

## The RSA Adelphi Charter – Update, January 2006

Since we launched the Charter last October, we have been active on a number of fronts promoting its principles. Now, three months on, I want to say what has happened and what we are planning for 2006 and beyond.

We had a very good response in the weeks following the launch from many people and organisations in the US, Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America. The website [www.adelphicharter.org](http://www.adelphicharter.org) has attracted a lot of traffic. We now have language versions in Brazilian Portuguese, Bulgarian, Chinese, French, German, Italian and Spanish up or imminent, with more to come.

Many people asked what they could do to help. It was tempting to start a sign-on facility but we decided to stick to our decision to stay with the RSA and the Commission. One of the most active supporters was Gilberto Gil who took multiple copies to Paris for UNESCO's General Conference.

Another was András Bozóki, Hungarian Minister of Culture, who used his closing speech at November's 'Inclusive Europe' conference to describe the Charter as 'an important initiative calling for wide coalitions to ensure both the sharing of knowledge and the rewarding of innovation.'

We sent a copy of the Charter to every government mission in Geneva, addressed to their representatives to WIPO and WTO. Typical was the response of the Director General of the Russian Federal Service for Intellectual Property, Patents and Trademarks who said 'This document should be discussed thoroughly within the framework of the appropriate international fora.' In November WIPO gave the RSA observer status on a permanent basis (we had had temporary status since Spring) and we hope to attend more WIPO meetings in 2006. Copies of the Charter were distributed at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunisia.

We sent a copy of the Charter to all relevant UK government ministers, MPs, Peers, and government officials. Derek Wyatt, MP, Chair of the Parliamentary All-Party Internet Group (APIG), and Janet Anderson, MP, hosted a lunch for the RSA in the House of Commons on 8 November so we could present the Charter to MPs and Peers. Given the importance of the economic arguments, the RSA is exploring ways of doing some economics research.

The main UK focus over the next nine months is the Government's new Independent Review of Intellectual Property, announced by Chancellor Gordon Brown and headed by Andrew Gowers, former editor of the Financial Times. The review will report to the Treasury and the Departments of Trade and of Culture in the Autumn. The terms of reference are quite narrow. We will urge Andrew Gowers to look at the Charter principles and take a more critical approach.

In December I addressed the Shanghai International IP Forum and presented the Charter to the Director General of the Shanghai Intellectual Property Administration. I also presented the Charter to government ministers and officials in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Dale Spender and AShareNet in Australia launch the Charter at a one-day seminar in Sydney on 2 March called 'Making the Most of Creativity' ([www.aesharenet.com.au/adelphi](http://www.aesharenet.com.au/adelphi)). I am most grateful to Dale for this. Speakers include Louise Sylvan and Peter Drahos. Commission members, as well as Dale, myself and several Australian experts. The Queensland University of Technology also arranged me to visit QUT in Brisbane and federal politicians and officials in Canberra.

While in Asia, I am visiting Shanghai again (February) and also Tokyo (March). I am keen to spread the Charter's message as widely as possible and am open to other invitations.

We are also considering a conference in 2007 to check on progress and keep the message alive.

John Howkins