

Editorial

Thailand has notorious reputation for trademark infringement in illegal retailing “2022.4.19 Raids yield fake goods worth US\$1.7m. Bangkok Post”. This year, the authorities from the US representative has put Thailand on the international watch list on United States Trade Representatives (USTR) so that the DSI, DIP and other authorities would tackle the counterfeit and dispose them properly

To improve reputation of the country, Intellectual Property Crime Bureau kept investigating and monitoring a group of persons illegally selling goods as a wholesaler, and smuggling trademark infringed goods from foreign countries through land borders and storing them in the targeted storehouse for selling to retailers in red zone area and to small customers.

The retailers fraudulently selling fake goods, from AAA quality goods to non-quality goods online via Facebook and other platforms to deceive interested buyers regardless it is destroying the overall economy of the country. The Intellectual Property Crime Bureau has conducted policy to suppress intellectual property infringement seriously and continuously, especially in the red zone and the areas of intellectual property infringement. However, many infringers repeat the same offence after being arrested and litigated as the punishment for IP infringement in Thailand is not severe enough to stop recurring of the same offence. The severe punishment for repetitive infringers should be rendered by the IP&IT Court to prevent crime. However, the criminal justice should have social policies to assure that the offender and public are aware of the harsher punishment to prevent people going to re-offend.

Apapan S. Milde
Patent Attorney

1. Thai novelists get justice for copyright theft in Cambodia

(From www.nationthailand.com, April 4, 2022)

Bangkok – The Department of Intellectual Property has supported two Thai novelists whose works were published in Cambodia without authorization. Jamsai Publishing complained that work by its novelists has been found on Cambodian websites and Facebook pages without consent from the authors or the publisher. The department contacted Cambodia’s Department

of Intellectual Property and urged them to delete all of the infringing works from websites and Facebook pages, and order the owners of the sites to publish an apology on their platforms. It is also supporting the government's soft power campaign by negotiate the purchase and sale of copyrighted works both in Thailand and overseas.

2. BoI throttles down rules to woo investors in EV charging stations

(From www.nationthailand.com, April 7, 2022)

Bangkok – The Board of Investment (BoI) has eased its terms for investment incentives in the electric vehicle (EV) charging business to help small operators or start-ups businesses. To build the confidence of prospective EV users, it will offer a five-year exemption from corporate tax to investors of EV charging stations, with at least 40 chargers and no less than 25 per cent delivering quick-charge services. Investors who do not meet the requirements are entitles to a three-year exemption from corporate tax. Between January and March, BoI received applications for 378 investment projects worth a total of THB110.7 billion. Most of the investments are from Taiwan, followed by Japan and China.

3. Raids yield fake goods worth B50m

(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, April 19, 2022)

Phuket – Officials from the Department of Special Investigations raided a warehouse and three homes in Phuket and seized over 10,000 counterfeit brand-name clothing items with an estimated market value of about 50 million baht. Officers found clothing falsely labelled with brand names such as Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Nike, Adidas and Chanel. The market value of the seized items was estimated at 50 million baht. There were no arrests made during the raids. The raids were led by director-general of the Bureau of Intellectual Property, after the Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court issued a search warrant.

4. Thailand attracts over THB10 bn in foreign investment in March

(From www.nationthailand.com, April 25, 2022)

Bangkok – Commerce Ministry reported 53 investors brought 10.83 billion baht to Thailand in March. Among them, 17 hold business licences and 36 hold business certificates. They created 447 jobs for locals and brought in advanced technology, such as oil well control, advanced solar panel design and installation of electric vehicle charging stations. The ministry added that 29 of them were based in Bangkok and 10 in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). Of the 10 investors, three come from China and have invested 3.18 billion baht, two come from Japan with 630 million baht, and one from the US with 637 million

baht. The EEC investors are focusing on the telecommunications and mobile phone industry, international trading companies, raw materials and spare parts as well as the manufacturing of automobile parts.

5. Japan vows to expand Thai expenditure

(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, April 27, 2022)

Bangkok – Japan has pledged to expand investment in high technology industries such as electric vehicles (EVs), smart electronics, medical services and bio-circular and green (BCG) businesses, following roadshows of Thai delegation to Tokyo and Kanagawa during April 19-23. Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow met with Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Koichi Hagiuda, the two sides vowed to continue their strategic partnership marking the 135th anniversary of formal relations. Executives from automotive, electronics and medical sectors expressed confidence in Thailand's potential and remain committed to using Thailand as their production base.

6. SS&C ties up with PTT Digital to help SMEs adopt intelligent process automation

(From www.nationthailand.com, May 5, 2022)

Bangkok – SS&C Blue Prism and PTT Digital teamed up to establish an Intelligent Process Automation Centre (IPAC) to support small and medium enterprises. IPA is an emerging set of new technologies that combine fundamental process redesign with robotic process automation and machine learning. The global process automation market is forecast to grow to more than US\$13 billion by 2030. Most enterprises see automation technology as top priority of their digital transformation. The IPAC will support SMEs, newly founded companies, start-ups, innovators, and digital citizens so they can afford to access AI and the RPA ecosystem based on international standards.

7. Germany lauds “Thai Rice NAMA” as a model project for low-emission rice production and sustainable farming

(From www.nationthailand.com, May 10, 2022)

Suphan Buri, Thailand – H.E. Georg Schmidt, Ambassador of Germany to Thailand and Varawut Silpa-Acha, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, together with delegations visited the pilot areas of the Thai Rice NAMA (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action) in Suphan Buri province where innovative low-emission farming techniques have been introduced to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from rice production while increasing production efficiency. The project introduces sustainable farming to local farmers while increasing rice productivity and income. Rice is cultivated on roughly half of

all agricultural land in Thailand and being the world's fourth-largest emitter of rice-related greenhouse gases.

8. Cabinet approves new minimum daily wages for different categories of workers

(From www.nationthailand.com, May 11, 2022)

Bangkok – The Cabinet approved a standard wage rate for workers in three occupational groups that possess a certificate from the Department of Skill Development (DSD). Those who pass the test and earn a certificate from the DSB will receive the approved wages. The groups in construction field include gypsum board installers, draftsmen, tilers, building painters, lightweight concrete masons and installers, rates start at THB450 to THB650 per day. In the fields of industrial arts occupation, rates start at THB430 to THB650 per day. For service occupation, including holistic health promotion therapist, patisserie makers, food and beverage employees, hairdresser, elderly care, rates start at THB430 to THB650 per day.

9. Mara move to buoy Thai Union's ingredients arm

(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, May 20, 2022)

Thailand – Thai Union Group, a global seafood company, has invested 269 million baht in Canadian biotechnology and micro-algae ingredients firm Mara Renewables Corporation (Mara). Mara has built a portfolio of micro-algal strains, some of which are processed using environmentally friendly extraction methods into high-quality algal oil. The plant-based oil offers a non-GMO vegan option for DHA-rich omega-3 fatty acids for human nutrition. The ingredients are also approved by multiple respected regulatory bodies, and are used by leading infant nutrition, supplement and food and beverage customers worldwide. Thai Union started its ingredients business in 2018 to transform its co-products from fish processing into natural ingredients.

10. Prayut invites Japanese businesses to invest in EEC

(From www.nationthailand.com, May 11, 2022)

Bangkok – During a speech at the 27th International Conference in Tokyo, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha extended the invitation to Japanese businesses to invest in the Eastern Economic Corridor. Japan is the second most important trading partner of Thailand and had the bilateral trade value of US\$60 billion last year, he added. Thailand would develop its business environment to facilitate international trade and investment and support foreign businesses, he promised. The country would support multilateral trade, especially the idea of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). Thailand also started transition to clean energy by supporting and boosting the electric vehicle industry.