**CHAIRPERSON REPORT**

3rd ABU Intellectual Property and Legal Committee

March 11th and March 12th, 2019 (Colombo, Sri Lanka)

Since the last ABU Intellectual Property and Legal Committee (IPLC) held in Tehran, Iran, the ABU Legal Division has undertaken the following activities :

1. **Broadcasters Treaty**

The ABU Legal Division alongwith Dr. Yan Bo, the ABU IPLC Chairperson, repsentatives from NHK (Japan), KBS (Korea), TRT (Turkey) and the sister broadcasting unions actively participated and lobbied with governments at the 36th and 37th Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights held in May and November, 2018 respectively. Detailed report on the Broadcasters Treaty to follow in coming sessions.

1. **Capacity Building Initiatives**
2. **Webinar on Copyright Issues**

The ABU Legal Divison has been regularly conducting online webinars on copyright and legal issues for its members. Since the last IPLC, seven of such webinars tailored to the needs of the members have been conducted. The most important webinar conduced since the last IPLC is the “Webinar Series for Pacific Countries” held from December – January 2019.

1. **Workshops and Training Sessions on Copyright Issues**

The ABU Legal Divison has been regularly conducting workshops and training sessions on copyright issues in conjuction with other ABU departments. Some of the major training sessions conducted since the last IPLC are :

1. Copyright Workshop for RTSH Albania

Ms. Seemantani Sharma conducted a two-day copyright workshop for RTSH Albania (ABU Associate member) on October 22nd and October 23rd, 2018. The two-day copyright workshop imparted training on the fundamentals of copyright law, copyright issues related to digital content and on the international framework related to broadcasters rights. The workshop was attended by RTSH’s script writers, documentary producers,editors and lawyers.

1. Two-Day Master Class for Arab States of Broadcasting Union (ASBU)

Ms. Seemantani Sharma conducted a two-day master class in collaboration with Ms. Islem Hamza, a lawyer from Tunisia on “Copyright in Digital Era” for the ASBU Academy on October 16th and October 17th, 2018. Ms. Seemantani specifically spoke about fundamentals of copyright law, copyright issues related to digital content and broadcasters rights in the Asia-Pacific region. The two-day session was attended by various professionals representing ASBU such as lawyers, editors and producers.

1. **Contractual Work**

The ABU Legal Divison regularly handles IP rights issues in content production and acquisition agreements. Since the last IPLC, the Legal Division has been deeply involved in the negotiation and acquistion of the sports rights for the 2018-2020 Olympic Events for the Indian sub-continent, the 2019 IPC Swimming World Championships and the 2019 Winter Universaide apart from others.

The ABU Legal Division is also heavily involved in drafting co-production agreements for the ABU News and Programming Department.

1. **Publications**
2. **Tri-weekly E-Bulletin**

The ABU Legal Division has been releasing a fortnightly (now tri-weekly) e-bulletin on contempoaray legal developments in the Asia-Pacific region. The E- Bulletin is currently in its third year and is available on ABU’s website. Members are encouraged to contribute.

1. **Articles in Law Journals, Magazine and Popular Media**

The ABU Legal Division has been regularly contributing articles on various legal topics related to broadcasting. Since the last IPLC in Tehran, the Legal Division has published the followed publications :

Law Review Articles

1. Online Piracy of Live Sports Telecasts in India, 28(2) MARQ. SPORTS L. REV. 433 (2018).

1. TRIPS, Technological Developments and the Rights of Broadcasting Organizations: Deliberate Ignorance or Political Stalemate? 24 (4) RICH. J.L. & TECH., no. 3, 2018, available at <https://jolt.richmond.edu/trips-technological-developments-and-the-rights-of-broadcasting-organizations-political-stalemate-or-deliberate-ignorance/>.

* Shorter Piece Republished, VAND. J. ENT. & TECH. L. BLOG, JETLaw, Feb. 20, 2018 (<http://www.jetlaw.org/2018/02/20/guest-post-trips-technological-developments-and-the-rights-of-broadcasting-organizations-political-stalemate-or-deliberate-ignorance/>).

Articles in Magazines and Popular Media

1. India Approves Accession to WIPO Internet Treaties, THE WIRE, July 12, 2018 available at <https://thewire.in/diplomacy/india-approves-accession-to-wipo-internet-treaties>.
2. Why Hasn’t India Endorsed the Broadcasters Treaty Yet? THE WIRE, July 4, 2018 available at <https://thewire.in/law/why-hasnt-india-endorsed-the-broadcasters-treaty-yet>.
3. Signal Piracy Posing Threat to Asia-Pacific Broadcasters, THE WIPO MAGAZINE, Issue 1, 2018 (February) (peer-reviewed) available at <https://www.wipo.int/wipo_magazine/en/2018/01/article_0002.html>.