

REPORT

2ND AFRICAN PUBLISHERS CONFERENCE

HOSTS



ZBPA

PARTNERS



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1.1 INTRODUCTION

The 2nd edition of the African Publishers Conference was held in Harare, Zimbabwe from 3rd to 4th June, 2024. The Conference was hosted by the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association (ZBPA) at ARIPO Headquarters, Harare, Zimbabwe. The theme for the Publishers Conference was “*Enhancing the Capacity of African Publishing Industry for the Promotion of Literacy*”.

Zimbabwe is the founding country of African Publishers Network (APNET) and it archives the history of APNET. In February 1992, a think-tank of African publishers from nine African countries with proven track-records assembled in Harare and after a purposeful brainstorming on the need for networking to promote trade, training, advocacy and information sharing; APNET was formed. Zimbabwe as the host of the 2nd African Publishers Conference was historically refreshing for APNET.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

The African Publishers Conference and post collaborative activities seeks to achieve the following objectives to drive progress in the publishing industry in Africa:

- i. To build the capacity of publishers’ associations, African publishers and the publishing industry at the national and regional level.
- ii. To strengthen copyright and existing Reprographic Rights Organizations (RROs) and establish new ones in Africa.
- iii. To strengthen national and regional advocacy for the promotion of national book and reading policies, publishing and distribution of books in African languages.
- iv. To advance the knowledge and understanding of African and International stakeholder organizations in the African publishing industry.
- v. To sensitize and promote the execution of pilot projects and projects which include research and book publishing innovations for the growth of the industry.
- vi. To update the conference action plan for implementation to promote and improve the publishing industry in Africa.
- vii. To empower the participants to lead the implementation of the knowledge acquired and to share materials and knowledge with the publishers in their respective countries.

1.3 TRAINING COMMITTEE

The APNET Board tasked APNET Training Committee to plan and organize the 2nd African Publishers Conference and subsequent trainings or conferences. The Committee comprises of:

- Mr. Asare Konadu Yamoah – Chairman (APNET Vice Chairman & President, Ghana Publishers Association)
- Mr. Masimba Tinashe Madondo (President, Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association)
- Mr. Nshimirimana Dieudonne (President, Burundi Book Publishers Association)
- John Paul Yohane (APNET Board Member & Senior Member, Book Publishers Association of Malawi)

The work of the Training Committee is supported by:

- Mr. Lawrence Njagi – APNET Chairman
- Mr. Samuel Kolawole – Past Chairman and Ex Officio Member of APNET

- Mr. Ernest Oppong – Executive Director, Coordinator and Secretary to the Committee.

The Committee and the APNET Board were responsible for budgeting, costing, logistics acquisition, coordination, travelling arrangements for the participants and all other functions to make the Conference a success.

1.4 FUNDING AND THE ROLE OF PARTNERS

African Publishers Network (APNET) with the support of the following partners successfully organized the 2nd African Publishers Conference:

- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
- International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)
- Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association (ZBPA)
- International Publishers Association (IPA)

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is an inter-governmental organization (IGO) that facilitates cooperation among Member States in intellectual property matters, with the objective of pooling financial and human resources and seeking technological advancement for economic, social, technological, scientific and industrial development. For more information about ARIPO, visit [ARIPO's website](#).

ARIPO as the host of the Conference provided the following support:

- ✓ ARIPO Auditorium as the venue of the conference.
- ✓ Conference packages for the two-day conference which are:
 - Logistics and technical support,
 - Morning and Afternoon coffees and teas, and
 - Buffet lunch.
- ✓ Coordination services in relation to visa processing, hotel booking support services, transportation arrangements and conference set up.

Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association (ZBPA), a member of APNET was the co-host of the Conference. ZBPA provided coordination services, hotel booking support services, and transportation arrangements. ARIPO and ZBPA jointly made the participants' arrival, stay and participation of the conference in Harare comfortable and successful.

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) as the leading partner and sponsor funded the following components of the Conference:

- ✓ Hotel Accommodation at Rainbow Towers in Harare for 34 travelling African participants.

- ✓ Interpretation Services for the Conference.
- ✓ Cocktail reception for participants
- ✓ Attendance and participation of Sherine Greiss as a partner and speaker.
- ✓ WIPO's speakers (Ms. Michele Woods and Mr. Michel Allain) to cover sessions via online.

Sherine Greiss (Senior Program Management Officer, Regional and National Development Sector, WIPO) and Sarah Theurich (Legal Staff, WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center) were very instrumental in facilitating the partnership and engagement of the resource persons. APNET commends their passion and commitment to building the capacity of African publishers through conferences and training. For more information about WIPO, visit [WIPO's website](#)

International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO) provided the following support:

- ✓ Funding of US\$8,560 for the airfare tickets of some travelling African participants.
- ✓ Directly covered the air ticket of the participant from Burkina Faso in addition.
- ✓ Sponsorship of Mr. Olav Stokkmo (Consultant to IFRRO) to participate in the Conference as a speaker.

IFRRO works to develop and increase public awareness of the need for effective RROs and to support joint efforts of publishers, authors and other rightsholders to develop rights management systems world-wide. Since 2023, when IFRRO partnered and supported the African Publishers Conference in Cote d'Ivoire, IFRRO's partnership with APNET is being improved. Anita Huss-Ekerhult, Chief Executive and Secretary General of IFRRO was very helpful to actualize their partnership and support to make the Conference a success. Visit [IFRRO's website](#) for more information.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) provided the following support;

- ✓ Funding of airfare tickets of some travelling African participants with US\$10,000.
- ✓ speakers to cover some sessions of the Conference:
 - Cristina Puerta (Editorial Specialist, UNESCO Publishing) – Online
 - Cecilia Barbieri (Chief of UNESCO Section on Global Citizenship and Peace Education, UNESCO) – Online
 - Mr. Chimbidzikai Mapfumo (The UNESCO Office of Harare) – in person
 - Caroline Munier (Program Specialist, Entity of the diversity of cultural expressions) – Online

UNESCO shares knowledge, data and expertise to strengthen global coordination in the field of education, the sciences, culture, communication and information, supporting all Member States in the face of current global challenges. It seeks to build peace through international

cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. Visit [UNESCO's website](#), for more information.

International Publishers Association (IPA) is the world's largest federation of national, regional and specialist publishers' associations. IPA and APNET have been collaborating over the years to undertake a number of projects and activities which include workshops, seminars and advocacy. The ongoing collaborative project is advocating for a suitable Annex to the Intellectual Property Rights Protocol by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat.

IPA supported the conference by sponsoring the Secretary General, José Borghino to participate in the Conference as a partner and speaker. For more information about IPA, visit [IPA's website](#).

APNET remains grateful to the hosts, partners and sponsors for the successful organisation of the Conference.

1.5 PARTICIPANTS

The 2nd African Publishers Conference involved 52 in-person participants from 20 countries. The Conference also involved online participants from different countries which include speakers, African publishers and other professionals in the publishing industry. The online participants equally had the opportunity to ask questions and make helpful contributions. Combining physical and virtual participation, the conference recorded a total of 30 participating countries. The 2023 African Publishers Conference involved 43 participants from 16 countries. From this comparative analysis, the 2024 African Publishers Conference was an improvement over last year's conference and the Network intends to maximize the size and relevance/impact of future conferences with the support of partnering organisations.

The APNET's invitations were mostly extended to the Presidents/Chairpersons of National Publishers' Associations (NPAs) as well as some Officers of RROs in Africa to help achieve a high-level African Publishers Conference.

The table below presents the list of the participants:

NO.	NAME	COUNTRY	DESIGNATION & ORGANISATION
1.	AL Djahmani Mohaned	Algeria	President, National Organisation of Book Publishers (ONEL)
2.	Some Yelwouiere Hermann	Burkina Faso	President, Burkina Faso Publishers Association (ASSEDIF)
3.	Rogers Nforgwei	Cameroon	NMI Education
4.	Anges Felix N'Dakpri	Côte d'Ivoire	APNET Board Member Representative for Francophone Zone, General Commissioner, Abidjan International Book Fair (SILA) & Director, GAD Editions

5.	Charles Pemont	Côte d'Ivoire	President, Cote d'Ivoire Publishers Association (ASSEDI)
6.	Prof. Aka Louka Kattie	Côte d'Ivoire	University Editions of Ivory Coast (EDUCI) & Member, ASSEDI
7.	KOUAKOU, N'dri Affoué Béat-Inès	Côte d'Ivoire	CEO, CERCLE Média & Member, ASSEDI
8.	Ntsame Ngono Sylvie	Gabon	President, Publishers Association of Central Africa
9.	Ernest Oppong	Ghana	Executive Director, APNET
10.	Asare Konadu Yamoah	Ghana	President, Ghana Publishers Association (GPA) & APNET Vice Chairman
11.	Kwabena Agyepong	Ghana	GPA Hon. Treasurer & APNET Board Member for West Africa
12.	Karamoko Oury Wann	Guinea	Editions Verdure
13.	Kiarie Kamau	Kenya	President, Kenya Publishers Association
14.	James Odhiambo	Kenya	CEO, Kenya Publishers Association
15.	Lawrence Njagi	Kenya	APNET Chairman
16.	Maureen Lynda Masamba	Malawi	President, Book Publishers Association of Malawi (BPAM) & APNET Hon. Secretary
17.	John Paul Yohane	Malawi	APNET Board Member for Central Africa & BPAM Member
18.	KONARÉ, Kadiatou	Mali	Founder, Cauris Books & Member, Malian Organisation of Publishers (OMEL)
19.	Lukman Dauda	Nigeria	APNET Hon. Treasurer & Vice President, Nigeria Publishers Association
20.	Uchenna Cyril Anioke	Nigeria	President, Nigeria Publishers Association
21.	Dr. Wale Okediran	Nigeria	Pan African Writers Association (PAWA)
22.	Olav Stokkmo	Norway	Consultant, IFRRO
23.	Moustapha Ndene Ndiaye	Senegal	Member, Senegalese Publishers Association & Board Member, Senegalese Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (SODAV)
24.	Mpuka Radinku	South Africa	Executive Director, Publishers' Association of South Africa (PASA)
25.	Brian Wafawarowa	South Africa	President, PASA & Juta and Company (Pty) (Ltd)
26.	Khanyi Mashimbye	South Africa/ Egypt	Consultant, Intra-African Trade Bank (IATB)
27.	Gata Willows Gibolo Yemba	South Sudan	General Director, Willows House for Printing and Publishing
28.	Jose Borghino	Switzerland	Secretary General, IPA
29.	Sherine Greiss	Switzerland/ Egypt	Senior Program Management Officer, Regional and National Development Sector, WIPO
30.	Hermes Damian Salla	Tanzania	President, Publishers Association of Tanzania

31.	Abdullah Saiwaad	Tanzania	Founder, Readit Books Ltd and MD, Tanzania Reproduction Rights Society (TANRRS)
32.	Barigye Abel	Uganda	Fountain Publishers
33.	Martin Okia	Uganda	President, Uganda Publishers Association
34.	Mabvuto Zulu	Zambia	Book Publishers Association of Zambia
35.	Munyaradzi Gunduza	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association (ZBPA)
36.	Ignatious Tiriboyi	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Publishing House
37.	Natsai Gurupira	Zimbabwe	College Press Publishers
38.	Nyunyai Machiwenyika	Zimbabwe	Spring Hub Publishing
39.	Choba Emmanuel	Zimbabwe	AKELLO
40.	Molly L.T. Nyagura	Zimbabwe	Oxford University Press and ZBPA
41.	Progress Nigwa	Zimbabwe	Progressive Publishers
42.	Agatha Tinotenda Dabengwa	Zimbabwe	Priority Projects Publishing
43.	Anah S. Sibanda	Zimbabwe	Dream Discovery Publishers
44.	Anthony Ramau	Zimbabwe	The Book Publishers of Zimbabwe
45.	Chenai Dube	Zimbabwe	Secondary Book Press
46.	Nigel Samanyai	Zimbabwe	College Press Publishers
47.	Ms Maureen Fondo	Zimbabwe	Head Copyright and Related Rights, ARIPO
48.	Amadu Bah	Zimbabwe	Copyright and Related Rights Officer, ARIPO
49.	Netty Kavaza	Zimbabwe	Senior Copyright & Related Rights Associate, ARIPO
50.	Chimbidzikai Mapfumo	Zimbabwe	Culture Programme Specialist, UNESCO
51.	Masimba Tinashe Madondo	Zimbabwe	President, Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association
52.	Roger Stringer	Zimbabwe	APNET Founding Member & Freelance Publishing Consultant

2.0 DAY 1: PROGRAMME

The programme on Day 1 was held on Monday, 3rd June, 2024 at the ARIPO Auditorium. It was moderated by Mr. Lukman Dauda (Vice President, Nigerian Publishers Association & APNET Honorary Treasurer). The various events are reported below:

2.1 OPENING CEREMONY

The African Publishers Conference was officially opened under the patronage of the Special Guest of Honour, the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Hon. N M. Ndlovu represented by Ms. Netai Lois Magade, Director, Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Over 60 participants were in attendance for the Opening Ceremony.

The following dignitaries made insightful opening remarks:

- i. Mr. Pierre Claver Runiga (Director, Legal Affairs & International Cooperation, ARIPO) represented Mr. Bemanya Twebaze (Director General, ARIPO)
 - ii. Ms. Sherine Greiss, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
 - iii. Ms. Sarah Tran, Consultant to the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO) [Online]
 - iv. Ms. Cristina Puerta, Editorial Specialist, UNESCO Publishing
 - v. Mr. Lawrence Njagi, (APNET Chairman, Kenya)
 - vi. Ms. Netai Lois Magade, Director, Ministry of Industry and Commerce.
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2.1.1 Mr. Bemanya Twebaze (Director General, ARIPO)

Mr. Pierre Claver Runiga (Director, Legal Affairs & International Cooperation, ARIPO) represented Mr. Bemanya Twebaze (Director General, ARIPO). He read a speech of the Director General. He welcomed all participants to the conference and expressed his appreciation to APNET for selecting Zimbabwe and ARIPO to host the Conference. He indicated the role and commitment of ARIPO to strengthen and promote intellectual property rights in Africa. ARIPO expressed their commitment of partnership for the implementation of the Action plan.

2.1.2 Ms. Sherine Greiss (Senior Program Management Officer, Regional and National Development Sector, WIPO)

Ms. Sherine Greiss welcomed all partners and participants to the conference on behalf of WIPO. She briefly talked about the WIPO's Publishers Circle and made some highlights on the African publishing market. Sherine drew participants' attention about the enforceable legal framework to protect the "work" of creatives and literary professionals and listed some of the legal frameworks which have been developed by WIPO. WIPO's partnership with organisations which include IFRRO, APNET and ARIPO to execute some projects/activities were also reported.

Access [Sherine's Opening Speech.](#)

2.1.3 Ms. Sarah-Quynh Tran (IFRRO Consultant, Belgium)

Ms. Sarah-Quynh Tran (IFRRO Consultant, Belgium) represented Ms. Anita Huss-Ekerhult, the Chief Executive and Secretary General of the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO). She commended APNET and all partnering organisations for their various support to the conference. She indicated that IFRRO remains committed to deepen its working relationship with APNET, ARIPO, WIPO, UNESCO and IPA to execute projects that will promote collective management organisations (CMOs) in Africa and to help establish CMOs in African countries that do not have. She wished both the organisers and the participants fruitful deliberations and outcomes.

2.1.4 Ms. Cristina Puerta (Editorial Specialist, UNESCO Publishing)

Ms. Cristina Puerta delivered the opening remarks and also extended warm greetings to all on behalf of UNESCO. She indicated that thoughts, ideas, data, and their dissemination by accessible means shape minds, relationships, and humanity. The future of authors and publishing matters to all. Publishing industries bring together three UNESCO Recommendations concerning the rights of creative artists and authors, academics, and scientific researchers. For publishing industries to be viable, to contribute to knowledge development in Africa, they must be regarded as enablers of development.

Access [UNESCO's Opening Remarks.](#)

2.1.5 Mr. Lawrence Njagi (APNET Chairman, Kenya)

APNET Chairman, Mr. Lawrence Njagi appreciated ARIPO for hosting the conference as well as the other partners: WIPO, IFRRO, UNESCO, IPA and Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association for their support to the organisation of the Conference. He outlined ten (10) strategies which when implemented can strengthen the capacity of African publishing to aid literacy, empower local communities, and create a thriving literary ecosystem that supports the long-term development of the continent.

Access [APNET Chairman's full speech.](#)

2.1.6 Ms. Netai Lois Magade, Director, Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Ms. Netai Lois Magade, Director of Ministry of Industry and Commerce represented the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Hon. N M. Ndlovu. In a speech read on behalf of the Minister, Ms Magade commended the initiative of the partnering organisations for organising a useful conference that brings together professionals in the African publishing industry to have discussions on issues affecting the industry. She encouraged the partners to continue such meetings that would result in the improvement of the African publishing industry. The objective of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Zimbabwe is to support and see industries grow. She wished the organisers and participants fruitful discussions and resolutions.



Participants of the 2nd African Publishers Conference at ARIPO Headquarters, Harare, Zimbabwe

2.2 COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF TEXT AND IMAGE-BASED WORKS ADVANCING THE PUBLISHING SECTOR



Mr. Olav Stokkmo, the representative and speaker for IFRRO, made a presentation on the above topic. His presentation and training covered the following areas especially on the work of Reproduction Rights Organisations (RROs):

- ✓ Background to IFRRO and its work
- ✓ Exclusive Rights and Exceptions/limitations to the Exclusive right
- ✓ Reprography, Reprography Licensing
- Agreements and Sectors licenced by RROs
- ✓ The governance aspects of the Collective Management Organisation (CMO)
- ✓ RRO process, revenue collection and revenue distribution
- ✓ Benefits of collective management and Importance of the publishing sector to society
- ✓ WIPO-IFRRO Reprography projects – objectives, member-countries, etc.

Mr. Stokkmo concluded that:

- ✓ Collective management of reprographic rights benefits publishers
- ✓ RROs were established in response to requests from education to copy extracts of published works legally
- ✓ 106 RROs in 85 countries worldwide are members of IFRRO, the global network in the publishing sector
- ✓ Education is the heaviest user of copies of TI works

- ✓ WIPO-IFRRO projects aim at enhancing management of reprography and compensate publishers and authors therefrom

Access Mr. Stokkmo's (IFRRO) presentation in [English](#) and [French](#).

2.3 PANEL DISCUSSION: BEST PRACTICES OF REPROGRAPHIC RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS (RROS) IN AFRICA

After the presentation of Olav Stokkmo, he moderated the panel discussion on the above topic. Below were the panelists.

Panelists:

1. Ms. Maureen Lynda Masamba – President, Book Publishers Association of Malawi (BPAM) & Hon. Secretary, APNET
2. Mr. Moustapha Ndéné NDIAYE– Member, Senegalese Publishers Association & President, Reprography Commission at SODAV
3. Mr. Yelweoiere Hermann Somé – President, Burkina Faso Publishers Association (ASSEDIF)
4. Mr. Asare Konadu Yamoah – Chairman, CopyGhana, APNET Vice Chairman & President, Ghana Publishers Association)
5. Mr. Al Djahmani Mohaned – President, National Organization of Book Publishers, Algeria (ONEL)
6. Mr. Brian Wafawarowa – President, Publishers' Association of South Africa (PASA)



Captions above

1 2 3 4 5 6

The panelists stated the practices and operations of RROs in the countries. They noted that police cannot enforce copyright based on their ignorance with regards to copyright. In South Africa and other parts of Africa, it is illegal to photocopy books specifically in universities, but this is not adhered to.

The following Role of RRO also was also highlighted:

- ✓ Manage the transition between the print and digital phases.
- ✓ Allow customization of full books published.
- ✓ RRO can negotiate with publishers for licensing of publishers' content.
- ✓ Ensure that publishers receive the revenue they deserve.
- ✓ RRO also facilitates debates regarding revenue collections.
- ✓ Increase public awareness, especially among students.
- ✓ Reduce infringements.
- ✓ Facilitate the development of unallocated funds.
- ✓ RRO needs to be in line with the legislation in different countries.

- ✓ Ensure direct payments to rights holders and the use of funds for development purposes.

It was concluded that distribution for reprographic rights is an important avenue for paying authors and publishers for their works.

Access [Mr. Yelweoiere Hermann Somé's presentation.](#)

2.4 DISCUSSION ON THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF UNESCO'S GENERAL HISTORY OF AFRICA SERIES (PUBLISHED) AND ITS PEDAGOGICAL MATERIALS (IN PROGRESS)

Ms. Cristina Puerta (Editorial Specialist, UNESCO Publishing, France) and Ms. Mathilde Stoleroff presented The General History of Africa (GHA) as one of the publishing projects of UNESCO to the participants. They highlighted a brief history of the project, objectives and the history books published so far. The books are:

- ✓ Nine volumes of the General History of Africa
- ✓ UNESCO Series on Women in African History
- ✓ Pedagogical materials – Developing guidelines for teachers and educators and organising training modules.

They indicated that there is no established distribution in African countries. The speakers reiterated that their main objective is to make the books more accessible in Africa for many Africans to read about their history written by Africans. UNESCO is also open to co-publishing arrangements with African publishers.

There were comments that the General History of Africa is based on history. Integrity for the new generation focusing on access to this integrity tool. In their response to a question on adaptation of the books in Africa, Cristina and Mathilde stated that UNESCO is working on ways African publishers can adapt it to their region. This can also be done through video games.

Access the UNESCO's Presentation on the [UNESCO's General History of Africa.](#)



2.5 UPDATE ON RIGHTS OF PUBLISHERS AND LIMITATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THEM IN INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS LAW



In the presentation of Michele Woods (Director, Copyright Law Division, WIPO) on Discussions on Limitations and Exceptions Affecting Publishers, she educated the participants on the following:

- ✓ International Copyright Framework from Berne Convention (1886-1979) through to the Marrakesh Treaty in 2013.
- ✓ Limitations and Exceptions (L&E) for specific sectors and L&E – Three-Step Test
- ✓ Updates of Standing Committee on Copyright and

Related Rights (SCCR)/45 Agenda

For more information, access [Michele's presentation](#).

2.6 THE ROLE OF ARIPO IN SHAPING THE IP LANDSCAPE IN AFRICA

Mr Amadu Bah, Copyright & Related Rights Officer, ARIPO presented about ARIPO and ARIPO's achievements in IP Development in Africa. His presentation included the objectives, sources of funding and the work of ARIPO for its member-states. It was an opportunity for African publishers and other participants that did not know the work of ARIPO to learn.

Access [Mr. Bah's presentation](#).



2.7 THE IMPORTANCE OF IPRS TO THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

Ms Maureen Fondo, Head Copyright & Related Rights, ARIPO educated the participants on the following aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and its importance to the publishing industry:

- ✓ Branches of Intellectual Property (IP)
- ✓ Categories of IP Rights
- ✓ The Importance of IPRs to The Publishing Industry

The presentations of ARIPO's Speakers attracted lot of questions and contributions from the participants and they were all answered:



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- ✓ Guidelines are available on the ARIPO website and can be tailored to individual countries.
- ✓ Complications of the laws include the Bern Convention on unavailable materials. ARIPO advises members to coordinate and operate within their laws at the national level.
- ✓ International treaties that are available on the WIPO website can be used to fight piracy.
- ✓ There is a lot of public ignorance of the intellectual property. There are set guidelines in terms of fighting piracy, and the compilation of the world treaties act as a deterrent. The issue of depositing patents is also not respected.
- ✓ ARIPO provides training for member-countries in terms of enforcement and identification of IP. There are also available certified courses for IP in secondary schools. WIPO also offers additional courses. ARIPO partners with institutions in Africa willing to host their IP programs.
- ✓ RROs were encouraged to enter reciprocal agreements to manage the rights of authors.

Access [Ms Maureen Fondo's presentation.](#)

2.8 MANAGEMENT OF REPRODUCTION RIGHTS WITHIN WIPO CONNECT

WIPO CONNECT is a platform that facilitates training, business and technical support services, knowledge transfer, best practices among others. This solution was introduced and explained by Michel Allain (Copyright IT Manager, Copyright Management Division, WIPO). WIPO CONNECT is useful for the management of CMOs and it is very versatile for the publishing industry. The participants appreciated its relevance and it was strongly recommended that more workshops on WIPO CONEECT are organised for African publishers and other professionals in the publishing industry.



Access [WIPO Connect presentation.](#)

3.0 DAY 2: PROGRAMME

The programme on Day 2 was held on Tuesday 4th June, 2024 at the ARIPO Auditorium, Harare. It was moderated by Mr. Mpuka Radinku (Executive Director, Publishers' Association of South Africa). The various events are reported below.

3.1 OPENING REMARKS



Dr. Wale Okediran [Secretary General, Pan African Writers Association (PAWA)] delivered opening remarks on the second day. He extended his appreciation to APNET Board for the invitation to participate in the Conference. He encouraged countries to identify areas of importance when it comes to writing. Storytelling and literature are better ways of telling African stories. Dr. Okediran indicated that APNET and PAWA are partners and the two organisations have jointly executed some projects and the ongoing project is the UN SDG Book Club African Chapter. He briefly presented the CANEX Prize for Publishing in Africa to the participants and asked African publishers to submit their application.

The Secretary General of PAWA reported their workshop for African writers in partnership with WIPO. Dr. Okediran underscored the need for associations to strengthen partnership with African and international bodies as a result of the prevailing funding challenges. He pledged PAWA's support to the development of African publishing industry.

3.2 THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY LANDSCAPE FOR PUBLISHING: COPYRIGHT AND FREEDOM TO PUBLISH

José Borghino, Secretary General of IPA represented IPA as the partner and speaker. He expressed his appreciation to APNET for the invitation and commended the partnering organisations for their contributions towards the Conference. He delivered a comprehensive report of the activities of IPA that constitute the following:



- ✓ Background of International Publishers Association.
- ✓ Two pillars of IPA: Freedom to publish and copyright.
- ✓ Advocacy for suitable annex of the AfCFTA's Protocol on Intellectual Property. This is being done in partnership with APNET.

José noted that regulating artificial intelligence (AI) must be approached with caution. He informed the participants that the registration for the upcoming IPA's Congress is in progress. The Guadalajara IPA's Publishers Congress will take place from December 3rd to 6th, 2024.

Access [José's full report](#).

3.3 COPYRIGHT, AI AND PUBLISHERS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Generative AI and Copyright Issues for Publishers were addressed by Ms. Michele Woods, (Director, WIPO Copyright Law Division). She trained participants on AI and copyright which include the following areas:

- ✓ Impact of AI on publishing
- ✓ Text and Data Mining
- ✓ TDM Licensing and Exceptions & Limitations
- ✓ Generative AI at WIPO. Michele Woods outlined conversations that are being done of Generative AI.



It is critical for publishers to deeply understand the impact and application of AI on publishing.

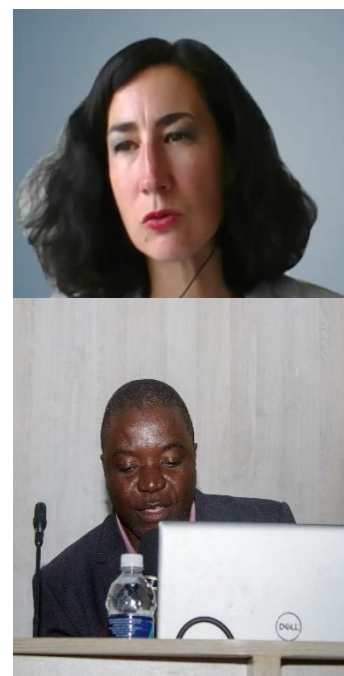
Access [Michele's presentation on Copyright and AI.](#)

3.4 DATA COLLECTION IN AFRICA: PARTICIPATION IN DATA COLLECTION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR THE UPCOMING UNESCO REPORT ON THE BOOK SECTOR IN AFRICA

Ms. Caroline Munier (Program Specialist, Entity of the diversity of cultural expressions, UNESCO) and Mr Chimbidzikai Mapfumo (the UNESCO Office of Harare) presented the details of the UNESCO's data collection to be conducted on the book sector in Africa.

Below were the highlights of the presentations:

- ✓ The mapping would be carried-out through an in-depth consultation process with Governments and publishing professionals in order to collect data and information on the state of the book and publishing sector in their country.
- ✓ In addition to the national mappings of the 54 African States Members of UNESCO, the survey would also include an analysis of the trends, challenges and growth opportunities of the book and publishing sector throughout the African continent.
- ✓ African publishers' associations and African publishers were encouraged to response to the questionnaire when it is circulated.
- ✓ Accurate data regarding book titles is necessary for the book industry in Africa.
- ✓ South Sudan highlighted that they lack a library capable of accessing the required data for the UNESCO questionnaire. UNESCO assured the meeting that this would be taken into consideration.
- ✓ Zimbabwe mentioned that they face a 40% import duty and are working on advocacy.



3.5 UPDATE ON WIPO PUBLISHERS' CIRCLE INITIATIVE: WHERE WE ARE AND WHAT COMES NEXT



Ms. Sherine Greiss (Senior Program Management Officer, Regional and National Development Sector, WIPO) updated the participants on WIPO Publishers' Circle initiative.

The following were the highlights of the updates:

- ✓ She gave some statistics on the creative industries in Africa. Sector is booming – in 2018 it was estimated to be worth \$58 billion.
- ✓ The Publishers' Circle was launched in 2018 to facilitate knowledge transfer, skill-building, and elevate the profile of publishers.
- ✓ Key objectives and mission of the Publishers Circle were outlined.
- ✓ Membership and benefits of joining the Publishers' Circle.
- ✓ Local and international stakeholders to the Publishers Circle were listed.
- ✓ Success stories including some beneficiaries of the mentorship programme were given.
- ✓ PAWA-IAF-WIPO virtual workshop empowering young African authors.
- ✓ Project to Support the Publishing Sector in Cameroon and Enhance Access to Educational Materials.
- ✓ Effective collaborations with African publishers are being developed.
- ✓ The future roadmap of the Publishers Circle was also presented.

Access [Publishers Circle presentation](#).

3.6 APNET PUBLISHERS BUSINESS MEETING



APNET Business Meeting was chaired by APNET Chairman, Mr. Lawrence Njagi. Below were discussion points and resolutions made at the meeting:

- a. Chairman emphasized the importance of APNET membership to experience the benefits as National Publishers Associations (NPAs). They were asked to pay their annual subscription fees.
- b. The meeting also highlighted the necessity of increased African representation on a global scale.
- c. The meeting also acknowledged the importance of establishing, maintaining and promoting book fairs in African countries. African book fairs should be strengthened by many publishers participating across the continent to attract the participation of more international publishers and organisations.
- d. APNET should assist African countries (NPAs) with best practices to implement and raise the standards of their book fairs.
- e. Members emphasized the need to expand APNET membership to include booksellers, distributors, and other relevant parties. That opportunity is available under Associate membership.

- f. Tax on Books: The Board assured members that, if necessary, they can engage in advocacy to ensure that APNET's stance on VAT on books is heard.
- g. Members noted that the WIPO's presentation revealed that publishers still lack clarity on intellectual property issues. Hence, there should be more training on intellectual property.
- h. The APNET Board informed the meeting that it has taken the responsibility of assisting functional NPAs with the establishment of strategies and collaboration on issues that affect African publishers.
- i. There is the need for the revival of reading culture in the African publishing scene.
- j. Members agreed on the importance of APNET setting up an online bookstore for African books. Additionally, a digital repository should be developed where conference materials can be stored and accessed.

3.7 PRESENTATION OF CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES TO SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Certificates of Appreciation and Participation were given to both partners/sponsors and participants respectively.

3.8 RECEPTIONS AND NETWORKING

WIPO hosted a cocktail reception on Monday 3rd June, 2024. It was a networking moment of conversations, merriment and appreciation. The reception created an atmosphere of fun among the participants.

At the reception Mr. Charles Pemont extended his appreciation on behalf of Cote d'Ivoire Publishers Association (ASSEDI) to Mrs. Ntsame Ngomo Sylvie the President of Central African Publishers Association for her generous reception at the International Book Fair in Gabon.

APNET Dinners: APNET hosted two dinners on the arrival date (Sunday 3rd June) and Day 2 (Tuesday 5th June) for the participants. Participants had fun and enjoyed different Zimbabwean delicacies in Mozambik Honeybear Restaurant and Gavas Restaurant respectively. It was full of interactions, socialization and networking.

3.9 CLOSING REMARKS

The Conference successfully came to an end with closing remarks from the partners. The following representatives delivered the closing remarks:

1. Mr. Asare Konadu Yamoah (APNET Training Committee Chairman & APNET Vice Chairman)
2. Ms. Sherine Greiss (Senior Program Management Officer, Regional and National Development Sector, WIPO)
3. Mr. Pierre Claver Runiga (Director, Legal Affairs & International Cooperation, ARIPO) represented Mr. Bemanya Twebaze (Director General, ARIPO)
4. Mr. Lawrence Njagi [APNET Chairman, Kenya]
5. Mr. Masimba Tinashe Madondo (President, Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association)



The central points that run throughout the remarks were the following:

- ✓ The expression of appreciation to the partnering organisations for the various contributions made to successfully organise the 2nd African Publishers Conference.
- ✓ The need to expand the participating countries in subsequent African Publishers Conferences.
- ✓ The revision of the conference events to enhance more discussions, presentations, reports and experiences from African countries.
- ✓ The commitment to working together as partners to help resolve the challenges of African publishing industry and to advance it.
- ✓ There was a presentation on the state of the publishing industry in Zimbabwe which is gradually growing in the midst of challenges.

3.10 VOTE OF THANKS

In addition to the expression of appreciation by the representatives of partnering organisations, Mr. Maita Mukanya thanked the ARIPO and Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association for hosting the Conference; APNET as the lead organiser and to all partners for their support: WIPO, IFRRO, UNESCO and IPA.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were generated from the Conference to be implemented by APNET with the support of its partners:

- i. Education and research, as well as private and public initiatives and businesses thrive and develop better with access to locally created quality resources. APNET will therefore work for
 - ✓ the governments in the countries on the African continent to reinforce existing and, when required, enact new legislation to ensure that authors and publishers in the publishing sector are remunerated for the uses of their works, also when extracts of them are copied and used.
 - ✓ national governments, through pertinent ministries and copyright offices, actively support the implementation of collective licensing schemes and remuneration to authors and publishers for reprographic and similar secondary uses of their works, and encourage users to take up such licenses.

- ✓ publishers and authors of text- and image-based literary and artistic works receive a fair share of remuneration for private copying that is collected on relevant multimedia equipment and devices.
- ii. APNET will encourage
- ✓ publishers and authors in the publishing sector take an active role in reinforcing the work of existing Reproduction Rights Organizations (RROs), or the reprographic reproduction department within multi-purpose CMOs, whatever is applicable, and in establishing RROs where none currently exist. When required, publishers should take a lead in this work.
 - ✓ publishers to become active affiliates in national Reproduction Rights Organizations (RROs) or other Collective Management Organizations managing collectively rights in text- and image-based works.
- iii. UNESCO would like to congratulate the African Publishers Network and its partners for the great opportunity to gather representatives of the African publishing industry for two days of fruitful exchanges about common challenges and opportunities. We very much encourage the conference to continue on a yearly basis and with even more participants on board.
- iv. In future editions of this conference, it would be very interesting to ask publishers from the host country to illustrate to participants on the specific context of their national publishing industry and invite others to share common concerns and best practices to tackling these. Shared experiences between countries may further widen the perspectives of collaboration across the continent and of pursuing a collective discussion on the future of Africa's publishing industry.
- v. ARIPO should expand its membership to other African countries for publishers and other professionals in the book industry to benefit from its activities.
- vi. ARIPO should establish short certificated courses to build the capacity of the book industry professionals on copyright and intellectual property.
- vii. APNET should strengthen its partnership with ARIPO and more work should be done by ARIPO to fight ignorance of copyright infringement and shape IP landscape in member states.
- viii. CMOs should also create awareness on copyright infringement.
- ix. There should be more training programs for writers/authors and publishers to develop their technical skills, business management knowledge, and editorial expertise.
- x. There should be a deliberate system to foster collaboration and partnerships among publishers, authors, illustrators, printers, booksellers, stakeholder organisations, educators, and government agencies.
- xi. Support programs that foster the creation of high-quality, culturally relevant content for African readers and establish initiatives to promote indigenous languages and storytelling traditions.
- xii. Collaborate with literacy organizations to incorporate publishing as a component of literacy learning.

- xiii. Promote government policies that recognize the importance of publishing for literacy and advocate for tax incentives, funding, and other forms of support for the African publishing industry.
- xiv. Encourage and partner stakeholder organizations (which include UNESCO, WIPO, IFRRO, ARIPO and IPA) to conduct research on the African publishing industry and also empower National Publishers' Associations (NPAs) to gather data on the current state of African publishing industry, the impact of literacy initiatives and the best practices to influence policy decisions.
- xv. National Publishers' Associations (NPAs) and African publishers should actively respond to the survey by UNESCO on the African book sector.
- xvi. Foster a love of reading through outreach programs, book clubs, and events and create public awareness campaigns to highlight the benefits of literacy and the importance of supporting African authors through private-sector led initiatives.
- xvii. Advocate that literacy remains high on government agenda, that teachers maintain their focus on moving students from the basics to introducing them to the pleasure of reading, and that Book publishers should continue to work with great authors and illustrators to give children that joy and thrill of opening a book.
- xviii. At the national level, publishers and all other stakeholders of the publishing industry must be constantly on the lookout for outdated copyright laws or legislation that seeks to erode copyright protection.
- xix. African governments should conduct rigorous and fair impact assessments before establishing remuneration rights in the Annex of the Intellectual Property Rights Protocol, which can weaken instead of strengthening creative industries in Africa.
- xx. UNESCO should establish and ensure compliance of its member-states to their laws and regulations they are signatories to especially on areas which include taxation on imported books.
- xxi. APNET, NPAs and African publishers should help in the promotion and distribution of the UNESCO's General History of Africa (GHA) to people across Africa.
- xxii. APNET and IFRRO and other interested bodies would work together to create Reproduction Rights Organizations (RROs) in African countries which do not have and also strengthen inactive ones by building their capacity to resolve existing challenges.
- xxiii. There should be more training and information on WIPO CONNECT to African publishers to understand its usage and relevance; and APNET should encourage them to register.
- xxiv. Promote and strengthen African book fairs as suitable platforms for trade promotion, cultural exchange, book translations and cross-border distribution of books.
- xxv. Increase African presence in African book fairs.
- xxvi. Review and update contact list of members at NPAs and compile publishers who are active and existent to represent certain strategic meetings.
- xxvii. APNET should develop the best practice for organising book fairs and share with NPAs as a guide to organise and enhance their book fairs.
- xxviii. There should be public education for African policy makers and government officials to build their understanding on the publishing industry.
- xxix. APNET to support countries that do not have a functional National Publishers Association (NPA) to set up one.

- xxx. APNET should recreate a repository of training materials and all relevant publications for the African publishing industry.
- xxxi. There should be a zoom meeting to continue the APNET Business Meeting after the conference.
- xxxii. Pan African Booksellers Association (PABA) should be invited in the next African Publishers Conference because booksellers are needed to make African book fairs and the book chain successful.
- xxxiii. APNET and publishers should make their voices heard at the policy level by strongly partnering WIPO, ARIPO, UNESCO, IFRRO and other strategic partners.
- xxxiv. IFRRO to organise a webinar as a continuation of the presentation on COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF TEXT AND IMAGE-BASED WORKS ADVANCING THE PUBLISHING SECTOR

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Africa Publishers Conference was indeed very successful involving 52 in-person participants from 20 countries. The Conference involved 30 participating countries including virtual participants. There were insightful presentations, discussions and workshops from highly experienced speakers and new knowledge from relevant areas of the publishing industry was acquired by the participants which can definitely serve as best practices in their respective countries.

This year's conference focused on building understanding and strengthening intellectual property, copyright, reproduction rights, reprographic reproduction (collective management system), research (data collection on the book sector in Africa) and artificial intelligence. The action plan of the 2023 Publishers Conference has been updated to include the resolutions and outcomes of the 2nd African Publishers Conference for implementation by APNET in collaboration with partnering organisations.

The African Publishers Conference is being positioned as the leading conference of choice within the publishing industry in Africa. It will serve as the converging point for African publishers and the international partners to continue discussions of the publishing industry in Africa for the benefit of all stakeholder organisations and individuals.

In the report, summaries of the various events have been provided with links to the presentations. It also reveals the current state, challenges and recommended solutions to certain topics or issues which have been given to serve as the starting point for the Action plan. APNET requires the support and involvement of all members and partnering organisations to fully implement the plan and achieve the objectives.

7.0 PICTURE GALLERY





