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fairness; the liberalisation of broadcasting industries and foreign investment in programming; foreign and cross-media ownership; the introduction of digital services; and regulatory issues for new media, including online services and the Internet.

The meeting considered the report of the Transborder Working Party (Australia, India, Japan and Korea as Chair) which put forward a set of principles for transborder satellite television broadcasting. The Roundtable meeting adopted these, and agreed that participants seek the endorsement of their respective agencies. The Roundtable also acknowledged that regional cooperation is required to deal with the increased level of transborder satellite television broadcasting, including matters relating to program content and dispute resolution.



Participants at the regulatory roundtable meeting, in Seoul

UNESCO cyberspace meetings

The ABA has participated in two recent UNESCO expert meetings on cyberspace: the Asia-Pacific Regional Experts Meeting on a Legal Framework for Cyberspace in Seoul, Korea, from 8–10 September; and the Experts Meeting on Cyberspace Law held in Monte Carlo, Monaco, from 29–30 September.

The experts at both meetings acknowledged that the Internet is a global medium that requires international cooperation to balance the sovereign rights of countries and the individual rights of citizens. UNESCO recognised this need for international cooperation and proposed a context for developing a framework for the governance of cyberspace.

Ms Phyllis Fong, Manager Policy and Research, attended the Seoul meeting to present a paper prepared by Mr Gareth

Grainger, ABA Deputy Chairman. Countries represented were: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America and Vietnam. This meeting addressed a range of matters, including freedom of expression, access to digital information, regulation of global information, intellectual property rights, a cyber community and cultural diversity.

The Seoul meeting recommended for UNESCO's consideration a set of universal principles, based on notions of international and regional cooperation, national responsibility, industry and private sector responsibility, and user empowerment, which countries would need to take into account when developing their respective legal frameworks relating to cyberspace activities.

The recommendation of the Seoul meeting was tabled at the Monte Carlo meeting, which adopted a set of principles similar to those agreed at the Seoul meeting. Mr Grainger, ABA Deputy Chairman, attended the Monte Carlo meeting and tabled an expanded version of his Seoul paper. This paper was commended as the most significant contribution to the workings of the Monte Carlo meeting by the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Henrikas Yushkiavitchus.

The Monte Carlo meeting invited the Director-General of UNESCO to promote cyberspace principles relating to international cooperation, freedom of expression, ethics, privacy, encryption, access to information, communication, education, training, participation, universal service, and multiculturalism. The role of industry self-regulation was recognised as highly significant in these processes, as was the need for progressive harmonisation of various national laws.

The Monte Carlo meeting also recommended a plan of action to the Director-General of UNESCO which included:

- the ongoing publication of collective work on the 'international dimensions of cyberspace law';
- the application to cyberspace of each article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- the study of the realities, significance and consequences of barriers to access, in particular, privately created barriers driven by market forces;
- an assessment of the adequacy of translation software and necessary steps for increasing the availability and development of improved versions;



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- the promotion of initiatives on the education of parents, children, teachers and other Internet users or workers;
- the representation of public interest in international debates on intellectual property law;
- a study of the actual economic cost of piracy on the Internet and the degree to which the resulting disincentive has reduced supply on the Internet of work desired by the public;
- the establishment of an international and a regional group of experts to monitor



- development in, and the implementation of, the cyberspace principles;
- the establishment of an international and a regional study group to carry out or commission the proposed studies; and
 - the establishment of a group of experts to further consider cyberspace issues.

The adoption by UNESCO of a statement of universal principles for the governance of cyberspace is but one step in the many processes that are in train, and these can

complement each other, ensuring that principles pursued in one process are consistent with those being pursued in others,' Mr Grainger said after the Monte Carlo meeting.

Mr Grainger's papers presented at the Asia-Pacific Regional Experts Meeting in Seoul, and UNESCO's Experts Meeting on Cyberspace Law in Monte Carlo are on the ABA web site <www.aba.gov.au>

Cooperation agreement with NZ

During the Asia-Pacific Regulatory Roundtable meeting in Seoul, Korea, the ABA and the New Zealand Broadcasting Standards Authority took advantage of the opportunity to formalise relations by entering into a cooperation agreement on 15 September 1998. The cooperation agreement was signed by



Professor Flint (l) with Mr Sam Maling, after signing the cooperation agreement between the ABA and the New Zealand Broadcasting Standards Council.

Professor David Flint, Chairman, on behalf of the ABA and Mr Sam Maling, Chairperson, on behalf of the BSA.

The BSA is the independent broadcasting standards regulator in New Zealand and has legislative responsibilities which are similar to those of the ABA. For example, the BSA develops new codes and approves codes of broadcasting practice developed by broadcasters; it determines formal complaints on program standards; it publicises its findings and procedures; and it conducts research.

In entering into the cooperation agreement, the ABA and the BSA affirmed that they would continue to exchange information and collaborate in the development of activities which are of mutual benefit. Moreover, the ABA and the BSA reaffirmed their support of continued cooperation in sharing concerns about broadcasting issues.



Participants at the Asia-Pacific Regional Experts Meeting on a Legal Framework for Cyberspace