

INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ALLIANCE 2004 SPECIAL 301 REPORT

SPECIAL MENTION

VIETNAM

Vietnam is a country of concern given the probable migration of optical disc and cartridge manufacturing facilities, as well as optical disc overproduction. There are now eight (8) optical disc plants located in the country, making the adoption of optical disc regulations rather pressing. Entertainment software companies have found Vietnamese-sourced pirate products in Canada, the Czech Republic, Poland and surrounding Asian countries. It is believed that organized criminal syndicates are also involved in piracy operations. CD-burning operations also exist in the country, with pirate PC-games sourced from cracked versions made available through the Internet. Piracy is also widespread in Internet cafés.

Vietnam also acts as a haven for book pirates, virtually decimating the market for foreign publishers. Publishers of English language teaching materials report an estimated piracy rate of over 90%. Piracy also heavily affects the academic textbook market. Publishers report that, in some cases, state-owned printers are directly engaged in piracy. Print piracy production not only consumes the local market, but also feeds demand for infringing product in surrounding territories such as Laos and Cambodia. Rampant illegal photocopy operations add to the obstacles facing legitimate publishers, with commercial photocopy operations permeating areas near universities throughout the country.