

Solar buys Grammy rights



Bruno Mars at last year's Grammy Awards

Solar Entertainment in the Philippines has added rights for this year's Grammy Awards to its slate, joining Asian platforms including China's Tencent and Japan's Wowow. The 61st annual awards, hosted this year by Alicia Keys, airs live from the U.S. on Sunday 10 February. The rights deals were closed by Alfred Haber Inc.

Singapore ushers in new copyright rules
Stern measures against illicit streaming box vendors

Singapore authorities are amending the country's copyright rules to, among other things, cut off money earned through selling streaming boxes that enable access to pirate TV channels and video-on-demand programmes.

"The measures, which are absent today, will make clear that acts such as the import and sale of such devices are prohibited," the Ministry of Law says.

The proposed amendments, introduced after a three-year review and two rounds of public consultations, also enhance IP rights of creators "to help them build their reputation and grow their business". This includes default ownership of commissioned works, including films, unless they agree otherwise.

The proposals have, as expected, been welcomed by an industry hobbled by piracy.

Singapore, with its ultra-fast broadband networks and digital infrastructure, has been a happy home to pirate ventures, including a robust trade in illicit streaming devices.

Neil Gane, GM of regional industry body Avia's Coalition Against Piracy (CAP), said illicit streaming devices and their associated applications "are by far the most important copyright infringement issue in Singapore".

"Liability for ISD retailers under the present version of the copyright act exists, but establishing it is not straightforward. We are pleased that the government has recognised that this lack of legal clarity had allowed ISD retailers to mislead consumers that the content accessible through such TV boxes was legal and that requisite subscription charges went to rights-holders - which they did not".

