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China Software Piracy r=Rate Down in 2008

BEIJING, Jun 04, 2009 -- China's software piracy was effectively curbed in 2008, according to Zhang Qin, deputy commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO).

China's software industry's sales value amounted to 757.3 billion yuan (US\$110.9 billion) in 2008. The figure included 316.6 billion yuan from computer software products, up 32 per cent year on year, according to statistics from Chinalabs.

Economic losses (in converted value) tied to pirated software decreased by six per cent in 2008. The piracy rate in the industry's sales value fell to 15 per cent from the 20 per cent in 2007, and that in product values declined to 29 per cent from the 41 per cent one year ago.

However, office software, information security software, language development and software tools still suffered from relatively high levels of theft.

Experts are suggesting the stricter punishment of software pirates and blocks of pirated channels. In addition, software producers are expected to improve products' cost performance to make purchases and applications more convenient for users, and to

provide more value-added services to adapt to the development of the internet.

(Source: IPR in China)

IPR Pledge Loans

The China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) and Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) recently jointly issued the "Guidance on Further Increasing Credit Support for Technology-based Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises". According to the guidance, CBRC will further improve related policies on financing support for hi-tech SMEs and promoting businesses with IPR pledge loans. (SIPO).

The guidance provides that the science and technology departments and banking supervision organ should improve the cooperation mechanism, promote the establishment of a scientific and reasonable risk-sharing system, and guide the banks to further increase credit support for hi-tech SMEs.

CBRC said related departments will also integrate scientific and technological resources and establish risk compensation funds for technology-based SMEs.

(Source: IPR in China)

Hi-tech Expo Opens

The 12th China International Hi-Tech Expo (CHITEC) was opened in Beijing last week.

More than 30 provinces and municipalities organized delegations to participate in the expo, and nearly 50 internationally renowned guests and 100 of the world's top business leaders attended the expo. With the theme of "science & technology innovation leading development", the expo demonstrated scientific and technological achievements, especially the independent innovation achievements in the 60 years after China was founded.

(Source: China Daily)

Trademark Infringing

Castrol Ltd is seeking 1 million yuan from a private company owner for infringing its trademark and company name. The producer of lubricating oil is also asking for a public apology and a promise of no more infringements by Yao Yuxin, a Zhejiang province businessman, and his two companies - USA Jiashiduo Int'l Petroleum Group (Hong Kong) Ltd and Ningbo Yinzhou Jiashuai Lubricating Oil Factory. Zhou Zhaohong, who runs a local moped repair workshop, is also listed as a defendant. Zhou is being sued for selling the product in question. Shanghai No 2 Intermediate People's Court heard the case recently with all the defendants absent. No verdict was reached after the hearing. Castrol said the

name was recognized as a famous trademark in China by the market watchdog last year.

(Source: China Daily)

Supreme People's Court Issues Guideline in Adjudicating Well-known Trademark Infringement

China's Supreme People's Court has released a judicial interpretation in adjudicating well-known trademark infringement cases, which took effect on May 1, 2009.

The interpretation makes clear basic requirements for well-known trademarks as well as their protection and recognition, among others.

As its spokesman said, this interpretation was to improve the courts' judicial protection system of well-known trademarks, enhance the authority and credibility of judicial protection and safeguard the market order and fair competition.

(Source: IPR in China)