

**International Publishers' Association
Union Internationale des Editeurs
Union Internacional des Editores
Internationale Verlegerunion**

Protecting Publishers' Interests Worldwide

About IPA

The International Publishers' Association (IPA) is a federation of national, regional and specialist publishers' associations. Its membership comprises some 75 organisations from more than 65 countries from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and the Americas. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, IPA represents the interests of the publishing industry in international fora and wherever its interests are at stake.

History of IPA

IPA was founded in 1896 in Paris by the leading European and American publishers at the time. In its early years the two main objectives of the organisation were to ensure that the newly introduced international copyright treaty, the "Berne Convention", was implemented around the world and to provide a meeting place for major international publishers to exchange views and conduct business. Since then IPA has expanded internationally to more than 75 organisations. IPA has also changed its structure from an association of international publishers, to a federation of national, regional and specialist associations.

IPA's Objectives

IPA's objectives are laid down in the preamble of its Statutes:

- To uphold and defend the right of publishers, to publish and distribute the works of the mind in complete freedom, provided that in so doing they respect all legal rights attached to these works within their own countries and internationally. It is the duty of the Association to oppose steadfastly any attempt or threat to restrict that freedom.
- To promote and protect by all lawful means the principles of copyright on which depend the encouragement of authorship, publishing and dissemination of creative works and to defend copyright against all infringements which may restrict the rights of authors and publishers.
- To overcome illiteracy, the lack of books and of other educational materials.
- To promote and represent publishing as a cultural sector and a creative industry.

IPA's Activities

IPA aims to serve its members and to achieve its goals through the following activities:

- IPA liaises with international organisations and lobbies them when new international treaties or other legal instruments are being shaped. To that effect, IPA has official consultative status with United Nations organisations including the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU). IPA also sets up regular meetings with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other international organisations.
- IPA assists its national member organisations when national laws that affect publishers, in particular copyright laws, are reviewed or amended. IPA provides legal advice or participates in the lobbying of national governments or regional associations in cooperation with the relevant member organisation.
- IPA monitors cases of violations of freedom of expression or the freedom to publish and intervenes in the case of prosecution and persecution of publishers and authors worldwide.
- IPA has developed an extensive network of internationally active non-governmental organisations (NGOs). These include international newspaper, periodical, and music publishers, librarians, collecting societies and organisations representing disabled persons. In the area of Freedom to Publish, excellent working relationships have developed with other organisations active in the protection of freedom of speech, including NGOs (International PEN, its Writers In Prison Committee, the World Association of Newspapers...), and intergovernmental organisations (United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union ...). IPA joined the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), the global freedom of expression network, in June 2004.
- IPA awards an annual freedom to publish prize, the IPA Freedom Prize, for exemplary courage in upholding freedom of expression and freedom to publish.
- IPA promotes the development of international standards important to the publishing industry. It represents the publishing community on the board of the International ISBN Agency. It is a founding member of the International DOI Foundation and monitors other standards developments. IPA is a board member of the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO).
- IPA provides its members with regular information services and advices on publishing-related developments around the world.

- IPA promotes and monitors the ratification and enforcement of the UNESCO Florence Agreement on the Importation of Educational, scientific and cultural materials and its additional Protocol.
- IPA collaborates with UNESCO to promote World Book Day and assists in selecting the World Book Capital City each year.

IPA Membership

Each country is represented through its national publishers' association(s). Only national publishers' organisations which subscribe to the aims as set out in the statutes of the IPA are eligible for Regular Membership provided they are fully representative of the publishers based in their country. Individual publishing companies are generally not accepted as Regular Members but may become Affiliate Members in exceptional circumstances, e.g. where they are based in a country without an IPA member association.

Current membership includes national publishers' organisations in the following countries:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Association members include: the International Confederation of Music Publishers (ICMP/CIEM), the International Association of Scientific Technical and Medical Publishers (STM), the International Federation of Scholarly Publishers (IFSP), the Grupo Interamericano de Editores (GIE), the Federation of European Publishers (FEP/FEE), the Arab Publishers' Union (APU), the Asia-Pacific Publishers' Association (APPA), and the African Publishers' Network (APNET).

IPA Structure

The International Publishers' Association is administered by the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat under the guidance of the President.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme body of the association. It consists of one or two delegates per country. These delegates are nominated by and represent their national publishers' associations. IPA's Statutes guarantee a minimum involvement of practising publishers in the work of the General Assembly. The General Assembly meets at least once a year, usually during the Frankfurt Book Fair. Its main task is to formulate the policy of the association. It also adopts the budget, elects members of the Executive Committee as well as the President.

The President

The President of the IPA formally represents IPA. S/He presides at meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. The President is elected for a period of two years.

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee oversees IPA's operational activities. It comprises some 22 active publishers or trade association representatives who represent IPA's national members; IPA's Statutes guarantee that the majority of Executive Committee members are practising publishers. IPA's Associate Members (regional and specialist publishers' associations) also attend meetings of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee oversees the implementation of IPA's policies, and the activities of the working committees, namely the copyright committee and the freedom to publish committee.

The Secretariat

The IPA Secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland. IPA Staff consists of the Secretary General, a Legal Counsel, a Director "Freedom to Publish", and an Office Manager. The Secretary General is the spokesperson for the IPA at international meetings. S/He ensures a regular liaison with international organisations, member associations and the world publishing community. The Secretary General is assisted by a Treasurer who attends Executive Committee meetings.



IPA Congresses

IPA hosts, together with a local publishers' association, one major international congress every four years. Congresses aim to offer a platform for full and open discussion among publishers from all over the world on basic industry problems and challenges. The founding Congress was held in Paris in 1896. The 28th IPA Congress is planned for 12-15 May 2008 in Seoul, Korea (www.ipa2008seoul.org).

IPA Copyright Symposia

IPA also hosts Symposia focusing on copyright every four years. The first Copyright Symposium was held in Heidelberg in 1986, marking the 100th Anniversary of the Berne Copyright Convention. The most recent Symposium took place in Montreal in April 2006.

Overview

IPA Congresses and Symposia are scheduled so as to ensure that there is one major event every two years, enabling publishers from all over the world to exchange ideas and discuss important issues affecting their industry on a regular basis.

IPA Congresses	IPA Copyright Symposia
1896 Paris	1986 Heidelberg
1897 Brussels	1990 Paris
1899 London	1994 Turin
1901 Leipzig	1998 Tokyo
1906 Milan	2002 Accra
1908 Madrid	2006 Montreal
1910 Amsterdam	
1913 Budapest	
1931 Paris	
1933 Brussels	
1936 London	
1938 Leipzig	
1954 Zurich	
1956 Florence	
1959 Vienna	
1962 Barcelona	
1965 Washington D.C.	
1968 Amsterdam	
1972 Paris	
1976 Kyoto/Tokyo	
1980 Stockholm	
1984 Mexico City	
1988 London	
1992 New Delhi	
1996 Barcelona	
2000 Buenos Aires	
2004 Berlin	
2008 Seoul	

The IPA Freedom Prize

IPA awards a freedom to publish prize. The “IPA Freedom Prize”, awarded annually, is intended to honour a person (and/or an organisation) that has made a notable contribution to the defence and promotion of freedom to publish anywhere in the world. The prize-winner receives the sum of 5'000 CHF.

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