

## **Eighth Newsletter of the International Network for Cultural Diversity**

Vol 1-8

### **Post Santorini Reflections**

We are working on creating a report of the Santorini conference by the end of the first week of December, and will post it when it becomes available. In the meantime, please have a look at the thoughtful comments on the meeting and its implications from steering committee member James Early. They are posted both in his original version and in an abridged version in the Forums (Agenda Greece 2000) section of our website, [www.incd.net](http://www.incd.net).

### **Member Reports**

#### *Australian Campaign*

The Music Council of Australia recently adopted a motion which echoes a number of the sentiments expressed at the conference on The Artist, Culture and Globalization in Santorini. Executive Director Richard Letts, who represented the Music Council of Australia at the Santorini meeting, forwarded the motion to Australia's Minister of Culture. His letter and the text of the motion can be found in the Forums (Agenda Greece 2000) section of our web site [www.incd.net](http://www.incd.net). Activists in other countries might consider similar action.

#### *First Summit of Arts Councils*

Several delegates to our Santorini conference will be participating in the World Summit on the Arts and Culture this November 30 to December 3 in Ottawa, Canada. Mahinda Ralapanawe of the Arts Council of Sri Lanka and Ben Goldsmith of the Australian Key Centre for Culture and Media Policy will be among the representatives from more than fifty countries which will come together for this first international meeting of arts councils. Megan Williams, National Director of the Canadian Conference of the Arts, and Robert Pilon, Executive Vice-President of the Coalition for Cultural Diversity, will also attend. Cultural diversity, the artists' role in society, technological challenges to copyright and the relationship between private and public funding will be prominent items on the agenda. We will report fully on the conference in our next newsletter.

#### *Media Forum*

From the 15-17 of November, Ben Goldsmith attended the United Nations Television Forum in New York, which brought together television and new media executives from around the world - we will be publishing a report on that meeting in the next newsletter.

## *Making the Internet Work for the Arts*

Since participating in our conference in Santorini, Dagfinn Bach has been travelling in Asia promoting Artspages International, an Internet-based music marketing system which provides alternatives to the multinational distributors to the benefit of creators and audiences. Dagfinn, who formerly managed a team of software engineers developing information technology prototypes for the cultural sector, has combined forces with music manager Peter Jenner to start the company. Artspages will particularly draw on the "leapfrog" effect in developing countries: because they have lagged behind the developing world in technical development, their Internet infrastructures will have the advantage of using the new wireless technologies from the start.

Wireless Internet will allow for an unprecedented dissemination of audio-visual and other content. Dagfinn believes that this wireless revolution will happen fast and maybe first in China and elsewhere in Asia. The Philippines has already reached 30 million mobile phone text messages per day, and he estimates the figures in China would come close to 100 million per day. Soon, the networks in these countries will be able to distribute sounds and photos from mobile phone to mobile phone as attachments. This will create a minefield of rights and territorialities, for which creative communities need to be ready.

Artspages has already had meetings with collection societies and one of the world's largest mobile phone companies to address this issue, months before its effects will manifest. Dagfinn predicts there will be major issues around copyrights arising throughout Latin America, Africa and India as well as in Asia. Areas affected will include text, graphics, and audio. Organizing work on these continents is particularly important since the mobile phone operators and/or other investors will probably give tempting offers to the artists in these countries to acquire their intellectual property rights before the legal frameworks are in place.

If you would like to find out more about Artspages, contact Dagfinn Bach at [dagfinn@bach.no](mailto:dagfinn@bach.no), or consult the full paper from his presentation when we post it in mid December along with other conference report materials.

Please let us know about relevant work you are conducting, and we will include it in this section of our newsletter.

### **Next Steps**

The steering committee has reviewed a transcript of the discussion at the founding meeting of the network, and adjusted the founding statement accordingly. This working version of the founding statement will be posted on our site in English, French and Spanish. Please send additional comments, suggestions and proposals to the steering committee via [janet\\_creery@mail.culturenet.ca](mailto:janet_creery@mail.culturenet.ca).

The steering committee is also developing a workplan for the next year, including a listing of all relevant events, and particularly meetings of trade ministers at which the INCD might make an official intervention. The Canadian Conference of the Arts is making sure that culture is on the agenda at meetings parallel to the expected signing of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas in Quebec City, Canada, in April 2001. Please send information about relevant upcoming meetings that are being held in your country or region so that they can be considered in the workplan. Again you can reach us at [janet\\_creery@mail.culturenet.ca](mailto:janet_creery@mail.culturenet.ca).

Garry Neil will be travelling to Switzerland in December for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) meetings, and will meet with network members there. Lucerne, Switzerland, will be the site of the next meeting of our network and that of the Ministers of Culture.

### **WTO News**

The World Trade Organization is now producing a monthly bulletin for NGOs, which is available in English, French, and Spanish. If you are interested in receiving it, write a note to [ngobulletin@wto.org](mailto:ngobulletin@wto.org), and to find out more check their website at [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org).

One interesting development signaled by that newsletter is that the WTO's Appellate Body has decided, in the asbestos case presently being considered, to accept "amicus briefs" from persons other than parties or third parties to the case. So in this case any legitimate body that has a concern with these issues can present a brief. This is a departure from the usual procedures of the Appellate Body. It could signal a greater openness to non-governmental organizations' input; equally it could also signal a greater openness to direct corporate input.

Our network's coordinator, Garry Neil, is looking into the potential impact of a seemingly obscure clause, "Non-Violation, Impairment and Nullification" which has come into effect as part of the TRIPS agreement. The clause states that a party can object to another's action even if it doesn't actually violate the agreement, but only diminishes "the benefits which the party might reasonably have expected to receive." In other words, a party can in certain cases challenge an action that threatens their interests even if the action does not contravene the agreement. Some believe that is possible that domestic content regulations for broadcasters, which may limit the benefits of owning a copyright in a certain territory, could be challenged under this clause.

And, concerning the ongoing GATS negotiations in Geneva: U.S. Trade Representatives are asking for a deadline of December 2000 for all countries to depose their propositions for the liberalization of their service sectors. However, according to one of our researchers, the request-offers are not expected until March 2001, and according to another source the negotiations are not expected to resolve even the issue of negotiating modalities before the end of March 2001, and request-offer sessions are not expected in 2001. This later view is based on a perception that there is a logjam in negotiations caused by the narrowness of the topics presently being discussed: there is talk afoot to try once again to launch a full new round of negotiations sometime late in 2001. It is hard to know what is accurate since these are secret negotiations.

The one thing that is certain is that a new set of GATS negotiations will begin the week of November 27 in Geneva.

## **Publications**

A great deal of interesting new information has been added to the web site of the International Network for Cultural Policy, at [www.pch.gc.ca/network-reseau/eng.htm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/network-reseau/eng.htm). Choose the Cultural Diversity and Globalization icon, then choose Supporting Documents.

## **Upcoming Events**

*International Society for the Performing Arts Foundation's (ISPA) 53rd Annual New York Conference - "Cultural Leadership"*

16-19 December 2000

At the Crowne Plaza Manhattan Hotel in New York City, USA.

Focusing on the challenges of "Cultural Leadership," the event will feature 10 on- and off-site sessions, and nearly 50 distinguished international speakers. Sessions include "Artistic Leader as Community Conductor", "Identifying the Next Generation of Leader", and "Leadership, Funding and the Cultural Landscape".

For more information please contact ISPA

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[info@ispa.org](mailto:info@ispa.org)

[www.ispa.org/](http://www.ispa.org/)

*World Social Forum (WSF)*

January 25-30, 2001

The World Social Forum will take place in Porto Alegre, Brazil, at the Events Center of the Catholic University of Porto Alegre. This meeting will be held during the same period in which the World Economic Forum occurs in Davos, Switzerland.

As a new yearly event, the World Social Forum will be an international arena for the creation and exchange of social and economic projects that promote human rights, social justice and sustainable development. The World Social Forum will provide a space for building economic alternatives, for exchanging experiences and for strengthening South-North alliances between NGO's , unions and social movements. It will also be an opportunity for developing concrete projects, to educate the public, and to mobilize civil society internationally. Three types of meetings will take place at the Forum: broad conferences on general issues at plenary session, meetings to exchange experiences, and strategy meetings to coordinate actions and future events.

For more information or to register to participate please visit their website  
[www.worldsocialforum.org](http://www.worldsocialforum.org)

*World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Other Forms of Related Intolerance*

Quito, Ecuador, 13-17 of February, 2001: Forum of NGOs of the Americas.  
This alternative event is part of the process culminating in the World Forum and Conference "Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and other forms of Related Intolerance" which will take place in Durban, South Africa in August-September, 2001.

For additional information, contact :

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The Preparatory Governmental Meeting will be held in Santiago, Chile on the 5-7 of December, 2000, and will be preceded by a Citizen's Conference Against Racism in the same city the 3rd and 4th of December. For more information:  
[www.confciudadana.cl/](http://www.confciudadana.cl/)

Or contact  
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e-mail: [ddhh@alainet.org](mailto:ddhh@alainet.org)  
URL: [alainet.org/](http://alainet.org/)

*Second People's Summit of the Americas*

17 to 21 April, 2001  
Quebec City

Organized by the Hemispheric Social Alliance, these meetings will bring together activists from all sectors to offer an alternative vision of development in the Americas. The city of Quebec is small and a huge turnout is expected - plan early if you are interested in attending. For information see

[www.webnet/comfront/quebec.htm](http://www.webnet/comfront/quebec.htm)

*Words Into Worlds - Worlds Into Words*  
*An International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Story, Imagination, Culture & Translation*

16 to 22 December, 2000

Hosted by Katha in Sanskriti, India

This conference will bring together writers, translators, and academics to look at the telling, translation, and teaching of Indian short stories.

For more information please contact:

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If any of you are planning to attend these meetings, please let us know so that we can provide information about the INCD for interested delegates. You can contact us at:

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