

DESTRUCTION CEREMONIES IN THAILAND

by Wiramrudee Mokkhavesa



*Wiramrudee Mokkhavesa, Enforcement Attorney
Intellectual Property Department*

As part of the ongoing suppression of products that infringe intellectual property rights, government bureaus including ECOTEC police bureau, Customs warehouses, and Customs bureaus at individual ports have organized several destruction ceremonies since the beginning of this year.

On January 29, 2008, the Customs Bureau of Suvarnabhumi Airport, Investigation and Suppression Department, organized a destruction ceremony at Bangpa-in Industrial Estate, Ayudhaya Province. About 20,000 items of seized goods were destroyed.

Vanichburta, ECOTEC Commander, presided over the ceremony. Representatives from the US Embassy, the Department of Intellectual Property, brand owners, copyright owners, and local entertainment figures acted as witnesses, while CNN and local media outlets provided media coverage of the event.

ECOTEC destroyed the goods through a recycling process. ECOTEC destroyed calculators, watches, and mobile phone accessories using a steamroller, whereas the apparel and leather products were destroyed by cutting the goods into pieces. A total of 1,911,328 items with a total value of Baht 255.5 million (approx. US\$8.5 million) from 1,461 concluded cases were included in this ceremony.

This total number of goods can be broken down as follows:

- 1,088,577 items of pirated CDs and DVDs
- 802,968 items of goods infringing trademarks
- 19,783 items of cosmetics and medicines



(Source: Sunthorn Pongpao, Bangkok Post, January 30, 2008)

On March 13, 2008, ECOTEC (Economic and Cyber Crime Division, Central Investigation Bureau, Royal Thai Police) organized a destruction ceremony of seized counterfeit goods at Klongluang District, Pathumthani Province. Pol. Lt. Gen. Charumporn Suramenee, Deputy Commissioner General of the Central Investigation Bureau, and General Visuth



On April 1, 2008, the Customs Warehouse of the Investigation and Suppression Bureau organized a destruction ceremony at the incinerator of Bangpoo Industrial Estate, Samutprakarn province.



This event was presided over by Ms. Siriparn Visutthipornpol, the Director of Klongtoey Warehouse of the Customs Department. Customs destroyed goods that had been seized in cases of Customs evasion and IP infringement, as well as prohibited items, restricted goods, and deteriorating and inconsumable seized products. Various types of goods, such as clothing, shoes, bags, and watches bearing many brands were included in this ceremony. ♦