

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE COPYRIGHT ECOSYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

During the upcoming 42nd Session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), an Information Session on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Copyright Ecosystem will take place. In order to provide a clear overview of the “impact on the cultural, creative and educational ecosystem, including copyright, related rights, and limitations and exceptions”, the Secretariat kindly invites Member States and Observers to share existing examples of situations that arose and actions that were taken and/or interventions that were made during the Covid-19 pandemic with respect to the industries or institutions that are being considered in the Information Session. We ask you to describe these situations or actions by providing the information requested below. If you are able to give us some elements of your response before March 15, it could help our researchers who are preparing the overview. In addition, all contributions received by the eve of the Information Session will be uploaded (with your permission) onto the WIPO web site.

Please send this form by email to the following address: copyright.mail@wipo.int with the subject: “Information Session”.

INFORMATION REQUEST

1. Full name of the entity or individual submitting the response.
The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (**IPOS**)
2. Contact person with email address and telephone number for questions or clarifications about the submission.
Mr Gavin Foo, Senior Legal Counsel, gavin_foo@ipos.gov.sg
Mr Joel Goh, Legal Counsel, joel_goh@ipos.gov.sg
3. Would you accept having your response made public (e.g. posted on the WIPO website)?
 Yes
 No
4. Do you accept having the information contained in your responses mentioned in studies and presentations for the Information Session?
 Yes
 No
5. **Brief** description of example, measures or interventions that took place (up to 200 words).
(Explanation: Please briefly explain the situation and why it is of interest for the Information Session. Examples could include policies put in place or other measures aimed at increasing the resilience of an industry or institution, or to assist the people they serve.)

Singapore's measures were aimed at providing a lifeline to adversely affected industries to mitigate the immediate impact on lives and livelihoods, while building resilience in the longer term. Examples include:-

- (a) Grants and Upskilling: A comprehensive Government grant package estimated at S\$55million provided immediate support and opportunities for the arts and culture sector while developing long-term capabilities for post-Covid recovery. This covers operating costs, digitalisation, monetisation of works, and training.
- (b) Capacity Building: IPOS spearheaded **GRIT** (Growing with Resilience through InTangibles), a private-public partnership to help creators and businesses monetise IP in the Covid-19 environment and beyond through outreach programmes, case studies, and information resources. These focused on sectors that were exceptionally affected by the pandemic (e.g. hospitality, F&B, and arts and entertainment). A specially curated FAQ on the creation and online distribution of digital content was also published to support local creators' efforts in creating new ways in which their content can be consumed remotely.
- (c) Access to Knowledge, Culture and Heritage: New copyright exception for non-profit schools to use Internet material for educational purposes supports contemporary pedagogical methods, including remote/hybrid-learning occasioned by the pandemic.
- (d) Accessibility to Justice:
 - (i) Updated the Copyright Tribunals procedural legislation to facilitate remote hearings of licensing disputes. The early adoption of remote hearings allowed existing proceedings to continue uninterrupted.
 - (ii) Offered complimentary mediation of copyright disputes during the peak of the pandemic, with the support of WIPO AMC.

6. Territory where it took place (continent, country, and city or region).
Singapore

7. Relevant sector or sectors.
Audiovisual including cinema, Educational and Research, Music

7.1 Additional observation or sector not listed above:
Government, law, creative industries, businesses, performing arts, galleries, libraries, archives, and museums

8. Please provide the key lessons from this example.

The pandemic has catalysed digital transformation and demonstrated the need to:-

- (i) strengthen creators' digital capabilities and empower them to capture the upsurge in opportunities for monetising digital content;
- (ii) adopt technological solutions, such as the use of video conferencing platforms. This was used not only for Copyright Tribunal hearings as mentioned above, but also to conduct fully virtual stakeholder engagement and public consultation sessions on legislative amendments; and

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(iii) put in place copyright laws that are adept at meeting the demands of the technological and market changes of the digital age, which have been accelerated by the pandemic.

9. Please provide links to relevant documents or other sources that could provide further information about this example.

[GRIT resources page](#)

[Government grant package](#)

[New copyright exception](#)

[FAQ on digital content](#)

10. Please provide any additional comment you might have.
Click or tap here to enter text.

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