

## FIT visits Shenzhen, China

At its latest meeting, held between 24 and 26 April 2009, the FIT Executive Committee (EC) was honoured to be hosted in Shenzhen, China, by the Translators Association of Shenzhen (TAS) and the Translators' Association of China (TAC).

The day prior to the meetings, the Translators Association of Shenzhen introduced the EC members to Shenzhen, a city that only 30 years ago was a rural village and today is a sprawl



Meeting with representatives of Huawei Technologies' localisation centre

of modern high-rise offices and apartments. We were impressed as we drove to our various appointments by the thought that has gone into the layout of the city, which includes many trees and parks, so one is not overwhelmed by a feeling of being in a 'concrete jungle'. Visits had been arranged to Huawei Technologies, a global leader in telecommunication

solutions, and the TCL Corporation, producer of a range of electronic and household equipment. Both companies have a global reach and so are extremely aware of the importance of translation. The EC members had the opportunity to meet officials from Huawei Technologies' localisation centre, learning about the work they do and exchanging views on best international practice.

Having started the day on a local note by visiting the TAS offices, we concluded on a national note by visiting a park that contains miniatures of all of China's main attractions, such as the Great Wall, the Terracotta Soldiers and the Forbidden City, as well as representatives of the different ethnic groups in China. What a wonderful overview of this fascinating country!



Viewing some work done by the Translators Association of Shenzhen

We were privileged to be hosted to dinner by Mr Zhuo Qinrui, Deputy Mayor of the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government, and Ms Lina Ding, Deputy Director General in the Foreign Affairs Office of the Shenzhen Municipal



FIT, TAS and TAC officers with the Deputy Mayor of Shenzhen and the Deputy Director of Foreign Affairs of Shenzhen

People's Government. We appreciate their making time to see us and share their knowledge of their city. TAS is working closely with the Shenzhen Municipality on a project to produce bilingual road signs for the city, in Chinese and English.

FIT extends its thanks and appreciation to the Translators Association of Shenzhen, in particular their President, Mr Wang Zongwei, and Secretary General, Mr Qiu Yongle, as well as the

Translators Association of China for their hospitality, organisation and invitation to hold a meeting in Shenzhen, exposing us to a part of China we may not otherwise have had the opportunity to visit.

Marion Boers  
FIT President