

“The Future of Publishing Depends on Copyright”  
Herman P. Spruijt, President IPA

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure here welcome you here today and to talk about the IPA International Copyright Symposium.

We would like to thank or co-hosts, the Arab Publishers Association and the Emirati Publishers Association as well as our local organisers ADACH and KITAB. Thank you for having us here!

Tomorrow we will have more than 270 participants from 53 countries gathering to talk about copyright and publishing issues. They come from throughout the world and to our great pleasure there is an excellent turn up from publishers from the Arab World.

More than ever, the future of publishing is linked to the future copyright policy. Will E-Books provide new channels of distribution and create a great new Arab publishing market? On the Internet copying and distribution are fast and simple. Publishers in particular in the academic field have recognised the benefits of these new global networks and have spearheaded digital innovation. Can copyright policies be adapted to protect publishers in this new environment? Can we turn the Internet, the place of greatest piracy and of great publishing innovation, into a safer, fairer and healthier digital marketplace? At the same time, how can we grow publishing in the Arab region and the UAE?”

Publishing in the Middle East is promising. The Arab publishing industries could grow fourfold to fulfil their market potential \*). However, policy makers must get their copyright policies right to support their local publishing industries. We have come to Abu Dhabi to support our new affiliate member, the Emirati Publishers Association, and to witness the strong commitment of Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates who in many ways are showing exemplary support for publishing in their country.”

We are here to listen, to share and to learn

IPA looks forward to exciting debates that will boost insight into successful public policies that can support local publishing.

Thank you

\*) ca. 400 million inhabitants in the Arab World; Output 1.5% of the global output; Could be 6%...