



Geneva Seminars on Development Research

Topic: Copyright and Access to Learning Materials in Africa: Evidence from an eight Country Study Project

Date: Wednesday, 20th May 2009

Time: 09h00 – 13H00

Venue: Room B, World Metrological Organization (WMO), Geneva

Seminar Abstract

This seminar will present the research findings of the African Copyright and Access to Knowledge (ACA2K) Project following more than 18 months of empirical work involving a network of over 30 independent experts from law, economics, information sciences and gender studies, based almost exclusively in Africa. The work of the ACA2K Project, which is supported by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Shuttleworth Foundation and managed by the LINK Centre at the University of the Witwatersrand, was aimed at establishing to what extent copyright is fulfilling its objective of facilitating access to knowledge, learning materials in particular, based on interdisciplinary empirical research in eight African countries, namely: Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. The project sought to objectively tests the following two hypotheses, that:

- The copyright environment in Africa does not maximise effective access to educational and learning materials; and
- The copyright environment Africa needs to be changed to maximise effective access to educational and learning materials.

Following the presentation of the main findings from the eight countries by the lead researchers in the Project, panellists and seminar participants will be invited to debate the findings and consider their implications for current international norm-setting processes on copyright and related rights, especially at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as well as at the regional and national levels.

Draft Seminar Programme

09h00 – 09h15	Introductions
09h15 – 10h30	Session 1: Copyright and Access to Knowledge in Africa: Research Findings on Limitations and Exceptions from an Eight (8) Country Study

	Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dick Kawooya (ACA2K Lead Researcher)
10h30 – 10h45	Coffee Break
10h45 – 11h20	Panel 1: Translating Research into Policy: Implications of the Africa Findings for WIPO Processes (SCCR & CDIP) Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geidy Lung (WIPO) ▪ Viviana Munoz (EPFL & South Centre) ▪ Maximiliano Santa Cruz (Permanent Mission of Chile in Geneva) ▪ Falou Samb (CSEND)
11h20 – 11h50	Discussion
11h50 – 12h30	Panel 2: Translating Research into Policy: Implications of the Findings for Regional and National Processes in Africa Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Andrew Rens (Shuttleworth Foundation) ▪ Christoph Spennemann (UNCTAD) ▪ Susanna Chung (Permanent Mission of South Africa in Geneva) ▪ Susan Isiko Strba (Graduate Institute, Geneva)
12h30 – 13h00	Discussion
13h00	End

About the Geneva Seminars on Development Research

The Geneva Seminars on Development Research (GSDR) is an IQsensato seminar series. The objective of the seminars is to provide an international platform for researchers, academics and practitioners, particularly from developing countries, to share and test the results of their research on the development dimension of issues that are the subject of discussions and/or standard-setting in key Geneva-based international organisations. The GSDR cover topics related to:

- Knowledge governance;
- Innovation and management of intellectual property (IP);
- International trade policy and regulation;
- Energy and environment; and
- Financing for development.