

Abstract

**A Study on the Protection of Copyright in the DDR
and on the Special Articles Relating to the Copyright
in the Reunification Agreement of BRD and DDR**

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Recently active exchanges between South- and North-Korea make us hopes for reunification as well as concern on how both countries which have been living under different systems for over 60 years could reunify legal system, in particular, intellectual property legal system. In this regard, the case on reunification of the BRD and DDR would give us any implications. After divided countries BRD and DDR had a unified 'Urheberrecht', but since 1 January 1966 BRD and DDR have enforced their own Copyright Act till reunification. In the DDR, especially, use of the works not only in the DDR but in foreign countries including the BRD had to be censored, and approval of the 'Office of Copyright(Büro für Urheberrechte)' was requested before conclusion of a contract on use of the works from the DDR. The Collecting Societies such as GEMA in the BRD have managed the copyright since reunification, and the 'Büro für Urheberrechte' was repealed. It is needed to discuss on whether such an 'Office of Copyright' in the North-Korea should be continuously maintained after reunification of South- and North-Korea. Besides, in the DDR AWA(Anstalt zur Wahrung der Aufführungsrechte auf dem Gebiete der Musik) was established as legal organization. As DDR and BRD were reunified in 1990, some special copyright articles were introduced into the German Reunification Treaty. This study closely considers the special copyright articles in the Treaty and their legal meanings, and these could be important reference materials in the process of reunification between South- and North-Korea. In the future, we need to meticulously discuss on how we should

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apply the case of reunification of the BRD and DDR concerning the intellectual property system to the future reunification between South- and North-Korea.

Keywords

Copyright of DDR, German Reunification Treaty, Office of Copyright, AWA, Musical Works

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