

## **IFRRO AGM 2008**

We wish to thank JAMCOPY for the hosting of a successful IFRRO AGM 2008 which brought about a number of decisions with significant importance to the future work of IFRRO. In addition to electing a new Board and Presidency and adopting statements on Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE) and on favourable treatment of Least Developed Countries (LDC), the AGM also discussed IFRRO's Business Plan for the coming 4 years. Assistance to RROs in developing their business models and authors and publishers in building RROs remain focus areas together with Communication activities. Showing the importance of copyright and IP based industries to society and the indispensable contribution of collective management is high on the agenda.

## **MAGDALENA VINENT (CEDRO) NEW PRESIDENT OF IFRRO**

The IFRRO AGM 2008 in Montego Bay (Jamaica) on 30 October elected Magdalena Vinent (CEDRO, Spain) new President of IFRRO for a two year period. Magdalena Vinent has been the Chief Executive of CEDRO since the beginning of 2000 and a member of the IFRRO Board of Directors since 2002. The AGM thanked the outgoing President Peter Shepherd for an outstanding performance during his years as IFRRO President.

The AGM further elected Franziska Eberhard (ProLitteris, Switzerland) First Vice President and Bruce Funkhouser (CCC, USA) Second Vice President. Jim Alexander (CAL, Australia), Christer Johansson (BONUS Presskopia, Sweden), Hélène Messier (COPIBEC, Canada), Jens Bammel (IPA) and Mats Lindberg (BUS, Sweden) were elected Board Directors and Maureen Cavan (Access Copyright, Canada), Rainer Just (VG Wort, Germany), Trond Andreassen (EWC) and Michael Mabe (STM) were elected Substitute Directors.

## **Creative industries are the key to economic growth, Jamaican Culture minister tells IFRRO AGM**

The Hon. Olivia Grange, Minister of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports of Jamaica told participants at the IFRRO General Assembly in Montego Bay that culture was the most defining value and asset of the Jamaican People. She confirmed that creative industries would form the platform for sustained wealth creation for the

economic well-being of Jamaica and pledged continued support to JAMCOPY for the next 10 years and beyond.

## **OAPI Intellectual Property (IP) Conference**

In his opening speech to the Copyright conference organised in Dakar on 3-6 October by the Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI), Senegal's President, *S. E. Me Abdoulaye Wade* stressed the need for appropriate administration of knowledge and IPR in a development strategy referring *i.a.* to the special IP unit that he has established at his cabinet. *Olav Stokkmo*, the IFRRO Chief Executive was invited to address the conference which also included ministers from OAPI's 16 Member States. Several participants emphasised the need for strengthening collective management of rights and training in this field of activities, which was also highlighted by OAPI's DG, Dr. *Paulin Edou Edou*. Under the co-operation agreement that IFRRO has with OAPI, there will be an education programme, in co-operation with WIPO, for IP Offices and RROs in the OAPI Member States in March next year.

## **RRO set up in Indonesia**

**Yayasan Cepit Buku** is the RRO newly established in Indonesia by national authors and publishers at the initiative of IKAPI, the Indonesian RRO. Inspiring driving force behind the new RRO is Ms. *Kartini Nurdin*. It will be launched on 13 November during a WIPO-IFRRO seminar in Jakarta which includes *Michael Lijic* (CAL, Australia), *Paul Wee*, IFRRO's Regional Development Representative in Asia and *Olav Stokkmo*, the IFRRO CEO, among the speakers.

## **Iberoamerican Forum on the knowledge society**

The Chilean Ministry of Culture, in co-operation with CERLALC, organised on 4-8 November an Iberoamerican Forum on books, readership and libraries in the knowledge society, parallel to the WIPO SCCR meeting.

IFRRO's CEO, *Olav Stokkmo*, introduced the solutions for the "European Digital Libraries" and the ARROW project, which had brought together key stakeholders to implement them. He stressed that the best solutions are generally found through voluntary cooperation between the stakeholders. Facilitating access to knowledge through legal instruments such as limitations to

the exclusive rights always represents a limited answer to consumer needs.

### **Joint Rightholder positions at WIPO on Exceptions and Limitations**

A [Joint Position on Exceptions and Limitations](#), signed by 26 Non-Governmental Organisations was presented at the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) held 3-7 November 2008 in Geneva. It was based on the following general principles: (1) Existing flexibilities are not only adequate but preferable to new international binding norms. (2) At national level, all legislative options should be built on a flexible and fair foundation based on lawful access for users respecting the rights of creators and other rightholders. (3) There are many examples of good national models and practices within the present international norms. IFRRO issued its own [position paper](#) in March 2008

In relation to the World Blind Union's (WBU) proposal for a WIPO Treaty for Improved Access for Blind, Visually Impaired and other Reading Disabled Persons, IFRRO issued [a statement encouraging WIPO to launch a platform of stakeholder consultation](#). This would develop a roadmap for ensuring access to copyright works for the visually impaired, including best practice rules, guidelines and/or a sample agreement in order to facilitate accessibility to reading materials in a trusted and secure environment.

### **Authors, Publishers, and Google Reach Landmark Settlement**

American authors and publishers through Authors Guild (AG) and Association of American Publishers (AAP) have reached an agreement with Google, settling their two year dispute and significantly expanding online access to works through Google Book Search. The agreement (see full [Press release](#)) includes the establishment of a Books Rights Registry in which US Copyright holders can register their works and receive appropriate compensation for the digitization of their works.

AG and AAP, together with Kinsella/Novak Communications, the Notice Provider that will administer the worldwide notice program, consider IFRRO and RROs to be an important component in the program to notify rightholders outside the US. The notification program was therefore presented to the IFRRO members attending the IFRRO AGM in Jamaica.

The Federation of European Publishers (FEP) draws, in a [press release](#), attention to "risk of a defacto monopoly for distribution of books" which could endanger the European book industry and

pointed to the European Digital Library (EDL) and the Arrow project as initiatives that fully respected copyright and related rights. In the US, [Harvard University declined to join](#) the scheme as "the settlement contains too many potential limitations on access to and use of the books by the higher-education community and in public libraries".

### **Payments owed to Australian creators**

Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) has published a list of Australian creators that are entitled to payments for the copying and communication of their works. CAL urges all Australian authors, journalists, artists, illustrators and photographers to look for their details online at <http://www.copyright.com.au/membersearch.htm>.

### **Chinese CMO for Written Works inaugurated**

The China Written Works Copyright Society (CWWCS) held its inaugural meeting on 24 October. It will now proceed to be registered with the Ministry of Civil Affairs before approaching IFRRO for the broadening of the contact.

### **Frankfurt Book Fair - survey on digitization**

The organizers of the 2008 Frankfurt Book Fair conducted a survey "[How will digitization shape the future of publishing?](#)" among over 1,000 industry professionals from over 30 countries. China is seen as challenging the US for leadership in this area in five years time and the main driving force will be consumers rather than IT industry or publishers and authors. Most feel that they are ready to face the digital challenge but need more input into knowledge and strategy and to network with new types of partners such as mobile handset manufacturers and networks.

### **New RRO members**

IFRRO welcomes two new RRO members – Société Civile des Droits de la Littérature et des Arts Dramatiques (SOCILADRA) in Cameroon and Japan Academic Association for Copyright Clearance (JAACC) in Japan. JAAC used to be an Associate member.

### **Norway hosts 2009 IFRRO AGM**

IFRRO has accepted Kopinor's kind invitation to host the 2009 IFRRO AGM. It will be held in Oslo on 19-22 October 2009 with the AGM day 22 October.

### **EVENTS NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2008**

24-25 November, Conference on collective management of copyright and related rights, Brussels, Belgium.