

ROVING SEMINARS

Indonesia Collective Management - Musical Works

WIPO held national roving seminars on collective management of copyright and related rights in musical works in three Indonesian cities - Medan, Surabaya, and Makassar - from February 5 to 9. The seminars' objectives were to raise awareness of the importance of copyright protection, with special attention to collective management of such rights in the field of music, and to provide practical information on how collective management systems function.

The panelists at the Indonesian seminars.



WIPO co-organized the seminars within the framework of the Japan Copyright Fund-in-Trust 2000-2001, and in the context of the expansion of the activities of the Indonesian authors' society, Yayasan Karya Cipta Indonesia (KCI), outside the capital Jakarta.

Two different groups of audiences attended the two sessions, one aimed at law enforcement authorities - police officials, prosecutors, judges, and officials of the special civil forces - and the other aimed at users of protected copyright works, such as broadcasting organizations, owners of establishments such as shops, restaurants and hotels which disseminate works, as well as concert promoters. Many authors, composers, and performers also attended the sessions to gather information on their rights and on the units that KCI plans to open in Surabaya and Makassar. Overall attendance reached over 500.

WIPO invited a representative from the Asia-Pacific Office of the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) and from the Japanese Society for Rights of Authors, Composers, and Publishers (JASRAC) to share their experience in this field. KCI Chairman Mr. Rinto Harahap and Secretary General Mr. Candra Darusman also participated.

PCT in South Africa



Mr. Busso Bartels, WIPO, and Mrs. Cecilia Petlane, SAPTO.

An increase in patent applications in developing countries - last year patent applications using the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) system grew by 80 percent in such countries - is a sign of increasing economic development. South Africa, with 386 international applications filed, had the third highest number of applications from a developing country, and was the leading PCT user in Africa. This is a result not only of increasing economic activity but also from the increasing number of PCT-related awareness building seminars and training programs conducted by WIPO. Two such seminars were held earlier this year in South Africa, one in Durban the other in Pretoria.

The two-day presentations covered all PCT procedures. Representatives of the South African Patents and Trademarks Office (SAPTO) also highlighted their experience as receiving office and a designated and elected office of the PCT. Mr. Lance

Promoting Intellectual Property in Sudan

Abramson, Patent Attorney, Spoor & Fisher (Pretoria), recommended the PCT as an ideal and inexpensive route for seeking patent protection internationally. Discussions centered essentially on how to use the advantages of the PCT system for the benefit of inventors and patent applicants.

The seminar in Pretoria drew some 50 participants, mainly patent attorneys. The 30 participants in Durban, predominantly from universities, were attending the PCT seminar for the first time and frequently sought explanation of basic issues concerning patent protection and general industrial property matters. Both groups found the seminars informative, however the group of university representatives expressed the desire for a similar PCT seminar more specifically for their needs as potential inventors and innovators.

The participants also recommended that WIPO publish the list of the PCT member States that provide provisional protection for international applications after their international publication. WIPO is considering publishing this list in the monthly PCT Newsletter.

A WIPO mission to Sudan from February 18 to 25 carried a twofold purpose – to assist the local authorities in drafting a new copyright law and to conduct a workshop for lawyers on intellectual property rights.

Legislative Assistance

Several meetings were held with the legislative drafting committee set up by the Sudanese authorities. The meetings reviewed the current copyright law and discussed the modifications that would be necessary in order for Sudan to comply with international treaty obligations and bring the legislation up to date. The aim is to bring the legislation in line with the Berne Convention, the TRIPS Agreement, the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT), and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT).

In parallel with the drafting activities, the Ministry of Culture and Information organized a presentation by WIPO officials, attended by some 80 people, on the Berne Convention and what Sudan's adhesion to it would mean. They also organized an informal meeting with the Sudanese Association of Film and Sound Recording Producers, who put forth their concerns in light of possible revision of the Copyright Act. For the same purpose, a second informal meeting took place with a group of prominent poets and artists at the request of Mr. Ali El Mahdi, Secretary General of the General Association of Arab Artists.

Seminar for Lawyers

In cooperation with the Commercial Registrar General and the Sudan Lawyers Union, WIPO organized a

seminar on the importance of intellectual property to economic development in Khartoum on February 24 and 25. Some 100 lawyers participated in the conference, which dealt mainly with intellectual property in the framework of international conventions and treaties, basic principles of protection in Sudanese laws, and WIPO's cooperation for development programs in the Arab countries and least developed countries.



Meeting participants in Sudan.

At the end of the seminar, participants made many recommendations regarding WIPO's involvement with the private sector in Sudan, in terms of training, as well as in reinforcing the capabilities of universities in the intellectual property field. They suggested that intellectual property be included in university curricula and that WIPO provide basic training on the international intellectual property systems and new intellectual property legislation in their country. Participants also recommended that WIPO continue its activities to non-governmental organizations such as inventors' associations, patent and trademark agents, and artists' and lawyers' unions.