

CO Consultation CITB/CITB

寄件者:
寄件日期: 2022年2月16日星期三 16:58
收件者: CO Consultation CITB/CITB
副本:
主旨: Updating Hong Kong's Copyright Regime Consultation
類別: Internet Email

Dear Commerce and Economic Development Bureau,

Regarding your consultation document, Updating Hong Kong's Copyright Regime, I have two serious concerns about Hong Kong's copyright law.

At the moment overseas companies are able to openly violate the rights of Hong Kong copyright owners freely and still do business here. (Reference: http://hub.hku.hk/local/hku_theses_on_amazon_and_other_online_retailers/) My MA dissertation is for sale overseas without my permission by companies with which I have no business relationship. This sale of my dissertation is in direct competition with my published book. They are free to ignore my objections. If a copy of the thesis were ordered from within Hong Kong and delivered, I hope that the company's local branch could be charged criminally by the HK police.

I strongly oppose the posthumous extension of copyright protection. (Updating Hong Kong's Copyright Regime: 7.1 (a)) The Hong Kong Copyright ordinance provides copyright protection for the author's life plus fifty years. This is ample time to benefit from one's work. Also the fifty year time span is easily enough time to provide for a widow and any orphans. I am concerned about political pressure from some countries that seek to extend the posthumous copyright ownership to 70 or more years. Such an extension does nothing to benefit a living author.

At some point copyright needs to expire and allow the works to enter the public domain, becoming part of the general culture. I have made use of various stories that are in the public domain under the current Hong Kong law. Over many years, I have annotated them and constructed lessons and student tasks around these public domain works. These texts and tasks have been used to help many students with their studies. Some of these I have published. If Hong Kong were to adopt the American life plus seventy years copyright extension, I would be retroactively made a criminal, by having my hard work made illegal. Please do not rob me and my students of the benefits of my labour.

Please protect the actual rights of living authors to their work and not the extension of copyright decades after we are dead.

Yours respectfully,

Patrick Cummings 熊