

Monthly Report of October 2006

- By Country:

THAILAND

1. Study about patent and copyright suggested in secondary schools
2. Intellectual Property Department sent mobile units to service people in Rayong
3. IP Fair 2006
4. IP contest for OTOP
5. Legal experts discuss MoU on suppression of sales of infringing products
6. New IP unit to stimulate research projects
7. Aids activists petition PM to delay patent law amendment
8. Deputy Prime Minister discuss ways for Thai economy to grow

MALAYSIA

1. Malaysia, US start crucial round of talks
2. Efforts to fight gaming software piracy

SINGAPORE

1. Police raid homes of 7 music down loaders
2. How to find out that your current invention is infringing any existing patents?
3. Police to conduct probe into new cases of illegal file-sharing

PHILIPPINES

1. NBI agents confiscate 'stolen' waste management software
2. P.7M fake products seized
3. More than 700 million pesos worth of fake products seized in the first semester of 2006
4. Philippines a low IPR priority for Europe
5. Philippines and Europe sign Intellectual Property Agreement
6. Government agencies step up IPRs in RP
7. IPRs week observed at BoC
8. NBI agents seize P30-March counterfeit designer shoes

INDONESIA

1. Piracy cripples local software makers
2. Computer businesses asked to use legal software
3. Five Indonesian patents seek protection abroad

VIETNAM

1. Local motorbike enterprises face problems
2. Electronics maker targeted in pirated software sting
3. Intellectual Property law on tree breeds
4. 8 businesses get intellectual property tips
5. Vietnam commits to protecting intellectual property rights

CAMBODIA

1. Cambodia expects to attract more investors by setting up trade court

INDIA

1. Piracy eating into profits of IT firms
2. Experts shed light on intellectual property rights
3. India 12th in patent filing

4. Trademarks of Indian cos to be protected abroad
5. India to take up bio-piracy at WTO meet
6. India leads Asia-Pacific in pay-TV piracy
7. 14 cos to showcase IP capabilities

PAKISTAN

1. GI law draft sent to the federal cabinet for approval

KUWAIT

1. Kuwait clamps down on software piracy

OMAN

1. Omani officials tackling software piracy threat

UNITE ARAB EMIRATES

1. Study on fake goods in UAE
2. BSA to ensure a piracy-free GITEX shopper 2006

THAILAND

1. Study about patent and copyright suggested in secondary schools
(from *Thai News Service*, 2 October 2006)

The Intellectual Property Department suggests the Education Ministry add lessons about patent and copyright to curriculum taught in secondary schools.

Department deputy chief Boonrit Suwannapoon said students across the country can now use raw materials found in their native provinces to produce new products or add value to old ones so they will need to apply for patents. He said knowledge about patent would encourage students to keep on developing new products which they can patent for commercial purposes.

2. Intellectual Property Department sent mobile units to service people in Rayong
(from *Thai News Service*, 6 October 2006)

The Department of Intellectual Property has dispatched mobile units to Ranong Province on October 12th and 13th at the provincial Commerce Office.

MR. Sanyarak Sinsakul, the commerce officer in Ranong, said the Intellectual Property under the Commerce Ministry would send mobile units to the province to service the local people there. They can receive the registration requests or the notifications on the intellectual property-related problems from the public in Ranong.

They will also provide consulting services. This mobile service will support the OTOP scheme, as OTOP operators can pay less than 2,500 baht for one registration.

3. IP Fair 2006
(from *Post Today Newspaper, Business Section, Page B4, Thailand*, 7 October 2006)

Mr. Kanissorn Navanugraha, Director-General of Intellectual Property Department, was honored to open the Thailand IP Fair 2006. This fair gave a chance for Thai innovators to show their patent innovations.

4. IP contest for OTOP

(from Post Today Newspaper, Page A12, Thailand, 7 October 2006)

Intellectual Property Department, Ministry of Commerce, have set up "IP Contest 2006". The contest divided into 2 sections, one is for food recipe or about food ingredient and another is about Thai new garment pattern.

5. Legal experts discuss MoU on suppression of sales of infringing products

(from Thai News Service, 13 October 2006)

The Commerce Ministry, along with a number of private-sector representatives and law-enforcement groups, recently signed a memorandum of understanding on the co-operation in suppression of sales of infringing products. This agreement supplements a similar one implemented on June 26, 2004, which primarily dealt with copyright piracy at the retail level.

The goal of the new agreement is to co-ordinate the work and co-operation between the private sector, policy agencies, and law-enforcement agencies in a more effective effort to combat the infringement of intellectual property rights (IPR), especially with regard to the sale of counterfeit and pirate goods in otherwise legitimate shopping centers.

The agreement establishes two specific categories of areas where the sale of counterfeit goods is particularly problematic, identified as either "Special Restricted Areas" or "Restricted Areas". The difference between these two categories is that the government will conduct IP protection activity against counterfeit products in Special Restricted Areas, whereas the private sector will lead enforcement actions in Restricted Areas.

It is expected that both problem areas will be regularly patrolled by private sector and public sector representatives in an effort to create deterrence and suppress Thailand's highly visible trade in illicit goods.

Both categories include a number of well-known department stores in Bangkok, including the notorious Pantip Plaza, as well as in other provinces across Thailand. Under the previous agreement, landlords or proprietors of department stores were not required to be responsible for policing or suppressing the vigorous trade in fake goods taking place on their premises.

Although many IP owners have expressed dissatisfaction with this lack of accountability, it has been difficult to implement effective strategies to hold landlords and proprietors liable for infringement under Thai law, which does not explicitly provide for vicarious or contributory liability for infringement. In negotiations for a free trade agreement, this loophole in Thai law was the subject of contentious discussions.

However, rather than reform the law to make it easier for IP owners to take action against landlords, IPR enforcement officials have instead sought to gain their co-operation through this agreement mechanism. A number of department stores have actively participated in the government's drafting meetings for the new agreement, and have signaled their intention to co-operate in suppressing IP infringements. The agreement was signed on Aug 16, 2006.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the new agreement is the obligation of department stores and landlords to immediately terminate the leases of tenants when the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) informs the store that the tenant has been prosecuted for IP infringement. Failure to abide by this provision could pave the way for civil liability for landlords and tenants alike, similar to the successful proceedings taken by IP owners against shopping centers in China.

It is expected that this agreement will indeed drive increased co-operation between the private and public sector that will lead to an improvement in the IP enforcement regime in Thailand.

6. New IP unit to stimulate research projects

(from The Nation Newspaper, Business Section, Page 1B & 3B, Thailand, 21 October 2006)

The National Innovation Agency (NIA), under the Science and Technology Ministry, is setting up a new intellectual property (IP) unit called IP Management, which will act as a broker to promote partnerships between private companies and local researchers.

The first deal, worth Bt700,000, was signed between Napavarn Noparatnara-porn, a researcher in Kasetsart University's Department of Microbiology, and Adinop, a manufacturer of food additives and ingredients, animal feed, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, for research on photosynthetic bacteria to be used in raising the productivity of rice fields and shrimp farms.

The signing was conducted at Techno Mart 2006, an exhibition on technologies and innovations that runs through at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Bang Na.

Adinop managing director Chutinun Snunsieng said the technology transfer would take about a year to complete and that the company expected to generate almost Bt100 million in new business by-products to be marketed domestically and exported.

Another research deal worth Bt400,000 and which will be signed in the near future involves glucosamine, which is used in medicine for degenerative joint disease. The agreement will be between Chulalongkorn University researcher Rath Pichayangkul and Greater Pharma. The company expects the research to generate more than Bt15 million worth of new business.

NIA director Supachai Lorlowhakarn said the IP Management unit would work as a consultant and provider of all intellectual-property services, such as the registration of patents and intellectual property rights.

"We'll also work as an IP broker, matching local researchers pursuing valuable research and private companies that want to manufacture by-products from that research," said Supachai.

"There are about 10,000 researchers in Thailand at local universities and research institutes. But most [projects] are left on the shelf. Very few research projects have been successfully commercialised to create business value," said Supachai, adding that IP Management expected to create more than 15 deals for local research projects involving food, nutrition, nutraceuticals, ceramics, electronics, biotechnology and chemical products in the first year, with total transactions valued at more than Bt15 million.

Napavarn said she had spent almost 30 years studying photosynthetic bacteria, ever since working on her doctoral thesis. She dreamed her research would someday benefit the Kingdom and wants to transfer her work to any business organisation that can create commercial value from her research for domestic sales and export.

"As a researcher, I've encountered many obstacles that limit the growth of the local research industry," said Napavarn. "Heads of universities and research institutes do not understand the significance of research projects that need time and money before to enter the next stage of development. Universities and research institutes should have their own internal departments that work to commercialise valuable research through businesses, making money and benefiting the country overall."

7. Aids activists petition PM to delay patent law amendment
(from *Thai News Service*, 26 October 2006)

The Network of People Living with HIV-AIDS appealed to the prime minister to put on hold an amendment to the patent law governing manufacturing of generic medicines until there is a public hearing where all stakeholders have an opportunity to express their concerns. Forty Network members led by chairman Wirat Poorahong lodged their appeal to Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont via the Government House public complaint registration centre.

They asked the prime minister not to amend the Patent Act B.E. 2522 (1979) as proposed by the Department of Intellectual Property of the Commerce Ministry because the amendments will have a damaging impact on public well-being.

Among the amendments the Network said would directly affect the public include the withdrawal of rights to oppose patent applications that are not thoroughly justified.

If amended as proposed by the Ministry, it would mean the public must wait for the patent to be granted before they can officially file their opposition, which must take place within six months after the grant. This particular move, the petitioners said, favours American pharmaceutical companies and is part of the ongoing negotiation of the Thai-US Free Trade Agreement.

The Network said that before the Patent Act is amended, there should be opportunities for all stakeholders to express their points of view to ensure transparency and efficiency in line with the policy announced by Prime Minister Surayud.

The Network also urged that the draft of the amended Act should be made public before being considered by the Cabinet, to allow for public discourse.

8. Deputy Prime Minister discuss ways for Thai economy to grow
(from *Thai News Service*, 31 October 2006)

Thailand needs to raise national productivity through increased use of intellectual property and skills, rather than pursue growth simply through labour and capital, according to Kosit Panpiemras, a deputy prime minister and industry minister.

Mr Kosit, an economist by training, said Thailand's economic growth was almost entirely driven by labour and capital factors, in contrast to countries like Korea or Japan. where intellectual property (IP) and innovation help drive growth. "IP is what we need to focus on if we want to raise ourselves to become a developed country. The alternative is to face increasing problems in the long run," he said.

A new national plan aimed at developing basic intellectual factors is now being prepared by the National Economic and Social Development Board. It is intended as a roadmap to raise productivity through knowledge and skill improvements.

Mr Kosit said labour was increasingly a constraint on growth, and that competitiveness rankings for Thailand had shown declines in recent years.

"One year [of the interim government] may not be enough to establish a basic plan on developing intellectual factors. But it is better than doing nothing," he said. "We need the co-operation and support from the public to keep the concept moving forward in the future. If we cannot increase our productivity, our country cannot grow."

MALAYSIA

1. Efforts to fight gaming software piracy (from *Tech & U*, 30 October 2006)

Availability of limited genuine software game retailers and the high price of original games software have led to piracy, which is a major problem faced by the software gaming market in Malaysia, according to KPMG Business Advisory Malaysia.

Its executive director Woon Tai Hai said piracy is undoubtedly top of the list of issues faced by the industry that similarly plagues the movie and music industry. It has been often quoted that it is easier to find a game at a well stocked pirated retail shop that offers greater options to choose from compared to an original software retailer, which typically stocks only the latest popular games, consisting of less than 100 titles.

However, the good news is that distributors are aware of this and are following BSA's efforts to combat this menace. For instance, New Era Group which represents at least 70 per cent of PC games sold in Malaysia, has embarked on its enforcement, education and localisation programme. Others have resolved to partnerships with telecommunications operators, ICT vendors and electronic hardware retailers to market genuine products to the public.

Wong believes that to drive the software gaming market here, the issue of price must be addressed. Although the price of original software has been obstinately high, there are innovative and legal alternatives that are being offered.

2. Malaysia, US start crucial round of talks (from *Business Times*, 31 October 2006)

A crucial third round of Malaysia and US Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations kicked off as both countries ploughed into the contentious trade and market access and government procurement issues.

American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce president Vince Leusner, however, said he expects discussions to become more "robust" this time around as the negotiators have developed familiarity and identified sensitive issues.

The Malaysian delegation to the talks was led by International Trade and Industry Ministry's newly-appointed secretary-general Datuk Abdul Rahmat Mamat. Assistant US Trade Representative for Asia Pacific, Barbara Weisel, who heads the US team, had projected negotiations would likely be concluded by early next year, ahead of a July 1 2007 deadline to sign the FTA.

"In the areas of research and development (R&D) where American pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies spend billions of dollars, Malaysia could be in for a windfall if it was able to attract a fraction of that spending. "But to do so, the second-tier Intellectual Property laws in Malaysia have to be improved in order to make these companies feel secure enough to divert their R&D from the US or Europe," he said.

Government procurement is one of the top five issues being negotiated under the FTA talks apart from intellectual property rights, trade in services (including financial services), transparency in awarding contracts and tariffs and duties for the automotive sector.

SINGAPORE

1. Police raid homes of 7 music down loaders

(from The Straits Times Newspaper, Singapore, 10 October 2006)

Police raided the homes of seven music down loaders, including four students and a housewife and seized their computers.

They were tracked down by their IP, or Internet Protocol, addresses - the electronic trail left by web users – which were provided to the police by a music industry organisation last November. No arrests were made during the raids, said Singapore Police Force spokesman Toh Boon Ngee, but the five males and two females aged 14 to 32 are 'assisting the police with investigations'. The other two caught in the raid were a technician and a self-employed man.

The police seized nine desktop and three notebook computers, as well as assorted storage discs, for investigations. The raid was the first enforcement action taken against home users here, after the Copyright Act was toughened in January last year to make 'wilful' and 'significant' downloads of infringing music, movies and software a criminal offence. Previously, the authorities had targeted distributors of pirated music files.

If charged and convicted, the down loaders face up to six months' jail and fines of up to \$20,000.

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore director-general Liew Woon Yin noted that Sunday's raid, which 'involved users who had illegally downloaded copyrighted music in large amounts...sends a strong message to those who continue to flout the law'.

The raids followed a tip-off by the Record Industry Association of Singapore (Rias). The IP addresses it provided to the police are electronic trails left when users surf the Internet or download files. Each trail leads back to a user's Internet service provider and eventually to the individual user.

2. How to find out that your current invention is infringing any existing patents?

(from TODAY, Singapore, 11 October 2006)

How to find out that your current invention is infringing any existing patents?

We would encourage that you use the online search engine at the ePatents' section of the IPOS (Intellectual Property of Singapore) website to check for patents already filed in Singapore.

To access ePatents, please visit www.epatents.gov.sg/default_redirect.asp [http://www.epatents.gov.sg/default_redirect.asp].

The answer is by Spring Singapore. Please visit www.spring.gov.sg [<http://www.spring.gov.sg>] to find out more about Spring Singapore's assistance schemes. If you have any question on starting or running a business, please send them to news@newstoday.com.sg.

3. Police to conduct probe into new cases of illegal file-sharing

(from TODAY, Singapore, 18 October 2006)

The Recording Industry Association of Singapore (Rias) has reported 25 new cases of illegal music file-sharing to the Criminal Investigation Department, days after police raided the homes of seven alleged culprits.

Rias announced this latest action even as news broke worldwide yesterday of a concerted wave of legal suits being taken out for 8,000 new cases of illegal music file-sharing across 17 countries - including, for the first time, Brazil, Mexico and Poland.

In Singapore, the 25 new cases involve users who illegally shared and downloaded music files via international networks such as Gnutella, said Rias.

The worldwide move against illegal music file-sharers is part of the stepped-up effort by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI), which represents 1,450 record companies.

It brings the total number of criminal and civil suits filed to more than 13,000 outside the United States since the international campaign was launched in 2004.

Those who have faced legal action worldwide have included teachers, postal workers, IT managers, scientists - and parents whose children were illegally file-sharing. The latter have found, in many countries, that they are liable for activities that a third party undertakes using their Internet connection, said IFPI.

PHILIPPINES

1. NBI agents confiscate 'stolen' waste management software (from *The Manila Times*, 3 October 2006)

National Bureau of Investigation agents seized P85-million worth of software designs of waste-conversion plants from a former consultant of the American-operated Palenggenesis Manufacturing Inc., the NBI said.

The software designs were allegedly imitated from originals owned by PMI.

PMI is a waste-management company that converts waste materials into building materials. Its warehouse is located at RMT Industrial Complex, Barangay Tunasan, Muntinlupa City.

Engineering drawings, designs, specifications and schematics of PMI plants were taken by NBI agents from Joseph O'Conner at his home at Brentville International Community, Barangay Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna.

Atty. Justo Yap, head of the NBI's intellectual property rights division, said O'Conner took away unauthorized reproductions and copies of schematic designs after Theodore James Staley, the owner of PMI, terminated his consultancy contract sometime in September.

Armed with a search warrant issued by Judge Felixberto Olalia of Branch 8 of the Manila Regional Trial Court, NBI agents confiscated printouts and electronic files of what they alleged were formulas for converting waste into useful materials. O'Conner was arrested, Yap added.

2. P.7M fake products seized (from *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 7 October 2006)

Some P700,000 worth of counterfeit designer items were seized the other day from several establishments in Manila and Parañaque City.

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD), in a series of raids, seized 2,367 fake Prada bags and wallets from several stalls at the Baclaran Terminal Plaza in Parañaque; and Meisic Mall and Manila Textile Market in Binondo, Manila. Charges of unfair competition are being readied against the store owners.

3. More than 700 million pesos worth of fake products seized in the first semester of 2006
(from *Hechanova Bugay & Vilchez Law Office, 10 October 2006*)

Pursuant to the government's anti-piracy campaign and as a result of the sustained collaboration among the private sector and public IP enforcement agencies, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines reported to President Arroyo that a total of P752, 378, 319 worth of fake products have been confiscated from January to June this year, as follows:

Out of 268 search warrants that were secured and served, the Intellectual Property Unit of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) seized a total of P99, 531, 470 worth of fake products, consisting of 106, 641 pieces of fake items.

Likewise, out of 121 warrants that were served, the Anti-Fraud and Commercial Crimes Division of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) confiscated a total of P37, 243, 639 worth of counterfeit products

On the other hand, out of 83 warrants that were served and 426 inspections that were conducted, the Optical Media Board (OMB) seized a total of P40, 542, 400 worth of pirated products.

The largest number of seizures was made by the Bureau of Customs (BOC), which confiscated a total of P575, 060, 810 worth of fake goods.

Enforcement activities were carried out in areas that are considered "hot spots" in Metro Manila as well as Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Pampanga, Bataan, Cebu and other provinces. Among the products confiscated were fake software, electronic devices, optical discs, machines, mechanical tools, pharmaceutical products, food and drinks, clothing and footwear, perfumery, cosmetics, toothpaste, soap and detergents.

The United States has recognized the great effort and accomplishments of the Philippine government in its campaign against piracy. In its "Out of Cycle Review" of the country in February this year, the USTR removed the Philippines from its "Priority Watch List." This decision was affirmed two months later during the USTR regular review.

4. Philippines a low IPR priority for Europe
(from *Business World, 11 October 2006*)

The Philippines is among the countries of least concern to European businesses when it comes to ensuring Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) enforcement, a recent survey by the European Commission showed.

The survey results, published yesterday, placed the Philippines under Category 3 - or countries/regions with high levels of production, transit and/or consumption of intellectual property rights-infringing goods, with which European Union members are considering enhanced trade.

Five members of the 10-state Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam, made it to Category 3.

Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Korea were also included in the same list, a statement from the Commission said. But China, which landed on Category 1, was identified as the main priority for EU efforts in the fight against counterfeiting, accounting for two-thirds of all counterfeit goods seized entering EU markets.

Secondary priorities were the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, Chile and Turkey.

"While the EU does not exclude the possibility of action in the WTO [World Trade Organization] against IPR infringement, the EU is not creating a blacklist, but looking to focus technical assistance and cooperation in the joint fight against piracy."

The European Commission said it used the survey results as basis to define a list of priority countries and regions on which to focus activity and resources in the fight against counterfeiting.

It stressed the EU is ready to help key third countries in improving their intellectual property rights enforcement, but will particularly act against systematic, large-scale infringement of the rights of industries in the EU.

The results of the survey are intended to provide a resource for European businesses by making them aware of the risks they may face when dealing with certain third countries, as well as by drawing attention to the resources available for protecting their intellectual property rights outside the EU.

The survey was based on replies to questionnaires requesting specific information about actual cases of infringement suffered, the general statement of enforcement in the countries hosting EU investments, measures undertaken against such infringements, as well as the reaction from national authorities of host countries.

The questionnaires were sent to rights-holders, associations, as well as embassies and other delegations of EU member states.

5. Philippines and Europe sign Intellectual Property Agreement (from *Asia Pulse*, 13 October 2006)

The Philippines and Europe have signed a memorandum of agreement to help the former develop an intellectual property system for its indigenous products of the local communities. The MOA was signed by Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IP Philippines) Director General Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. and European Patent Office president Alain Pompidou recently in Geneva.

According to Cristobal, the forging of the bilateral deal was a recognition by Europe that the Philippines has an advance IP system than the rest of the region.

"Our legislative infrastructure is already in place for a sound IP system and a capability that is relatively advance in the region," he said.

He explained the Philippines had graduated from the five-year European Commission and ASEAN Partnership program on IP. Aside from the Philippines, Singapore is the only ASEAN country with which Europe has a bilateral IP agreement.

"The purpose of the program is for the exchange of information on patents, trademarks systems and we are looking at capacity building, training and technical assistance," Cristobal said.

On the promotion of "geographical indications" (GI) system in the country, he said that Europe can greatly help in this endeavor but since it is a very stringent system the Philippines should strive first for the promotion of the "collective" or "community trademark".

For now, IP Philippines is still concentrating on the promotion of "collective trademarks", which was launched last year.

Cristobal said the promotion of collective trademarks is being tied up with the One-Town-One Product (OTOP) Philippines, a program that encourages entrepreneurial activities in every municipality and eventually generates jobs and income to individuals in the province.

He noted that the promotion of trademark is very helpful for "branding" purposes of the country's export products.

OTOP products, he said, would benefit largely from the agreement with EPO, which offers training programs for IP stakeholders in the country like inventors, scientists, researchers, small and medium enterprises, teachers, students, lawyers, IP professionals among others.

6. Government agencies step up IPRs in RP
(from *Business World*, 20 October 2006)

The Philippine Reproduction Rights Organization will start licensing agreement negotiations with schools before the year ends to curb illegal photocopying, said National Book Development Board (NBDB) Chairman Dr. Dennis T. Gonzalez.

"This will show the government's determination to put an end to this practice and put us on a par with nations which have a healthy respect for intellectual property rights," he said.

Mr. Gonzalez, together with Intellectual Property Philippines director Carmen G. Peralta, recently attended the Global Intellectual Property Academy Copyrights Program held in Virginia, USA. The Global IP Academy, which holds training programs on intellectual property rights (IPR) for government officials from all over the world, is under the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

USPTO recognizes the important role of knowledge-based industries for national development; it is also aware that these industries depend on the protection and promotion of their copyrights, patents, and trademarks.

"The contribution of IP-based industries to national growth cannot be underestimated," Ms. Peralta said, adding that IP Philippines recently conducted a study to determine knowledge-based industries' contribution to the gross national product.

Mr. Gonzalez further said that intellectual creations and knowledge-based industries are the engines that drive the growth of industrialized nations.

"Strengthening IP is part of our strategy outlined in the country's National Book Development Plan 2005-2010, which aims to make the Philippines a publishing hub in Asia," he said.

7. IPRs week observed at BoC
(from *Manila Bulletin*, 27 October 2006)

"Stopping the trade in fake goods is a matter of plugging the supply as it is stopping the demand." This was stressed by Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales as he led the destruction of seized

counterfeit goods at the Bureau of Customs (BoC) in Port Area, Manila as part of the bureau's observance of "Intellectual Property Rights Week."

Morales, in his message, called for increased social awareness of the bad effects of piracy on the economy even as he said that the only way to totally eradicate the smuggling of fake goods in the Philippines is to urge the public to stop patronizing counterfeit brands.

The customs commissioner said that counterfeit goods may be nothing but second-rate trying hard copycats which will never measure up to the standards of original products, but there is nothing phoney about their campaign to stop fake goods from entering the country's ports.

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) chief Fernandino Tuazon cited this year's theme of Intellectual Property Rights Week entitled "Ekonomiya'y Pagtibayin, Produktong Orihinal ang Tangkilikin" (Strengthen the economy, patronize original products) which, he said, echoes the bureau's thrust to stop the entry of counterfeit goods into the country that deprive legitimate products of their target market, affect the sales of good, genuine brands, and adversely affect the country's economy as a whole.

He added that the Auction and Cargo Disposal Division of the Bureau of Customs is in the process of determining the exact amount needed to destroy seized counterfeit goods stored in customs warehouses.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence and Enforcement Group (IEG) Celso Templo deplored the proliferation of pirated products in the country, saying that "piracy is a crime that should not be tolerated as fake goods in local markets are the products of indifference with serious negative implications on the country's international relations.

8. NBI agents seize P30-March counterfeit designer shoes
(from Philippine Daily Inquirer, 30 October 2006)

More than P30 million worth of counterfeit Lacoste footwear were confiscated in a raid conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Pasay City.

NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) chief Jose Justo Yap said his agents raided Esteva General Merchandise, located at the second floor of Merwin Mart on F.B. Harrison Street after Lacoste local distributors filed a complaint.

There were 8,473 pairs of fake Lacoste slip-ons sold for P400 each, the NBI official added. "However, Lacoste lost a total of P38,975,800 in profits because an original pair of Lacoste slip-ons costs P4,600 each," Yap explained.

In an earlier interview, agent Dennis Siyhian of the NBI IPRD said Lacoste footwear distributors in the Philippines have become concerned with the recent proliferation of fake shoes and slip-ons in the country.

"The counterfeiters were able to imitate the latest styles of Lacoste shoes, even those that are still in the catalogues and have not been released in the country," Siyhian said. He added that the fake shoes, which were brought to the Philippines from China, could be products of an "illegal transfer of technology."

"Because original Lacoste footwear are reportedly manufactured in the Far East, information about the shoe styles may have been leaked to counterfeiters," the NBI agent said.

INDONESIA

1. Piracy cripples local software makers

(from The Jakarta Post Newspaper, Indonesia, 4 October 2006)

Indonesia currently holds the dubious honor of having the world's third-most flourishing piracy industry. This seems to be a situation that is unlikely to change, until the true economic consequences of piracy are felt.

"Using pirated software means depriving emerging software entrepreneurs of their right to grow and develop their businesses," said Microsoft Indonesia director Irwan Tirtariyadi at a piracy discussion in Jakarta.

Irwan argued that purchasing pirated software instead of more expensive genuine programs only helped to decrease opportunities for other software companies to compete in the market, particularly Indonesian developers.

A study released by the Business Software Alliance (BSA) says software piracy in Indonesia costs the state up to US\$80 million a year in potential losses due to unrealized taxes, while research conducted by the International

Data Corporation shows that some 87 percent of all software used in the country is pirated. According to BSA, the loss suffered by the software industry is estimated \$280 million a year.

2. Computer businesses asked to use legal software

(from Bisnis Indonesia, 12 October 2006)

The government appeals the computer businesses to start installing only legal software, either the proprietary or the open-source ones, in the personal computers (PC) that they market.

The government makes the appeal to the Association of Indonesian Computer Businesses through the letter 440/ DJAT/Kominfo/ 09/2006 issued at the end of September.

Apkomindo is an association whose most members are local computer marketers.

Director General of Telematics Application at the Department of Communication and Information Cahyana Ahmadjayadi informed that the appeal was part of the government's efforts to reduce the use of pirated software and to improve the legal enforcement in the copyright violation made by the private parties.

Cahyana hoped Apkomindo could persuade its members to boost the sales of legal software by pre-loading the hardware with the legal software in one package.

Chairperson of Apkomindo Henkyanto Tjokroadhiguno stated that the organization welcomed the appeal. However, he could not ensure that the appeal would be effective among the businesses.

Henky explained that the association was very serious in helping the government to reduce the use of pirated legal software. As a proof of the commitment, he continued, Apkomindo had launched programs aiming to increase the businesses' awareness to use legal software products.

"What we need to reduce the use of pirated legal software is to increase the businesses' awareness instead of threatening them."

Examples of the programs, he added, were the seminar on intellectual property rights and the distribution of 10,000 free Linux-based open source software to members of Apkomindo.

According to Henky, Apkomindo was also designing a software pre-loaded program, which was targeted to start being applied at the end of 2006.

3. Five Indonesian patents seek protection abroad
(from *Bisnis Indonesia*, 30 October 2006)

Until July 2006, five Indonesian patents have used the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) facility to get legal protection in many countries as the process is faster and cheaper.

Data by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) showed that Indonesian patent investors in the past five years had started using PCT facility and the requests for the patent protection from Indonesia were increasing.

Last year, eight Indonesian PCT application forms were submitted, up from six in 2004. In the meantime, until July 2006, five applications from Indonesia have been submitted. However, the number of patent applications from Indonesia is smaller than those from China, South Korea, and India as the three countries had seen steady development in their technologies.

According to Abdul Bari Azed, Director General of Intellectual Property Rights at the Department of Justice and Human Rights, the request for patent using PCT facility was cheaper and faster. He admitted that only few applications made by Indonesia because the technology advancement in the country had been slow.

Indonesia ratified PCT in 1997. So far, 132 countries have ratified PCT and the facility is limited only to members. By only applying for a patent international legal protection through PCT, investors of the industries could get legal protections for their patents in many countries.

VIETNAM

1. Local motorbike enterprises face problems
(from *The Saigon times Daily*, 10 October 2006
Thai News Service, 10 October 2006)

Local motorbike producers are facing many challenges induced by the drastic drop in local demand, said Le Anh Tuan, deputy head of the Vietnam Bicycle and Motorbike Association. In the first four months, motorbike sales of Yamaha increased 150% year-on-year while Honda sales increased 100%. Besides loss of business, local motorbike enterprises are also facing problems involving intellectual property rights.

It is a fact that many locally made motorbike models are similar to foreign ones, especially the Wave and Dream by Honda. Many local enterprises have been fined due to violations.

The Vietnamese motorbike should have its own design and trademark to overcome the challenges coming from low demand in the domestic market and from intellectual property rules, reported a recent conference entitled Vietnamese Motorbikes and Intellectual Property.

2. Electronics maker targeted in pirated software sting
(from *Thai News Service*, 11 October 2006)

Local authorities late last week found the Daewoo-Hanel Co using unlicensed software valued at VND1 billion (US\$62,500).

In the first enforcement campaign targeting corporate end-users using pirated software, the raid was carried out by the Ministry of Culture and Information and the Ministry of Public Security's Department for High-tech Crime Protection (C15).

More raids are expected as authorities aim to increase the government's role in protecting intellectual property rights as the country moves toward integration into the global economy.

"The raids were part of the government's efforts to step up its campaign to rid the country of software piracy" said Vu Xuan Thanh, chief inspector of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

According to the Ministry of Culture and Information, inspectors had checked all computers at the Hanoi-based South Korean electronic parts maker and found that most of them were illegally installed with pirated software.

Pirated software found at the plant included Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Office, Microsoft Visual Studio, Autodesk AutoCAD, Corel Draw, ACD See, Lac Viet Dictionary, Symatec Antivirus, Vietkey, WinZip, WinRar and Adobe.

The raid has shown that not only foreign but also locally-made software was being pirated on a large scale, according to the ministry.

The ministry said it would soon issue specific administrative penalties against Daewoo-Hanel Company in accordance with the Intellectual Property Law and Decision 56/20016/ND-CP.

3. Intellectual Property law on tree breeds
(from *Thai News Service*, 11 October 2006)

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has issued regulations detailing provisions of the Law on Intellectual Property regarding plant breeds.

The Decree, including five chapters and 39 articles, guides the implementation of several articles in the Law related to the responsibility of State managers and procedures in setting up the rights to types of breeds, as well as the rights and obligations of those who invent new breeds.

The Decree will apply to Vietnamese organisations and individuals, foreign organisations and foreigners residing permanently or owning breeding or trading units in Vietnam.

It will also apply to citizens of countries that have signed agreements with Vietnam on protecting breed rights. The new regulations replace Decree 13/2001/ND-CP, dated April 20, 2001.

4. 8 businesses get intellectual property tips
(from *Vietnam News Agency Bulletin*, 18 October 2006
The Saigon Times Daily, 18 October 2006)

A seminar discussing the importance of intellectual property law was held on Oct. 17 to support Vietnamese enterprises in light of the country's pending WTO entry.

The seminar was organised by the Municipal Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and the Intellectual Property Association of Ho Chi Minh City (IPH).

The Intellectual Property Law was approved by the National Assembly in late 2005 and became effective in July 1. However, the Government has only recently released two decrees to guide enterprises implementing the law.

"IP has been a hot issue in Viet Nam for a long time," said Nguyen Minh Duc, vice chairman of the IPH, which was recently established to support local businesses. "However, there hasn't been any link between owners and State management offices. The IPH has been set up to narrow the gap and assist local businesses with the new field," he said.

Next month, the IPH will begin providing IP fee consulting services to enterprises of all kinds.

Innovative patents can help Vietnam on the fast track to competency and help the country accomplish its targets on the global competitive stage after it enters the World Trade Organization (WTO) according to experts.

At present only a few Vietnamese researchers and businesses are aware of the country's patent protection system and of those that do, most only usually use them in order to protect their own rights, which is short-sighted as it does not help them or the country develop over the longer term.

"We only receive about 300 patent-related inquiries a year, said Pham Phi Anh, deputy head of Vietnam's Bureau of Intellectual Property. "But only about 25% of them are related to technical aspects.

At a seminar, Anh told some 100 scientists and business owners that they should pay more attention to finding and fixing shortcomings of those patents that are already registered.

"Vietnam is now developing, so it is necessary that we can make use of our advantages as a latecomer: learning from the experiences and mistakes of others, he said.

To help solve this problem, the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property co-sponsored the seminar, demonstrating how entrepreneurs and businesses could use existing patent information to look up solutions to problems and access new research and economic development materials as a fast-track solution.

According to Prof. Bida Bishof from the institute, patents are the pillars of technical progress as they protect investment, promote innovation but also, and perhaps most importantly, disseminate knowledge.

5. Vietnam commits to protecting intellectual property rights (from *Thai News Service*, 20 October 2006)

Vietnam is fully committed to strictly protecting intellectual property rights as demanded in a regulation on database security for pharmacies, said Health Minister Tran Thi Trung Chien.

Mrs Chien referred to a regulation issued recently by her ministry to guarantee privacy of the profiles of medicine makers and traders, which was hailed by foreign pharmaceutical firms operating in Vietnam at a meeting in Hanoi on October 18.

Participants said the document is of primary importance and sensitive to drug research and producing businesses, especially to multi-national groups for their huge invention possession.

The Health Minister also assured foreign investors of Vietnam's policy to strictly follow the roadmap of tax reduction for pharmaceuticals and cosmetics and protect the rights to open branches and to direct import-export operations.

The Vietnamese Government also prioritises the construction of three biological laboratories in Hanoi, the central city of Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City to discover low quality medicines, Mrs Chien said.

The conference was held in preparation for Vietnam's accession to the World Trade Organisation, for which the country has just finished the last round of negotiations.

Up to September of 2006, Vietnam had licensed 312 foreign pharmaceutical firms for trading in medicine and pharmaceutical materials. The foreign investment sector has met 60 percent of domestic market demand for drugs and become the major supplier of pharmaceutical materials for domestic production.

CAMBODIA

Cambodia expects to attract more investors by setting up trade court
(from Xinhua News Agency, 3 October 2006)

Officials expressed the Cambodian government's desire to attract more investors and boost the kingdom's take-off economy, by establishing its first trade court to settle commercial disputes and restore a sound environment for international business.

Meanwhile on the same occasion, Var Roth San, Director of Intellectual Property Rights Department of the Ministry of Commerce, told reporters that the kingdom had seen over 200 trade mark disputes among Cambodian and foreign business people in 2005, which could not be properly settled due to lack of expertise.

Most of the disputes were related to trade mark misuse and copyright violations, he added.

Cambodia became the 148th member of WTO in 2004. The kingdom has been under heavy pressure from the organization since then to implement its rules, especially those of trade mark and intellectual property rights protection.

INDIA

1. Piracy eating into profits of IT firms
(from The Times of India, 1 October 2006)

A Nasscom study had found that the Indian product development market is estimated to grow to \$ 8-11 b by 2008. But business may not reach that level with the ongoing piracy.

A recent study by Business Software Alliance (BSA)-IDC reveals piracy is as high as 72% in India. In fact, our software industry is losing around \$566 m because of it. It's a growing problem among businesses internationally, but the good news is that it's coming down steadily in India over the last 10 years.

But it still isn't enough, say experts. "Smaller companies find it difficult to protect their intellectual property in spite of laws," says Anil Bakht, chairman, Eastern Software Systems, a premier IT

products and service provider. The problem, he says, is that as the entire software business in India is focused on large service producers, product makers are not well-represented.

Also, there's a psychological barrier against Indian software products abroad. "Made by Indians is fine, but made in India is not," he says.

Due to their small size, these firms are unable to protect their copyrights. "With attrition as high as 30-50%, it's difficult to keep tabs on our employees. We can do little if they copy our products before leaving the company," says Bakht.

Also, due to legal delays, cases stretch on for years and small players are unable to go through the proceedings till the end. In the long run, this affects business and investments dry up.

"If the Indian government doesn't formulate strict policies against piracy, China could well take the lead in IT," says Robert Holleyman, president and CEO, BSA. In the last few years, China has changed its policies tremendously to reduce piracy. "If India reduces piracy even by 10%, it could reap huge benefits," he says.

All this is taking a huge toll on innovation. Rakesh Bakshi, director, Legal and Corporate Affairs, Microsoft India, explains, "Innovation and IPR are closely linked. It's a vicious cycle. IPR laws in India are fine, but the justice system is slow. If laws are not enforced strictly, ultimately innovation gets killed."

2. Experts shed light on intellectual property rights (from *Hindustan Times*, 15 October 2006)

The Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Government Degree College (SPMGDC) organised the seminar on 'Intellectual Property Rights : Plant Varieties and Genome Conservation'.

Prof BN Pandey of the Banaras Hindu University Department of Law said, "Let us not fight, but file information regarding traditional medicinal plants."

Institute of Engineering and Technology (Lucknow) director Prof LS Yadav gave an account of IPR, traditional knowledge and geographical indicators in tea production, while working in the North Eastern region for about 18 years. He said the IPR system needed to be modified and adopted to suit the Indian context.

3. India 12th in patent filing (from *Business Standard*, 17 October 2006)

India now holds the 12th position in the world for the number of patents filed. In 2004, the patent office in India received around 20,000 patent filings, which included resident and non-resident patent applications, according to a report released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

Japan and the US saw the highest filing of patent applications, followed by Europe, the Republic of Korea and China. These five offices accounted for 75 per cent of the patents filed in 2004.

In India, there has been a significant increase in the number of patent applications by residents. Such filings increased by 365 per cent between 1995 and 2004, while filings by non-residents increased by 105 per cent. Interestingly, though Indians filed a large number of patents in India, they filed very few patent applications as non-residents in other countries. India also has a very low rate of resident patent applications vis-a-vis its population, which currently stands at 7 per million inhabitants.

The average number of patent applications per billion dollars of the GDP in India stands at 2.3. In contrast, the Republic of Korea and Japan have figures of 116.2 and 107.3, respectively, per billion dollars of GDP.

4. Trademarks of Indian cos to be protected abroad
(from *The Economic Times*, 18 October 2006)

With more and more Indian companies going global, the government has decided to protect the trademarks of Indian firms abroad. India is planning to become a part of the Madrid International Protocol (MIP) for trademarks under the World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation (WIPO).

The protocol has a 78-country membership. Indian companies will be able to get trademark protection in all these countries by simply filing one trademark application at the local or regional trademark office.

If the trademark office of a designated country does not refuse protection within a specified period, the mark is considered as registered. MIP also allows for recording subsequent changes and renewal of trademarks by the same single-step procedure.

In case of a violation, the company can file a case against the concerned violator at WIPO. This will also allow multinationals operating in India to get their trademark registered directly in India. Under the current system, multinationals have to approach Indian law firms through their parent country law firms to get a trademark protection.

Signing the protocol will also require amendments to the Trademark Act of India, as it does not permit the filing for trademark protection outside the country's borders.

The government preparing a draft amendment to the Trademark Act, he added. Once the Act is amended, India can then sign the protocol. The matter may take almost a year if there is no political opposition.

With countries like Singapore, UK, US, Belgium, Germany and China as members, Indian companies are sure to benefit from trademark protection as these are the top destinations of outward FDI from India, according to official estimates.

5. India to take up bio-piracy at WTO meet
(from *The Economic Times*, 21 October 2006)

India's proposal to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for checking bio-piracy and protecting traditional knowledge will be taken up at the WTO's TRIPs Council meeting scheduled later this month. The two-day meeting beginning October 25 will also review implementation of the agreement on TRIPs and public health.

The meeting is important for India as it has strongly taken up the issue of introducing a mandatory requirement for patent applicants to disclose origin of the biological resource being patented. The country has also contended that there should be proper benefit sharing with the country of origin of the patented resource.

In fact, India is heading a group of nine developing countries which includes Brazil, China, Pakistan, Colombia, Cuba, Thailand and Tanzania, which is trying to convince the WTO to frame multilateral rules to check bio-piracy. Official sources said that India's demand was well within the framework of the Doha development agenda which was guiding the on-going negotiations at the WTO.

Since disclosure of origin is part of the convention on bio-diversity (CBD) and the Doha agenda talks about bringing about parity between CBD and TRIPs, developing countries are well within their rights to demand that the requirement of disclosure should be made mandatory under TRIPs.

Developed countries, especially the US, have made several efforts to patent the properties of biological products like neem and turmeric, which Indians have been using for centuries.

The US government revoked patents on certain uses of neem and turmeric when India challenged the decision. Despite the small victories, the developed countries has been extensively using products growing in the developing world in their patented products without paying royalty.

The TRIPs meeting will also review the Agreement on TRIPs and Public Health, which was signed at the WTO ministerial meet in Cancun in September '03.

6. India leads Asia-Pacific in pay-TV piracy
(from *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*, 25 October 2006)

Cable and satellite TV stations in Asia are expected to lose an estimated 1.13 billion US dollars this year to pay-TV piracy and unlicensed operators, up 6.6 per cent from last year, according to a survey published on 24 October.

The fourth annual report by the Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (CASBAA), a regional association of 110 pay-TV companies, forecast that the number of illegal connections to pay-TV services would rise by 20 per cent to 5.2 million in 2006.

The survey, carried out jointly with Standard Chartered bank, was based on information collected from CASBAA members in Hong Kong, Macau, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and Australia.

CASBAA found that India remains the region's biggest loser to pay-TV piracy, which is expected to cost the industry 685m dollars, while Thailand will record Asia's second-highest losses of 160m dollars.

In India, the survey found, much of the revenue loss is caused by owners of TV cable infrastructure underreporting the number of viewers so that they pay TV stations less for their content.

Vietnam has the worst ratio of piracy in the region, with one legal pay-TV subscriber to 15 illegal connections, according to this year's study. It found that there are 90,000 authorized subscribers in Vietnam compared with 1.37 million illegal subscribers.

In the Philippines, the number of illegal pay-TV subscribers is up to 887,000. The estimated cost of piracy due to illegal distributors, largely in the provinces, has risen by 24 per cent this year.

7. 14 cos to showcase IP capabilities
(from *The Hindu*, 27 October 2006)

Fourteen technology companies showcasing their intellectual property (IP) development capabilities would be the highlight of this year's edition of BangaloreIT.in 2006, which will be inaugurated.

A separate "IP Zone" with a theme of "Innovative India" is being set up at the four-day event. Companies showcasing their IP profile include Broadcom, GloNetworks, Ittiam, Mistral, nCore Technologies, netDevices, Tejas among others.

"The IP Zone is an effort to highlight the fact that India is not only involved in delivering IT services but also in creating IP that enables the country to compete with other nations in creating high-end technology products for global markets," said Mr M.N. Vidyashankar, IT secretary, Karnataka.

Mr Vidyashankar said he expected some 300 companies including some 170 multinationals to participate in the event. "We are also expecting delegations from countries like Britain, Barcelona, New Zealand, Bavaria, China, Baltics, Taiwan and Germany," he said.

SME Forum and HR Conferences are the other highlights of the event. The SME forum would focus on the issues faced by the small and medium enterprises in IT sector, which normally stand to lose out heavily when compared to their counterparts due to lack of economies of scale, which will be driven by STPI will seek to review the Government policy pertaining to the sector.

The HR conference will discuss the challenges faced in the IT sector. The India Semiconductor Association is holding a round table to provide ideas on setting up semiconductor company incubation funding avenues among others.

Aircel Business Solution and Microsense have announced the availability of wireless Internet services in Bangalore through the WiMAX technology.

PAKISTAN

GI law draft sent to the federal cabinet for approval
(from *The Baluchistan Times*, 5 October 2006)

Intellectual Property Rights Organization (IPO) has finalized the draft of the Geographical Indication Law sent it to the federal cabinet for approval. According to the sources, the law will help the Pakistani yields and fruits in getting their trademark notified in the international market.

India has already got Super Basmati rice trademark notified in the International Market under Geographical Indication law, which has caused a loss of around US \$ 300 million to the Pakistani rice exporters.

Keeping it in view, the government decided to make the Geographical Indication Law so that the trade marks for the local yields and fruits could easily be notified in the global markets, sources said. The draft has been prepared after the consultations with all the concerned stakeholders.

In this regard, IPO organized various workshops where the rice exporters as well as some international experts were also invited. It has been tried to address all the reservations of the exporters in the draft, sources added and said that the bill has now been sent to the federal cabinet.

KUWAIT

Kuwait clamps down on software piracy
(from *Al-Bawaba News*, 16 October 2006)

Buoyed by the impressive success it achieved in recent times in curbing the threat of software piracy, Kuwait has announced plans to further step up its anti-piracy campaign. Kuwaiti authorities have said they are reinforcing their cooperation with Business Software Alliance (BSA), the foremost organization dedicated to promoting a safe and legal digital world, to ensure the protection of

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the country through widespread education and enforcement efforts.

Kuwaiti authorities, in association with BSA, will step up their campaign through a series of seminars, trainings and conferences targeted at specific societal segments, including IT resellers, public and private sector organizations, the student community and the public at large.

The campaigns will highlight the adverse effects of software piracy on the national economy - in terms of reduced IT investments and employment opportunities – and also stress on the disadvantages of using pirated software, such as poor PC performance, non-availability of vital technical support and rampant virus attacks.

The annual global piracy study, conducted by IDC and released by BSA, showed Kuwait to have successfully reduced piracy rate from 68 per cent in 2004 to 66 per cent in 2005. The piracy rate in the Middle East declined one percentage point to 57 per cent, even as the global piracy rate remained unchanged at 35 per cent.

OMAN

Omani officials tackling software piracy threat (from *Al-Bawaba News*, 1 October 2006)

Omani Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently conducted a training programme for the inspectors and law enforcement bodies at the Ministry. The training was conducted in cooperation with Business Software Alliance (BSA), the foremost organisation dedicated to promoting a safe and legal digital world. The move comes as part of the ministry's joint efforts with BSA to bring down piracy rate in the Sultanate.

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The training was aimed at equipping the task force, which is responsible for carrying out investigations against companies suspected or found to be in breach of IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) laws, with the necessary skills to perform their duties efficiently, with a special focus on how to distinguish between original and pirated software. The training program was the latest in a series of exercises conducted by BSA in the region to educate the authorities on educating and raising awareness of concerned officials.

Oman has lately stepped up its campaign against software piracy, as part of its efforts to attract foreign investment to the country and create more employment opportunities. Awareness campaigns are regularly organised highlighting the detrimental effects of piracy.

UNITE ARAB EMIRATES

1. Study on fake goods in UAE (from *Middle East Retail and Leisure*, 10 October 2006)

A Dubai-based organisation has commissioned a study into the economic impact of intellectual property rights violations in the UAE, reported Gulf News. The KPMG study is being promoted by

the Brand Owner's Protection Group, which is made up of leading Middle East corporations. The study will examine counterfeiting in three sectors: automotive and spare parts, pharmaceutical and healthcare, and consumer goods bought daily.

2. BSA to ensure a piracy-free GITEX shopper 2006
(from *Middle East Company News*, 30 October 2006)

Business Software Alliance (BSA), the international association established by the software industry to promote a safe and legal digital world, will actively seek to raise awareness about the importance of protecting Intellectual Property Rights during Gitex Shopper 2006, by hosting a number of activities at their stand at the event.

BSA's presence at Gitex Shopper 2006, the largest exhibition for IT solutions trading in the Middle East and the retail arm of Gitex Dubai 2006, is aimed at highlighting the benefits of using original software and the influence it has on increasing productivity.

BSA will distribute brochures and software management guides during Gitex Shopper 2006, in order to raise awareness and educate the public about Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and the UAE copyright laws, as well as about the measures being taken by the UAE Government to protect IPR laws.

The BSA brochures and booklets will also highlight the detrimental effects of software piracy on the global economic system and on local economies, while outlining the measures to be adopted to restrict the spread of piracy. Besides, BSA will conduct the annual BSA Online Quiz, which gives away instant prizes in addition to software prizes at the end of Gitex Shopper 2006.

"During Gitex Shopper 2006, BSA will do its utmost to ensure that the event is piracy-free," Al Redha said. "BSA is committed to safeguard Intellectual Property Rights, and has been carrying out targeted campaigns aimed at raising awareness about the ill-effects of piracy. We are also working closely with regional governments in evolving effective measures to limit the spread of pirated software."
