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35,000 yuan Claimed

Hangzhou Intermediate People's Court recently accepted the country's first case involving the unauthorized use of background music in hotels and restaurants, according to the Music Copyright Society of China (MCSC). In its bill of complaint, MCSC (plaintiff) claimed that Hangzhou Hyatt Regency Hotel and Hangzhou 900bowls Restaurant (defendants) used music works under the management of MCSC as their background music for a long time, without the grant of MCSC and never paying any copyright usage fee. So the plaintiff asked the defendants to stop playing the unauthorized music and compensate 35,000 yuan.

(Source: China Daily)

17 Infringement Claims

China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) sued 17 gas stations in Wuxi, East China's Jiangsu province, for infringing its trademark of PetroChina, gem flower works, logo and figurative elements. With the intermediation of the court, 12 of the 17 companies have so far settled with CNPC.

(Source: China Daily)

1.12m Applications

The State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) received 1.12 million patent applications

for inventions in the 2003-08 period, of which telecommunication technology accounted for the most, or 371,000 applications.

(Source: China Daily)

428 yuan Cut

The National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Finance jointly enacted a circular, approving the State Intellectual Property Office's suggestion of reducing and adjusting several patent cooperation treaty (PCT) fees. During the international procedure of PCT application, the fee will decrease from 8,555 yuan to 8,127 yuan if the application document has less than 30 pages. If the applicant is a natural from a country with national income per capita of less than \$3,000 per year, the international application fee and formality fee will be cut 90 percent as compared with 75 percent previously.

(Source: China Daily)

GAC Releases Top 10 IPR Protection Cases in 2008

On April 15, General Administration of Customs (GAC) released the "2008 Top 10 IPR Protection Cases of Chinese Customs" at the national meeting on customs law.

The customs administrations in Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing, Qingdao, Ningbo, Chongqing,

Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Huangpu, Fuzhou,
Xiamen and Gongbei won the award.

In 2008, China Customs was also selected as
the most efficient IPR enforcement agencies by
Quality Brands Protection Committee.

It is reported that in 2008, China's customs
investigated 11,135 IPR cases in import and
export channel and seized 650 million infringing
goods, worthy nearly three billion yuan. The
number of cases and the number of infringing
goods seized were increased by 49.3% and
93.5% respectively.

In addition, Chinese customs carried out fruitful
IP enforcement in cooperation with the United
States, Japan, Hong Kong and other countries
and regions. [Chinese version is available on
Legal Daily].

(Source: IPR in China)