SERVING AUTHORS WORLDWIDE
AU SERVICE DES AUTEURS DANS LE MONDE
AL SERVICIO DE LOS AUTORES EN EL MUNDO

AG24-0582 / General Assembly / Seoul, 30/05/2024
Source language: English / Written on: 30/05/2024
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Speech by Yu In Choo, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Korea

Hello, I'm Yu In Chon, minister of Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

I am sincerely delighted that CISAC general assembly, a festival for creators worldwide, is being held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

I warmly welcome President Marcelo Castello Branco, Secretary General Gadi Oron, and all 225 CISAC member organizations from 116 countries, as well as creators from around the world.

I would also like to express deep gratitude to Chairman Chu Ga Yeoul of the Korea Music Copyright Association and all those involved in preparing the event with great dedication.

At this moment, creators responsible for the cultural richness of this era, including literature, music, film, drama, and visual arts, are gathered. The reason we are here together today is one.

It is to uphold the rights of the countless creators who have created new worlds in their respective fields throughout their lives, without ever losing sight of them. Protecting copyright, the right to creations, is essential as it safeguards their dignity.

This assembly is the first to be held in Korea in 20 years since 2004. It brings back memories. Over the past 20 years, Korea has achieved remarkable success in the field of copyright. It has transformed from a copyright-importing country to an exporting country, and K-Contents have become a core pillar of the national economy.

Fifteen years ago, when I first served as minister, copyright was the area where I placed the greatest emphasis. With the belief that "there is no future for the cultural industry without creator protection," we revised copyright laws and systems. Even now, 'protecting creators' remains the top priority in formulating policies.

The theme of this assembly is 'Beyond Borders of Culture.' We are living in a global digital age. We can watch foreign films and dramas anywhere in the world through global platforms. We can listen to a new song released on the opposite side of the globe on the same day.

However, the advent of the digital age brings clear pros and cons. As access to creative works becomes more convenient, so does illegal reproduction and distribution. As creative works cross borders in various forms, cooperation among global copyright organizations is more important than ever.

We must proactively respond to new environments such as the spread of global OTTs and advancements in AI by exploring new copyright norms. Regardless of which country the work is used in, creators should be transparently and fairly compensated.

In Korea, there are five CISAC member organizations. In the music field, 'Korea Music Copyright Association (KOMCA),' celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, and 'Korea Society of Composers & Authors (KOSCAP),' established in 2014, are active. In literature and visual arts, there are 'Korea Literature & Art Copyright Association (KOLAA)' and 'Society of Authors, Composers & Publishers of Korea (SACK).' In the film field, there is the 'Directors Guild of Korea (DGK).' I hope for continued active exchange and cooperation with Korean member organizations.

I hope that in today's assembly, there will be in-depth discussions on the direction copyright policies should take. The Korean government will also listen to your voices and lead and cooperate in opening new horizons for copyright together with you.

Thank you.