

SPEECH BY:

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**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON MANAGING COPYRIGHT IN
MALAYSIA EDUCATION**

18 AUGUST 2022

PULLMAN HOTEL, BANGSAR

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh/ Peace be upon you, and a Very Good Morning.

Mr Abdul Haris bin Haji Lakar

Director General of Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO)

Ms. Anita Huss-Ekerhult

Counsellor, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Mr. Ahmed Hussain

Chief Executive Officer, Malaysia Reprographic Rights Centre Berhad (MARC)

Mr. Kamal bin Kormin

Deputy Director General (Strategic & Technical) of MyIPO

Distinguished Speakers and Participants

Ladies and gentlemen

1. It is certainly a pleasure for me to be here at this National Seminar on Managing Copyright in Malaysia Education. It is indeed a significant occasion today as we gather to witness the declaration of Malaysia Reprographic Rights Centre (MARC), a first-of-its kind initiative in the country for the protection of author, publisher rights and visual artist.
2. This event provides an opportunity for us to further align and familiarize ourselves with the concept and role of collective management in the field of reprography.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. Print and publishing are among the largest cultural sectors in a society, covering a whole range of products such as books, journals, magazines and newspapers. When photocopying machines became common in the early 1970s, it increases

the problems of unauthorized copying. And today digital copying is replacing photocopying.

4. Because of that, we need to ensure that this sector could function well, without piracy and unauthorized photocopying. We want a healthy publishing market in which authors and publishers to invest in the wide and culturally rich production and dissemination of products and services.
5. Awareness-raising in universities and public could benefits to everybody especially copyright group and hopefully will eliminate illegal practices - just as new systems for music and film subscriptions through streaming services significantly reduced illegal downloading in those areas.
6. Best practices in universities although more variable than for schools and that sector has been more affected by the introduction of digital text and online usage. This wonderful

development, offering many opportunities for easier access and cheaper production. It has also made easier to monitor copying and made it much easier for works to be pirated and illegally used.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. Managing reprographic rights is difficult. How would an author know if a library user were photocopying their work without permission? The rights are, therefore, managed collectively through organisations such as MARC. The organisation has the responsibility for monitoring and enforcing rights and for collecting and distributing royalties to the rightsholder. MARC will be tasked with monitoring the re-use of print and digital works across Malaysia such as schools, universities, libraries, and print centers, in collaboration with the relevant entities such as the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education.

8. MARC, as the Collective Management Organization (CMO), will work with the local universities to develop a simple and efficient system that will determine a fair license fee and assist with information to enable equitable distribution of the fee to authors and publishers.

9. MARC would also effectively license photocopying and collect remuneration for authors, publishers and visual artist. The license agreement could sets out the terms and conditions for permitted copying agreed upon with the consent of rights holders.

10. Meanwhile, we would also urge the copyright owners to register their works at MyIPO through the Copyright Voluntary Notification System. Copyright owner may use the Copyright Voluntary Notification to assist in providing prima facie evidence of ownership and evidence of date of creation. This

may assist the copyright owner since the voluntary notification can be used in court as a proof.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. Malaysia is doing its best to ensure better IP practices, laws and regulations in the country in order to maintain an attractive business environment. Through the declaration of MARC as collective management organization would facilitate lawful access to information in a relatively inexpensive way. They are also guardians of a propitious environment for creativity by providing fair remuneration to rights holders and incentives for future creation.

12. MyIPO will also organize numerous awareness activities and extensive campaigns nationwide to educate the society about copyright and the law so they can appreciate the need for such rights and can adhere to them. Indeed, copyright

education targets a broad range of audiences including school children, college students, graphic designers, IT professionals, and librarians. Those who work in copyright-based industries such as publishing also need to be kept up to date on developments in copyright law, especially when it comes to how the law applies to the newest technologies.

13. Malaysia through MyIPO is actively involved in copyright issues at the international level. The Copyright (Amendment) Act 2022 which takes effect on 18 March 2022, reflects the government's effort to ensure a more effective protection of copyright works in digital environment. The Act provides legal basis for electronic commerce and further spur the local copyright industry, attract investments and protect local creative works.

14. Meanwhile, Malaysia's accession as a member of the Marrakesh Treaty will contribute to the country's socio-

economic progress by providing exemptions from obtaining permission from copyright owners to make and distribute reading materials in accessible format copy for the visually impaired. Malaysia's participation in this treaty will provide wider access to approximately 51,323 visually impaired people registered with the Social Welfare Department.

15. I am confident that this seminar avails us the opportunity to understand and further discuss a broader agenda of managing copyright. To the speakers presenting their papers I wish to thank you for the effort and your support.

16. On this note, and with the verse of '*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*', I have great pleasure in officially declaring open the **National Seminar on Managing Copyright in Malaysia Education**. Thank you.