

The 3rd FAMI Intellectual Property Rights Symposium in Thailand

The Federation of Asian Motorcycle Industries (FAMI), taking serious note of the spread of problems related to motorcycle intellectual property rights (IPR) in the countries of Asia, established the Intellectual Property Rights Task Force to help deal with this issue.

As one specific measure to target the IPR dilemma, the 3rd FAMI IPR Symposium was held on April 5 in Thailand, convened in conjunction with the 28th Bangkok International Motor Show. The theme chosen for the symposium was “Motorcycle and Automobile Industries Challenge to IP Culture.”

The symposium was held under the sponsorship of the Thai Department of Intellectual Property (DIP), the Thai Central Intellectual Property and International Trade (IP&IT) Court and the Thai Automotive Industry Association (TAIA). This marks the third intellectual property symposium to be held by FAMI, following the two sessions organized in Malaysia and the Philippines.



Symposium speakers and sponsors

At the symposium, in addition to keynote addresses and lectures, an experts' panel discussion was presented under the title “IPR Law Enforcement in Thailand.” In attendance were approximately 100 representatives of the government, industry, university community, the press, FAMI and other delegates, with the hall filled to capacity. The large number of people on hand clearly reflected the profound level of concern and interest with the pressing issues presented by intellectual property matters.

Keynote addresses

Opening the symposium, keynote addresses were delivered by the Chief Judge of the IP&IT Court, the Director General of the DIP and the Honorary President of TAIA. These speeches reviewed the pivotal importance of the motorcycle and automobile industries in Thailand, and the tremendous value and need to establish an intellectual property friendly environment capable of ensuring the ongoing development and cultivation of those sectors. Also discussed was the critical demand for mounting potent responses to counterfeit products not just from the perspective of protecting the rights and interests of the rightful claimants but also for upholding safety, as well as the need to better inform and enlighten consumers of the issues involved in IPR.



Scene at the symposium hall

Lectures

Moving to the lecture presentations, the DIP Division Director delivered a general

explanation of the relationship between the users of IPR systems and the government, the approaches being mounted by various Thai government agencies and IPR related laws.

Next up was the Intellectual Property Division Director of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Bangkok office, who discussed the role that intellectual property systems played at the developing stage of Japan's economic rise. Also mentioned were the approaches adopted by Japan in recent years to target the counterfeit product problem.

The final speaker was a chairman of JAMA's Motorcycle Overseas Subcommittee, who profiled the intellectual property related programs and activities currently being advanced by Japanese motorcycle industry.

Panel Discussion

The symposium's panel discussion addressed the theme of "IPR Law Enforcement in Thailand" and was moderated by an attorney-at-law. Taking part were five panelists who represented the IP & IT Court, DIP, the economic police powers, customs authorities and JETRO. The topics covered included the renewed appreciation of the importance of strengthening crackdowns on counterfeit products, establishment of more extensive legal systems to deal with the problem as well as making improvements in how such legislation is enforced. Others areas examined included the need to enhance consumer awareness of IPR, introduce schemes for sharing information on counterfeit products and advance strengthened collaboration between the various governmental organizations involved.



Panel discussion underway.

The brisk panel discussion produced numerous questions and comments from the audience as well, another indicator of the high degree of interest generated by this subject. There are high hopes that events of this type will help promote redoubled awareness of the vital nature of IPR in today's world, leading to improvements in developing countermeasures to the counterfeit product problem and other aspects of the intellectual property issue.

~To Our Readers ~

JAMA is currently revising the style and content of this newsletter. To assist us in this effort, we welcome your comments and suggestions, as well as your responses to the following specific questions:

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- What do you think of the length of the articles?
- How do you make use of the information provided in this newsletter?
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