's tough line is backed by regional music executives, who are concerned by China's apparent failure to tackle piracy issues since it joined the WTO in 2001

4. China arrests 2,505 suspects for making marketing life-threatening fake products

(from Xinhua News Agency, 8 March 2005

Xinhua Financial Network News, 9 March 2005

BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific, 9 March 2005

AFX Asia, 9 March 2005)

China arrested a total of 2,505 suspects last year for making or marketing fake or shoddy goods that pose serious threat to the people's life and property, up 56.9 per cent from a year ago, China's chief procurator said.

Jia Chunwang, procurator-general of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, told a session of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's legislature, in his annual work report that China also prosecuted a total of 2,124 suspects, up 56.2 per cent, on making or marketing fake or shoddy products ranging from powdered milk, alcohol, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer and pesticide.

In addition, the country's procuratorate organs approved arrests of 602 suspects on charge of infringement of registered trademarks, patents and copyrights, and prosecuted 638 suspects on the same charges, up 13.4 per cent and 6.3 per cent respectively from a year ago. Moreover, Chinese administrative authorities handled more than 9,800 IPR-related cases and confiscated more 10 billion pieces of fake goods.

5. International patent applications from China surge: WIPO

(from Agence France Press, 9 March 2005

Financial Times, 10 March 2005)

The number of international patent applications made by Chinese companies or universities surged last year as exports from the giant Asian economy boomed, the WIPO said. The UN agency, which manages an international system that allows a single patent application to be

lodged in up to 126 countries at once, said the number of requests from China grew 38 per cent to 1,782 requests.

Although the number is just 1.5 per cent of world applications, China's growth should allow it to exceed Australia this year, a senior WIPO official said. There's no doubt that the number of international patent applications from China will increase in the next five years. It is sure that it will explode up towards the France or United Kingdom level.

China's top telecommunications equipment maker, Huawei, was the largest Chinese corporate user of the system. The increase could also imply that China will become much more concerned about protecting patents and intellectual property, according to WIPO.

6. China's HiSense settles trademark dispute with BSH
(from Xinhua Financial Network News, 10 March 2005)

China's HiSense Group, parent of HiSense Electric Co Ltd, said it has reached an out-of-court settlement over a trademark dispute with Germany's Bosch-Siemens Household Co Ltd (BSH).

BSH has agreed to transfer the trademark 'HiSense' that it had, under local legal authorities, registered in Germany and other European Union countries, to HiSense Group and both parties have agreed to withdraw the lawsuits over the trademark.

However, earlier state media reports said, citing industry sources, that HiSense had agreed to pay BSH around 500,000 euro as a settlement fee, much lower than the 40 mln the German company had asked for earlier.

7. Pirated 'Hulk' hauled to court
(from Shanghai Daily, 11 March 2005)

A Guangdong Province film and TV company has filed lawsuits against 79 Shanghai audiovisual firms in a battle to protect its movie copyrights. Freeland wants the defendants to stop violating its intellectual property rights immediately and pay 20,000 yuan compensation for each of the pirated products.

The Shanghai No. 2 Intermediate People's Court accepted 61 of the lawsuits, and the rest will be heard by Shanghai No. 1 Intermediate People's Court.

8. Firm raided over pirated software
(from South China Morning Post, 13 March 2005)

Customs officers seized pirated software and computer equipment worth more than \$8 million in a raid on an electronic watch company in Kwai Chung. A company director and a supervisor of the firm's computer section were arrested and later released on \$50,000 bail.

Intellectual property investigation bureau officers said they seized 16 computers installed with pirated software. It was their largest corporate piracy case. Customs officers began their investigation after a complaint three months ago from a copyright owner about the watch company using fake graphic design software.

9. Hong Kong customs officers seize pirated software, arrest two men
(from *AFX Asia*, 14 March 2005)

Customs officers in the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau said they cracked the largest corporate piracy case during a raid on an electronic watch company in Kwai Chung. Sixteen computers installed with pirated software were seized, they added.

The pirated software installed was high-priced professional graphic design programs, such as PTC Pro/Engineer Wildfire, Autodesk AutoCAD and Adobe Photoshop. The retail price of genuine products is about 8 mln hkd.

Under the amended Copyright Ordinance, a person commits an offence if he, without the licence of the copyright owner, possesses for the purpose of, in the course of, or in connection with, any trade or business with a view to committing any act infringing the copyright. The maximum penalty is a 50,000 hkd fine for each infringing copy and four years in jail.

10. Trademark registration soars in China
(from *Business Daily Update*, 16 March 2005)

Trademark registration in China soared last year. China had 588,000 trademark applications last year, the highest in the world for the third consecutive year. The number of applications was up 30 per cent over 2003, and it was more than double the number in 2001, when China was admitted to the WTO, said An Qinghu, director of the Trademark Bureau under the Chinese State Administration for Industry and Commerce.

11. Microsoft ties up with China PC makers to fight piracy
(from *Xinhua Financial Network News*, 17 March 2005
AFX Asia, 17 March 2005
Business Daily Update, 22 March 2005)

Microsoft Corp said it has reached an agreement with XP installed as its default operating platform in an effort to fight piracy. China's PC market is very promising. We hope to become a stronger team with our partners, Founder Technology, TCL Corp and Tsinghua Tongfang, to protect intellectual property rights, said Li Shijie, director of Microsoft (China)'s original equipment manufacturer (OEM) operations. The addition of Windows XP will not raise the price of their computers.

12. Chinese software firm wins copyright suit
(from *The Straits Times Newspaper*, Singapore, 19 March 2005)

In an unusual intellectual property rights dispute in China where a local company is the plaintiff, the defending Taiwanese company was found guilty of copyright infringement. Five years ago, Beijing-based software company Hanwang Technology discovered that Taiwan's Fine art Technology had copied its handwriting recognition software for personal digital assistant, made some minor revisions and sold it at a cheaper price over the Internet.

Last month, the Supreme People's Court of Beijing ruled in favour of Hanwang and awarded the Chinese company 300,000 yuan in damages.

13. Intellectual property raised on Australia-China FTA agenda

*(from Asia in Focus, 21 March 2005
Australian Broadcasting Corporation Transcripts, 21 March 2005
The Advertiser, 22 March 2005)*

The thorny issue of intellectual property has been raised as a possible subject on the agenda for upcoming talks by Australia and China on a free trade agreement (FTA). Australian Industry Group chief executive Heather Ridout called for Australia and China to set up a means of resolving disputes over intellectual property as a show of good faith as the two countries consider talks for a FTA.

14. China's progress on intellectual property 'slow and uneven'

*(from Xinhua Financial Network News, 21 March 2005
AFX Asia, 21 March 2005)*

Foreign companies in China can expect only "slow and uneven" improvement in the country's system of intellectual property rights protect. The report, released in Hong Kong, said China's legal system is still so immature that IPR holders are better off avoiding the courts when their rights are breached.

Government authorities take three to four years to issue patents for inventions, while patent infringement cases "have typically taken four to seven years to resolve. Copyright infringement in China is widespread, citing statistics indicating 92 PCT of computer software in China in 2003 was pirated.

Foreign firms should set up wholly-owned subsidiaries where possible, avoid licensing arrangements and carefully vet potential joint venture partners. IPR holder should also better supervise inventory data, regularly audit partners, improve labeling and cultivate local officials to help protect their interests, the report concluded.

15. China stresses protection of famous foreign trademarks

*(from Business Daily Update, 23 March 2005
South China Morning Post, 24 March 2005)*

The Chinese government has adopted a series of effective measures to stop up investigation and punishment of infringement cases and expand the scope of protection of well-known trademarks.

In accordance with relevant provisions of the Trademark Law protection of trademarks in China adopts dual-track system, that is, both the law enforcement departments and the industry and commerce administrative departments have the right to handle trademark infringement cases.

China has launched a one-year special campaign centered on intellectual property rights starting from September, 2004. In 2004 a total of 5,401 foreign-related trademark infringement cases were investigated and punished, increasing by nearly 160 per cent over the 2,092 cases in 2003.

Moreover, strengthening legal protection shows the determination of the Chinese government to protect well-known foreign trademarks.

16. Customs raid nets 18 and \$6m in illegal discs

(from South China Morning Post, 25 March 2005)

Customs officers have arrested 18 people and confiscated \$6 million worth of pirated VCDs – including a Japanese cartoon film only just released in Hong Kong. The 200,000 discs were seized from 22 shops in a single Mongkok shopping centre and two flats in North Point and Wan Chai.

The pirates are believed to have flown to Japan and filmed it in a cinema before returning to Hong Kong to make copies. Most of the other seized discs were also Japanese cartoons, such as Gundam and Dragon Ball.

Officers are still trying to find the disc factory. The two flats raided were used as storage centres.

17. HK companies steal names of Japanese electronics giants

(from Mainichi Daily News, 26 March 2005)

Japan's first system aimed at combating intellectual property theft will target Hong Kong companies ripping off the names of Japanese electronics giants and selling cheap and nasty parts in China, according to the Japan Electronics and Information Technologies Association.

Once the government's system comes into place next month, Japan will formally protest to Hong Kong, asking it to rethink its company registration procedures and strengthen trademark protection.

JEITA is making the application on behalf of electronics giant such as Sanyo Electric co., Hitachi Ltd., Toshiba Corp. and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Japanese companies have fought legal battles against Hong Kong firms in the past, but the problems could go on continuously if they have to fight every single case of property theft in court.

JEITA has filed an application with the government, asking it to tackle the problem. The government will do so and decide whether to take action.

18. Chinese government to eliminate using pirated software

(from Xinhua's China Economic Information Service, 28 March 2005)

After eliminating the use of pirated software in central departments and provincial governments, China will eliminate pirated software in governments below provincial level by the end of this year. Zhang Qi, a senior official with the Ministry of Information Industry, said that the ministry will instruct local governments to remove their pirated software before the end of this year.

China launched a fight against piracy in governments departments in 2002 in order to strengthen intellectual property rights protection. By the end of that year, departments under the direct leadership of the State Council all replaced their pirated software.

19. China court hears Pfizer appeal against Viagra patent ruling

(from Xinhua Financial Network News, 31 March 2005)

China Daily, 31 March 2005)

US pharmaceutical firm Pfizer Inc launched an appeal in Beijing No 1 Intermediate People's Court against a ruling revoking the China patent of its drug Viagra. Pfizer wants the court to

order the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) to withdraw its decision to revoke the patent last year.

Pfizer obtained a patent license for its erectile dysfunction treatment Viagra in 2001, only to see it revoked by SIPO in July after Chinese experts reviewed complaints by more than 10 Chinese pharmaceutical companies.

20. China denies US accusations of inaction on product piracy
(from Associated Press Newswires, 31 March 2005)

China denied US accusations that it is falling to stop product piracy, insisting it is aggressively fighting the problem to protect both Chinese and foreign companies. Responding to a new US report that complains of “epidemic levels” of counterfeiting by Chinese pirates, the Foreign Ministry appealed to Washington to settle the dispute through negotiations and to avoid politicizing it.

China “has done tremendous work in this area,” said ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao. “We are going to continue to make efforts to seriously fight this piracy issue.”

The US report accused Beijing of failing to stop the copying of goods ranging from movies and computer software to sporting goods and designer clothes.

Liu said 9,000 intellectual property violation cases were handled last year by China’s courts. He said the country’s Supreme court had already granted US requests to lower the threshold for triggering serious penalties for product piracy, allowing criminal prosecution for offenses that once might only have triggered fines.

MALAYSIA

News in March 2005

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| 1. IP in firm hands | 5. Govt mulls over special court to deal with IP |
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1. IP in firm hands
(from New Straits Times Newspaper, Malaysia, 3 March 2005)

The Malaysian Intellectual Property Corporation seeks a wider role in the nation’s intellectual property development. Malaysia seeks to protect and promote intellectual property with the formation of the Malaysian Intellectual Property Corporation (MIPC). Established in 2003, the corporation develops and manages the intellectual property system in Malaysia.

Prior to its establishment, it was known as the IP division under the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs. This corporation is autonomous in its administration and finance. Its goals include the establishment of an efficient and effective machinery and to assume a bigger role in the international arena.

By propagating a wider role in the nation's intellectual property development, the corporation aims to boost the employment of more experts and professionals. It provides administrative services for the collection of fees or any other charges under the Intellectual Property Law.

The corporation also monitors and supervises matters arising from the implementation of the Intellectual Property Law, while updating it. More than aiming to protect intellectual property and investment commercialization, it also hopes to establish an administrative system on intellectual property that is easy and efficient.

The corporation consists of divisions and units concentrating on patents, copyright, trademarks, geographical indications, layout-designs of integrated circuits and industrial designs.

2. Join PCT to hasten patent application

(from Bernama Daily Malaysian News, 3 March 2005)

Malaysia can hasten its patent applications for intellectual property received from local and international entrepreneurs if the country joins the Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT) System.

PCT System is a worldwide system which simplifies and reduces the cost of obtaining international patent protection and facilitates public access to a wealth of technical information relating to inventions. There were 135 countries which had registered with PCT System since its inception in 1970.

Interested parties wanting faster approval for patent applications could now deal directly with PCT System instead of the national body. The system would help applicants and the country in speeding up the patent application process.

Besides, PCT System could provide an avenue for Malaysian companies interested in seeking patent application abroad. Malaysia should participate in the system as the major markets like United States, Canada and Australia were also members.

3. Two-year plan to tackle IP issues

(from New Straits Times Newspaper, Malaysia, 4 March 2005

Bernama Daily Malaysian News, Malaysia, 4 March 2005)

Malaysia adopted a two-year plan to tackle intellectual property issues in the country. The working plan covers a wide range of topics on IP in Malaysia and includes strategic recommendations for the country to increase IP awareness as well as bringing about more effective IP management and legalization.

The "Strategic Modernisation Plan" was adopted during the one-day inaugural National Intellectual Property Seminar 2005. It was developed under the European Commission-Asean Property Rights co-operation Programme, and tailor-made for Malaysia with recommendations from local industry experts late last year.

4. Malaysia must do more to protect IPR

(from Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies, 11 March 2005)

Malaysia must do more to protect IPRs, United States Ambassador to Malaysia, Christopher Lafleur said. Although counterfeit products now have limited impact on Malaysia-US bilateral trade relations, “in the long run it will if left unchecked,” he said.

He expressed concern that in the long-run, it would affect future investments by American Companies in areas such as research as there was no guarantee over the security of information and company’s trade secrets.

The US is keen to forge a free trade agreement with Malaysia but feels that Malaysia has to further tighten legislation, improve enforcement and impose heavier penalties on forgers. Washington is concerned with Malaysia’s image as number one exporter of counterfeit DVDs and CDs because much of these pirated materials were pirated from US products.

5. Govt mulls over special court to deal with IP

(from Bernama Daily Malaysian News, Malaysia, 11 March 2005)

The government plans to set up a special court to try intellectual property cases, including disputes on patent rights and trade marks, and to deal with the issue of piracy. The draft proposal for the setting up of the Intellectual Property Court had been submitted to the Attorney-General for study before the bill was tabled in the Dewan Rakyat for approval.

With the special court, the judges would specialize in the field and hence be able to make fair and accurate decisions. The setting up of a special intellectual property court was not new as most developed countries such as the United States and those in Europe as well as several in Asia, including South Korea and Japan, had established such courts.

6. Pirated DVDs worth RM2 million seized

(from Bernama Daily Malaysian News, Malaysia, 24 March 2005)

Some 200,000 pirated copies of DVDs worth RM2 million were seized in a raid at a store in Kompleks Selangor at Jalan Sultan. The raid was carried out by a 10-member team from the Putrajaya Intellectual Property Protection Unit of the Domestic Trade and consumer Affairs Ministry.

The syndicate is believed to collect at least RM200,000 per day as the machine could produce 20,000 DVD copies a day. The DVDs were sold between RM8 and RM10 a copy.

SINGAPORE

News in March 2005

1. BSA to take its first case of software piracy to court soon

(from Channel NewsAsia, 14 March 2005)

The Business Software Alliance (BSA) said that it expects to take its first case of software piracy to court soon, after a successful advertising campaign which offered up to \$20,000 as reward. BSA says that since the campaign’s launch last month, it has received more leads than the three previous years combined.

BSA received more than 150 calls within the first 10 days of the advertisement's airing. Of these, 80 provided useful leads.

2. 3 arrested, \$1m fake Burberry items seized

(from The Straits Times Newspaper, Singapore, 23 March 2005)

Police seized their biggest haul of counterfeit fashion products this year from a souvenir and gift shop on Tanjong Pagar Road. Officers from the Intellectual Property Rights Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department hauled off about 5,000 fake Burberry products with a total street value of \$1 million. Most of the items were garments and accessories bearing the Burberry trademark.

Police had been monitoring the shop since receiving a tip-off in January. The shop occupies two units on the second floor of a shophouse above a restaurant and catered exclusively to Asian tourists.

THE PHILIPPINES

News in March 2005

1. Cable signal piracy
2. Fake Louis Vuitton
3. Upgrade system for speedy grant of patents
4. Coordinated efforts set in gov't anti-piracy drive
5. Call centres among biggest software pirates
6. Discs piracy confab set for March 29 – April 2

1. Cable signal piracy

(from Business World, 3 March 2005

Manila Bulletin, 20 March 2005

Philippine Daily Inquirer, 21 March 2005

Manila Standard, 30 March 2005)

The National Telecommunication Commission (NTC) has created an intellectual property unit (IPU) to address complaints on cable operations, particularly the piracy of signals. The NTC-IPU will monitor the compliance of cable and satellite broadcast operators with the terms of their respective licenses and authorizations. The unit has the authority to investigate and prosecute cable and satellite companies found to have violated their licenses.

2. Fake Louis Vuitton

(from Xinhua News Agency, 6 March 2005)

An estimated 20 million peso (US\$376,000) worth of fake Louis Vuitton Mallettier leather bags and accessories were seized following a string of raids at different trading outlets in Binondo Chinatown and Divisoria in Manila.

Agents of the Philippine National Police's Anti-fraud and Commercial Crimes Division confiscated some 38,500 pieces of counterfeit suitcases, shoes, bags, wallets and belts bearing the name of the luxurious European leather brand Louis Vuitton.

The anti-counterfeit executives of the Louis Vuitton Mallettier based in Hong Kong filed a complaint before the Philippine National Police against the big-time manufacturers and distributors of fake Louis Vuitton leather goods in Manila.

The PNP enforced the search warrants after verifying the large-scale selling of the fake leather products at the 23 shops found selling fake brands inside the building complex. Police officials said the owners of the shops will be charged with violations of the law banning trademark infringement and unfair competition.

3. Upgrade system for speedy grant of patents
(from *Asia Pulse*, 9 March 2005)

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) has tapped the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to further improve and upgrade its Patent Administration Computerized System (PACSYS).

IPO Director General Adrian Cristobal Jr. said the Jetro project is a follow-up to the internal reforms the IPO is instituting to strengthen intellectual property rights protection in the country. This project will contribute significantly in establishing the integrity and credibility of the IPOS Patent System.

The project was a result of the four-year IPO-JICA joint Modernization of Industrial Property Administration Project (MIPAP) that took place from May 1999 to May 2003 with a funding of more than P180 million from both the governments of Japan and the Philippines.

The follow-up project aims to upgrade the functionalities, operating and application software, and hardware components of the PACSYS and will run from 14 November 2004 to 13 May 2006. JICA is funding the project with P30 million.

4. Coordinated efforts set in gov't anti-piracy drive
(from *Business World*, 16 March 2005)

Three government agencies have agreed to form an anti-piracy body that will coordinate all law enforcement efforts in a bid to improve the country's intellectual property rights record. A high-level interagency coordinating committee composed of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Optical Media Board (OMB), and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will ensure a "seamless" anti-piracy campaign.

Also part of the effort are "strong public-private partnerships" with mall owners and groups such as the Philippine Retailers' Association, which has around 300 members covering 20,000 establishments nationwide. There are 42 malls in Metro Manila and 102 in the provinces.

5. Call centres among biggest software pirates
(from *Business World*, 18 March 2005
Manila Standard, 18 March 2005)

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO), an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, yesterday expressed concern over the slow compliance of both foreign and local companies operating call centers or customer contact centers in the Philippines in using only licensed software in their operations.

IPO director general Adrian Cristobal Jr. yesterday said there is a need for call center and customer contact center companies to strictly use licensed software to bolster the efforts of the Philippine government to be removed from the list of countries with rampant intellectual property rights (IPR) violations.

He pointed out that only two companies have complied with the software audit of all their computer systems required under the memorandum of understanding (MoU) entered into by the Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP) and the Business Software Alliance (BSA) in April 27, 2004.

The audit of the computer systems was supposed to be completed, after which the BSA would issue a certificate of recognition valid for six months. If covered by a certificate of recognition, any enforcement action could not be taken against the company within six months.

6. Discs piracy confab set for March 29 – April 2
(from *Business World*, 22 March 2005)

The Optical Media Board (OMB) will host the first regional round-table conference on optical disc piracy in Southeast Asia on March 29-April 2 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Government officials who are directly involved in anti-piracy enforcement from eight countries and territories in and around Southeast Asia have been invited to join the regional conference, namely, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, and China.

The conference will serve to establish points of cooperation in the areas of policy formulation, investigation, enforcement, evidence gathering and case buildup, towards achieving effective anti-piracy control on a regional level within the region.

The regional conference is being sponsored by the Motion Picture Association, International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, Business Software Alliance, United States-Association of Southeast Asian Nation Business Council, United States for International Development, as well as local organizations of stakeholders such as the Association of Video Distributors of the Philippines, Motion Picture Anti-Film Piracy Council, Philippine Association of the Recording Industry, IP Coalition, Intellectual Property Alliance of Cebu, I Protect Cebu, and IP Manila.

INDONESIA

News in March 2005

1. Pirated softwares
2. IPR piracy still high
3. 70,600 of pirated VCDs was confiscated

4. Govt delay application of revenue stamps of recording products

5. Destroyed pirated VCDs

6. Indonesia software piracy stunts econ

1. Pirated softwares

(from Kompas, Page 17, Indonesia, 3 March 2005)

Police confiscated 33,418 pieces of pirated softwares from various illegal producers in three shopping centres in Jakarta. In that operation, police also captured and arrested six suspected persons which are shop owners who sold pirated softwares in International Trade Center Cempaka Mas, Ambassador Mall, and Ratu Plaza. The confiscation had been performed since February 24-28, 2005.

2. IPR piracy still high

(from Suara pembaruan, Page 3, Indonesia, 3 March 2005)

A lot of piracy cases of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), especially copyright and trademark in Indonesia is because of law enforcement against piracy doer is not optimal. Farouk Cader, policy consultant of Business Software Alliance (BSA), said that in piracy cases in Indonesia, the law enforcement was less, infirm, not focus. Farouk said that in a moment before Police held press conference regarding Police's success of capturing six suspected persons of copyright piracy doer of software in retail level and confiscating a number of evidence goods several days ago.

3. 70,600 of pirated VCDs was confiscated

(from Kompas, Page 18, Indonesia, 4 March 2005)

Police confiscated 70,600 pirated songs video compact discs (VCDs) from Kompleks Pergudangan Nusa Indah, Tangerang, on February 22—February 24, 2005. From the raid, police also arrested Derman Sudarman (Director of PT Karyamas Visindo) and his two employees, respectively, Sutrisno alias Ahong and Endi Marunda. According to Vice Director of Special Criminal Detective of Local Police of Jakarta Metropolis, Ajun of Big Commissioner, Agung Sabar Santoso, on Thursday, March 3, 2005, besides confiscated pirated songs VCDs in several kinds of songs, police also confiscated printing machine, injection, and heating machine of plastic ore.

4. Govt delay application of revenue stamps of recording products

(from Suara Pembaruan, Page 7, Indonesia, 14 March 2005)

Director General of Customs, Eddy Abdurrachman in Jakarta, last week, said that the government would delay implementation of revenue stamps application for recording products, such as cassette, compact disc (CD), video compact disc (VCD), digital video disc (DVD) and laser disc (LD) until unpredictable time. It was performed by considering that there was still opinion contradiction between recording association party and the government.

By the end of 2004, the government proposed a policy of applying revenue stamps on recording products with intention to press piracy toward recording products. The proposal was opposed by recording industry doer namely Association of Indonesia's Recording Industry (Asosiasi Industri Rekaman Indonesia – Asiri), which evaluated that customs levied would only increase recording products price then would result in decreasing turnover. Asiri opined that the policy of imposing

revenue stamps to eliminate piracy was evaluated illogical, because the piracy was law enforcement problem with law umbrella namely Copyright Law.

The government, in this case, Ministry of Finance was stubborn that they would determine the imposing of revenue stamps at the beginning of 2005. However, until now, there was not found meeting point between the government and the Asiri.

5. Destroyed pirated VCDs

(from Suara Pembaruan, Page 20, Indonesia, 16 March 2005)

Not less than 700,000 pieces of pirated VCD, DVD, and CD contained recording of songs, films, and also softwares were destroyed in yard of Regional Police Office of Jakarta Metropolis, Wednesday morning, March 16, 2005. Hundred thousands of the pirated VCDs had been seized in various operations held since November 2004 until March 2005.

Meanwhile, Coordinator of Trader Consolidation of Indonesian Recording Production (Gabungan Pedagang Produksi Rekaman Indonesia—GAPPRI), Doemoli Siahaan, said that the piracy actions of VCDs and DVDs was caused by price difference between pirated VCD (Rp5,000) and original VCD (Rp50,000).

To avoid piracy, GAPPRI prepared a number of steps among others producing original VCD/DVD with low price, Rp10,000/piece.

6. Indonesia software piracy stunts econ

(from Dow Jones International News, 22 March 2005

The Jakarta Post Newspaper, Indonesia, 23 March 2005)

Indonesia's rampant computer software piracy is stunting economic development and costing foreign firms millions of dollars in lost revenue, a software industry lobby group representative said recently.

The anti-piracy hotline number was officially launched by the BSA - - an international organization actively fighting the use of illegal computer software - - in its support of the government's moves in curbing piracy.

The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights' directorate-general of intellectual property rights is hoping that such an effort will reduce software piracy by 10 per cent within four years.

VIETNAM

News in March 2005

1. Vietnam-Japan negotiations
2. Europe-ASEAN IPR programme
3. Vietnam may issue IP law later this year
4. Business executives join industrial property workshop
5. Korean company purchases Vietnamese dictionary copyright
6. Software piracy rife in Vietnam
7. Vietnam registers first rice trademark

1. Vietnam-Japan negotiations

*(from Vietnam News Brief Service, 9 & 10 March 2005
Thai News Service, 10 & 11 March 2005)*

Vietnam and Japan hold another bilateral negotiation on the former's entry to the WTO in Ho Chi Minh City on March 10. The round comes after the two countries have yet to reach an agreement at the one-day talk on the similar matter.

Japan has given Vietnam high demands on intellectual property and asked the Southeast Asian country to take tougher measures to protect Japanese investors.

2. Europe-ASEAN IPR programme

*(from BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific, 7 March 2005
Thai News Service, 8 March 2005)*

The European commission – ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Cooperation Programme (ECAP II) in Vietnam was officially inaugurated in Hanoi. Vietnam will become the biggest recipient of ECAP II with the pledged sum of 1.5m euros for more than 50 intellectual property operations in the country.

ECAP II aims to protect and foster initiatives and innovations in Vietnam, attract more investment and broaden trade exchanges between Vietnam and foreign countries. It will focus on finalizing the legal framework on the management and enforcement of intellectual property rights as well as raising public awareness of intellectual property.

3. Vietnam may issue IP law later this year

(from Xinhua News Agency, 16 March 2005)

Vietnam is reviewing a draft law on intellectual property (IP), which is expected to be ratified later this year as the country moves closer to the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s accession.

Vietnam will move towards a system where all IP- related disputes will be resolved in court. Mass media campaigns and seminars will raise awareness of the new regulations, while IP agencies will see a shake-up to improve the law's enforcement.

The new legislation marks a giant step in Vietnam's economic adaptation to the WTO's legal rules, with the government vowing to push hard for the law's ratification and protection of IP rights. The draft law has 14 chapters with 497 articles which cover various aspects of IP protection, such as copyrights, patents, industrial design, trade secrets and antitrust provisions. Jeffrey Hardee, vice president and regional director of the Business Software Alliance (BSA) in the Asia Pacific, is optimistic about Vietnam's future, with the country joining the Berne Convention for the protection of literary and artistic works in October 2004, agreeing to implement the WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, and drafting a separate law on IP.

4. Business executives join industrial property workshop

(from The Saigon Times Daily, 17 March 2005)

Masato Hashiguchi (L), managing director of Japan's Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS), hands the certificate of attendance to a business executive joining an

industrial property workshop in HCMC yesterday. The three-day workshop, organized by AOTS at the Hotel Sofitel Plaza Saigon and attended by 30 business executives in HCMC, ended yesterday. A similar workshop took place in Hanoi from March 9-11.

5. Korean company purchases Vietnamese dictionary copyright
(from *Vietnam News Brief Service*, 21 March 2005)

A Korean company signed on Friday a contract with a Vietnamese partner to purchase the copyright of two Vietnamese dictionaries.

Korean company AoneProtech would buy the data source of the Vietnamese-English and English-Vietnamese dictionaries from the Saigon Culture General Company to use in its new electronic handheld dictionaries.

According to the ten-year contract, the Vietnamese side could receive as much as VND100 million (\$6,400) per year, while the new Korean handheld dictionary would cost about VND700,000 - 800,000 (\$44.5-51), one-third to one-fourth the price of similar products.

The data purchase marks the first time Vietnamese intellectual property has been purchased by a foreign company under the Berne Convention, which Vietnam signed on with October 26, 2004.

6. Software piracy rife in Vietnam
(from *Thai News Service*, 23 March 2005)

Authorities appealed for domestic software management agencies to conduct a national survey to assess the extent of software piracy in Vietnam after international research named the country one of the world's worst offenders in this area.

According to the Business Software Alliance (BSA), Vietnam's software piracy rate in 2003 was equal to the world's highest at 92% or US\$41 million in losses. China's figure was also 92%, representing losses of US\$3.8 billion.

The International Data Corporation (IDC)'s global research on behalf of the BSA stated the number of Vietnam's information technology projects might grow by 76% over 2002-06 without a reduction in piracy. However, the IDC findings forecasted that with a 10-point drop in piracy over the same period, IT growth could double to 146%, add 3,000 new hi-tech jobs, US\$400 million in revenue for domestic producers and retailers, and US\$31 million in tax revenue.

7. Vietnam registers first rice trademark
(from *Vietnam News Brief Service*, 31 March 2005)

Vietnam, the world's second largest rice exporter after Thailand, registered its Kim Ke rice product from the National Office of Intellectual Property (NOIP) for the first time.

The Ho Chi Minh City-based Minh Cat Production, Trade and Service Company will be entitled to use the legally produced brand name of Kim Ke nationwide for a term of 10 years, according to the office.

Another variety of rice is also expected to receive a certificate of origin and trademark protection from the NOIP soon, it said, adding that the Tam Xoan Hai Rice Association has submitted applications for registration of origin and protection for the Tam Xoan Hai Hau variety of rice, which is grown in the Nam Dinh province's Hai Hau district.

INDIA

News in March 2005

1. Little headway in patents amendment bill standoff
2. Indian student designs cheap prosthetic arm
3. India wins neem patent battle
4. Piracy losses as high as 40%
5. Two engineers held for patent violation
6. India yet to avail of TRIPs flexibilities
7. Centre plans 10 IPR chairs in universities
8. Govt wins over left on Patents Bill
9. IPR meet held in Mangalore

1. Little headway in patents amendment bill standoff
(from *The Hindu*, 4 March 2005)

The opposition of the Left parties to the Bill to replace the Patents Amendment Ordinance continued with the Congress suggesting that the Government would consider the amendments that could be incorporated.

The attempt by the United Progressive Alliance to find a way out at a meeting between the Union Ministers, Pranab Mukherjee and Ghulam Nabi Azad, and the Left leaders made little headway.

It is understood that the Government expressed difficulty in bringing major amendments to the Bill while the Left parties insisted that the flexibilities available in the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights agreement under the World Trade Organisation be used.

The Left parties had earlier submitted a detailed note in which they argued that the current Bill that replaces the Ordinance issued late last year was the one prepared by the previous National Democratic Alliance Government.

2. Indian student designs cheap prosthetic arm
(from *The Times of India*, 9 March 2005)

Mihir Joglekar, a thirdyear engineering student from the city, has devised a lightweight robotic prosthetic arm for injured soldiers and other paraplegics, using raw materials worth just Rs 2,000. He is presently writing the patent for its design and plans to make it voice-operated by next year.

The robotic grip comprises two digits and one opposing digit (like the thumb). The arm itself weighs between 500 gm and 600 gm, which is a fraction of existing products.

3. India wins neem patent battle
(from *Indian Business Insight*, 10 March 2005)

India has won the battle at the European Patent Office against the grant of patent on the use of neem as a fungicide. India has provided evidence that neem in varied forms is part of traditional knowledge available with farmers and the scientific community and is therefore not a novel product. The European Patent Office has rejected the appeal by multinational WR Grace against revocation of the patent.

4. Piracy losses as high as 40%
(from *Business Standard*, 14 March 2005)

India Inc loses about 10-40 per cent of their business to counterfeit and pass-off products. This was disclosed at the CII Alliance for Anti Counterfeiting/Piracy (CAAC) workshop to raise awareness on this issue.

Seven per cent of the world trade is in counterfeit goods with losses in tax revenues amounting to \$75 billion. The CAAC was conceptualised in 2003 and was launched with a seminar on intellectual property rights in 2004 to enhance and improve partnership between government, enforcement agencies and the industry to fight counterfeit products. CAAC is also looking forward to international collaboration, working closely with markets affected by piracy and counterfeit products of Indian or foreign origin.

5. Two engineers held for patent violation
(from *The Hindu*, 14 March 2005)

Two engineers were arrested by the Central Crime Branch police today on charges of illegally attempting to patent the prototype of a new tractor model, developed by the Chennai-based Tractor And Farm Equipment (TAFE) Company.

According to police, TAFE had developed the new tractor model a few years ago with the help of a U.K.-based design organisation.

The company sent R. Raja, an engineer, who was then with the TAFE, to London. Raja subsequently resigned and started his own company.

Using the prototype of the TAFE model, Raja along with his associate, Manoj Kumar Mittal, allegedly attempted to submit a new design with the Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute in Budni, Madhya Pradesh.

6. India yet to avail of TRIPs flexibilities
(from *Business Standard*, 16 March 2005)

Non-government organisation Oxfam today said the provisions of the Patent Ordinance upon which the Patent Amendment Bill would be based had not fully used flexibilities available under the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and would therefore, limit the supply of affordable medicines.

Oxfam said there were several ways in which the Ordinance could be improved. The law could allow challenges to patent applications in order to prevent patents being wrongly granted, it said.

7. Centre plans 10 IPR chairs in universities

*(from The Hindu, 17 March 2005
Indian Express, 18 March 2005)*

The Government has decided to set up ten additional Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) chairs to generate capacity within the country to deal with available and growing knowledge wealth in the country. These will be in addition to the existing six professional chairs set up in the law departments of as many universities across the country.

Of the ten new chairs, three will be on Intellectual Property Management at the Indian Institutes of Management in Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Bangalore. Five chairs will be for IPRs pertaining to patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indicators and will be at the Indian Institutes of Technology in Delhi, Kharagpur, Chennai, Mumbai and Kanpur.

Besides, the Delhi School of Economics at Delhi University and the Centre for Economic School for Economic Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University will have a chair each on IPR and Development.

These chairs will become operational from the coming academic year.

According to a release issued by the Human Resource Development Ministry, the rationale behind setting up ten professional chairs was to take the exercise of capacity building on IPR issues out of legal departments since intellectual property issues have become multi-disciplinary and demand a combination of technological, legal and management expertise.

8. Govt wins over left on Patents Bill

*(from Hindustan Times, 22 March 2005
Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies, 24 March 2005)*

The government scored a major victory in parliament Tuesday, winning the support of its left allies on the controversial Patents Bill, even as the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party insisted the measure be examined by a parliamentary committee.

The left parties have been vociferously opposing the bill, contending it would result in a steep hike in prices of essential medicines and that some of its provisions were against national interest.

The left parties said they would support the bill because the government had accepted 10 of the 12 amendments suggested by them.

The amendments relate to areas like definition of inventiveness, new inventions, compulsory licensing, royalty and the raising of objections before the grant of a patent instead of afterwards.

The bill was to have been debated and passed Monday but this was deferred to Tuesday to enable the government and the left iron out their differences.

9. IPR meet held in Mangalore

(from The Hindu, 29 March 2005)

The Small Industries Service Institute, Bangalore, conducted a sensitisation programme on 'Intellectual property rights' (IPR) in Mangalore.

Dr T. Ramakrishna, Additional Professor of Law National Law School of India University Bangalore who was the resource person allayed fears about the new patent regime. He said it all depends on how effectively Indians use international treaties on IPR for their advantage. The country can't afford to remain outside international regulations on IPR he said.

The President of Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr A. Srinivas Rao, who inaugurated the programme, said that detailed discussions should be held at all levels before implementing the new Patent Act. Mr R. Sampathkumar, Deputy Director of Small Industries Service Institute, welcomed the gathering.

An intellectual property right sensitisation programme started here on Monday with critical observations from experts who pointed out that the passing of the Patents Act by Parliament was premature.

Inaugurating the programme organised by the Small Industries Service Institute (SISI), the President of the Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry, A. Srinivas Rao, said the Patents Act had come at a wrong time for India as the country was not ready both socially and economically.

This will help the Indian pharmaceutical industry to continue producing medicines but may have to pay a reasonable royalty to the holder of the patent.

CAMBODIA

News in March 2005

EC help Cambodia to protect IP

(from Xinhua News Agency, 28 March 2005

Thai News Service, 30 March 2005)

The European Commission gave Cambodia 670,000 US dollars to help it establish intellectual property protection required by the WTO. The grant will go toward translating European Union intellectual property laws into Khmer, training commerce officials on patent law, help in writing new regulations and educational materials.
