

Anti-Counterfeiting Newsletter

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GENERAL:

Global Anti-Counterfeiting Efforts Set To Rise Further

- Experts say 2010 promises to bring even more rampant intellectual property theft if countries do not do more to stem the problem.
- A US anti-counterfeiting summit was held on 25 – 27 January. Representatives from companies such as Tiffany & Co., Procter & Gamble, Oakley, and Eli Lilly & Company joined intellectual property security industry experts, US lobbyists and government officials.

Full Story: <http://www.ip-watch.org/weblog/2010/01/27/global-anti->

KENYA:

KRA Teams Up With Police to Fight Fakes

- The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and Police plan to mount joint operations to fight graft and dumping of substandard and counterfeit goods in addition to the wider initiatives being taken.

Full Story: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201001201048.html>

Industrialization Minister Calls for Consumer Education on Fake Goods

- Minister Kosgey has said consumers should also be informed on the threats posed by substandard goods. He was speaking at an induction workshop on 13 January for anti-counterfeit agency board members in Naivasha.
- Billions of shillings are lost through the sale of counterfeit products. Most of the fake goods originate from Asian countries and are substandard

Full Story: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201001131101.html>

Anti-Counterfeit Act Violates Right to Health, Say Patients

- The new Anti-Counterfeit Act will be challenged on 8 March in the country's Constitutional Court on the basis that it violates the right to health. The petitioners, three people living with HIV, want the Court to declare the law, unconstitutional on grounds that it will deny them access to affordable life-saving generic medicines and therefore rob them of their right to life.

Full Story: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200912221173.html>

NIGERIA:

International Coalition Against Fake Drugs

- The US Food and Drug Administration has pledged to assist Nigeria's anti-drug faking efforts with manpower training, capacity-building, equipment and intelligence to assist fighting drugs counterfeiting and faking.
- Medical equipment manufacturers and international organisations, especially those under the UN have also been lending their support to the country's efforts against the dangers of fake drugs

Full Story: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200912281091.html>

RWANDA:

Revenue Authority to Curb Illicit Trade in 2010

- The Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) has said that this year they will mainly concentrate on strengthening the information network with the aim of curbing illicit trade and tax evasion.
- RRA last year deployed speed boats on Lake Kivu to monitor both tax evaders and illicit trade along the lake routes.

Full Story: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201001110120.html>

UGANDA:

Health Workers Rap Counterfeit Bill

- Health workers in Uganda have criticised the Counterfeit Bill 2009, saying it does not ensure quality and safety of products and would adversely affect the manufacturing and sale of affordable drugs.

Full Story: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200912160591.html>

AFRICA MATTERS LIMITED (AML)

Platform At Global Congress On Counterfeiting

- The 5th Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy was held in Cancun, Mexico on 1-3 December 2009.
- Paula Nelson, Senior Advisor to AML was a panellist in the session, “Africa case Study”, which discussed the health and safety risks counterfeit products pose to consumers.
- Paula shared the recent anti-counterfeiting activities in which AML has been involved both with the governments and private sector in East Africa.
- In February, 2009, AML jointly hosted with the Government of Uganda, an anti-counterfeiting workshop in Kampala. Some of the insights and actions arising from this workshop were shared at the Cancun congress.

Full Story: http://www.africamatters.com/news.asp?page_id=204&cat_id=29&page=1&n_id=127

AML Case Studies on Website

- AML has posted 3 case studies on its website highlighting some of the anti-counterfeiting activities it has been involved in the East African Region.

Link to Case Studies: http://www.africamatters.com/editorial.asp?page_id=245

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Dar Es Salaam; 10 March 2010

Workshop on IPR Enforcement: Combating Counterfeit Medicines In the East African Community (EAC)

- A workshop organised by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in coordination with Tanzania’s Fair Competition Commission (FCC) is planned for 10-12 March 2010 in Dar es Salaam.
- The workshop will build on the recent anti-counterfeiting developments in the East Africa Community (EAC). A new EAC anti-counterfeiting policy and bill has been formulated, enactment is planned for later this year.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Launching New Newsletter Format:

AML's Anti-Counterfeiting Team is launching this first edition of its new style newsletter, aimed at making it more interactive for the readers. Our newsletter was launched last July as one of our tools to raise awareness of anti-counterfeiting in Africa and the rest of the world.

Current Developments:

Over the last year, AML continues its work of the anti-counterfeiting agenda in Africa at government, industry and civil society levels. To date our focus has mainly been in East Africa, working with the East Africa Community and industry bodies. There were a number of positive developments, which included the formulation of an East African Anti-counterfeiting draft policy and bill; the appointment of the Members of the Kenya's Anti-Counterfeiting Agency; a number of awareness raising workshops on combating fake goods and a stronger political will by governments in the EAC to address anti-counterfeiting.

This year will be pivotal in consolidating these efforts and encouraging governments to push ahead with their agenda to real action to stamp out fake products. The commitment of the Secretary-General of the EAC, Ambassador Juma Mwapachu in promoting the enactment of the EAC Anti-Counterfeiting Bill this year, is welcome for the private sector.

We would welcome hearing about your own experiences and views through this newsletter and hope that you will find it useful and informative.

How can Africa Matters Limited help?

Provide ad hoc and regular reports on the status of IPP legislation and anti-counterfeit activity in Africa. • Provide an anti-counterfeit audit service to identify risk areas and recommend corrective action based on global best practice (tailoring solutions to local needs & capabilities). • Raise political awareness of the negative impact of counterfeit goods. • Encourage African governments and regional bodies to implement stronger and coordinated IPP policy frameworks with penalties that deter illegal trade. • Assist companies set up and maximise the effectiveness of Brand Protection Networks. • Organise and facilitate anti-counterfeit workshops at country or regional level. • Provide awareness and knowledge training. • Provide a troubleshooting service to assist clients deal with ad hoc counterfeit issues.

AML produces a monthly e-newsletter highlighting anti-counterfeit activities in Africa. If you would like to subscribe please email: research@africamatters.com. The fee is £25 per issue or £200 per annum. New subscribers will be offered one free issue.

Contact us for more information and to share your views:

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