

FEEDBACK FROM THE 2014 TANZANIA SATELLITE

The 2014 Tanzania CopyrightX course Satellite was organized by The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) and facilitated by Dr. Paul Faustine Kihwelo a Senior Lecturer in Law, expert in Copyright and Intellectual Property Laws generally assisted by Mrs. Doreen Sinare the current Chief Executive Officer of Copyright Society of Tanzania. The training was done in close collaboration of the two institutions namely The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) and the Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA).

The Tanzania Satellite attracted diverse group of participants that consisted Lawyers, Law Students, ICT Experts and artists. However, in the course of time mainly lawyers and law students made it to the finish line owing to the fact that most of them could not cope in particular as the Satellite joined the race during the last minute and also most non-lawyers still think that copyright and intellectual property is food for lawyers only.

As far as the curriculum is concerned the Tanzania Satellite tried as much as possible to use the Harvard CopyrightX curriculum while comparing with the situation obtained in Tanzania. The sessions were held mostly at the OUT lecturer theatres where participants would listen to recorded videos followed by a presentation of comparative analysis of the Tanzania situation and case studies where applicable. This created the impetus for further and vibrant discussions among participants. The experience and practical sessions led by officials from COSOTA officials created further recipe for the participants to attend the sessions despite some hick ups here and there. In few occasions participants were invited to attend lecturers at COSOTA.

The duration of each session was two hours but participants were encouraged to watch and listen to the recorded videos at their own time in order to enable them comprehend well the subject matter under discussion. At times it was not possible every week but in the contrary a time was compensated in the subsequent weeks. It was very unfortunate that participants could not attend the Special Events due to time difference but where possible questions were paused to presenters and some participants could listen to the recorded Special Event. Hopefully in 2015 Satellite this will be considered so that our students can interact with their peers in the online class and the Harvard Law School Students.

Unfortunately, majority of those who wanted to do the examinations were law students but the Satellite Exams began when they were on final preparation for the end of year examinations hence they could not have a divided mind. Most of these are interested to join the next sessions and therefore do examinations.

The main challenge for the Satellite this time around was short notice to mobilise participants who did not know much about the CopyrightX course and the benefits of attending it. However, this has been a learning ground as such the next session will likely draw a lot of participants. One of the challenges which most of the participants aired is the length of the course (12 weeks) to finish all lectures which turned out to be difficult to some such that we had at times to meet once in two weeks but encouraged participants to listen the recorded videos at home and minimize the time for listening to them in class. Owing to the time limitation it was not

possible to come out with a different curriculum to contextualize the Tanzania copyright law and practice such as case laws. However, next time this will be done right.

Last but not least, is the excitement the students had with the CopyrightX course in the Tanzania Satellite. Besides the guests who were invited to the class, the refreshments provided during the session, and the discussions, there was the opportunity to participate in this course that was organized by the Harvard Professor.

All participants and the organizers alike are pleased to have been part of this CopyrightX course and looking forward to the 2015 CopyrightX course.