

## **Asian Pacific Copyright Association (APCA)**

The objective of the Asian Pacific Copyright Association (APCA) is to provide a forum for discussion on copyright and related rights and to promote, through legislation, dialogue and education, the maintenance and development of copyright and related rights in the Asian Pacific Region (the region to the west of the International Date Line including Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, Japan, Korean Peninsula, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pacific Island States (e.g. Fiji), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam). APCA seeks to serve the peoples of this Region in relation to copyright and related rights.

All countries in the Asian Pacific Region have copyright laws, with varying provisions. Authors of copyright works, actors, musicians and other performers, sound recording and film producers, broadcasters and others who communicate protected material to the public in the Region face the problems posed by modern means of communication in general and the widespread use of the internet in particular.

The countries and territories of the Asian Pacific Region include a large percentage of the world's population, and are bound by economic and other ties: they also have important cultural traditions and authors, artists and musicians of world renown. The copyright laws of the Region represent or reflect the three main traditions of copyright legislation: the common law system (e.g. in Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore), the civil law system (e.g. in Cambodia, Russia, Vietnam), and systems combining features of the common law and civil law systems, and additional features (e.g. in the People's Republic of China and Japan).

Modern means of communication, including satellite broadcasting and the internet, necessitate an increased consideration of international influences on copyright matters; national copyright laws need to be assessed in the light of international, regional and domestic considerations. In addition, the advent of the internet and the facilities it offers render it essential to ensure that material protected by copyright and related rights is accessible by the public on fair and reasonable terms, and in a way that guarantees on the one hand the preservation of the interests of right owners and on the other the recognition of the public interest in ready access to such material.

### **Establishment**

APCA was established on 15 November 2011 and currently has members in Australia, People's Republic of China, Fiji, Japan, Republic of Korea, Nauru, New Zealand, Russia and Vanuatu. Membership applications are expected from other countries in the Region. There are National Groups of APCA in a number of countries and territories where there are APCA members.

### **Activities**

APCA seeks to contribute to the work of the World Intellectual Property Organisation, the World Trade Organisation, UNESCO, and other bodies active in the field of copyright and related rights. APCA puts forward the views of its members to ensure that the needs and concerns of the people of the Asian Pacific Region in this field are taken into consideration generally and in international and regional discussions and negotiations concerning such rights.

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### **Membership of APCA**

Membership of APCA is open to individuals, including academics and practitioners, and to professional institutions, organisations representing authors, performers, film producers and sound recording producers, broadcasters and others communicating to the public works, performances and film recordings and sound recordings, and to representatives of the public interest. Applications for membership may be made by

- (i) an individual who is a citizen of, or a resident in a country or territory located in the Asian Pacific Region,  
**or**
- (ii) an institution, organisation, company or firm located in such country or territory.

Associate membership is open to persons who support the objective of APCA but who do not fulfil these criteria.

For further information concerning APCA and for membership application please contact the undersigned.

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