

**Abstract**

## Some Suggestions for Improving Translation of the Korean Copyright Act

- Korean Copyright Law in the Global Context -

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Korean IP law has been globalized in the sense that scholars and practitioners worldwide are considering the relevant legislations more important and tracing the development of this area of law. As a consequence, the demand to learn and research Korean IP-related laws has also increased, and many part of the legislations have been translated into foreign languages. It is indispensable for international scholars and non-Korean-speaking practitioners to access text through translation, and the text in English, a quasi-global language, is the basis for the further study undertaken by international lawyers. The translated version of the Korean Copyright Act is provided in English by the Korea Law Translation Center under the Korea Legislation Research Institute. The translation covers the main revisions to the Copyright Act, even their Enforcement Decrees. As for the rendering of Copyright Act, its quality is quite high despite long, complicated and highly specialized texts. However, there also exist some points that need to be improved to better suit for the global standard.

This paper aims to examine the various issues which can be found in the English translation of the Korean Copyright Act made currently available, and to suggest several points concerning ways to improve them. Above all, it will point out the issue that the legal concepts defined and used in the translation are hard to understand

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on the grounds that they are unfamiliar to foreign scholars/practitioners. Thus, it is necessary to use internationally and widely used terms, which should be carefully chosen and evaluated. In the paper, it is also pointed out a series of errors: some parts of the English rendering are missing, or different terms and expressions are used for the same legal terms within the Copyright Act as well as between Copyright Act and other Acts, which causes inevitable confusion.

For good legal translation, the translation should not be treated as a service provided by a professional translator. In many occasions, translating specialized legal concepts to foreign languages can be the subject of research and discussion among scholars/practitioners in the field. Further attention and efforts are required to make a better understandable translation of the Korean Copyright Act.

### Keywords

intellectual property, IP, copyright, Korean Copyright Act, legal translation, English translation, Korea Legislation Research Institute, Korea Law Translation Center