

## Group Work

### Group Work Session 1

Topic: Problems and issues regarding copyright participants face in their everyday work and ways to solve them

Facilitator solicited written questions from the participants. Every member raised more than one question. Facilitator responded to a good number of questions instantly. Some answers came out through discussions. A total of fifty-four questions in written and oral form were submitted. Many questions were the same. A few sample questions and answers are given below:

#### Group 1

Facilitator: Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed

Rapporteur: Dr. Tapan Bagchi

Resource Persons: Ms. Caroline Morgan, Australia

Participants: Mr. Osman Gani, Mr. Md. Liakatullah, Mr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Mr. Syed Zakir Hossain, Mr. Raisuddin Khan, Mr. Pankaj Chandra Das, Mr. Sankar Kumar Das, Mr. Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan, Mr. Md. Delower Jamil, Dr. Md. Zakir Hossain, Mr. Manik Rahman, Mr. Ashrafuzzaman, Mr. Fakhrul Huda Helal, Mr. Sheikh Sadi Khan, Mr. Maruf Raihan, Ms. Nasreen Jahan, Mr. Abdul Bari-Al-Baki.

Q: In our day-to-day life we come across pirated pieces even in the school text books of our children. How can we remedy this situation?

A: Awareness about piracy should start from school level and the government should take practical steps for the purpose.

Q: Random copying of local and foreign music is seen in street shops. Is it permissible?

A: No.

Q: Should the artists sign an agreement with the publisher for their illustrations?

A: Yes, they should.

Q: Does mere friendship between a writer and a publisher protect their rights?

A: No. A written and formal agreement is necessary.

Q: Is there copyright for music used as ring-tune in mobiles?

A: Yes. There should be copyright protection for all uses including ring-tune music.

Solutions to some outstanding problems were also attempted after discussion, and are summarised as follows:

1. Copyright awareness may be raised by publicity through mass media, meetings, seminars and workshops.
2. Seminars for writers and publishers may be organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to make them aware of copyright.
3. So far the government has taken no significant steps against piracy. We hope the government will take appropriate steps very soon.
4. Complaints of text book piracy should be investigated by the government and appropriate steps should be taken to remedy the same.
5. Copyright for music used in ring-tunes of mobile phones has to be protected.
6. Time limit by the author may be determined for publication and broadcast of his/her works.
7. Like the writers, artists shall enjoy the copyright of their works and they shall also make agreement for the purpose.
8. Without prior informed consent, performance of songs from foreign countries is not ethical. Due approval should be taken.
9. The publishers should not refuse to give permission to allow translate their published works to be translated and published in another language.
10. Since an agreement is advantageous to both writers and publishers, they should not be unwilling to sign it.
11. An editor has the right to edit any manuscript, but he should obtain permission for changes in any work.
12. Friendship is no reason for not signing an agreement. Writer and publisher should sign agreements under any circumstances.

#### Group 2

Chairperson: Mr. Akhtaruzzaman Khan Kabir

Facilitator: Mr. Mofidul Hoque

Rapporteur: Mr. Ayub Syed

Interpreter: Mr. Tanbirul Haq

Resource persons: Mr. Tanaka Kentaro, Japan  
: Mr. Sukumar Das, India

Participants: Mr. Mazibar Rahman Khoka, Mr. Mazharul Islam, Mr. Ismail Hossain Bakul, Mr. Alamgir Sikder, Ms. Sharifa Bulbul, Mr. Amirul Hoque, Mr. Abdul Mannan, Dr. Md. Zakir Hossain, Mr. Mostafa Kamal, Ms. Rita Bhowmik, Mr. Joydul Hossain, Mr. Tariq Mosaddique Barkatullah, Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman, Mr. Md. Moniruzzaman, Mr. Mokhter Ahmad, Mr. Munirul Islam.

Q: Writers and publishers often misunderstand each other regarding copyright. How can we remove this

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misunderstanding?

A: A written contract between them and its legal application may solve most of the misunderstandings.

Q: Copyright violations in case of books, music and CDs are occurring quite often. How can we stop them?

A: Some exemplary punishments by fast courts or mobile courts may change the situation.

Q: Folk singers like Bauls are not getting their rightful share. How can we improve the situation?

A: Enactment of an appropriate law and its enforcement may protect their rights.

Q: How can we popularise the concept of copyright?

A: Accelerating campaign in easy language and attractive pictorial designs may prove effective in this regard.

Ways of solving some outstanding problems were identified. The following recommendations were given:

1. The government should set up a copyright office in every district since people throughout the country are not aware of copyright.
2. Along with the huge circulation of the Asian Copyright Handbook, setting up of copyright offices at district level and holding of seminars and workshops may be initiated.
3. Awareness has to be increased regarding written contracts between writers and publishers.
4. All suspicions regarding print-runs have to be eliminated by signing a formal agreement in order to ensure transparency.
5. The concept of copyright has to be brought to the doorsteps of right holders at grass roots level.
6. Copyright has to be ensured for musicians, writers, composers, etc.
7. Relevant clauses of copyright infringements and offences to be imposed may be appended in the book.
8. Fast courts can be introduced for speedy trials of copyright offences.
9. Bangladesh may form an organisation like CODA.
10. Regular discussion and review of law may be done by an appropriate body or agency.
11. For use of folk songs, dances and artifacts, royalty should be given to the original creator.

### Group 3

Facilitator: Dr. Niaz Zaman

Rapporteur: Mr. Farid Ahmed Dulal

Interpreter: Mr. Watanabe Hiroki

Resource Persons: Mr. Nagano Yukuo, Japan  
: Mr. Mohammad Nurul Huda

Participants: Mr. Kamalesh Kumar Das, Mr. Nishat Khan, Mr. Naser Mahmud, Ms. Sharifa Khan, Mr. Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, Mr. Farid Ahmed, Mr. Md Monirul Haq, Mr. Md Mostafizur Rahman, Mr. Kazi Nazrul Islam Bahar, Mr. Faisal Arefin, Mr. Milon Kanti Nath, Mr. Rashed Rouf, Mr. Malik Sobhan, Mr. Azimuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr. Moinuddin Chishtee, Mr. Saifullah Mahmud Dulal, Mr. Khurshid Anwar, Mr. Mr. Seikh Alauddin.

Q: Most of our writers find their publishers reluctant to make a formal contract. How can we improve it?

A: The contract is necessary for the publishers, too. They should be motivated to realize this truth.

Q: What should be the role of law-enforcing authority in preventing violation?

A: They should follow the law and find out cases of violations.

Q: We don't find a standard form for contract. Who should initiate it?

A: The publisher should take the initiative to standardise such a form in the light of existing copyright law.

Q: Do artists need to sign contracts for the payment of their illustrations?

A: They may do so on mutual consent.

Q: How can we stop fake publishers bringing out pirated version of books?

A: Such books may be identified and seized by the law enforcing authority with exemplary punishment.

Solutions were also attempted. Summary of solutions of some remarkable problems were identified as follows:

1. Increase awareness regarding agreement of author and publisher.
2. Ensure the publisher's honesty, efficiency and accountability in publication.
3. Ensure law enforcement to prevent piracy in publication.
4. Ensure a standard form of agreement. The initiative of the government is important here.
5. Ensure the payment of royalty to author and artist in the case of an illustrated form.
6. Ensure the amount of signing money and payment of minimum 15% royalty.
7. The remuneration of author and publisher should be mutually agreed upon for an illustrated book.
8. Government tax on books should be reduced to

- 5%.
9. Copyright for foreign materials should be granted at a discounted rate.
  10. Banks should recognise the necessity of paying copyright fees to foreign publishers and facilitate such payment.
  11. Increase awareness about copyright.
  12. Ensure that book pirates, especially those who use false addresses are penalised.
  13. Insert brief notice of copyright and penalties for infringement in each published book.
  14. Say NO to piracy

### Group Work Session 2

Topic: Action plan spreading copyright awareness incorporated with ways to use the Bengali version of Asian Copyright Handbook

Facilitator solicited written questions from the participants. A total of fifty questions and suggestions were submitted. Some samples are given below:

#### Group 1

Facilitator: Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed

Rapporteur: Dr. Tapan Bagchi

Resource Persons: Ms. Caroline Morgan, Australia

Participants: Mr. Osman Gani, Mr. Md. Liakatullah, Mr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Mr. Syed Zakir Hossain, Mr. Raisuddin Khan, Mr. Pankaj Chandra Das, Mr. Sankar Kumar Das, Mr. Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan, Mr. Md. Delower Jamil, Dr. Md. Zakir Hossain, Mr. Manik Rahman, Mr. Ashrafuzzaman, Mr. Fakhrul Huda Helal, Mr. Sheikh Sadi Khan, Mr. Maruf Raihan, Ms. Nasreen Jahan, Mr. Abdul Bari-Al-Baki.

Q: What about making documentary films for awareness raising?

A: It's a very good idea. TV talk shows, promotional radio jingles, posters may also play a positive role.

Q: What should be the role of news papers?

A: Newspapers may popularise the concept by printing relevant articles and news items at regular intervals.

Q: Do you have a plan to publish a handy pocketbook of Asian Copyright Handbook?

A: It's a unique idea. The Copyright Office should try to do it.

Q: How can we check illegal photocopying here and there?

A: Moral aspects of copyright should be popularised and lessons should start from early childhood on respect for the rights of others.

Q: We suggest that the Copyright Office may distribute the Bengali version of Asian Copyright Handbook through branches of Shishu Academy and Shilpakala Academy. Do you agree?

A: The Copyright Office may actively consider this proposal.

Recommended action plans were as follows:

1. Documentary films may be made and shown in Cinema Halls and TV media for awareness-raising.
2. TV talk show on copyright may be organised.
3. Promotional Radio Jingle of 10 seconds may be developed and broadcast.
4. Articles on copyright may be written and published in newspapers.
5. A handy pocket size edition of Asian Copyright Handbook may be published and distributed by the Copyright Office.
6. Posters may be printed and distributed at the Dhaka Book Fair, 2007 and other venues.
7. Awareness about copyright should be raised among school students with the message that photo-copying of a book is illegal.
8. CODA and American alliance may come forward to fund awareness raising campaign and materials needed.
9. Asian Copyright Handbook may be distributed at Upazilla libraries through branches of Shishu Academy and Silpakala Academy.
10. Adopt a slogan as Dhaka Declaration: 'Stop Piracy. Copyright is Your Right.'

#### Group 2

Chairperson: Mr. Akhtaruzzaman Khan Kabir

Facilitator: Mr. Mofidul Hoque

Rapporteur: Mr. Ayub Syed

Interpreter: Mr. Tanbirul Haq

Resource persons: Mr. Tanaka Kentaro, Japan  
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Participants: Mr. Mazibar Rahman Khoka, Mr. Mazharul Islam, Mr. Ismail Hossain Bakul, Mr. Alamgir Sikder, Ms. Sharifa Bulbul, Mr. Amirul Hoque, Mr. Abdul Mannan, Dr. Md. Zakir Hossain, Mr. Mostafa Kamal, Ms. Rita Bhowmik, Mr. Joydul Hossain, Mr. Tariq Mosaddique Barkatullah, Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman, Mr. Md. Moniruzzaman, Mr. Mokhter Ahmad, Mr. Munirul Islam.

Q: How can we distribute the Bengali version of ACH to all important writers in the country?

A: We may follow the list of writers preserved in Bangla Academy.

Q: Is there any website of Bangladesh Copyright Office?

A: No. One should be launched immediately.

Q: Can we redraft the present copyright law in easy

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language?

A: Yes. It should be updated as well.

Q: Is there any copyright journal in Bangladesh?

A: No, not as far as we know.

Q: Can we add new chapters to the Bengali version of ACH to meet the demand of Bangladesh?

A: Yes. Also, Bangladesh issues may be published in a separate handbook.

Recommended action plans were as follows:

1. Effective follow-up after the printing of Bengali ACH is necessary.
2. ACCU Website may be linked with the Community-based Information Centre.
3. Bengali versions of Handbook may be distributed to writers as per the list available in Bangla Academy.
4. The above Handbooks may also be distributed through District Shilpakala branch offices.
5. Bangladesh Copyright Website should be launched.
6. Relevant laws may be drafted and published in easy language.
7. Billboards with slogans like 'Stop Piracy' and 'Go by Copyright Law' may be set up.
8. A copyright journal may be published on a monthly basis.
9. Initiative for editing this Handbook may be taken to cater to the needs of Bangladesh.
10. This Handbook may be revised taking into consideration all relevant laws existing in the country.

### Group 3

Facilitator: Mr. Khurshid Anwar

Rapporteur: Mr. Farid Ahmed Dulal

Interpreter: Mr. Watanabe Hiroki

Resource Persons: Mr. Nagano Yukuo, Japan  
: Mr. Mohammad Nurul Huda

Participants: Mr. Kamallesh Kumar Das, Mr. Nishat Khan, Mr. Naser Mahmud, Ms. Sharifa Khan, Mr. Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, Mr. Farid Ahmed, Mr. Md Monirul Haq, Mr. Md Mostafizur Rahman, Mr. Kazi Nazrul Islam Bahar, Mr. Faisal Arefin, Mr. Milon Kanti Nath, Mr. Rashed Rouf, Mr. Malik Sobhan, Mr. Azimuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr. Moinuddin Chishtee, Mr. Saifullah Mahmud Dulal, Mr. Khurshid Anwar, Mr. Mr. Seikh Alauddin.

Q: What should be the first follow-up step?

A: To publish the Bengali version of ACH with appropriate editing.

Q: Should we distribute it free of cost?

A: Either free of cost or at a very nominal price.

Q: Should the producers/publishers print a cautionary message or a brief on their product/books about the penalties for violation of rights?

A: It should be done as far as possible.

Q: Should we organise awareness, orientation and training programmes for copyright at divisional and district levels?

A: At first we should go to divisional level.

Q: What measures can be taken to strengthen effective coordination among all agencies working in Bangladesh?

A: The government may bring all organisations under a single apex body such as BIPO (Bangladesh Intellectual Property Organization) as proposed by some of our resource persons.

Recommended action plans were as follows:

1. Ministry of Cultural Affairs will initiate the publishing of the Bengali version of Asian Copyright Handbook with necessary editing, revision and correction done by experts concerned.
2. The Ministry will also initiate distribution among institutions and persons concerned free of cost or at a nominal price.
3. District Administration can be engaged in this regard. The District Administration may get cooperation from Information Office, Shilpakala Academy and Shishu Academy.
4. The publicity campaign can be run through the press and electronic media.
5. For raising public awareness on copyright, seminars, workshops and discussions can be organised from national level to upazila levels.
6. The publicity campaign can be implemented through the cooperation of WIPO, ACCU, UNESCO and Bangladesh Book Publishers' Association.
7. For implementation of plans all Ministries concerned, Publishers' Association, Bangladesh Writers' Club, Software Association, Film Archives and all other concerned in this connection should work together.
8. Monitoring system has to be incorporated for implementing the plans.
9. It has to be made mandatory to print a brief on penalties for violating copyright laws on the back covers of every book/booklet, CD, Cassette etc.
10. The guideline has to be approved by the appropriate authority in the administration for distribution countrywide.
11. The government of Bangladesh may form BIPO (Bangladesh Intellectual Property Organization).