

The WIPO–ASEAN Workshop on copyright and orphan works was held on December 11 and 12, 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was organized within the framework of the ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan 2011-2015 by the World Intellectual Organization (WIPO) in cooperation with the Intellectual Property Department of Thailand.

The main objectives of the workshop were to provide a platform for exchanging information, views and experience in copyright and issues in relation to orphan works. There were eighteen participants from nine Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN), including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, together with experts from WIPO, Sweden and Republic of Korea, attended the workshop.



The experts and participants presented and discussed, at the workshop, the following topics: The overview of orphan work; Practices and experiences of EU countries in dealing with orphan works; Management of orphan works in Asia-Pacific countries; Extended collective licenses for orphan works; International legal framework on limitations and exceptions for library and archives; Copyright issues faced by libraries and publishing industry in the digital age; etc.

Nowadays, the development of technology enabled the distribution of copyright protected works

in digital format more quickly and easily. Accordingly, more and more works spread over the Internet while the current owner of copyrighted works can not be identified or located. Also, it is difficult to manage effectively the issues relating to orphan works in national scope, hence, it needs a stronger cooperation among governments to solve the issues.

At the workshop, a question of how to manage effectively orphan works across borders was raised by some participants. International experts suggested that the copyright and related rights collective management organizations or national voluntary registration and recordation systems should be used to manage orphan works effectively.

The workshop is a good chance for participants to learn knowledge, experience of the experts from developed countries, as well as exchange view and discuss about the issues in relation to legislation and enforcement of orphan works.

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