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3 June 2016

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Kinokuniya Book Stores of Australia Pty Ltd
Productivity Commission Draft Report – April 2016

Re: Submission from Kinokuniya Book Stores of Australia Pty Ltd

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to make this submission in response to the Productivity Commission Draft Report on the recommendation to lift parallel importation restrictions.

Kinokuniya Book Stores of Australia

Kinokuniya was established on 1927 in Japan and has run the business in Australia since 1996. We have 95 retail bookshops and 35 corporate sales office all over the world among nine countries. In Australia, we have a retail store and a sales office sized 28,000 square feet at the CBD of Sydney. We have served more than 10,000 of loyal customers and around 800,000 in yearly traffic. Most of them are Australian citizen and it is the company's core value to contribute to developing the growth of local cultures and talents with the aim of promoting better understandings amongst various cultures.

Support of ABA submissions

As a member of the Australian Booksellers Association(ABA), Kinokuniya supports and endorses the submission made by ABA in opposing the proposed dropping of Parallel Importation Restrictions(PIR).

Our Mission

We are committed to provide excellent services and pleasant ambience to satisfy and delight all our customers. Together, we work in trust, harmony and integrity so that all of us can be proud of being a member of Kinokuniya.

Special Comments

In particular, Kinokuniya would like to emphasize the following point.

1. Damaging Local Businesses: As a bookseller serving Australian readers, Kinokuniya relies on and keeps a strong relationship with Australian publishing industry. We are afraid that dropping PIR will cause damage to the industry and narrow the range of availability through local distributors. Kinokuniya has multiple supply sources overseas but we are unable to rely on those suppliers as well as local ones due to higher shipping costs and risks in purchasing without 'sale or return' policy. It might results in a loss of wider range of selection in the store which Australian consumers enjoy now.
2. Growth of Local Cultures through Local Publishing: Kinokuniya has run the bookselling business in nine countries. In some countries, we could not help relying on imported titles in its selection as the number of local publications are quite limited. In Australia on the other hand, the majority of our stock is local publications and we think how precious a situation it is. Kinokuniya believes that the enrichment of local publications is like a rich soil to grow a nation's own culture.

Please contact me if you require any further information on the above or have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Yoshitaka Miyagi
Managing Director
Kinokuniya Book Stores of Australia Pty Ltd