

III. IP Issues in Information Activities

Recognition and regulation of IP issues at entrenched and systematic level is a very recent phenomenon in Pakistan. IPO Pakistan was established on 8th August, 2005 as a focal organization for integrated management and enforcement coordination of all forms of Intellectual Property Rights in Pakistan.

It was after the establishment of IP organization that Lok Virsa also got registered most of the recorded programmes to safeguard their IP rights. However, we at Lok Virsa had to face strong issues of piracy. Our organization also issued warning notices to few of the organizations and individuals involved in piracy but never fought a legal fight because of the rampant piracy cases.

However with every passing day IPO Pakistan is becoming more and more effective to put a strong check to upcoming piracy issues and to better safeguard the IP rights.

Recommendations:

At present we do not have any IP legislation regarding traditional heritage and folklore. In order to evolve a strong IP legislation and its effective implementation we really need to conduct field surveys on one hand and on other hand we need to benefit from the world best practices in the field of IP issues regarding ICH.

Then, all cultural organizations should be taken on board with the national level research findings and world practices in hand to better develop a draft policy and legislation for the safeguarding of IP rights of intangible cultural heritage for all stages of information building and sharing.