

This news mail distributed in Japanese and English from time to time provides updates on the development of law in Taiwan with focus on intellectual property rights law. For more information about the status of intellectual property right protection and practice in Taiwan, please visit our website www.tiplo.com.tw

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01 Former tech company engineer indicted for trade secret theft, allegedly profiting more than TWD2.95 million

A former engineer surnamed Lee at Avago Technologies Taiwan Limited (hereinafter “Avago Technologies”) had allegedly taken advantage of his position to steal the company’s undisclosed customer orders, financial forecasts and contents of confidential high-level management meetings for an extended period. He used such information to prepare training materials for paid seminars, thus gaining a profit of more than TWD2.95 million. Taipei District Prosecutors Office conducted an investigation and found that the evidence was sufficient to support the allegations and thus formally indicted Lee. This case was referred to and heard by the IPC Court.

According to the indictment, Lee had been employed by Avago Technologies (whose patent company is U.S.-based Broadcom Inc.) from August 2012 through March 2025. During his employment at Avago Technologies, Lee served as an application engineer and a regional sales engineer at the company’s semiconductor solutions department and was primarily responsible to promote products, handle customer matters, and maintain customer relationships. Due to his job duties, Lee became highly familiar with the company’s internal operation and commercial information.

The prosecutor found that during his employment at the company, Lee had signed the company’s employee handbook, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Insider Trading Compliance Policy, and Proprietary Information and Invention Agreement, as well as a confidentiality agreement with the company. This to say, despite being fully aware of his obligation to keep the company’s trade secrets confidential, Lee took the risk of violating his obligations for personal gains.

Lee used a laptop provided by the company to access the company’s internal customer order analysis system, where he illegally reproduced and downloaded the company’s confidential informational, including customer product orders, financial forecasts, product R&D progress, and customer lists. Also, Lee accessed the company’s cloud storage system to secretly record and download the videos and presentation materials from the high-level meetings chaired by Mr. Hock E. Tan (president and CEO of Broadcom Inc.) and Mr. Charlie Kawwas (president of the Semiconductor Solutions Group), and subsequently used screenshots and photographs of such materials to create his training materials. From January 2024 through March 2025, Lee had accepted invitations from two companies to hold paid seminars at various locations in Taipei City, promoting himself as a “Broadcom expert” and conducted as many as 85 sessions.

In the aforesaid seminars, Lee not only displayed Broadcom’s internal presentations directly but also publicly described the CEO’s conversations at the high-level meetings. By using the parent company’s trade secrets as the training materials, Lee had earned TWD2,958,000 in speaking fees. This case came to light after Avago Technologies initiated an internal investigation upon a whistleblower’s report, and through the investigation, the company discovered that their confidential information had been leaked. Therefore, the company gathered evidence and reported the matter to the New Taipei City Field Division of the Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau for investigation.

The prosecutor held that Lee had seriously breached his duty of loyalty to the company for his personal financial gain, and the commercial information he disclosed had significant economic value in the market, for which the company had already taken reasonable measures to protect its confidentiality. As such, the prosecutor indicted Lee on charges of violating the Trade Secrets Act by using or disclosing trade secrets he knew or possessed without authorization as well as breach of trust under the Criminal Code. As the offenses are subject to a concurrence of statutory provisions, prosecutors recommended that the defendant should be sentenced under the more severe offense. Furthermore, given that the alleged offenses

occurred within a relatively short period and involved the same legally protected interests, prosecutors further recommended that the acts be treated as a single continuous offense for sentencing purposes. (Released 2026.05.25)

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02 Influencer ordered to pay TWD700,000 in damages for launching luxury watch group-buy campaign without authorization

A Taiwanese influencer, SHIH Shu-Hua (hereinafter “Shih”) was sued by Omega SA for launching a group-buy campaign for OMEGA watches on his FB fan pages and group-buy website and claiming his partnership with “OMEGA, a Swiss luxury brand with a 160-year history”. The IPC Court rendered a judgment ordering Shih to pay TWD500,000 in damages in the first-instance proceedings. On Shih’s appeal, the court revised the judgment, increasing the damages to TWD700,000 and ordering Shih to publish a notice regarding the judgment in favor of Omega on his FB fan pages for 30 days.

In April 2023, for this campaign, Shih emphasized on his FB fan pages that he the watches were offered at super VVIP prices and could be picked up at physical retail counters and were definitely not parallel imports. After learning of such a campaign, Omega initiated an investigation, finding that Shih was simply a VIP customer of the brand at its department-store counter in Taiwan and he had once made bulk purchases of watches during promotional periods and requested that company invoices be issued for the purchases. It was further confirmed in the investigation that there was no business partnership or authorization between Shih and Omega.

Omega alleged that Shih engaged in commercial activities by falsely claiming his business partnership with Omega with an aim to profiting from the resale of its products or credit card rewards, which misled consumers into believing that there was a sponsorship or authorization relationship between Shih and Omega and thus led to infringement upon Omega’s trademark rights and goodwill. In this regard, Omega filed a lawsuit alleging Shih’s violations of the Trademark Act and Fair Trade Act.

After hearing this case in the first-instance proceedings, the IPC Court found that Shih’s promotional materials indeed caused consumers to mistakenly believe that Shih was authorized by Omega and thus harmed the reputation of Omega’s trademark, and therefore, prohibited Shih from using the “OMEGA+Ω” mark in online stores, advertisements, digital audio-visual contents, electronic media, the Internet, or any other media, and ordered Shih to remove and destroy all signs, advertisements and other marketing materials containing the “OMEGA+Ω” mark. Moreover, Shih was ordered to pay TWD500,000 in damages. Upon both sides’ appeals, the second-instance court upheld the TWD500,000 award and further awarded TWD200,000 in damages, bringing the total amount payable by Shih to TWD700,000. Shih was also ordered to publish a notice regarding Omega’s victory in this lawsuit on its two FB pages for 30 consecutive days. This case remains subject to further appeal. (Released 2026.05.22)

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03 IPC Court finds Taiwanese celebrity’s “Baiwei Little Tiger” co-branded apparel infringes Chinese IP “I Am Not Fat Tiger”

The IPC Court in its first retrial found that the co-branded apparel, “Baiwei Little Tiger” (Chinese: 百威小老虎; hereinafter the “Baiwei Little Tiger apparel”) launched by the Taiwanese celebrity, HSU Yun-Le (hereinafter “Hsu”) in 2021 indeed infringed the Chinese IP, “I Am Not Fat Tiger” (Chinese: 我不是胖虎; hereafter the “Chinese IP”). After nearly five

years of litigation, the IPC Court ruled that the defendants should severally and jointly pay TWD400,000 in damages, along with accrued interest and litigation expenses, and should destroy all infringing merchandise.

According to the IPC Court's ruling, the design of the Baiwei Little Tiger apparel was strikingly similar to that of the Chinese IP with merely minor alterations, and therefore, the Baiwei Little Tiger apparel does not constitute an independent creation. In addition, given the widespread popularity of the Chinese IP, its design had long been publicly available, and in this regard, a business engaged in developing and marketing co-branded apparel products could not reasonably claim to have been unaware of the design. In view of the foregoing, the IPC Court sustained the offense of plagiarism alleged against the defendants.

The IPC Court rejected Hsu's defense that the design of the Baiwei Little Tiger apparel was inspired by a cat and also found that the draft sketches submitted as evidence were not sufficient. The sketches failed to demonstrate the time of creation and the records of alterations and thus failed to establish the process of creation. Moreover, the overall visual appearance of the Baiwei Little Tiger apparel extremely resembled that of the Chinese IP. Based on the foregoing holding, the IPC Court finally determined that Hsu and the defendant, Migo-mobo International Ltd., should severally and jointly pay TWD400,000 in damages, and Migo-mobo International Ltd. and its responsible person, LIAO Hsin-Hung were also held jointly and severally liable for an additional TWD400,000, together with interest thereof. In addition, the infringing products should be all destroyed and the defendants are prohibited from using the infringing design in the future. (Released 2026.05.19)

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04 Taiwan's innovations shine on global stage, wins 16 Edison Awards in 2026

The Ministry of Economic Affairs of Taiwan (MOEA) held a press conference on May 12, 2026, announcing that Taiwan secured 16 awards at the 2026 Edison Awards, widely regarded as the "Oscars of Innovation", which recognizes innovations that genuinely possess potential to change the world and achieve successful commercialization. Taiwan's 16-award sweep at the 2026 Edison Awards reflects Taiwan's growing role as a vital global partner and player in innovation.

According to the Department of Industrial Technology under MOEA, Taiwan shared honors at the Edison Awards alongside global renowned enterprises, such as, Dell, Medtronic, Dow Chemical Company, which demonstrates that Taiwan has solidified a pivotal position in the global innovation technology landscape. Mr. Frank Bonafilia, the executive director of the Edison Awards, particularly highlighted that Taiwan has successfully transformed into an innovator capable of delivering "highly practical products and services ready for global adoption".

At the 2026 Edison Awards, Taiwan's winning technologies focused heavily on advanced medical devices, environmental sustainability and digital transformation. Research institutes under the MOEA (including ITRI, Metal Industries Research and Development Centre, and Taiwan Textile Research Institute) have collectively bagged 3 golds, 6 silvers, and 3 bronzes, with such award-winning technologies already being adopted for industrial applications through collaborations with major companies, such as, Mizuno and Sangtech Lab Inc.. Meanwhile, Taiwan-based companies, Ableprint and Leotech also took home honors, in recognition of their outstanding R&D capabilities.

In the sectors of health and medical and of human centric care, ITRI's Biomedical Technology and Device Research Laboratories and Material and Chemical Research Laboratories worked with Taiwan Textile Research Institute and brought together the major

Taiwanese companies, including Shinkong Synthetic Fibers Corp., Ossaware Biotech Co., Ltd, Taiwan Paiho, and Renax Biomedical Technology Co., Ltd. to develop and present the gold-winning technology, “LigamiX™: Hybrid Regenerative Ligament Technology”. To address the longstanding problem of artificial ligaments that easily deteriorates and ruptures over time, this technology produces a key medical device with three times the strength of commercially available products after implantation and also promotes tissue regeneration. With respect to the growing demand for social care, Metal Industries Research & Development Centre’s technology, “Magic ABC”, an AI-assisted interactive therapy software may alleviate the shortage of speech-language therapists and enable 80% of cases of language delay to show significant improvements.

In the sectors of environmental sustainability and green manufacturing, ITRI’s Green Energy and Environment Research Laboratories developed the gold winner, “Sustainable Pavement Material Recycling”, which is able to recycle and reprocess reclaimed asphalt pavement and thus reduce the annual aggregates of sand and gravel extraction by 4.85 million metric tons in Taiwan. Besides, Taiwan Textile Research Institute’s “A Slice of Running Shoe”, a technology licensed to Mizuno, can shorten and streamline the manufacturing process to six minutes and adopts a mono-material design to address the longstanding challenge of recycling high-performance athletic footwear. In addition, Metal Industries Research & Development Centre presents the “ThermoMind™ – Smart Energy-efficiency Combustion System” that provides a solution helping the thermal processing industry reduce carbon emissions.

In the sectors of digital transformation and smart manufacturing, the gold award-winning technology, “Prognosis Monitoring System (PMS)”, developed by ITRI’s Mechanical and Mechatronics Systems Research Laboratories, precisely addresses the risk of unexpected equipment shutdown in high-precision industries, such as, semiconductor manufacturing. This system has once helped prevent loss of about TWD150 million in a single case. Meanwhile, Metal Industries Research & Development Centre’s “AI-Driven Fastener Forming Quality Monitoring” is able to reduce defect rates of screw manufacturing to virtually zero. Furthermore, in advanced packaging process, AblePrint Technology Co., Ltd. sustains and enhances chip reliability with high-performance vacuum technology, while the Institute for Information Industry has created new business opportunities for immersive interaction through its “AI Edge Computing × XR Immersive Interactive System”. (Released 2026.05.12)

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