

Monthly Report of October 2004

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THAILAND

News in October 2004

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5. Democrats worry about IPRs
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8. Thailand ranks 10th in the Internet piracy in Asia

1. Thai trademarks

(from The Nation Newspaper, ByteLine Section, Page 12C, Thailand, 4 October 2004)

Business owners no longer need to venture out to register their trademark-just visit this site and you can register your new trademark online, or renew an existing trademark registration. For new entrepreneurs, visiting the site should help clear up the in and out of the trademark system including the benefits, the regulations and the registration requirements, all in Thai language. Please visit <http://www.thaitrademark.com/>.

2. CD booty

(from The Nation Newspaper, Local News Section, Page 3A, Thailand, 5 October 2004

Krung Thep Thurakit Newspaper, Commerce Section, Page 9&19, Thailand, 5 October 2004)

Police seized more than 100,000 pirated and pornographic VCDs from a factory in the Eastern Seaboard industrial estate in Rayong province and a warehouse in Bangkok. Six people including Taiwanese man were arrested in the operation.

3. Karaoke issue

(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Business Section, Page B3, Thailand, 8 October 2004

Krung Thep Thurakit Newspaper, Commerce Section, Page 7, Thailand, 13 October 2004)

More than 300 karaoke jukebox operators have called on the Commerce Ministry to set up a new independent body to collect music copyright fees to help prevent music companies from overcharging them.

Yanyong Phuangrach, deputy permanent secretary for Commerce, said the ministry had agreed to set up a central body, which should include representatives from all sides including music copyright owners, users, collectors and government officials.

Under the current copyright law, fees are paid either to songwriters or the record companies in cases where the copyrights to songs have been sold to the companies.

4. Wheel lock patent

*(from Bangkok Post Newspaper, Home News Section, Page 4, Thailand, 8 October 2004
The Nation Newspaper, Local News Section, Page 5A, Thailand, 8 October 2004
Thai Rat Newspaper, Page 12, Thailand, 8 October 2004)*

City police have been forced to drastically scale down their parking violation campaign – using compact wheel locks to immobilize vehicles – because they are being sued for a patent violation.

This came after Waranya Pongsataporn asked the IP Court last month to order the Royal Thai Police Office to stop the production and use of the wheel locks or face legal action. However, the police would explain to the court they use the wheel locks for the public and not commercial interests.

5. Democrats worry about IPRs

*(from The Nation Newspaper, Local News Section, Page 2A, Thailand, 11 October 2004
Krung Thep Thurakit Newspaper, Political Section, Page 20&17, Thailand, 11 October 2004)*

The Democrat Party threatened to seek a Constitution Court ruling if the government goes ahead and cuts a deal with the US over intellectual property rights in FTA. Democrat Deputy leader Khunying Kalaya Sophonphanich said that the delegation to the FTA agreement meeting should exclude intellectual property rights from the table.

She said any agreement on intellectual property rights the government reaches with the US as part of FTA negotiations would be tantamount to allowing the US to exert its influence over Thai sovereignty, which could be a violation of Article 224 of the Constitution. She also added that an FTA agreement on intellectual property rights could place Thailand at a disadvantage, because US manufacturers could make inroads and monopolize several industries in the country if patents are involved. She said US manufactures could cite their patents in preventing Thai firms from conducting business in genetic engineering, pharmaceuticals and genetically modified crops.

She said that if the government reached an agreement on intellectual property rights with the US during these negotiations, the Democrats would collect signatures to sponsor a motion to be sent to the Constitution Court.

6. Amend law for more power

(from Krung Thep Thurakit Newspaper, Commerce Section, Page 5, Thailand, 19 October 2004)

Anutin Chanweerakul, deputy minister of commerce, had asked Intellectual Property Department to discuss about the plan of intellectual property rights violation, especially the enforcement that cannot act directly. He will push to give DIP more power in enforcement action.

7. Set the copyright collector

(from Post Today Newspaper, Business Market Section, Page B3, Thailand, 22 October 2004)

Boonaris Suwannapul, deputy director general of DIP said that DIP would set the committee of copyright collector and the action guide for all music companies. He said the previous problems were not from copyright fee, but from the way to collect. He hope with this setting all problems would be solved.

8. Thailand ranks 10th in the Internet piracy in Asia

(from Krung Thep Thurakit Newspaper, Thailand, 29 October 2004)

Piracy through the Internet in Asia increased three fold, with Thailand ranked tenth among the 12 countries in Asia-Pacific region, Business Software Alliance's Director of Enforcement for Asia Tarun Sawney revealed.

Ranked number one is Taiwan, followed by Australia, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, India, Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

News in October 2004

1. US cracking down on piracy and counterfeiting
2. Lawmaker sends letter to China protesting piracy
3. Shanghai improves IPR protection
4. HK holds "Conference on protection of performers' rights in Asia"
5. US drops patent infringement charges against Chinese battery makers
6. China, French trade official discuss fabric trade, IPR issues
7. China to set up special agencies to handle defense-related patents
8. Cisco seizes counterfeit goods worth over US\$20 mln
9. Europeans call on China to combat product piracy
10. "Happy Birthday" trademark
11. BP discloses its IPR strategy in China
12. EU, Japan IPR protection efforts welcome
13. China seeks to slay "Shrek2" pirated ogres
14. State steps up efforts in cracking down on fake brandnames
15. China to enhance protection on IPR
16. EU gives China suggestion on IPR protection
17. Round table looks at IPR protection

1. US cracking down on piracy and counterfeiting

(from Reuters News, 5 October 2004

The Asian Wall Street Journal, 5 October 2004)

Bush administration officials outlined a number of steps aimed at stopping the fake goods, many of which come from China. Estimates of the global counterfeit goods market range up to \$600 billion, or about 7 per cent of world trade. US trade officials said they would "name and shame" foreign companies that produce or trade in fake goods by listing them in an annual report and work with trading partners to build an international coalition against counterfeiting.

US music, movie, book and software publishers also estimate they lost more than \$10 billion in 2003 from sales of illegal copies of their products around the world. China accounted for quarter of those losses, or \$2.6 billion.

In the case of China, the US government is collecting data from business in preparation for a possible complaint at the WTO next year if it determines that Beijing is not adequately enforcing its intellectual property rights protection.

2. Lawmaker sends letter to China protesting piracy
(from *The Day*, 7 October 2004)

Rob Simmons, who is the members of Congress, has been complaining about piracy and counterfeiting, claiming that US firms lose as much as \$250 billion annually to such theft. He will send a letter to the Chinese ambassador urging better cooperation with intellectual property disputes, including the piracy and counterfeiting of US-made goods.

The letter also urges China to tighten its enforcement against exporting US-made products intended for sale in China. The move by Simmons and other members of Congress to crack down on piracy and counterfeiting comes the same week that Bush administration announced a program aimed at combating such theft among foreign companies.

3. Shanghai improves IPR protection
(from *Xinhua's China Economic Information Service*, 8 October 2004
Business Daily Update, 8 October 2004)

Information from the Shanghai Intellectual Property Rights Office said that a trans-regional enforcement network led by Shanghai has been launched for the coordination of administrative protection of patents. Sixteen provinces and municipalities, including Beijing, Tianjin, Anhui, Fujian and Guangdong, are participating. Another IPR protection federation with the participation of 16 cities in the Yangtze River Delta has also taken shape.

In the meantime, Shanghai has also tried administrative and judicial means to improve IPR protection in the city. The municipal People's Congress has adopted and put into effect regulations regarding the protection of patents, while the municipal government published 23-article opinions about improving IPR protection in July last year.

The city is the first in the nation to set up a guild for patent agents which provides patent applicants with relevant services and offers legal consultancy and aid to patent holders whose rights are being infringed upon.

4. HK holds "Conference on protection of performers' rights in Asia"
(from *Xinhua News Agency*, 8 October 2004)

The three-day "Conference on Protection of Performers' Rights in Asia" commenced in Hong Kong. The conference was organized by the International Federation of Musicians and International Federation of Actors in cooperation with the Hong Kong Performing Artistes Guild.

Close to 30 representatives were invited to the conference. Issues to be discussed include basic principles and international norms in respect of performers' rights; the role of performer organizations at the international level and performers' intellectual property rights and their management.

5. US drops patent infringement charges against Chinese battery makers
(from AFX Asia, 8 October 2004)

The US International Trade Commission (USITC) has dropped patent infringement charges against seven battery makers in China and two in Hong Kong. The victory means that zero-mercury-added alkaline batteries, not only from the nine companies involved, but also from all companies in mainland China and Hong Kong, can enter the US market with no further barriers.

The USITC's decision to abandon the claim due to uncertainties over the original charge is subject to approval from US President George W Bush, according to US International Trade Laws.

6. China, French trade official discuss fabric trade, IPR issues
(from Xinhua News Agency, 10 October 2004
Xinhua's China Economic Information Service, 11 October 2004)

Chinese and French trade officials agreed to further cooperation in the fabric industry and intellectual property rights protection. Such progress will yield mutual benefits and serve the interests of Chinese and French businesses.

The Chinese government puts "great importance" on intellectual property rights, and "it also fits with the internal need of Chinese industries". China will cooperate with France. The French government believes China will adopt effective measures to protect IPR and hopes to sponsor seminars in that aspect to stimulate cooperation in the field.

7. China to set up special agencies to handle defense-related patents
(from Xinhua Financial Network News, 11 October 2004
South China Morning Post, 11 October 2004)

China plans to set up specialized agencies to handle patents from defense-related industries as it steps up efforts to improve the protection of copyrights. This was one of the provisions in a revised Statute on Defense Patents to take effect on November 1.

The agency did not explain why the government had considered it necessary to improve intellectual property rights in the defense sector. However, Chinese military technology is under rapid modernization, presumably making it more urgent to protect new inventions in the field of defense-related science and technology.

8. Cisco seizes counterfeit goods worth over US\$20 mln
(from AFX Asia, 15 October 2004)

Cisco Systems Inc, the world's largest maker of computer networking equipment, has conducted its biggest anti-counterfeiting raid in China's southern province of Guangdong, seizing products worth more than 20 mln usd. About 100 officers from the Public Security Bureau's economic crime unit, working with Hong Kong-based private investigators employed by Cisco, raided factories in 14 locations including two manufacturing bases in Shenzhen and Dongguan, at least 20 people were arrested.

9. Europeans call on China to combat product piracy
(from Xinhua News Agency, 15 October 2004
Associated Press Newswire, 15 October 2004
The Straits Times Newspaper, Singapore, 16 October 2004
Edmonton Journal, 16 October 2004)

The group representing European businesses in China is calling for Beijing to do a better job of protecting intellectual property, joining a chorus of foreign complaints about piracy. The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China called on authorities to jail product pirates and make it easier to prosecute them.

Counterfeit goods ranging from books, software and DVDs to medicines and designer fashion are widely available in China in spite of sporadic crackdown and arrests. The US government says Chinese piracy costs companies worldwide up to US\$50 billion a year in lost sales.

10. “Happy Birthday” trademark

(from The Press Trust of India Limited, 17 October 2004)

The words “Happy Birthday” can no longer be legally used if they are pinned to any other products, as a private Chinese company has claimed to register them as its trademark in 25 countries including the United States, Japan and European Union members this month.

The Fufeng toy plant in east China’s Anhui Province, said it has more than 70 products with the “Happy Birthday” brand including industries like toys, dresses, shoes and hats. With increasingly fierce competition in the global toy market, the company realized the importance of branding. They were inspired to register the “well-known and pleasant phrase ‘Happy Birthday’”.

11. BP discloses its IPR strategy in China

(from Interfax China Business News, 19 October 2004)

BP’s product packaging design is frequently copied in China, and BP will adopt a series of measures to deal with the problem, said Sharmini Lohadhasan, the Trade Marks Adviser of BP Asia Pacific.

He suggests that China should raise the level of awareness about design patents and unfair competition amongst local governments and businesses, and to instruct local authorities regularly on new amendments to related laws and regulations.

12. EU, Japan IPR protection efforts welcome

(from China Daily, 20 October 2004)

At a seminar on industrial design protection jointly conducted by China, the EU and Japan in Beijing, Li Ling, director-general of Treaty and Law Department of Ministry of Commerce, said intellectual property rights protection is a right of all companies in China, including domestic business people and foreign investors.

The seminar was held to bring together the governments from the three parties to discuss the issue of protecting industrial designs in China in line with WTO and other international standards. European officials encouraged China to stay on course with initiatives to further strengthen IPR protections.

Japanese officials stressed the need to strengthen dialogue and technical co-operation with China particularly in IPR protection field, in order to further strengthen relationships. The Japanese government welcome the initiative to work with the European counterparts and the Chinese government to make efforts in improving the standard of IPR protection, said the director of the Economic Integration Division from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

13. China seeks to slay “Shrek2” pirated ogres
(from Reuters News, 21 October 2004)

The National Copyright Administration launched the campaign following a complaint last month by “Shrek” producers DreamWorks SKG that pirated versions were already on sale. The administration has started to investigate the case and asked copyright department across the country to tighten supervision on audio and video shops and Web Sites, adding that any VCDs or DVDs of “Shrek2” sold before Nov.5 would be confiscated.

US companies want China to toughen up its intellectual property rights laws so pirates face much tougher penalties and to make it easier for the government to take action. The International Intellectual Property Alliance, a consortium of US music, software and book publishing groups, estimated its members lost close to \$1.89 billion in sales to China in 2002 because of piracy.

14. State steps up efforts in cracking down on fake brandnames
(from China Daily, 25 October 2004
Business Daily Update, 25 October 2004)

The Trademark Administration has upped the intensity of its checks into possible trademark violations, especially infringements of famous trademarks. Their efforts focus mainly on Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Anhui, Shaanxi, Henan and Shangdong provinces, and the Xinjiang Uygur and Inner Mongolia autonomous regions.

Over the past three months, authorities have closed down 486 places of business which sell fake products, and cracked down on 2,162 cases of trademark violations. Some 194 of the 2,162 cases are related to foreign trademarks.

The Beijing Industrial and Commercial administration has circulated a notice, saying that all garment retailers and small shops are not allowed to sell famous trademark products and other foreign famous brands, unless they are authorized by the companies. Those who continue to sell products with the above brands will be regarded as trademark violators and punished.

In the next few months, the administration will enhance trademark protection for food products and drugs which are closely related to people’s health and safety. Any operations that violate foreign trademarks, famous brands, geographical identifications, or illegally print and sell faked packing, labels and trademarks, will be seriously punished.

15. China to enhance protection on IPR
(from SinoCast China Business Daily News, 25 October 2004)

In order to further enhance the protection on intellectual property rights, China will launch judicial explanation against violating intellectual property rights before late 2004.

In addition, China will improve the mechanism for regular communication with foreign invested companies, and make intermediary agencies function in fighting intellectual property rights violating activities and strengthen international communication and cooperation, said Li Ling, director of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Commerce of China.

16. EU gives China suggestion on IPR protection
(from SinoCast China Business Daily News, 27 October 2004)

European Union has handed the Ministry of Commerce of China its first suggestion on the protection of intellectual property rights in China. EU, the largest trade partner of China, believes that the cooperation between the two sides will be the better way to resolve the dispute about the protection of intellectual property rights in the largest developing country around the world.

According to a latest survey on EU companies, 70% of them think that Chinese government has not tried its best to protect the intellectual property rights. So EU wants to give some suggestions and advice to the Chinese government to improve the protection as soon as possible. EU hopes that Chinese government will set a lower threshold of investigation on violation of intellectual property rights and punish the criminals more severely.

Unlike the US government who asks Chinese government to make a lot of commitments on the protection of IPR, EU takes a cooperative attitude about the matter and that will cement the trade partnership with China.

17. Round table looks at IPR protection

(from Business Daily Update, 29 October 2004

Shanghai Daily, 29 October 2004)

Shanghai government officials and experts held a round table with their US counterparts to discuss intellectual property rights policies and professional training. Mutual understanding is seen as a prerequisite to new policies and necessary to guard against intellectual property rights infringements.

The three-day conference is the first part of a co-operation agreement signed by the Shanghai IPR Administration and the American Education Foundation in May 2004. Under the agreement, the city will join hands with the foundation to train 50 senior IPR experts in the United States by 2010. They will be chosen from local government department, research institutions and universities.

MALAYSIA

News in October 2004

1. Counterfeit stationery worth RM22,000 seized
2. Task force to combat piracy
3. Malaysian authorities seize machine for making pirated VCDs

1. Counterfeit stationery worth RM22,000 seized

(from The Malay Mail, 7 October 2004)

A hoard of counterfeit stationery, valued at RM22,000, was seized from two premises owned by a man. The imitation goods were supplied by a major distribution network. About the same time, another team from the Ministry raided the network's retail outlet in Petaling street. About 1,300 boxes of lead, mechanical pencils and erasers worth RM2,000 were seized.

Both raids were conducted following complaint from the trademark owner. Leading stationery brand owners are offering a reward up to RM30,000 for each successful seizure of counterfeit goods.

2. Task force to combat piracy
(from *Bernama Daily Malaysian News*, 13 October 2004)

Malaysia has a special task force to combat piracy. This was stated by Jamilah Kamaruddin, Assistant Registrar of Trademarks on the sidelines of a three-day WIPO Asia Pacific Regional Symposium on “Emerging Issues of Copyright Protection in Digital Environment.”

She said that they had aggressive campaigning on enforcement. Powers have been to the police to combat piracy and also have been given to the enforcement agency to arrest pirates.

3. Malaysian authorities seize machine for making pirated VCDs
(from *Xinhua News Agency*, 19 October 2004)

Malaysian law enforcement officers seized a replicating machine for making pirated VCDs for an illegal factory in Jalan Chan Sow Lin. No pirated VCD was found in the factory as the VCDs were believed have just been taken away and the VCD-making equipment was just about to be started. The seized machine, which is moving from one place to another, is said to be capable of producing hundreds of thousands of VCDs a day.

Under the Optical Discs Act 2000, offenders face a 500,000 ringgit fine or six-month imprisonment.

SINGAPORE

News in October 2004

1. Tough action aimed at large-scale piracy
(from *The Straits Times Newspaper, Singapore*, 20 October 2004
WMRC Daily Analysis, 20 October 2004
Business Times, Singapore, 21 October 2004
Bangkok Post Newspaper, Database Section, Page D2, Thailand, 27 October 2004)

Intellectual property Office of Singapore (IPOS) director-general Liew Woon Yin said the new copyright laws would be introduced next year against the illegal downloading of music, movies and software are not specifically targeted at the home user. The law will only kick when anyone downloads any illegal digital material in significant volume, which has a high monetary value and would cause substantial financial loss to the copyright owner.

However, this does not mean home users will be precluded from possible prosecution. A home user who commits heavy copyright infringement would be ‘pushing it’ and could end up being classified as an offender. The law does not, however, set limits on what will or will not be prosecuted.

Under the amended law, users and companies guilty of illegally downloading digital material could be fined up to \$20,000 and/or face a six-month jail sentence. For subsequent offences, there is a fine of up to \$50,000 and/or jail up to three years.

2. School pay \$1m for right to photocopy
(from *The Straits Times Newspaper, Singapore*, 29 October 2004)

Schools and universities here have paid about \$1 million for the right to photocopy various publications, to Singapore watchdog that protect authors and publishers' interest. In turn, the Copyright Licensing and Administration Society of Singapore (Class) will pay royalties to copyright owners within a year.

Singapore is one of the first countries in the region to put such system in place, said Class.

Under the copyright law here, up to 10 per cent or a chapter of a book or a full article from a journal can be duplicated for educational purposes. The \$1 million payment is to compensate publishers for photocopying done in the past four years. In future, institutions will make payments based on the amount of photocopying they do.

THE PHILIPPINES

News in October 2004

1. Seized fake rubber shoes

(from Business World, 29 October 2004)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) recovered fake "K-Swiss" rubber shoes worth P7 million after conducting a series of raids in Pasay City. The NBI also raided two stock rooms and found 2,359 pairs of shoes with the K-Swiss brand or logo, as well as documents indicating transactions involving the fake shoes.

2. JPEPA talks

(from Xinhua News Agency, 29 October 2004

Dow Jones Asian Equities Report, 29 October 2004)

The Philippines and Japan made significant progress at the conclusion of the fifth negotiation on the proposed Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) as the two countries established clearly mutually acceptable modalities for specific bilateral access areas.

Negotiations between the two government delegations of various departments focused on key areas particularly trade in goods, trade in services, investments, movement of natural persons and bilateral economic cooperation.

Other areas that were discussed include intellectual property, competition policy, government procurement, mutual recognition standards and conformance, dispute avoidance and settlement and the improvement of the business environment.

INDONESIA

News in October 2004

Education on copyright needed amidst open source movement

(from Bisnis Indonesia, 20 October 2004)

The movement of utilizing open source software must be followed by the education of licensing system as the part of intellectual property rights. Jonathan Selvasegaram, the

chairman BSA for Indonesia, said that intellectual property rights is still necessary no matter what method the country will develop its software: open or closed systems.

He said that even though they can download the open source freely from the Internet, it does not mean that they do not need intellectual property rights. IPR is dealing with the term and condition between software developers and software users, and it is clearly mentioned on the open source software as well.

On the license of developing open source product, he said, there are some conditions in which the users may use the code and modify it as long as the modifier mentioned the source. On the other hand, he said, the business players also have not really understood the IPR of open source system. Even some business players have been thinking only on short-term basis by ignoring this IPR.

VIETNAM

News in October 2004

1. Vietnam moves to implement copyright convention
2. Copycat goods on display in city
3. Impose heavier penalty on IPR violators
4. Settlement of 3 shops, confiscation of 66 IPR-infringed motorcycles

1. Vietnam moves to implement copyright convention
(from *Vietnam News Brief Service*, 4 October 2004)

Vietnam's Ministry of Culture and Information has issued guidelines for the implementation of the Berne Convention on copyright protection, of which Vietnam will become full member on October 26. The decision aims to show Vietnam's strong commitment to intellectual property protection on the pathway to membership of the WTO.

This regulation will also be applied to the re-production of music tapes or discs and art performances of works by foreigners and were licensed before October 1. Radio or television agencies and publishers must take responsibility for the legality of their broadcast programs or published works when using foreigners' music and staging works.

The above regulation will be applied to all music and theatre works of foreign authors, except folksongs and classic music works and other musical pieces written more than 50 years ago which are no longer in their ownership protection periods.

Vietnam officially joined the Berne Convention last June, meaning that Vietnam will have to respect and protect copyright reservations for works of literature from 155 other member nations and will in return have its works protected in those countries.

2. Copycat goods on display in city
(from *The Saigon Times Daily*, 6 October 2004)

An exhibition of technology used to curb fake goods kicked off in HCMC with more than 1000 businesses taking part. Many businesses at the city's first such exhibition introduce their products and provide consumers with ways to identify genuine goods.

The exhibition aimed to create conditions for manufacturers to introduce their products to the public and raise public awareness. This also aims to call for the implementation of intellectual property rights.

3. Impose heavier penalty on IPR violators
(from Xinhua News Agency, 18 October 2004)

Vietnam plans to put harsher punishment and higher fines on violators of intellectual property rights, in a move to deal with the rampant piracy in the country.

Under the draft decree, organizations or individuals that are involved in intellectual property rights violations may be subject to temporary or permanent revocation of their business license, while producers and sellers of fake products could face fines of up to 100 million Vietnamese dong (nearly US\$6,400).

Under the expected new decree, organizations or individuals giving false information regarding rights ownership of any item will be fined 1-3 million VND (US\$64-191) instead of the current 0.5-2 million VND (US\$32-128). Penalties will also be based on the value of the property in question. A fine of 15-30 million VND (US\$955-1,910) is proposed for producers of counterfeit goods worth 20-50 million VND (US\$1,274-3,185).

4. Settlement of 3 shops, confiscation of 66 IPR-infringed motorcycles
(from Phap Luat Newspaper, No. 245 (2401), 12 October 2004)

Team 7 of Bac Ninh's Market Management Department, Team for preventing counterfeit production and trading and bad-faith under PC15 of Bac Ninh province just expanded its forces for controlling IPR infringement over Honda's industrial design in Tu Son Town. The inspection group carried out a search at 4 bases of 3 following companies: Hung Vuong Company Limited, Hung Lam Company Limited and Branch Office of Vien Dong Joint Stock Company. Under the inspection, 8 motorcycles of Hung Vuong Company, 37 motorcycles of Vien Dong and 21 motorcycles of Hung Lam have been discovered and confiscated. Currently, the case is being under examination and clarification by functional agencies.

MYANMAR

News in October 2004

Burmese PM discusses plan to introduce IP system
(from BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific, 3 October 2004)

The leading committee for the emergence of the Intellectual Property System held a meeting in Yangon. In last June, the WIPO has already been established by the international community and a workshop on intellectual property sponsored by the WIPO was held in Myanmar. Arrangement must be made to establish the Intellectual Property System in Myanmar in line with rules, regulations, and procedures of the WIPO and the International Intellectual Property System.

Efforts must be made systematically and phase-by-phase to pass laws on intellectual property system, amend existing laws, rules, and regulations to conform to time, establish an

organizational office for intellectual property system, train service personal, and dispose of matters which contradict the law.

Therefore, the meeting needs to discuss programmes that will enable the ministries concerned to undertake tasks in a coordinated and collective manner for the emergence of an intellectual property system in Myanmar.
