

Speech Closing Ceremony IPA 7th Copyright Symposium Abu Dhabi

Herman P. Spruijt, president

Ladies and gentlemen,

The opening session yesterday seems a long time ago... A lot has happened since.

Ms Ahdaf Soueif from Egypt reminded us that we have only limited time and live in a limited space. But books allow us to expand both life to 'live' simultaneous lives and to be in other places.

During this copyright symposium we also lived a bit outside our own time and space, experiencing views and opinions of others, from other cultures and countries.

The turning up of so many delegates from all over the world shows the sincere interest in Intellectual Property and Copyright, also in this geographic area: the Arab world.

The invitation of ADACH and the Arab Publishers Association to have our 7th Copyright Conference here was a first sign. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating: more than 270 delegates from 53 countries showed a sincere interest in IPA and copyright.

Apart from copyright, several themes came back again: digital transformation, translations and territoriality, piracy in print and digital formats, increasing cooperation between developed book markets, mainly in the western world, and developing book markets towards global markets.

And of course that, as I mentioned in my opening address that copyright is indeed dynamic, constantly influenced by technology, business opportunities and cultural values in society.

Marybeth Peters and others said it clearly: the interpretation of copyright notions will be, and actually are, changed with or without a Google Settlement. But Christine de Mazières also showed at the other side that the Principles of Copyright can be protected if Society supports these notions, like obviously is the case in France.

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May I now give the floor to our hosts here in Abu Dhabi. It is a honour to introduce to you His Excellency Mr Jumaa Al Qubaisi on behalf of His Excellency Mohammed Khalaf Al Mazrouei, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, ADACH.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yah, what to say after such an address?

The opening and closure session of IPA's Conferences and Congresses we always try to have an author speaking: to remember ourselves why we are in publishing and value copyright beyond the business case.

So, thank you Dr Nafisi for sharing with us what drives you and other authors: 'curiosity, sharing emotions and experiences'. Questioning yourself and forcing the reader to question him/herself and 'the world'.

Reassuring also that works of imagination ('the alternative eyes') need the protection of the 'droit d'auteur' and the support of freedom of expression and freedom to publish.

Thank you very much indeed!

The closing session is also the place to do the "Thank You's".

And there are many people and organisations I would like to express our thanks to:

H.H. Sheikh Sultan Bin Tahnoon al Nahyan

H.E. Dr Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh

H.E. Mohamed Khalaf Al Mazrouei

H.E. Jumaa Al Quabaisi.

And a special thank-you to Sheikha Bodour Al Qasimi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Emirates Publishers Association, now 'one of us' as an affiliate member of IPA.

Of course I would like to thank

- . ADACH, the Abu Dhabi Authority of Culture and Heritage for hosting, supporting and co-organising this event,
- . the staff of KITAB, the Secretariat of IPA and the Programme Committee,
- . the translators and all behind the scenes, invisible but very active indeed until this last moment,
- . all speakers and chairs.

And last but not least Jens Bammel in his capacity of 'Master of Ceremony' and responsible for this conference as Secretary General of the International Publishers Association in Geneva.

We are coming to a closure of this 7th Copyright Conference of the International Publishers Association in Abu Dhabi. The last days we listened to a lot of presentations, case studies and lessons to be learned: all *about* publishing. Tomorrow we will be again in the active-day-to-day world. IPA's Copyright Committee will meet, there is the IFRRO-WIPO conference and of course the opening of the 13th Abu Dhabi Book Fair.

Thank you for supporting IPA, thank you for coming to Abu Dhabi, thank you for attending this Copyright Conference. Enjoy the fare-well dinner tonight and have a safe trip home!

Thank you.