Copyright User Rights Track

The Copyright User Rights session identified the following priority forums and research needs for the upcoming year's work:

Policy forums:

1. *Countries already revising their laws.* These include countries needing to implement trade agreement obligations, or countries that already have a process in place to reform copyright laws. (i.e. – Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, England, Ethiopia, India, Ireland, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Senegal, South Africa)
2. *Regional or multilateral organizations or processes:* OAPI, ARIPO, WIPO (SCCR), WIPO (CDIP), UNCTAD (model guidelines on consumer protection), EU Copyright Directive, SIECA, Andean community, African Union, CELAC, TPP, Inter-American Human Rights System, BRICS, East EU countries. [divide this into subcategories]

Priority Research and Analysis Needs

1. *Resource Hub:* Advocates need a hub to collect and disseminate existing research on the benefits of stronger user rights. This should include translations of existing research and analysis into Spanish, French, and Portuguese (other local languages where policies are debated). The hub should include both academic writings and materials aimed at policymakers.
2. *New Research Needed:*
   a. Evidence of the economic, cultural and social benefits of copyright exceptions (esp. open models of user rights). This should include regional studies on economics, as well as more in depth case studies on advantages of flexible exceptions.
   b. Materials with a special focus on the relations between flexible copyright exceptions and access to educational materials (e.g. comparing U.S. and Africa).
   c. A policy paper on flexible limitations and exceptions for OAPI.
   d. Briefing paper on policies (not just laws) aimed at growing innovative and cultural industries.
   e. Mapping needs, social actors.
   f. Researching counter-arguments to IP-Maximalist positions.
   g. Explanations of the ways that the current system is failing authors.
3. *Technical Assistance:* Public Interest-themed technical assistance related to safeguarding user rights, and guarding against contractual problems, is needed. This includes materials and human contacts. We should develop checklists and briefing tools for countries implementing FTA obligations (or similar obligation in other international instruments). These materials should be in local languages. They should be distributed in multilateral forums and in home countries. We further need to develop network paths, strategies and tactics to get the information to the correct policy makers.

Members of the Copyright Users Rights track of the Global Congress made the following three commitments for the upcoming year:

1. To meet research and analysis needs noted above.
2. To produce expert declarations when country processes to change copyright law arise, provided it is determined by citizens in the countries that Network participation could have a positive effect on the outcome. (i.e. – We plan to draft a declaration on Brazil´s copyright reform on the occasion of the new draft public release, in consultation with the Brazilian civil society network for the reform of copyright law). Similarly, we will continue to participate in other forums such as the TPP and WIPO.
3. To plan a track session on Copyright Users' Rights for the 2013 Global Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. This will include recruiting new members from key countries that have experience with flexible limitations and exceptions (i.e. – South Korea, Philippines, Malaysia) or active copyright reform discussions under way (i.e. – Ireland).