

## 1. General Information

The Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) and Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association (MWJA), under the auspices of Ministry of Information (MOI) will co-organize the National Workshop for the Copyright Awareness and the Production and Utilization of the Myanmar Version of “Asian Copyright Handbook” from 7 to 9 September 2005, in Yangon, Myanmar, in cooperation with Japan Copyright Office (JCO) of the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

### 1. Background

Books are above all works of the mind, creativity and culture of people living everywhere, contributing to the enrichment of intangible heritage and intellectual properties in the region. Copyright, which protects rights of authors, illustrators and other creators by providing a legal framework, plays a crucial role in promoting their activities. It is considered that, in many countries in Asia, the importance of protecting copyright and providing basic knowledge about its functions is not fully recognized, and the interpretation of what copyright means varies greatly from country to country. There are still many countries which do not have sufficient copyright legislation to work effectively with foreign countries within the framework of international standards.

ACCU, since its inception in 1971, has been promoting awareness building on copyright among publishers and creators in Asia and the Pacific through training programmes and by providing the latest information through magazines and websites. Under these circumstances, ACCU and JCO produced a handbook titled “Asian Copyright Handbook” in English in 2004 for those engaged in book production such as writers, illustrators, editors and publishers in Asia, to disseminate basic information about copyright. Furthermore, a series of workshops is also planned in several Asian countries to produce vernacular versions of the handbook and to plan a scheme for their dissemination and utilization.

Myanmar has been traditionally generous with a charitable outlook in the sharing and dissemination of knowledge to the public. As a British colony, Myanmar found itself under the British Legal system from 1886, and hence the Burma Copyright Act of 1911 remained in force until 1948. The years that followed national independence saw only slight modifications to the erstwhile outmoded Act. Having been a member of WTO since 1994, and WIPO since 2001, Myanmar needs to recognize and respect the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights of each of the member states as well as within its own borders. The idea of copyright is still not well understood by the society, so now it is essential to promote copyright awareness with its intellectual property implications. At the same time Myanmar is on the verge of adopting IP laws in the country for integration with other international bodies in this field of activity.

### 2. Objectives

In order to promote better understanding of the concept of copyright through lectures and the handbook among the people engaged in publishing activities as well as in related fields in Myanmar, the workshop aims:

- 1) To promote copyright awareness to all concerned in Myanmar;
- 2) To share information about the current situation and problems regarding copyright protection in Myanmar;
- 3) To share information about the current situation and problems regarding copyright protection in countries in Asia;
- 4) To introduce and promote better understanding of the handbook by reviewing a draft Myanmar version and to identify points and sections where more explanation would be necessary for the handbook to be useful in Myanmar;
- 5) To draft additional explanation for the points and sections identified above, which will be appended as a supplement to the Myanmar version of the handbook, and

- 6) To develop an action plan, including an activity schedule and responsible organizations, for compilation, publication, distribution and utilization of the handbook in Myanmar;

### 3. Date and Venue

Date: 7 to 9 September 2005 (three days)

Venue: Traders Hotel Yangon, 223, Sule Pagoda Road, G.P.O. Box 888, Yangon, Myanmar

Tel: (95-1)242-828, Fax: (95-1)242-800

### 4. Participants (A list of names will be separately prepared.)

- 1) Participants: (approximately 50-60 persons)
  - Writers, editors, translators and publishers
  - Experts and administrators from organizations concerned such as:
    - Myanmar Copyright Office
    - Supreme Court
    - Attorney General's Office
    - Science and Technology Ministry
    - Trade and Commerce Ministry
    - Information and PR Department
    - Printing and Publishing Enterprise
    - Academy of Arts and Sciences
    - Music Association
    - Film Association
    - Fine Arts Association
    - Printers and Publishers Association
- 2) Resource Persons:
  - UNESCO
  - Other national and international experts
- 3) Organizers
  - ACCU
  - Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association  
(Under the auspices of Ministry of Information)
- 4) Cooperating Bodies
  - Bunkacho (Agency for Cultural Affairs)
- 5) Observers (to be announced)

### 5. Preparations by Participants

- 1) Each participant is requested to review a draft Myanmar version of the "Asian Copyright Handbook", to prepare to share in the workshop points and sections where more explanation would be necessary for the

handbook to be useful in Myanmar, as well as ideas for effective distribution and better utilization of the handbook. The draft Myanmar version will be provided to each participant by 10 August 2005.

- 2) Each participant is to answer the questionnaire prepared by the Myanmar organizer for mapping out local problems and issues regarding copyright. Submission is requested before the 10 August 2005.
- 3) Each participant is required to contribute his/her suggestions on local terms based on the distributed provisional list.

### 6. Working Languages

English, Japanese and Myanmar (Interpretation will be available between Myanmar and English and between Myanmar and Japanese)

### 7. Financial Arrangements

- 1) Travel:
  - MWJA will bear travel expenses for participants and resource persons from Myanmar according to its regulations.
  - ACCU will bear travel expenses for resource persons from abroad according to its regulations.
- 2) Board and Lodging:
  - MWJA will bear costs of board and lodging including room charges, meals and other miscellaneous costs for participants and resource persons from Myanmar according to its regulations.
  - ACCU will bear costs of board and lodging including room charges, meals and other miscellaneous costs for resource persons from abroad according to its regulations.

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## 2. Workshop Programme

### 7 September 2005 (Day 1)

#### **Copyright in Myanmar and International Framework**

- 8:30-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-9:30 Opening ceremony  
Addresses by:  
- HE Brig-General Aung Thein, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information  
- Mr. NAKANISHI Koji, Director-General, Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)  
- U Hla Myaing, Chairman, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association  
- Mr. TANAKA Kentaro, Deputy Director, International Affairs Division, Japan Copyright Office, Agency for Cultural Affairs
- 9:30-10:00 Introduction of Experts and Organizers  
Group photo and coffee break
- 10:00-11:00 ACCU Presentation “ACCU Activities and Workshop Orientation” by Ms. Ohnuki Misako, Director of Culture Div., ACCU
- 11:00-12:00 Lecture I “Copyright for Creators and Copyright in Asian Countries”  
Ms. Caroline Morgan, General Manager of Corporate Services Division and Company Secretary, Copyright Agency Limited, Australia  
Q&A session
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch break
- 13:30-14:30 Lecture II “Copyright in Myanmar since 1911”  
U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Director, Attorney General’s Office  
Q&A session
- 14:30-15:30 Lecture III “Copyright Business Practices of Japanese Publishers (tentative)”  
Mr. DAIKI Tetsuro, Director, Intellectual Property Management

- Section, Shogakukan Publishing Inc., Japan  
Q&A session  
Coffee break
- 15:30-16:00 Lecture IV “Problems and Prospects of Copyright for Myanmar Today”  
U Kyaw Zaw Naing, Ex-lecturer in Law Department, University of Yangon
- 16:00-17:00 Q&A session
- 18:30-20:00 Welcome Reception hosted by ACCU Director-General (Traders Hotel)

### 8 September 2005 (Day 2)

#### **Group Work Session for Production and Utilization of “Asian Copyright Handbook” and Promotion of Copyright Awareness**

- 9:15-9:30 Orientation for Group Work 1 (Plenary)
- 9:30-10:30 Group Work 1 for preparing Myanmar version of “Asian Copyright Handbook”
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00-12:30 Continued Group Work 1
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00-15:30 Continued Group Work 1
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00-17:30 Continued Group Work 1

**9 September 2005 (Day 3)****Group Work Session for Production and Utilization of “Asian Copyright Handbook” and Promotion of Copyright Awareness**

- 9:15-10:00 Report of Group Work 1 Results  
(Plenary)
- 10:00-10:30 Orientation for Group Work 2
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00-12:30 Group Work 2
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00-15:00 Report of Group Work 2 Results  
(Plenary)
- 15:00-16:00 Concluding Session
- 16:00-16:30 Closing Ceremony  
Closing remarks by  
- Ohnuki Misako, ACCU  
- Myanmar Writers and Journalists  
Association
- 18:00- Farewell Party hosted by Myanmar  
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## 4. Opening Speeches

### Opening Address by Brig-General Aung Thein, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen

I am glad to have the opportunity to meet and greet all the invited guests, organizers and officials from ACCU, resource persons and participants. And I would like to wish you all good health and success at the workshop that is going to be held afterwards.

As a consequence of switching to the market-oriented economy, there arises an opportunity to sell books in foreign languages published in Myanmar at the international book markets. But certain difficulties are encountered as the books published in Myanmar do not bear ISBN and ISSN numbers.

Only when we have those numbers then would we be able to order books or register them easily in international book markets. In order for Myanmar to use the ISBN and ISSN numbers, it needs to have copyright in the first place.

Therefore, international as well as Myanmar resource persons are going to give some presentations on copyrights at the three-day workshop that is starting today. The participants will discuss the copyright issues as well as the content of the Asian Copyright Handbook at the workshop, which is intended to be published in Myanmar in the interest of local authors, publishers and artists. I have learned that the awareness-raising workshop participated by international experts was jointly organized by Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO and Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association.

ACCU, an organization under UNESCO, has been cooperating with Myanmar over literary matters since 1973. The fields of cooperation range from book publishing trainings to joint publication of books and ACCU has been assisting in dissemination of literary and cultural

information until now. Moreover, it is noted that ACCU has established contacts with the Ministry of Information and has been actively contributing to Myanmar Education Research Bureau of the Ministry of Education in producing textbooks for literacy and acceleration of reading, and in producing teaching aids.

One objective of this workshop is to review the Asian Copyright Handbook, published by ACCU, to discuss how it should be adapted to Myanmar's situations, what is to be included in it, and to develop and publish the Myanmar version of the handbook.

Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and ACCU have jointly organized the event. The invited guests and participants include academics and experts, representatives from cultural and social organizations, representatives from government departments related to literary and publishing industry, and a number of publishers, authors and editors.

I sincerely hope that the participants would discuss issues that would be valuable to all Myanmar authors and creators, as well as those that would be in accordance with the basic principles of the international intellectual property rights.

The Ministry of Information of the State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar is the ministry that has direct relationship with the literary, motion picture and music associations of Myanmar.

These non-profit organizations have the capacity to produce benefits such as education, entertainment and enlightenment. The creative power of the professionals in these organizations is the cultural power and reliable force that would contribute to the growth of national interests in any country.

I am hoping that that the workshop starting today

would be working on the creation, protection, development and enrichment of intellectual properties in Myanmar on a par with the international standards. And I wish all of you success in making this workshop an effective and fruitful accomplishment in the best interests of the nation.

I would like to extend my heart-felt thanks to ACCU that has performed in collaboration with Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association in preserving the cultural heritage of various nationals of Myanmar in terms of intellectual properties.

Thank you.

**Opening Address by Mr. NAKANISHI Koji  
Director-General, Asia/Pacific Cultural  
Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)**

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to welcome all of you at the inauguration of the National workshop for the Copyright Awareness and the Protection and Utilization of the Myanmar Version of “Asian Copyright Handbook”, held in this most beautiful city of Yangon.

First I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the co-organizers, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and the Myanmar Ministry of Information, from whom we have received tremendous support in actualizing this very important initiative. My thanks also should go to international resource persons, Ms Morgan from Australia, and Mr. Daiki from Japan, for their forthcoming energetic and informational support to this Workshop.

As you know, copyright serves as a foundation for cultural development. In the interest of fostering copyright protection, it is imperative that each and every citizen have an awareness and deep understanding of copyright issues. I understand Myanmar has been traditionally generous with a charitable outlook in the sharing and dissemination of knowledge to the public. Free flow of information is of great value. However, the development of technology to

facilitate rapid flow of information is enabling easy transfer of intellectual property internationally, not to mention locally. With such easy access and ability to copy by anyone, anytime, lack of respect for originality will eventually dampen creators’ enthusiasm to make new creations and to contribute to developing culture. Thus, our society has shifted toward the situation where every one of us must be involved in copyright.

ACCU, since its inception in 1971, has been promoting copyright to publishers, writers, and other personnel concerned in the field of book development in Asia and the Pacific countries through our training programmes and provision of information by publications and website.

To disseminate basic knowledge about copyright widely to the public, ACCU and the Japan Copyright Office, produced a book entitled “Asian Copyright Handbook” in 2004, which expounds the universal philosophy of copyright. With financial and technical support from Japan Copyright Office, a series of workshops is planned in several Asian countries to produce vernacular versions of the Handbook and to make a framework for their dissemination and utilization.

I am very impressed to know that your copyright law was enacted nearly 100 years ago. And I am also very happy to know that our initiative to disseminate copyright awareness has coincided with your plan to renew your copyright law to suit present needs.

Last June, a Viet Nam version was successfully published after the workshop held in Hanoi in March. I hope this Workshop in Yangon will emulate this successful endeavour. In the Workshop, precious inputs from resource persons will be provided to inform all the participants of the most important matters responding to the needs regarding copyright issues. Reflecting the ideas given and the other informative resources, I believe all of you gathered here will eagerly formulate comprehensive strategies to develop and utilize the Myanmar version of the Handbook.

Once again, I should like, on behalf of ACCU, to welcome all the participants who attended this meaningful Workshop, which, I believe, will bring fruitful results and an insightful exchange of ideas.

**Opening Address by U Hla Myaing, Chairman, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association (MWJA)**

I would like to greet “Mingalabar” to the Minister of Information, the Director-General of Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, Japan, the authorities concerned, the special guests, and the participants of the National Workshop present at the opening ceremony.

Today, the National Workshop for Copyright Awareness and Utilization and Production of Myanmar Version of Asian Copyright Handbook is co-conducted by the MWJA and ACCU with a view to share the knowledge on copyright.

Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association is delighted to give a cordial welcome to the officials of ACCU and the experts as the host organization. I'd like to request all the participants to take active part in the Workshop from beginning to end.

The objectives and purposes of MWJA include the development of the national literature, the adequate protection, for the rights of authors of literary works, the enhancement of publishing industries which is to be kept up with new developments, and research and training for the progress. Our association endeavors in unity to carry out the tasks in accordance with these objectives.

The Workshop in progress consists in the tasks which have been laid down according to the objectives. Therefore, our association is proud of the national Workshop as an worthwhile performance. It is also time of glory due to the fruitful cooperation of the international friends of the same purpose.

Throughout the history, Myanmar literature has been flourishing as a long tradition. Similar to other people in Asian countries, Myanmar people

have goodwill and generosity for anyone who enjoys the sensation of their creative, artistic works. Without amending the Copyright law, which was enacted in 1911 under the British colonial rule, and other related legislatures, Myanmar people tend to rely on the social practice of arbitration or mediation if there were any disputes over the rights of ownership.

In the 21st century, however, the international commercial relations have gained momentum and there also have been interrelations in all aspects, including communication, exchange of data and information and artistic sensation. Simultaneously, the time has come to distinguish commercial interests from national characteristics and thus to regard equality and amity between individual authors of creative works and among the nations. Thus, it is necessary to clarify the respective rules and obligations systematically as well as to practice the fundamental procedures indifferently. In the Asian region, there is a necessity to have the same concepts and well-linked procedures as to intellectual property, including literary works. Therefore, today's workshop is a way of carrying out the task of fulfilling the need. For this purpose, the National Workshop takes place in cooperation between MWJA and ACCU.

The National Workshop for Copyright Awareness and Utilization and Production of Myanmar Version of Asian Copyright Handbook is the second one sponsored by ACCU for the first one was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, last February. We're grateful to ACCU for their offer and grant to us.

I would like to express heartfelt thanks to the Minister of Information, Deputy Minister of information and all the participants. In conclusion, I wish all the participants success in implementing the agenda of this National Workshop.

**Opening Address by Mr. TANAKA Kentaro, Deputy Director, International Affairs Division, Japan Copyright Office (JCO), Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan**

Your Excellency Mr. Brig-General Aung Thein, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Information, Mr. Nakanishi Koji, Director-General of Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, Mr. U Hla Myaing, Chairperson of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, distinguished guests, distinguished speakers, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

I am Tanaka Kentaro, Deputy Director of International Affairs Division of Japan Copyright Office in the Agency for Cultural Affairs. It is my great honor to make an opening remark on behalf of the Japanese Government at the beginning of “National Workshop for the Copyright Awareness and the Production and Utilization of the Myanmar Version of ‘Asian Copyright Handbook’”.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the Ministry of Information and Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, receiving Japanese offer to hold this meeting here in Yangon. I also appreciate the most dedicated effort in preparation of the meeting by the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO. Without contribution and cooperation of ACCU, this meeting could not be realized.

Protection of copyright serves as a foundation for cultural advancement in a country. Supporting authors’, musicians’ and artists’ economic profit and their dignity, copyright stimulates and encourages their new creative activities. Through the good protection of the creators, the citizens of a country can enjoy their life with literature, music, art and all other forms of creation.

In the interest of fostering copyright protection, it is extremely important that every citizen has an awareness and basic understanding of copyright. It is important not only for creators but also for every ordinary people.

In view of that importance, Japanese Agency for

Cultural Affairs, for which I work, has been engaged in a variety of undertakings that are aimed at boosting the Japanese and world public’s awareness of copyright issues.

This program of creation and dissemination of “Asian Copyright Handbook” is also a part of “Strategy for Capacity Building on the Protection of Intellectual Property” based on Japanese “Intellectual Property Strategic Program” introduced by our Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro.

I am extremely happy to learn of your policy to revise your copyright law. In our knowledge-based society of 21st century, the creation and distribution of the idea will have more and more important power. At the same time the value of an idea can be easily stolen by digital technology, by world wide networks like Internet and so on. We have to continue our effort to adjust our legislation.

I sincerely hope that the workshop using “Asian Copyright Handbook” can help to cultivate awareness and basic understanding of copyright among Myanmar citizens.

To conclude my words, I would like to express my appreciation to all participants in the National Workshop. I hope all of you will be a good disseminator of copyright in this country.

Thank you for your attention.

## 5. Photographs



Group Photo (7 September 2005)



Opening Address by **Brig-General Aung Thein**,  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information, Myanmar



Opening Address by **Mr. Nakanishi Koji**,  
Director-General, ACCU, Japan



Opening Address by **U Hla Myaing**, Chairman,  
Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association  
(MWJA)



Opening Address by **Mr. Tanaka Kentaro**, Deputy  
Director, International Affairs Division, Japan  
Copyright Office (JCO), Agency for Cultural Affairs,  
Government of Japan





Resource Person: **U Khin Maung Win**  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorney General,  
Myanmar



Resource Person: **Ms. Caroline Morgan**,  
General Manager, Corporate Services Division,  
Copyright Agency Limited, Australia



Resource Person: **Mr. DAIKI Tetsuro**, Director,  
Intellectual Property Management Section,  
Shogakukan Publishing Inc, Japan



Resource Person: **U Kyaw Zaw Naing**  
Legal Advisor, Book Centre Co., Ltd., Myanmar



**Participants**



**Ms. Ohnuki Misako**,  
Director, Cultural Division, ACCU,  
Japan



Group Work: Group A



Group Work: Group B



Plenary Session



Gift from MWJA