

## ■ IFRRO AGM ADOPTS POSITION PAPERS

IFRRO thanks CLASS and *Paul Wee* for the hosting of a successful AGM 2004 in Singapore on 25-28 October. The event was officially opened by Guest of Honour *Abdullah Tarmugi*, Speaker of the Singapore House of Parliament who, *inter alia*, confirmed Singapore's commitment to being a hub for IP and publishing, and acknowledged the important role of CLASS. The week's events also included a session on Digital Uses: exploring user needs, options for collective licensing, and digital bilateral arrangements.

The AGM approved *Principles for International Document Delivery*, a *Statement on the Digitisation of Printed Materials*, and *Principles on Retrodigitisation*, and agreed on new IFRRO Statutes. Following AGM 2004 elections, IFRRO welcomes new Board Directors *Pieter Bolman* (STM), *Anne Louise Schelin* (IFJ) and Substitute Directors *Joanna Cave* (DACS) and *Franziska Eberhard* (ProLitteris).



*Peter Shepherd, President of IFRRO, Abdullah Tarmugi and Paul Wee. (Photo: CLASS)*

The AGM was followed by a Symposium attended by authors' and publishers' organisations representing some 17 countries from the Asia Pacific Region. Special guests included Singapore Government Representative Professor *Ho Peng Kee*; *Patrick Masouye*, Acting Director, Copyright Collective Management Division, WIPO;

*Albang Kang*, Singaporean expert in IP; and *Akash Chittranshi*, Counsel for the Copyright Clearance Agency of India.

Next year's AGM will be hosted by CEDRO in Madrid from 24 to 28 October 2005.

## ■ EUROPEAN UNION

### **New Head of Copyright Unit appointed**

*Pascale Leardini* succeeds *Jörg Reinbothe* as Head of the Unit with the main responsibility for copyright related matters at the European Commission. The unit, now to be entitled *D1 Copyright and Knowledgebased Economy*, will continue to be part of DG Internal Market and Services (DG Markt). Leardini, who has mainly worked in Industrial Property within DG Markt and is at present Head of Unit of Programming, Legal Affairs and Inter-institutional Relations, will take up his position on 1 January 2005.

## ■ FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

### **Project to assist Australian print disabled**

CAL (Copyright Agency Limited), Australia, has approved funding for research into print disabled access to copyright materials to coincide with the International Day of People with a Disability, 3 December 2004 ([http://www.copyright.com.au/news%20releases/03\\_12\\_04.htm](http://www.copyright.com.au/news%20releases/03_12_04.htm)). The project, expected to be completed by September 2005, will be managed by the Australian Copyright Council (ACC). It will review issues of access to creative works for people with a print disability and will be used to develop access and format guidelines for Australian copyright users with a print disability, and for publishers and authors who want to provide digital works for the print-disabled.

ACC will research Australian law on the subject including the print disability provisions in the statutory scheme created by the Australian Copyright Act, fair dealing provisions, and circumvention device provisions. Relevant laws in other countries will also be reviewed, with the

long-term aim of providing equitable access to global information for the print disabled. Implications of the Australian-US Free Trade Agreement provisions that restrict the use of technologies that circumvent copyright restrictions, such as encryption, will also be considered.

**LITA**, the Slovakian Society of Authors, organised a conference last September with key speakers *Tarja Koskinen-Olsson*, *John-Willy Rudolph* and *Paul Greenwood*. During this event, LITA showed the results of a major survey on copying conducted by an independent market research agency financed by Kopinor.

**ALCS** (Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society) and **PLS** (Publishers' Licensing Society), UK, have agreed new terms on the *split of the royalties* collected by CLA for authors and publishers ([http://www.pls.org.uk/ngen\\_public/article.asp?id=14&did=26&aid=96&st=&oid=-1](http://www.pls.org.uk/ngen_public/article.asp?id=14&did=26&aid=96&st=&oid=-1)).

## ■ DIGITAL ISSUES

**CEDRO**, the Spanish RRO, has introduced a voluntary licensing scheme for digital uses. Authors and publishers can now give CEDRO a mandate to grant licences for the digital use of their works, irrespective of whether the works exist in print or any other (tangible) form.

**Google Internet library**. Google has announced arrangements with major US and UK universities and research institutions to convert their libraries into digital format and offer them to users free of charge. Books which are no longer covered by copyright are being scanned into digital files (<http://dsc.discovery.com/news/afp/20041213/library.html>).

## ■ WIPO

**Traditional Folklore (TK)**. The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property, TK and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE) met in Geneva 1-5 November to discuss *inter alia* draft provisions outlining policy objectives and core principles for the protection of TK and TCE against misappropriation and misuse. ([http://www.wipo.int/edocs/prdocs/en/2004/wipo\\_upd\\_2004\\_234.html](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/prdocs/en/2004/wipo_upd_2004_234.html)). IFRRO's position on TK is available on [www.ifrro.org](http://www.ifrro.org).

**Least Developed Countries (LDCs) recognise the importance of IP**. LDC Ministers met in Seoul with WIPO on 25-27 October. The meeting ended with a

declaration on the use of IP systems by LDCs, recognising their specific problems and challenges as well as the potential benefit to them of IP systems. ([http://www.wipo.int/edocs/prdocs/en/2004/wipo\\_upd\\_2004\\_233.html](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/prdocs/en/2004/wipo_upd_2004_233.html))

## ■ FROM THE BOARD

### Five New IFRRO members

We are pleased to welcome new RRO Members **COPYGHANA** (the Reprographic Rights Organisation of Ghana); **COSOMA** (the Copyright Society of Malawi); and **KRTRC** (the Korean Reprographic and Transmission Rights Centre), as well as Associate Members **VISCOPY** (the Visual Arts Copyright Agency of Australia) and **SEMU** (Société des Editeurs de Musique, Belgique). IFRRO's membership has now reached 100.

### New Members of Committees and Working Groups:

**Legal Issues Committee**: New members: *Natacha Lenaerts* (Reprobel), *Jens Bammel* (IPA).

**WG for newspapers and similar publications**: New member: *Alain Guillaume* (Reprobel).

**Digital Issues Committee**: New members are *Paul Wee* (CLASS) and *Dillys Yu* (HKRRLS).

**WG on Copying of Visual Material**: New members are *Ignacio Nalas* (VEGAP), *Bruno Beauregard* and *Brian O'Donnell* (Access Copyright), *Anke Schierholz* (VG Bildkunst)

**Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean**: New members are *Brian O'Donnell* (Access Copyright); *José Miguel* (CEDER); and *Rico Charran* (TTRRO).

## ■ FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2005**. WIPO Roundtable on Copyright-based business: The Case of the Publishing Industry, Hanoi, Viet Nam

**Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> 2005**. Access to Learning Materials in Southern Africa Conference, Johannesburg ([conference@access.org.za](mailto:conference@access.org.za)).

**Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2005**. WIPO National Seminar on the Berne Convention, Rome Convention and Publishing Industry, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam

**Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 2005**. **Equipment Levy Forum, Brussels**  
**Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 2005**. **IFRRO Senior Managers' Forum, Brussels**. Focus will be on "Surveys and Distributions Processes".

**Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> 2005** **Document Delivery Group, Geneva**

**Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2005** **IFRRO Board, Geneva**