

Experts to share views on the protection of copyright in the digital era

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Over two hundred and fifty representatives from government, educational institutions, and copyright experts from the Asia-Pacific Region are participating in a symposium being held in Hong Kong to discuss the impact of the Internet on the protection of copyright in the digital era.

The Director of Intellectual Property, Mr Stephen Selby; and the Consultant, Cooperation for Development Bureau for Asia and the Pacific of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Mr. Candra N. Darusman,, jointly officiated at the opening ceremony of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Regional Symposium on "Copyright in Educational Institutions and Libraries in the Digital Era" today (March 15).

"We are very encouraged that such a specialized event has drawn so many participants," said Mr. Stephen Selby, adding that the symposium was well attended by two hundred and fifty professionals from Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific Region.

"Digital media and the Internet are becoming increasingly important in academic research and publication. Traditional copyright concepts pose numerous challenges to people who use the Internet as a tool for their day-to-day work in education. This symposium is intended as a platform for participants to share their views and experience about how to face these challenges in the digital era," he added.

The two-day Symposium, held from March 15 to 16, is organized by WIPO, in cooperation with the Intellectual Property Department.

The Symposium will examine the importance and concept of seeking a balance between the protection of copyright and the scope of public access to information in the digital era. Copyright experts from different jurisdictions will be able to exchange their views and experience on this subject.

Participants of the symposium include government officials and representatives from organizations of educational institutions and libraries from the Asian-Pacific region including Hong Kong.

Guest speakers comprise experts from WIPO, Republic of Korea, Australia, the Netherlands, China, USA, Japan and Hong Kong; and representatives from the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, International Federation of the Phonographic Industry and International Publishers Association.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is an international organization dedicated to promoting the use and protection of works of the human spirit. These works - intellectual property - are expanding the bounds of science and technology and enriching the world of the arts. Through its work, WIPO plays an important role in enhancing the quality and enjoyment of life, as well as creating real wealth for nations.

With headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, WIPO is one of the 16 specialized agencies of the United Nations system of organizations. It administers 23 international treaties dealing with different aspects of intellectual property protection. The Organization counts 179 nations as member states.

For detailed conference program, please visit the IPD web site at <http://www.info.gov.hk/ipd>.

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