

Executive Committee meeting 2008 held

February 2008

The FIT Executive Committee (EC) attended the CIUTI Forum and met after it at the University of Geneva, Switzerland 26–27 January 2008. The entire EC meeting was open to observers for the first time, for the two complete days.

CIUTI Forum: The FIT President was among the opening speakers to the CIUTI Forum, held in the United Nations building. The two-day forum addressed a wide range of topics relevant to translation and interpreting professionals.

New memberships: EGYTA Egyptian Translators Association has applied for membership of FIT and queries have been received from: Ilia Chavchavadze State University in Georgia; Asociacion de Traductores e Interpretes de Baja California; and Ukrainian Translators' Association, Kiev, Ukraine.

In the lead up to the **Statutory Congress**, responses have been flowing in on the **strategic planning process**, and results will be collated, salient points extracted and distributed to members. The **FIT statutes** are being reviewed. FIT member bodies are invited to participate. Suggestions for amendments to the FIT statutes may be sent by e-mail to secretariat@fit-ift.org with **FIT Bylaws** in the subject header. **Suggestions** are also requested for Model Bylaws to be used in creating a new translators' and interpreters' association. Please send your suggestions by e-mail to secretariat@fit-ift.org with **Model Bylaws** in the subject line.

FIT-UNESCO liaison: UNESCO announced 75 years of its **Index Translationum**. FIT cast its vote in the NGO Liaison Committee elections, and has submitted its accreditation for UN representation. The **UN International Year of Languages 2008**; Press Release has been distributed to FIT members for information and translation, as appropriate.

FIT ID card: Renewals are occurring at a steady pace. Details on the FIT web site: www.fit-ift.org. At a meeting between FIT and International Federation of Journalist (IFJ) representatives, the IFJ expressed support for the ID card and willingness to launch cooperative efforts. More details will follow soon.

International Translation Day 2008: The topic is terminology and this year's theme is *Terminology: Words Matter – Terminologie: des mots qui parlent*. A press release will soon be posted at www.fit-ift.org/en/download.php

The **FIT Translation Technology Committee** is planning an **online survey** on computer tools, to be conducted the first half of this year. FIT member organizations will be contacted shortly.

FIT visibility FIT was or will be represented at the following meetings and conferences:

- UNESCO NGO (non-governmental organization) Civil Society Day, 25 October 2007, Paris, France
- ESIT 50th anniversary and international conference, 9–10 November, 2007, Paris, France
- Arab Thought Foundation: The Third International Translation Conference, Beirut, 4-6 October 2008
www.translationatf.org
- Terminology Week, a series of events in Outaouais region, Canada, 1–10 October 2008
<http://www.translationbureau.gc.ca>

Upcoming FIT events

FIT Committee for Court Interpreting and Legal Translation and the **University of Tampere** are arranging the Committee's 9th International Forum, Tampere, Finland, 29 May–1 June 2008; <http://vi01n247.members.eunet.at/tampere/>

FIT World Congress 2008: The **Statutory Congress venue** is changed to the **Shanghai Lansheng Hotel**, <http://www.lanshenghotel.com/english/default.htm>. The Second Announcement is posted at www.fit2008.org. The dates are: **Statutory Congress**, 2–3 August 2008; **Open Congress**, 4–7 August, 2008. Registration for the Open Congress has now begun and the Early Bird rate is valid until the end of March 2008. Participants are urged to book early due to the Olympics which follow on from the Congress. The **4th keynote speaker** will be Yohannes Mengesha, Assistant Secretary-General for UN General Assembly and Conference Management. **FIT Prizes:** The nomination period has just expired; the juries are now complete. Decisions will be announced during the Awards Ceremony at the Open Congress.

Next FIT meetings The FIT Executive Committee and Council and meetings will be hosted by the American Translators Association, ATA, in Alexandria, Virginia, USA. The dates are: Executive Committee, 25 April 2008; Council 26 and 27 April 2008. The **pre-Statutory** Executive Committee meeting will be on 31 July 2008 and the Council meeting on 1 August 2008, at the Shanghai Lansheng Hotel.