

First Edition, Monday 15 August 2016

ABU Members among the top 15

Four ABU members namely Malaysia, Japan, Singapore and Australia made it among the top 15 countries in the latest Taylor Wessing's Global Intellectual Property Index 5th Report (GIPI5). Netherlands came out first. The Report assesses ease of enforcing rights and legal framework.

South Korea makes Singapore & Hague Treaties operational

The Singapore Treaty and the Hague Agreement needed their 46th and 66th members respectively to come into force. South Korea has become the 46th and 66th member respectively of these Treaties which regulate the procedural aspects of trademark registration and licensing and protection of industrial designs respectively. The treaties will enter into force on September 13, 2016.

Indian court rules out individual URLs blocking

Delhi High Court rejected the Department of Electronics and Information Technology's claim to block individual URL's as being "cumbersome" and "time-consuming". The Court made a distinction between blocking individual URL links and the entire domain names. Blocking individual URLs is useless it held.

Digital Economy Bill in UK

The UK Parliament introduced a new bill to make online copyright infringement at par with offline infringement. The maximum sentence is raised to 10 years imprisonment.

NBC Patent for "Anti-Piracy Technology"

U.S. Broadcaster NBC Universal's has been granted a patent by the United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) for a technology in detecting high volumes of piracy and file-sharing. The patent application titled, "*Early detection of high volume*

peer-to-peer swarms" was filed by NBC Universal eight years ago. It was approved by the USPTO on July 5, 2016.

China registers its first sound trademark

China Radio International (CRI) has been granted a trademark, first of its kind in China, for a jingle it has created.

PEC Bill 2016 passed in Pakistan

Pakistan Senate adopted the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Bill 2016. The Act is expected to criminalise (i) terrorism (ii) electronic fraud (iii) hate speech (v) publication of pornographic material involving children (vi) illegal access of data (hacking) (vii) specialised cyber-related electronic forgery and fraud are all punishable offenses amongst others.

Police crackdown set-top boxes infringement in London

The City of London's Police Intellectual Property Unit (PIPCU) arrested three people in Lancashire to stall an operation designed to distribute TV set - top boxes that were illegally modified with software for giving access to paid subscription channels including sports and movie channels.

U.S. Copyright Office backs cable television companies

The U.S. Copyright Office supports cable television companies against the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) proposal to free up the set-top box market. The FCC's proposals allow customers to choose devices and apps for watching television rather than being compelled to use individual cable companies' boxes. Cable companies feared an increase in copyright violations.

ICANN delegates new generic top-level domains

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has delegated new generic top-level domains (gTLD). Notable ones are EBU (.radio), the National Basketball Association (.nba), Ferrari (.ferrari), and Fiat (.fiat).

The E-Bulletin of the ABU Legal Dept. is a fortnightly initiative to bring news and other updates to members.

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