

AGM 2005

IFRRO's Annual General Meeting 2005, hosted by CEDRO in Madrid on 27 October, will achieve a record figure of 185 delegates. Opening addresses will be given by Ms. *Rita Hayes*, Deputy Director General of WIPO and Mr. *Antonio Hildago*, the Spanish Deputy Minister of Culture. The AGM will, *inter alia*, elect the IFRRO President for the coming two years and discuss a new membership fee structure.

A Digital Issues Forum on 26 October, preceding the AGM, will focus on how RROs and IFRRO can assist creators and publishers to build sustainable business models for the digital environment. It will also include a presentation of the International Standard Text Code (ISCT). The AGM will be followed by a session on RRO communications, in which participants will discuss recommendations on common strategic points of communication with the aim of increasing their understanding of the importance of copyright to knowledge, culture and the economy.

The seminar on *Copyright Creating Access* on 28 October (www.cedro.org/ifrro2005madrid/index.asp) includes keynote speeches by UNESCO Director *Milagros del Corral*, WIPO Director *Richard Owens*, the Vice President of the Spanish Congress, *Carmen Chacón*, Copyright expert *Mihály Ficsor*, the Peruvian writer *Alfredo Bryce Echenique*, and the Library Director of the Carlos III University *Margarita Taladriz*.

EUROPEAN UNION

Cross-border licensing

In its recommendations on cross-border collective management for online music services http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/copyright/management/management_en.htm#20051012 of 12 October the European Commission invited Member States to remove all obstacles for rights holders and users in their choice of such a CMO.

Consultation on the publishing sector

DG Information Society invited Stakeholders' comments on its consultation on the strengthening of competitiveness in the EU publishing sector by 15 November. http://europa.eu.int/information_society/media_taskforce/doc/prerelease.pdf.

Levies and private copying

IFRRO has made a statement to the European Commission on levies and private copying (www.ifrro.org/upload/images/Mr%20T%20%20Lueder.pdf)

DIGITAL ISSUES AND LICENSING

Access Copyright, Canada now offers digital licences to corporations (<http://www.accesscopyright.ca/home.asp>).

CLA's (UK) new trial scanning licence gives universities the right to create and distribute digital copies in internal networks (www.cla.co.uk/news/press_releases/press111.html).

NLA (the Newspaper Licensing Agency), **UK** is developing a central digital database of newspaper articles to be released this autumn (<http://www.nla.co.uk/>).

The Authors Guild, USA filed a lawsuit in the US District Court of New York against Google regarding its library programme under which Google agreed with five libraries to scan their in-copyright and out-of-copyright materials. Authors complained that this infringes their rights in the works (www.authorsguild.org/).

WIPO

The WIPO General Assembly (GA) 26 September – 5 October approved, *inter alia*, the programme and the budget for the coming two years including joint activities with IFRRO. The general statements from a large majority of Member States were supportive of WIPO. The IFRRO statement is available on <http://www.ifrro.org/show.aspx?pageid=library/positionpapers/wipo&culture=en> The GA did not decide on the dates for a Diplomatic Conference on a WIPO Broadcasting Treaty.

IFRRO DEVELOPMENT WORK

Both within the framework of the cooperation agreement with WIPO and through own development projects, IFRRO is developing viable

long-term projects which include awareness building, publications, the nurturing of RROs and the training of its personnel. A manual on *How to set up an RRO* will be launched later this year. IFRRO is now investigating new ways of cooperating with UNESCO. To that end Information Officer Marie-Agnès Lenoir attended a conference on the Global Alliance Program on 12 September.

http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.phpURL_ID=24468&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Latin America and the Caribbean

A regional consultation on RROs in the Caribbean, co-hosted and sponsored by IFRRO, WIPO, JIPO and Jamcopy in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, 14-16 September, recommended the creation of a regional entity to manage reproduction rights and the development of a business plan for the entity. This discussion follows the Legal Study on regional cooperation by Dianne Daley, sponsored by IFRRO.

Asia Pacific

PRRO takes off. Philippine RRO's rapid and positive development under its President Dr. *M. Manalastas* saw the number of authors and publishers mandating PRRO increasing tremendously over the past months. A business plan aims at making PRRO one of IFRRO's success stories has been adopted. During the Manila Book Fair, PRRO organised a symposium for 120 stakeholders to sensitise them to the negative effects of unauthorised copying and how RROs represent a win-win situation for rights holders, users and society at large.



Dr. M Manalastas, Chair of PRRO. Photo O.Stokkmo

A PRRO/rightsholder workshop following the symposium with *Karen Pitt* (CAL), *Paul Wee* (CLASS) and *Olav Stokkmo* as IFRRO speakers worked out a business plan that identifies the first licensee and the first licences and sets out a distribution plan. *Edgardo Sabalvoro*, responsible

for a feasibility study that will be useful to PRRO's work, has been appointed CEO.

New Delhi seminar on Collective Management. WIPO, in collaboration with the Government of India, organised a regional seminar on 'Collective Management in the Digital Era: Trends, Problems and Prospects' from September 11 to 13. *Michael Fraser* and *Tarja Koskinen-Olsson* gave presentations, highlighting the work of RROs and IFRRO in the digital environment.

Africa and the Middle East

Namibia wishes to set up an RRO. At the initiative of the Namibian government, a stakeholder meeting was organised in Windhoek on 21 September. *Gérard Robinson*, *Carlo Scollo Lavizzari* (DALRO) and *Olav Stokkmo* were IFRRO speakers. A well organised local publishing industry suffers dramatically from unauthorised copying of textbooks in schools, a market dominated by local publishers. A severe fall in the number of copies sold and new titles produced has led to retrenchments in the industry. An RRO supported by the rights holders and the government could remedy the situation provided schools sign licensing agreements and the government increases the budget for the purchase of textbooks.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

On 8 October, **EWC's** Congress elected *Trond Andreassen*, Secretary General of the Norwegian Academic and Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association, as its new President. A manifesto presented by the Nordic countries and a resolution on authors' rights and RROs is available on www.european-writers-congress.org/

Collective Management in Reprography, the joint IFRRO-WIPO publication is now available in Spanish and French (www.ifrrro.org/show.aspx?pageid=library/publications&culture=en).

EVENTS

27 October: IFRRO AGM 2005, Madrid
 28 October: IFRRO AGM Seminar Copyright Creating Access, Madrid
 4 November: IFRRO Seminar on Collective Management, Santiago de Chile
 4 – 8 November: Seminar on Collective Management of Rights, Lusaka
 16 – 18 November: World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis (www.itu.int/wsis)