26 April 2009 World Intellectual Property Day Celebration in Laos

Many countries around the world celebrated the World Intellectual Property Day 2009 and Laos was not an exception. On the 25 April 2009, Laos celebrated World Intellectual Property day by conducting several activities. 2009 is considered to be the biggest inauguration event in Laos, as it involved a marathon, exhibition booths, the distribution of information about intellectual property, the provision of t-shirts for the campaign, the display of banners along the main avenues, and media coverage in both newspaper and television.

25 April 2009, Lao Department of Intellectual Property under the National Science and Technology Authority (Prime Minister Office), organized the inaugural marathon for celebrating World IP Day 2009, under the theme of “Green Innovation”.
This event was the largest celebration of World IP Day since the accession to WIPO was successfully co-organized by the Lao Department of Intellectual Property under the National Science and Technology Authority (Prime Minister Office), and private sector companies which are authorized IP agencies by the Prime Minister’s Office, namely Lao Trademark Agency, Lao Law & Consultancy Group and other sponsors.

The event was officially opened by the Minister of National Science and Technology Authority (Prime Minister Office). Delegates from the public sector (line ministries), private enterprises, law students and local people of more than 700 people all participated in the celebration.

T-Flags were installed along the main Lanexang Avenue of Laos from the Monument to the Presidential Palace on the marathon course.
Throughout the event, information on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) was provided through CD broadcasting, handouts, etc.
At the completion of the marathon, the Minister of National Science and Technology Authority (Prime Minister Office) awarded a certificate of appreciation to all sponsors and a raffle was drawn for participants to win a genuine Nokia mobile phone.

Minister of National Science and Technology Authority (Prime Minister Office) presented the Certificates of Appreciation to sponsors.

Minister of National Science and Technology Authority (Prime Minister Office) drawing the raffle for participants in the Celebration of World IP Day in Laos 2009.
There were articles published in the National News including both newspaper and television before and after the celebration of World IP Day in Laos.

For the television broadcasted, the CD is provided separately to this report.
Vientiane stamps its mark on Intellectual Property Day

Soukhamhoun Souv住房

Crowds of people gathered early on Saturday morning at Patuxay monument in support of World Intellectual Property Day and copyright protection, led by government officials.

Almost 700 people took part in the event, spearheaded by officials from the National Authority for Science and Technology (NAST), the Vientiane administration and other sectors, and diplomats.

NAST’s Intellectual Property Department Director Sisompheth Vongsavong said this was the first time it had been organised to mark the day.

We are proud that so many people are interested in promoting the protection of intellectual property by walking together with us at this event,” he said during a speech at Saturday’s walk.

Mr Sisompheth said the walk was organised because various copyright businesses in Vientiane had supported the department in publicising the importance of the day.

"Next year, we will mark the day with a concert and other activities to make the public aware of the meaning of intellectual property if we get more support from businesses and the sectors involved.

Last year, the Intellectual Property Department observed the day with interviews with the NAST minister on radio and television, and also hung up signs in Vientiane to raise awareness of intellectual property protection.

This year NAST and the Vientiane administration joined innovative local entrepreneurs to mark World Intellectual Property Day.

The two-day event led to greater promotion of copyright among the local populace.

"The activities encourage individual and business copyright holders to protect their investment, as well as to push them to have creative ideas on intellectual property," Mr Sisompheth explained.

He said they worked quite hard on this issue, such as looking for fake products in markets and then disposing of them.

This includes items such as counterfeit brand toothbrushes, facial creams and mobile phones.

Continued cooperation with other sectors involved in protecting intellectual property and copyright would help spread the word on fake products, he said.

According to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) website, the theme of World Intellectual Property Day 2009 is to promote green innovation as the key to a secure future.

The WIPO has celebrated World Intellectual Property Day since 2001. The convention establishing WIPO originally came into force on April 26, 1970.

This year, the Intellectual Property Office is joining WIPO and its members in marking the link between intellectual property and creativity, while promoting green innovation as the key to a secure future.