



**Resolutions of the 28th IPA Publishers Congress*
Seoul, Korea
15 May 2008**

The 28th IPA Publishers Congress (the “Congress”), as represented by the publishers and publishers association representatives who met from 12 until 15 May 2008 in Seoul, Korea, agrees on the following

RESOLUTIONS

1. The Congress asserts the importance of publishing for the preservation and development of cultural heritage and cultural diversity, for literacy and education, and for international peace and intercultural understanding. The Congress therefore calls on governments to recognize the value of books and all other literary works as cultural ambassadors by supporting translation into foreign languages and by encouraging the importation of books in their original language.
2. The publishers gathered at the Congress reassert the importance of freedom of expression, freedom to publish and freedom of enterprise as fundamental human rights, and as a root of the economic and cultural development of society.
3. Publishers play an important creative role in the development of knowledge. Copyright remains an essential cornerstone for publishing in the information society. Most importantly it must remain a tool supporting the livelihoods of both authors and publishers alike. The Congress therefore calls on all stakeholders to ensure that copyright remains strong and fair. Furthermore, national governments must enforce copyright laws.
4. The Congress calls on governments to collaborate closely with local publishers to develop legal and policy frameworks enabling writers and publishers to develop their skills to the benefit of society as a whole. National book policy, education and literacy promotion belong together.
5. The Congress calls for recognition of the important role played by non government publishers in textbook publishing. Governments must promote free and non government publishing as the most efficient way of providing high-quality and need-oriented educational books to students, serving as a starting base for the development of a sustainable and dynamic local publishing industry.

In the course of the seminars and debates, the International Publishers Association, its members and the publishers present had the opportunity to discuss a number of issues and challenges which the publishing industry faces today. The Congress therefore makes the following:

* Subject to final approval by the IPA AGM.

SPECIFIC DEMANDS

- a. **International rights trade:** The Congress calls on all parties to support the international rights trade by assessing particular market circumstances, recognizing the important creative role of literary translators, and endeavoring to reach agreements tailored to the circumstances of individual deals. Government intervention is not required.
- b. **Need for careful consideration of defamation laws at international level:** Following the adoption of Resolution A/HRC/4/L.12 on the need to combat defamation by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNCHR), the Congress urges the UNCHR to review its position on freedom of expression and give freedom of expression a high priority when balancing it with other human rights.
- c. **Need for reforms in Burma/Myanmar, China, Iran and Vietnam:** The Congress calls particularly on the Burmese, Chinese, Iranian and Vietnamese governments to engage and implement reforms which will improve the freedom to publish in their respective countries and that will allow publishers to contribute freely to the cultural, social and economic wealth of their nations without fear of imprisonment, persecution or harassment for themselves and their associates. Publishers, writers, journalists and bloggers currently in prison or under house arrest for having exercised their constitutional rights to freedom of expression should be released immediately.
- d. **Piracy:** The Congress calls on publishers, publishers associations and governments worldwide to play an active role in the fight against national and global piracy, by (1) effectively enforcing copyright laws, (2) making specific efforts to foster use of legitimate published materials by all users, including government entities; and (3) cooperating effectively with each other.
- e. **Global ratification and implementation of the Florence Protocol:** The Congress repeats its continuous plea for UNESCO member states to ratify and implement the 1956 Florence Agreement and its Nairobi Protocol to ensure the free flow of educational materials and books among nations for the benefit of education and readers worldwide. In particular, book import duties, foreign exchange control and taxes must be eliminated.
- f. **World Bank support for local publishers:** The Congress urges the World Bank and other donor organizations to recognize the unique role of local publishers in providing books for educational programmes.
- g. **Appropriate textbook prices:** The Congress recognizes the need for affordable textbooks and acknowledges the contribution that publishers can make, and have made, to reduce textbook prices. The Congress therefore asks governments to assume in turn their share of the responsibility by giving the highest priority to supporting schools and school children in order to reach the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.
- h. **Literacy and reading promotion:** Reading promotion and literacy are the genuine answers to the demands of the information society. Therefore the Congress calls for government support for, and active publisher involvement in, all literacy and reading promotion programmes.
- i. **International book standards development:** The Congress calls on publishers associations to cooperate more closely with international standards bodies to develop and make use of international book industry standards.