

PRESS RELEASE

Copyright and Related Rights-Samoa Perspective

Apia, Samoa: 24 April 2008 –Raising awareness of copyright and related rights is the aim of a high-level seminar taking place in Samoa on 24 and 25 April 2008. Organised by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in collaboration with Samoa’s Ministry Commerce, Industry and Labour (MCIL).

“This is an extremely important seminar for Samoa in this area”, says Ms Margaret Fruean of MCIL. “One of the nine topics presented looks at Developing a Viable Copyright System for Samoa. It is our aim that all topics presented will explain and clarify many of the different levels of ‘rights’ in a Copyright System. The outcome should help Samoa’s developmental strategy especially in our economic, social and cultural sectors.”

Mr Victor Vazquez Lopez, Senior Legal Counsellor from WIPO Headquarters will accompany international speakers headed by Prof. Shinichi Uehara of Kokushikan University, Japan. Also involved will be local speakers nominated by MCIL.

“We are very happy regarding the timing of this seminar for two reasons. Firstly, that a senior WIPO official, Mr Lopez, is here in Samoa as we celebrate World Intellectual Property Rights Day on 26 April”, says Ms Fruean. “But it also marks the official launch of MCIL’s website on 25 April where much of Samoa’s copyright information and latest updates will be found.”

TOPICS presented: (1) The Role of WIPO in the Copyright Field; (2) Overview of International Protection of Copyright and Related Rights; (3) Economic, Social and Cultural Benefits of Protecting Copyright and Related Rights; (4) Impacts of New Technologies on the Protection of Copyright and Related Rights; (5) Exceptions and Limitations to Rights and Other Flexibilities in the Copyright System; (6) Protection of Copyright and Related Rights in Samoa; (7) Promoting Creativity: The Role of Government and the Local Creative Community; Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights; (8) WIPO’s Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Programs and Activities; (9) Developing a Viable Copyright System for Samoa.

The seminar preparations are also assisted by Japan’s Copyright Office (JCO).

Information:

Title: WIPO National Seminar on Copyright and Related Rights
Venue: Apia, Samoa
Date: 24 & 25 April 2008
Speakers: Prof. Shinichi Uehara, Kokushikan University, Japan
Mr Matthew Fackrell, Deputy Director, International Relations, Australian Performing Right Association (APRA), Australia.