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Software Case

US software companies Microsoft and Adobe and Australia's Altium have settled a lawsuit with Shenzhen-based CRS Electronics Co Ltd.

CRS Electronics has agreed to pay the three companies 780,000 yuan for installing unlicensed software products.

Shenzhen's intellectual property enforcement division in January fined CRS Electronics 100,000 yuan after Microsoft, Adobe and Altium accused the company of installing unlicensed software.

Last November, Microsoft and Adobe filed a lawsuit in a Shenzhen court. Altium joined the lawsuit in February.

CRS acknowledged that Microsoft's Windows operating systems were installed on 200 of its computers, and that Microsoft Office software was installed on at least 60 percent of its other computers.

The court ruled that the company failed to provide proof that it had obtained licensing from Microsoft.

(Source: China Daily)

China Continues Crackdown on Copyright Infringement, Pornography Publication

China will continue crackdown on copyright infringement and pornography publications as crime syndicates become more sophisticated in order to maintain illegal business, a Chinese official said in Tianjin Saturday.

Jiang Jianguo, deputy head of the National Anti-Pornography and Anti-Illegal Publications Office, said both varieties and the quantity of illegal publications were still rising in some areas.

More advanced digital and network technologies were used by offenders to produce those publications, he said at a meeting held in north China's port city.

At the meeting, Tianjin law enforcement and culture departments as well as intellectual property rights watchdog were cited for smashing a crime syndicate involved in copyright infringement in early June.

Jiang, also deputy chief of the General Administration of Press and Publication, said this demonstrated the Chinese government's long-term dedication to the fight against the violation of intellectual property rights and pornography publication.

Tianjin authorities spent long time to investigate the group, whose business once extended to almost all over China. Law enforcers eventually seized more than 100,000 counterfeit audio and video discs and more than 1,000 pornography DVDs, the largest case of this kind ever reported in Tianjin.

Convicted leader of the 11-member group Fu Wei has been sentenced to seven years in jail and fined 105,000 yuan (15,370 U.S. dollars). Other members were given jail terms from one to five years.

"This is a successful example that all relevant government departments work together to speed up the investigation and crackdown on copyright-related crimes," Jiang said.
(Source: *IPR in China*)

426,000 Patent Applications Filed in First Half

Patent filings and grants are still on the fast track in the first half, according to the latest statistics from SIPO. The IP authority received 426,000 patent applications, up 23.1%; granted 252,000 patents, up 31.3%. Deemed as nice surprises, domestic inventions contributed to 70% of all invention filings while domestic invention grants edged foreign ones, both for the first time.

Among the 426,000 patent applications, 375,000 are from home, up 28.9% and representing 88.0% of the total. The 375,000

are furthered broken into 205,000 or 54.7% service ones, and 170,000 or 45.3% non-service ones. There are 51,000 applications from abroad, down 7.3% and representing 12.0% of the total. In terms of types of patents, there are 148,000 invention applications (34.8%), 142,000 utility models (33.4%) and 136,000 designs (31.8%).

As of the end of June 2009, SIPO had received cumulative 5.276 million patent applications and granted 2.753 million patents.
(Source: *IPR in China*)

Tencent on the Net

Chinese instant messaging operator Tencent said it has obtained more than 400 patents, making it one of the world's largest patent-holding Internet companies.

Company executives attributed it to increased research and development activities.

The Shenzhen-based company has established a research institute with an investment of more than 100 million yuan.

Tencent also attracted talent from technology giants Microsoft, Google, IBM and Huawei Technologies, according to the company.

About half of Tencent's employees are working on research-related fields.
(Source: *China Daily*)

Trademarks

Applications for trademark registration in China reached 380,000 in the first half of this year, up 7.7 percent year-on-year, according to the State Administration for Industry and Commerce.

China has 2.4 million registered trademarks, ranking the largest in the world, according to the administration.

(Source: China Daily)

SIPO Holds Workshop on Local IPR Management

On July 31, State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) hosted a workshop on local IPR management work at Beijing, which was presided over by Vice Commissioner Gan Shaoning. And Head of Discipline Inspection Group of Central Commission for Discipline Inspection stationed in SIPO Xiao Xingwei attended and addressed the meeting.

In his speech, Xiao Xingwei said all departments of SIPO and local IP offices have obligation and responsibility to boost national IPR management work.

Meanwhile, Gan Shaoning pointed out, SIPO is the IPR comprehensive management department directly under the State Council, so we should treat, deploy and plan local IPR management work at high altitude.

In addition, the implementation of IPR strategy can't develop smoothly without the

development of local IPR management work. So we should focus on local work and do well in local IPR management work, he stressed.

At the meeting, Patent Affairs Administration Department reported the overall situation of local IPR management work. General Affairs Office, Planning and Development Department, and Human Resources Department respectively made reports in this respect.

And relevant principals from Patent Review and Procedure Management Department, Personnel Education Department and Patent Re-examination Board delivered speeches as well.

(Source: IPR in China)