



# News Update

## ABA ties with Korean regulator

SYDNEY: The ABA formalised its relations with the Korean Broadcasting Commission (KBC) in the form of a Co-operation Agreement signed by the ABA's Chairman, Mr Peter Webb, and the KBC's Chairman, Mr Kim Chang-yul. The exchange took place during a visit by three KBC Commissioners in June.

Mr Bob Scott, Deputy Chairman of the ABA, said the Co-operation Agreement would contribute to information exchanged on broadcasting issues in a rapidly changing international communications environment.

Commissioner Kim Taek-Hwan, who led the KBC delegation, conveyed the KBC Chairman's pleasure that the KBC and the ABA had this opportunity to formalise their relations.

'The ABA is a leader in broadcasting regulation and we hope the KBC may benefit from the lessons learnt by a seasoned broadcasting regulator,' Mr Kim said.

The Co-operation Agreement aims to facilitate channels of communication between the ABA and the KBC and seeks to promote achievement of the objectives of the respective agencies.

In addition to Korea, the ABA has close working relations with broadcasting regulators in countries in Asia and the Pacific, North America and Europe.



Back row L to R: Mr Kyu Euk Chung, Mr Lee Jung-Suk, Mr Shin Jung-Hyu, Mr Gareth Grainger, Ms Pat Manser, Ms Phyllis Fong  
Front row L to R: Mr Bob Scott, Mr Kim Taek-Hwan

## International research forum newsletter

SYDNEY: The ABA has released the second edition of the newsletter, *International Research Forum on Television and Children*.

The International Research Forum (IRF) is an initiative of the ABA emerging from the World Summit on Television and Children held in

Melbourne in March 1995. The IRF provides an international forum for promoting awareness of the need for research into children and television, stimulating research as an aid to policy making, exchanging information, and encouraging collaboration on research in this area.

'The forum creates opportunities for communication and collaboration between researchers working on projects related to children and the media' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

Membership of the IRF continues to grow with more than 100 members from over 20 countries now involved. Countries represented include Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, Japan, Korea, United Kingdom, France, Sweden, South America, Russia and South Africa.

The second edition of the newsletter includes information about the 1998 World Summit on Television and Children, other relevant conferences and events, news on what's happening in the area of television and children around the world and recently completed and current research projects being conducted by IRF members.

Researchers interested in being part of the forum or subscribing to the newsletter should contact Mr Stephen Nugent, Research Manager, ABA phone (02) 334 7865.

The newsletter is now on-line at the ABA's Web site: <http://www.dca.gov.au/aba/hpcov>

## New Australian drama on pay TV

SYDNEY: Pay TV drama channels are set to spend 10 per cent of their program expenditure each year on new Australian drama programs, under new guidelines released by the ABA.

While each pay TV licensee is subject to a licence condition that 10 per cent of program expenditure on predominantly drama channels must be on new Australian drama programs, it is clear to the ABA that few, if any, pay TV licensees will themselves spend money directly on programming and the spirit of the licence condition could be easily avoided.

'In these circumstances, the ABA has decided to encourage voluntary expenditure on new Australian drama by those corporate entities in the industry who do purchase programming,' said ABA Chairman, Mr Peter Webb.

'The aim of the ABA is that pay TV broadcasters, or where appropriate, pay TV channel providers, act in a way which honours the spirit of the licence condition,' Mr Webb said. 'In this way, the development of the pay