



June 2009

FIT Executive Committee meeting April 2009

At the invitation of the Translators Association of China, the FIT Executive Committee (EC) met in Shenzhen, China, on 24-26 April 2009. Four observers participated in the EC meeting and five Council members followed the discussions via internet telephony. Prof. Mao Sihui, President of FTIM (Federation of Translators and Interpreters of Macau) attended the meeting as an observer and announced the 6th FIT Asian Translators' Forum to be held in November 2010, while Prof. Maneerat Sawasdiwat Na Ayutthaya of Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi in Thailand was welcomed as a special guest and provided information on an international conference on IT and localization planned for December 2009.

Shanghai Statutory Congress Report

The English report is ready to be translated into French. The report will be made available on the closed members section of the FIT website and members that prefer will be able to request a copy on CD. In order to save time, paper and mailing costs, the EC has decided to expand the electronic distribution of documents and also to start an electronic archive.

Special guests at FIT meetings

The EC agreed that special guests may be invited to attend part of FIT meetings for specific purposes. The topics(s) and names of guests would be clearly announced in the agenda for the meeting and the guests would attend only the relevant part of the meeting.

Electronic participation in meetings

It was agreed that, for the time being, all available free technology would be investigated, taking into account distances and time differences, in order to enable Council and EC members as well as FIT member associations to attend meetings virtually as voting members or as observers. As the possibilities are limited, the EC decided to give priority to participants as follows: 1) EC members, 2) at least one representative of each continent, 3) one member per country and 4) representatives of different countries instead of more members from the same country, according to the principle *first come first served*. In order to ensure the smooth running of meetings, observers will be given 15 to 30 minutes for comments at the end of each session/day.

Action Plan 2009

The EC was happy to note that 50% of the 2009 planned activities have been accomplished or are at least in progress. This is in line with the proposed calendar.

FIT Corporate Identity

Given the cost analysis of trademark registration, the EC decided to keep the idea of further applications in mind but provisionally not to expand the current application to other countries. The Corporate Identity Subcommittee would be asked to develop guidelines for corporate identity elements applicable to FIT and to present a draft policy at the annual Council meeting in October 2009.

Finances

As agreed at the EC meeting in Paris, the year's accounts were reviewed by a member association. The EC thanked Louis Vorstermans, treasurer of AUSIT (Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators), for having undertaken the task and given recommendations. A new format of budget presentation and control will be submitted to Council and the budget will be updated monthly. Moreover, the EC will investigate solutions to reduce banking fees.

Advertising

The findings of the relevant committee were discussed. The finalized draft policy will be presented to Council for further examination and decision.

Website

The EC thanks and congratulates the Website Committee and its chair Sabine Colombe for all the work that has been done in the past months. The EC will investigate further options to help the Website Committee with the development of the web pages.

Public Relations

New ideas for more visibility on the website were proposed, such as the publication of short profiles of all FIT office-bearers (Council, committees, regional centres, Executive Director, editors of publications, former presidents), a photo album (including pictures from FIT's early years, ITD celebrations, colloquia, congresses and other events, pictures of the next World Congress city, etc.) and a special UNESCO column. This project will be further developed in close cooperation with the Website Committee.

The EC will put together a brochure on FIT to be distributed at special events.

FIT representation at forthcoming events (May 2009 – November 2009)

9 May 2009: Europe Day: Luxemburg, European Capital of Translation – Luxemburg (FIT representative: Andrew Evans)

2 June 2009: CIUTI Forum – Translating the Future: Beyond Today's Academic and Professional Challenges – Geneva (Switzerland) – www.ciuti.org (FIT representatives: Frans De Laet, Youyi Huang and Jiri Stejskal)

18–20 August 2009: MTA (Malaysian Translation Association) – 12th International Conference on Translation – Penang (Malaysia) – <http://www.ppm-mta.org> (FIT representative: Marion Boers)

11–13 September 2009: BDÜ (Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V.) – International Conference: Übersetzen in die Zukunft – Berlin (Germany) – <http://www.bdue.de> (FIT representatives: Marion Boers, Sabine Colombe and Jiri Stejskal)

21–23 October 2009: CD (Çeviri Dernegi) – International Colloquium of Translation: Translation in All its Aspects with a Focus on International Dialogue – Istanbul (Turkey) – <http://www.ceviridernegi.org> (FIT representatives: Marion Boers and/or Council members)

28–31 October 2009: ATA (American Translators Association) – 50th Annual Conference – New York (USA) – <http://www.atanet.org> (FIT representatives: Marion Boers, Sheryl Hinkkanen and Jiri Stejskal)

Members

The EC decided to raise more awareness of the Solidarity Fund.

FIT Committees

Given the multiplicity of tasks for the Council at the beginning of a new mandate and concern about ensuring continuity, the EC proposed a new term of three years for committees from 1 June 2009 to 31 May 2012. The names of the contact persons will be announced on the website and a call for nominations to supplement several committees will be sent to regular and associate members.

The EC also warmly thanked all members who served on the FIT Committees for 2005-2008.

Regional Centres

The EC took note of the reports of FIT Europe and CRAL and thanked their Steering Committees. More information on the situation in North America and Asia was given verbally. Necessary contacts will be maintained.

Publications

Translatio

The English version of the next issue was ready for translation into French. It will be distributed electronically to members unless a printed version is specifically requested. A limited number of copies will be printed for promotional purposes.

Flash

A proposed new format for the FIT Flash News Bulletin in the form of a PPT was presented and will soon be tested on the website. For a period of transition, the classic format will be maintained as well.

Translations of the FIT Flash in languages other than the two official FIT languages will not be placed on the website, but associations are strongly encouraged to translate all information if necessary and feasible and distribute it to their members.

Babel

The contract with John Benjamins Publishing Company comes up for review in 2011.

Translatio Bibliography

It was decided previously that Translatio Bibliography will in future be published electronically. However, previous subscriptions were taken out on the basis of printed versions. Print copies will thus continue to be produced for subscribers who prefer that format until the end of their current subscription. In the meantime, the EC would investigate possibilities of paid electronic consultation.

XIXth FIT World Congress and Statutory Congress in San Francisco

The provisional dates for the Statutory Congress are Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 July 2011 and for the Open Congress Monday 1 August to Thursday 4 August 2011.

Google settlement

The EC was informed that an agreement had been reached in the USA regarding a process to compensate copyright-holders (which includes translators) for Google's unauthorized digitization of books and other documents. More detailed information was to be circulated among all members.

Next meeting

The Council will meet in Istanbul (Turkey) at the occasion of the International Colloquium of Translation organized by Çeviri Derneği, the Turkish Association of Translators. The EC meeting is planned for Sunday 18 October and the Council meeting for Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 October 2009.