



# INTERPOL Intellectual Property Rights Programme Review 2008

In partnership with the INTERPOL Intellectual Property Crime Action Group



## Foreword

2008 has been an exciting and productive year for the INTERPOL IPR Programme and our public and private sector stakeholders. The beginning of the year was marked by the growing success of Operation Jupiter – South America which ultimately led to 185 arrests and the seizure of counterfeit and pirated goods worth more than USD121 million in Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

It was followed by the official launch in February of the Database on International Intellectual Property (DIIP) Crime, which took place in India. In June we co-hosted the 2008 International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property (IP) Crime Conference with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and in co-operation with Underwriters Laboratories Inc. in Canada. The operational conference was attended by more than 420 law enforcement investigators, legal advisors and private sector representatives from 50 countries working together to address the growing international threat of counterfeiting and piracy.

Operation Storm is an INTERPOL-led enforcement action targeting counterfeit medical products in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force (IMPACT). It is currently running in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos,

Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and will conclude in December.

In October the Third IP Crime Training Course, co-hosted by INTERPOL and Guardia di Finanza, was held in Italy and attended by 30 delegates from 22 countries, including eight from Africa. Since the programme began in the third quarter of 2007, the IP Crime Unit has trained a total of 100 police, customs and drug regulatory body middle managers responsible for investigating transnational organized IP crime.

As the year draws to a close the IP Crime Unit is working hard to deliver IP Crime Training and Operational Workshops to be attended by over 120 police, customs and drug regulatory body representatives from 26 Eastern and Southern African countries in Kenya on 20-25 November.

These workshops mark the beginning of a three year programme of activities, in partnership with police forces across Africa, to build capacity and act as a catalyst for interventions in the style of Operation Jupiter into transnational organized IP crime.

The inclusion of Africa in the IPR Programme is an important step towards making the INTERPOL IP crime programme truly global and addressing the needs of all stakeholders.

*John Newton  
Programme Manager  
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)*

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## *INTERPOL and World Customs Organization-led operation disrupts organized counterfeiting networks in South America*

An INTERPOL and World Customs Organization (WCO)-led operation targeting transnational organized criminals in South America has resulted in 185 arrests and the seizure of counterfeit and pirated goods worth more than USD 121 million.

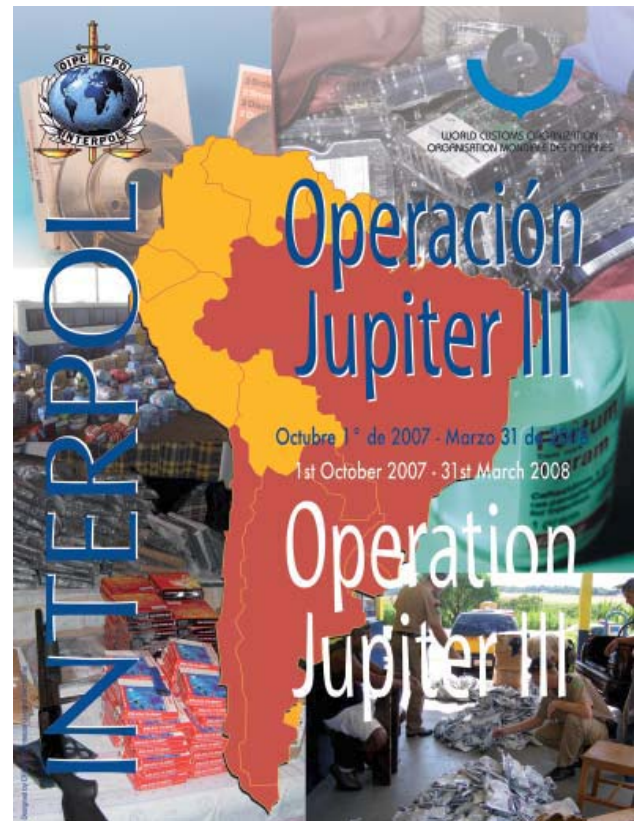
In addition to recovering potentially life-threatening fake medicines, sub-standard electrical goods and other pirated products, police and customs officers in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay seized 973 kg of marijuana, 2.35 kg of crack cocaine, illicit firearms and ammunition during the three-month-long Operation Jupiter.

“We are delighted with the support INTERPOL, WCO and those industries affected by counterfeiting and piracy in South America have received from the police and customs authorities,” said INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble.

“The determination of law enforcement authorities in all five countries to work together and share intelligence has improved communication, co-operation and the effectiveness of the interventions into criminal networks that generate massive profits without any regard for the safety of innocent consumers.”

Operation Jupiter focused primarily on the flow of counterfeit and pirated products from Southeast Asia through the ports of Iquique in Chile and Montevideo in Uruguay. The organized crime networks’ transnational distribution channels then led through Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru into Brazil and throughout South America.

INTERPOL’s Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Programme which spearheaded Operation Jupiter in partnership with WCO, provides a central point of reference to facilitate co-operation between law enforcement authorities and the public and private sectors in the fight against transnational organized IP crime. The operation run between October and December 2007 was the third such action taken in the



region to target transnational organized crime groups involved in counterfeiting and piracy.

“Operation Jupiter has increased our level of knowledge about counterfeiting and piracy in Uruguay,” said Head of the National Police, Sydney Ribeiro. “Improved intelligence has enabled the police and INTERPOL Montevideo to make major inroads into these crimes.”

Operation Jupiter is one of a series of regional anti-counterfeiting initiatives against transnational organized criminals mounted by INTERPOL, the WCO and supported by the United States Chamber of Commerce.

“By working together, the business community and INTERPOL are striking severe blows against criminal counterfeiters and pirates, while protecting the innovators, workers and consumers who rely on legitimate and safe products and technologies,” said David Hirschmann, President and CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce’s Global Intellectual Property Center.

## INTERPOL launches Intellectual Property Crime database at conference in India

Intellectual Property (IP) stakeholders from around the world met in Mumbai on 28-29 February 2008 at a two-day conference on transnational counterfeiting and piracy which saw the formal launch of INTERPOL's Database on International Intellectual Property (DIIP) Crime.

The database is a unique central point for private industry worldwide to provide information on IP crime. One of its key functions will be to maintain reliable data on the scale of counterfeiting and piracy to determine more clearly the nature of crimes against brand and copyright integrity. INTERPOL's specialist units at its headquarters in Lyon, France, will analyze data to seek possible links between IP crimes across different industry sectors, facilitate criminal investigations and develop strategic IP crime reports.

The 2nd Annual Global Forum on Innovation, Creativity and Intellectual Property – hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (USCC), the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) – was held amid increased cooperation between the business and law enforcement communities,



Addressing a press conference are (from left) David Chavern, Vice President and CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce, Ronald K Noble, INTERPOL Secretary General and John Newton, INTERPOL's Intellectual Property Programme Manager.

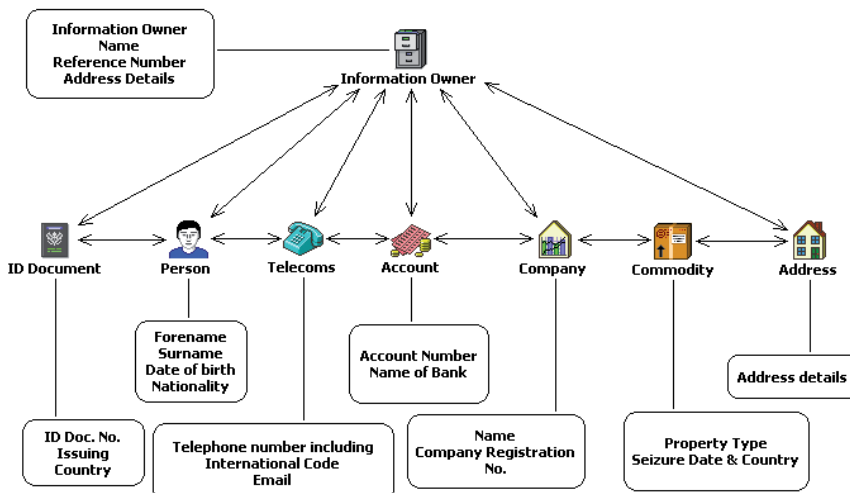
highlighted in Dubai at the Fourth Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy.

“The sharing of information from the private sector will help law enforcement agencies in our 186 member countries to focus their resources more effectively in investigating individuals and groups linked to transnational counterfeiting and piracy,” said INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble. “As a result of this cooperation, INTERPOL is making organized criminals aware that international borders no longer protect them from the long arm of the law.”

The new database – operating together with the INTERPOL Recommended Minimum Global Standard for the Collection of Information on Counterfeiting and Piracy by the Private Sector – is the result of a 2006 partnership between INTERPOL and USCC, the world's largest national business federation.

“This historic partnership is allowing law enforcement, government, and industry to work together to more effectively detect and investigate the criminal networks engaged in these crimes,” said David Chavern, USCC's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. “We expect to see major law enforcement actions as a result of this work in the very near future.”

INTERPOL Database on International Intellectual Property (DIIP) Crime:  
Recommended Minimum Global Standard for the Collection of Information on  
Counterfeiting and Piracy by the Private Sector



## *Common threat of intellectual property crime focus of international conference in Canada*

Partnership and co-operation was the focus of the 2008 International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property (IP) Crime Conference held in Halifax as it addressed the growing international threat of counterfeiting and piracy.

Co-hosted by INTERPOL and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), in co-operation with Underwriters Laboratories Inc., the three-day event (June 24-26) brought together more than 420 law enforcement investigators, legal advisors and private sector representatives from 50 countries.

Leading experts at the conference highlighted how IP crime directly threatens national economies as well as public health and safety. The need for national and international enforcement authorities to co-ordinate their efforts and co-operate with IP rights holders in the private sector was also high on the agenda.

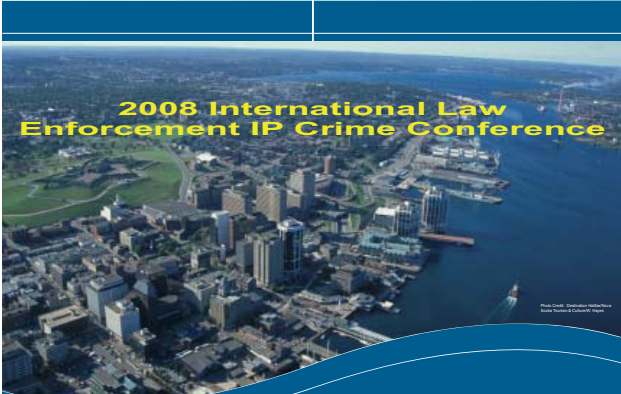
Evidence shows that virtually all major transnational organized crime groups are involved in product counterfeiting, generating huge profits which often fund additional criminal activities across all sectors, thus requiring law enforcement, governments at all levels, the private sector and international partners to work closely together to effectively target this crime.

‘Transnational organized criminals manufacture and distribute counterfeit and pirate products on an industrialized scale with the sole intention of generating massive illicit profits,’ said John Newton, INTERPOL’s IP Crime programme manager. ‘They do so without the slightest regard for often vulnerable consumers who do not realize an apparent bargain purchase can be hazardous.’

Superintendent Ken Hansen, Director of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Federal Enforcement, said that the trade in counterfeit goods lacked any form of quality control vital to ensuring that health and safety standards are met, putting all consumers at risk.

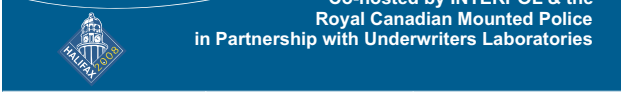

‘We all share the same concerns, particularly the threat this crime poses to the health and safety of our citizens,’ he said.

INTERPOL believes that the social, health and economic damages arising from the production and sale of fake products are substantial, with many of the victims of transnational organized IP crime including people suffering from life threatening diseases who unknowingly use counterfeit medicines containing little or no active ingredients.



**2008 International Law Enforcement IP Crime Conference**

Co-hosted by INTERPOL & the Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
in Partnership with Underwriters Laboratories

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
June 24, 25 and 26, 2008  
For more information visit [www.Ul.com/ace](http://www.Ul.com/ace)

**“Working in Partnership Against a Common Threat”**

## ***INTERPOL training in counterfeit medical products supports cross-agency efforts to combat organized crime in Africa***

INTERPOL, supported by the World Health Organization International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force (IMPACT) has initiated a series of training sessions in Uganda and Tanzania to support cross-agency efforts to combat transnational organized criminals who systematically manufacture and distribute counterfeit medical products throughout Africa.

The first session, held in Kampala, Uganda from 18-19 September, opened by Mr Moses Sakira, Head of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau Kampala, was attended by 40 representatives from police, the national drug authorities and customs who received advice and training to assist them in investigating counterfeit medical product cases more effectively. Training was provided by facilitators and specialists from INTERPOL, the national police and drug authorities, and representatives from affected pharmaceutical companies. Each participant was also provided with a training manual specifically designed by the Permanent Forum on International Pharmaceutical Crime (PFIPC).

The second training session held in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania from 22-23 September was opened by Mr Robert Manumba, Head of Criminal Investigation of Tanzania Police and Ms Charrys Ugullum, Acting Head of Tanzania Food and Drug Authority. It was attended by 50 students from police, National

Food and Drug Authorities, Presidency Office, Fair Competition Commission, the Bureau of Standards, and the Office of Attorney General.

The training sessions mark the beginning of an INTERPOL-led enforcement operation under the umbrella of the World Health Organization IMPACT Programme. INTERPOL does this by acting as a catalyst for collective action against the counterfeiters and then co-ordinating law enforcement interventions into their activities.

Uganda and Tanzania are at the forefront of these efforts in East Africa and attendance at the training sessions is indicative of the collective desire of all participating agencies to work together and co-operate to make a difference in the region.



*Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, 22-23 September 2008*

## *Operation Mamba (IMPACT) – targeting counterfeit medicines in Tanzania and Uganda*

The first combined INTERPOL-World Health Organization (WHO) operations targeting counterfeit pharmaceutical products took place between 29 September and 5 October 2008 in Tanzania and Uganda.

Counterfeit medical products pose a major risk to public health and are becoming increasingly prevalent in all parts of the world, particularly in Africa.

High costs of legitimate drugs and inadequate controls mean that patients turn increasingly (knowingly or otherwise) to counterfeit drugs. At best, these substandard drugs are likely to be less effective, but they can also be harmful, even life-threatening. It is estimated that in Sub-Saharan Africa over one million people, the majority of whom are children under the age of five, die from malaria. Fake antimalarial drugs are believed to be a contributory factor in a significant number of these tragedies.

Operation Mamba demonstrates the way in which multiple law enforcement agencies can be mobilized to achieve a common goal. Police, drugs and revenue authorities joined their respective forces in Uganda and Tanzania, with the aim of inspecting and confiscating counterfeit medicines.

In Tanzania 191 locations, including pharmacies, warehouses and illicit markets, were inspected resulting in the seizure of some 100 types of products. Among the confiscated drugs were anti-malarial, cardiac, anti-fungal, multivitamin, hormonal and skin medicines. Police closed four pharmacies and 18 drug

shops (known as Duka la Dawa Baridis) found to be in breach of the law. A total of 44 police cases were opened.

Following raids on 45 establishments in Uganda, a total of 38 shops and pharmacies are being investigated for operating illegal businesses without the necessary licenses and controls. Unregistered medicines were confiscated and suspected counterfeit medicines were taken away for analysis.

These are the first INTERPOL-led enforcement operations to take place in Africa within the framework of the WHO IMPACT Programme.

IMPACT is a global coalition of stakeholders, created in 2006, that aims to develop international collaboration between WHO member states, international organizations, NGOs, law enforcement agencies and health professional groups. The aim is to raise awareness of the dangers of counterfeit medical products and to curb their manufacture and distribution.

The catalyst for launching these significant enforcement operations is the INTERPOL OASIS-Africa programme, whose goals are to build capacity, develop infrastructure and support police operations in Africa. Operation Mamba is the first in a series of activities addressing transnational organized criminal attacks on intellectual property rights within the OASIS programme. These successes provide a firm platform to launch further operations in the future.



*Counterfeit products seized from a warehouse in Uganda*



*The results of the Tanzanian operation are presented at a press conference*



*Among the seizures were a range of medical and cosmetic products*

## *Third INTERPOL Intellectual Property Crime Training Course*

The Third INTERPOL Intellectual Property Crime Training Course brought together participants from police forces and the private sector all over the world.

Held in Ostia, Italy, on 20-24 October, the event was co-hosted by the Guardia di Finanza in partnership with police and member organizations of the INTERPOL IP Crime Action Group (IIPCAG). A broad spectrum of organizations are members of IIPCAG, including law enforcement and customs authorities, international organizations, private sector and patent protection bodies.

The one-week course was attended by 32 police senior and middle managers with responsibility for investigating transnational organized IP crime. The attendance of several students was made possible by funding from the private sector.

A total of 22 different countries were represented from every INTERPOL region including eight officers from Africa and eight officers from South America.

Many of the students were from countries where INTERPOL is currently leading cross-industry law enforcement interventions into transnational organized crime. The training course provides police officers with the knowledge and expertise to lead these operational initiatives.

The conclusion of the course represented a significant milestone as 100 police middle managers have now been trained by INTERPOL. A further 120 police officers will receive the training during INTERPOL and Kenya Police IP crime training and operational workshops scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, between 20 and 25 November 2008.

*Major General Saverio Capolupo, Guardia di Finanza (center) with his staff and students attending the Third INTERPOL IP Crime Training Seminar.*



## ***INTERPOL summit launches partnership to combat counterfeit certification marks***

On 17 March 2008, representatives from 12 of the world's major international certification bodies met at the General Secretariat for the first INTERPOL Certification Industry Anti-Counterfeiting Summit. Certification marks – which indicate that a product meets certain minimum safety standards – are often counterfeited and used to add credence to otherwise fake or sub-standard products including electrical goods and other potentially dangerous domestic appliances.

The summit aimed to find a collective international response to this area of transnational organized crime by defining future goals and action plans including: ways to share information across borders and affected industries, targeting factories that produce counterfeit goods and encouraging authorities to take appropriate enforcement action to counter this criminality. The manufacture and distribution of sub-standard and counterfeit goods carrying fake certification marks poses a serious threat to often unsuspecting consumers around the world.

Speaking on behalf of the certification industry, Keith Williams, President and Chief Executive of Underwriters Laboratories Inc, said: “The counterfeiting of certification marks undermines public health and safety, so the industry welcomes this opportunity to cooperate with INTERPOL.”

The summit was a foundation stone in INTERPOL's Operation ‘Overshock’, an 18-month criminal enforcement operation which systematically targets products bearing counterfeit certification marks. The project is working to establish an integrated task force, coordinated by INTERPOL, consisting of international police and customs agencies in partnership with certification bodies from around the world.



*Certification Industry Anti-Counterfeiting Summit, Lyon, March 2008.*

Jean-Michel Louboutin, INTERPOL's Executive Director for Police Services, told participants: “We need to focus on sharing information to ensure that cross-industry law enforcement interventions are deployed where they have the biggest chance of success. INTERPOL can work with you and national authorities to target factories producing counterfeit products in source countries and encourage enforcement actions against them.”

Following the summit, INTERPOL and the certification industry have extended the partnership to ensure interventions into the activities of associated transnational organized criminals are launched on a regional and global basis. A number of significant law enforcement agencies from around the world, including the Australian Federal Police, Europol, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the United States Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have come together to act as a catalyst for action.

“We are currently developing our network to include police and customs agencies in China and Southeast Asia. It will mean that in the near future we will work with our law enforcement colleagues in source countries to target and close production facilities that systematically manufacture counterfeit certification marks”, said John Newton, the INTERPOL IPR Programme Manager.