AGM 2008: Successful preliminary meetings in Jamaica

During an initial mission to Jamaica two months ahead of IFRRO’s 37th AGM in Montego Bay, an IFRRO and JAMCOPY delegation met with Jamaica’s Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce who is responsible for copyright matters and with the Minister of Education, responsible for the negotiations with JAMCOPY for licences for Public Schools. The IFFRO delegation also met with JAMCOPY’s Board members, the AGM Local Organising Committee and representatives of the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) and made a site inspection at the AGM venue. Olav Stokkmo, IFRRO CEO, thanked JAMCOPY for “being so on top of the organising of the upcoming AGM” and expects a successful and vital AGM, which will take place from 27 October - 01 November 2008.

Australian High Court rules in favour of surveyor's copyright

Followin an appeal by the Australian Copyright Agency Limited (CAL), the Australian High Court overturned the Full Federal Court’s decision that State governments had an implied license to use survey plans for free. Surveyors have been concerned at the extensive use of their works for commercial purposes by State governments since 1997, and asked CAL to negotiate with State governments on their behalf. CAL Chief Executive Jim Alexander said that the decision is a significant step for all copyright owners.

JAMCOPY inks landmark copyright license with Jamaica's major universities

On 30 July 2008, the Jamaican Copyright Licensing Agency (JAMCOPY), IFRRO member, signed a licensing agreement with the University of the West Indies Mona Campus, the University of Technology and the Northern Caribbean University. After almost three years of negotiations, the island’s three major universities are now in conformity with Jamaican copyright law and international best practice. With licenses in place, the universities can now legitimately make copies of larger portions of works within the parameters agreed with JAMCOPY. Shirley Carby, JAMCOPY’s Chairwoman, pointed out that the signing of the university licenses sends a positive signal to the world of Jamaica's growing respect for intellectual property rights.

Elsevier Expands Use of CCC’s Rightslink® Service

Elsevier, one of the world’s leading publishers of scientific, technical and medical information products and services, with more than 2,800 online journals, is partnering with Copyright Clearance Center to use CCC’s Rightslink® service, the world’s leading online platform for marketing and monetizing the rights to content. Rightslink is an online e-commerce service that allows content users to instantly license content and order reprints online. It is in use on more than 11,000 journals, magazines and newspapers, as well as thousands of books online.

European Commission adopts Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy

As forecast in the June Newsletter, the European Commission has issued the Green paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy. The Green Paper attempts to structure the copyright debate as it relates to scientific publishing, the digital preservation of Europe's cultural heritage, orphan works, consumer access to protected works and the special need for the disabled to participate in the information society. A public consultation is launched with a deadline of 30 November 2008. IFRRO has welcomed some positive statements on copyright in the Green paper and has declared itself willing to participate actively in the follow-up.

CEDRO’s 20th anniversary manifesto presses for reproduction licences.

Spanish firms, educational establishments, public authorities and other organisations should compensate authors and publishers for photocopying and scanning their work by obtaining a licence granted by CEDRO. This is the main message in the manifesto that CEDRO presented publicly in July on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary. The event was attended by the Minister of Culture, César Antonio Molina.
Successes in Mexican anti-piracy campaign

CeMPro’s campaign against piracy, started in 2005, has scored some notable successes in the past few months. In July an illegal press was raided as it was being operated and books, printing machinery and equipment were seized by the police. Now, just before the start of the school year, a second series of raids have netted more than 5 tons of pirate material – mainly of an educational nature. Such piracy not only hurts authors and publishers but also parents and pupils due to the poor quality of the printing and the lack of redress against the pirates.

Ljubljana Appointed World Book Capital 2010

The Jury of World Book Capital, which includes IPA, IBF (booksellers), IFLA (librarians), and UNESCO, has appointed Ljubljana (Slovenia) as World Book Capital 2010. The quality of its application, as well its diverse and complete programme, were widely and enthusiastically supported by all players involved in the book industry.

The first WALTIC concluded successfully

600 authors, scholars and translators, as well other representatives, from a total of 90 countries, gathered at the first Writers’ and Literary Translators’ International Congress (WALTIC) in Stockholm at the end of June. At the conclusion of the congress, WALTIC launched the WALTIC 2008 Resolution, which aims to increase literacy, safeguard freedom of expression and to strengthen the author’s rights in the digitalised world.

The European Writers’ Congress also held its Annual General Assembly in conjunction with WALTIC and decided to adopt the word “Council” instead of “Congress” in its name. The official acronym EWC remains unchanged. EWC welcomed three new members: The National Society of Greek Authors, the Hellenic Society of Translators of Literature, Greece and the Authors’ Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS), UK.

Southern Africa training in law enforcement

National Training Workshops for Law enforcement Agencies were held recently in Botswana and Namibia. The Workshops were part of the ongoing cooperation between UNESCO and IFRRO to develop and strengthen the capacity of the institutions responsible for combating piracy in the sub-region. The Botswana workshop was attended by 55 participants representing Law enforcements agents, rights holders, users, CMOs, IFRRO, UNESCO and Government. In Namibia there were over 40 participants drawn from a similar background.

The workshops aimed to improve the understanding of the role of law enforcement agencies in the drive to stamp out copyright infringement and to enhance national stakeholders’ cooperation in the fight against piracy. Namibian rightsholders were also encouraged to develop business plans for funding by Government to improve capacity for copyright law enforcement.

IFRRO welcomes visitors at the Frankfurt Book Fair

For the third time, IFRRO will be present with its own stand (Stand N910 in Hall 8.0) at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2008. It will take place from Wednesday, 15-Sunday, 19 October 2008. This year’s Guest of Honour is Turkey.

IFRRO will inform the visitors about ongoing activities, in particular ARROW (a digital libraries project in the European Commission’s eContentplus programme), and technical standards in which IFRRO is involved, i.e. ONIX, ISTC, ISNI, ACAP, DOI and PLUS.

IFRRO welcomes new General Counsel

IFRRO is pleased to welcome Anita Huss who joined IFRRO as General Counsel from 1 September. She replaces Franziska Schulze.

Anita will be IFRRO’s legal advisor and will also be involved in activities related to development of new RROs in the various regions. Anita has experience from major international law firms in Belgium, Germany and Sweden working as a corporate and competition lawyer.

EVENTS September-October 2008

18-20 September, Threats to the open book - international symposium on neo-censorship, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
15-19 October, Frankfurt Book Fair
27-31 October IFRRO AGM week hosted by Jamcopy, Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Pictures courtesy of Carol Newman, CeMPro and Reiner Pohl.