

SCIT reiterates Government's firm commitment to combatting Internet piracy

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The Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, Mr Joseph W P Wong, today (May 29) reiterates the Government's firm commitment to combatting Internet piracy. He reminds the community to stay away from illegal uploading and downloading activities as such copyright infringing acts are morally wrong, incorrect and illegal under the law (civil and criminal).

At a ceremony which marks the launch of a new series of publicity and educational programmes to promote respect for intellectual property rights (IPRs) held this afternoon, Mr Wong appealed to the community, in particular young people, to respect IPRs of our creative industries so as to enable Hong Kong to remain a world city where creativity can flourish.

He reiterated that the Government was determined to combat Internet piracy and would continue its effort to educate the public to respect creativity and IPRs in the digital environment.

Besides, C&ED, with the support from the IPR sector, will continue to take robust enforcement action against criminal infringements on the Internet.

"We also fully support the creative industries' civil action to protect their copyright. I believe that with the educational and publicity programmes that we launched jointly with the industries and C&ED's enforcement action, coupled with the industries' development of authorized downloading channels and their civil action against copyright infringers, the Internet piracy problem can be successfully tackled," Mr Wong added.

As part of the Government's continuous efforts to combat Internet piracy, the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau, Intellectual Property Department (IPD) and C&ED, in collaboration with the creative industries and a number of youth organizations, launched today a series of educational and publicity programmes to promote respect for IPRs in the digital environment.

These programmes include the Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme which will be jointly rolled out by C&ED and IPD in July. Under the Scheme, Over 200,000 youngsters from 11 local youth uniformed organizations will participate

as Youth Ambassadors. C&ED will set up a purpose-built website for them to report suspected copyright infringement activities and forward the information to the appropriate participating IPR body for follow-up action.

To urge the public to stay away from Internet piracy, IPD has produced two brand new TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest (APIs), featuring famous artists Jacky Cheung and Simon Yam. The APIs, which were released today, aim to remind the public that unlawful activities on the Internet can be tracked down and parents should not give up responsibility for their children when the latter are using the Internet.

To further our present public education efforts in schools, the Education and Manpower Bureau, in consultation with IPD, will prepare a teaching kit aimed at encouraging students to adopt a proper attitude and manner of handling copyright works on the Internet. The teaching kit will consist of a teacher's manual, videos and presentation materials.

In addition, the Government will also join hands with local radio stations to produce a series of publicity programmes targetted at young people in the coming few months.

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