

Presenting the

World Congress on Specialized Translation

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“Languages and Intercultural Dialogue
in a Globalizing World”

Habana Libre Hotel, Havana, Cuba
December 8-13, 2008
cmte2008@unilat.org
<http://dtil.unilat.org/cmte2008>





Introduction

Background

The UN has proclaimed 2008 the International Year of Languages and to join in the events, MAAYA, the World Network for Linguistic Diversity, is celebrating the *Year of Languages and Intercultural Dialogue in a Globalizing World* through various activities to take place on all five continents.

As part of the activities, the MAAYA Network and the Unión Latina – with the support of Cuba’s Center for Translation and Interpretation (ESTI), the Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI), and the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC) – are convening the **World Congress on Specialized Translation** in Havana, Cuba. The aim of the gathering is to highlight the importance of specialized translation as a guarantee of multilingualism and as a shield against any attempts to impose a hegemonic monolingual dialogue.

Organizers

MAAYA, the World Network for Linguistic Diversity

MAAYA, the World Network for Linguistic Diversity, is a multilateral network that aims to bring together all sectors of society to recognize and promote linguistic diversity as being fundamental to the uniqueness of human communication.

The Unión Latina

The Unión Latina is an intergovernmental organization representing 40 countries that officially use neo-Latin languages. The organization seeks to promote and disseminate the languages and cultures of its member countries; contribute to the development of terminology, neology and language-based professions; and encourage multilingualism within the Information Society.

Collaborating entities

ESTI

The Center for Translation and Interpretation (ESTI) is a Cuban governmental institution that since 1973 has provided translation, interpretation and terminology services in 19 languages, both in Cuba and abroad.

ACTI

The Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI) is a non-governmental organization that is a member of the International Federation of Translators (FIT). It brings together translators, interpreters and terminologists in Cuba.

CTTIC

The Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC) is also a member of FIT. The organization unites and coordinates the work of all Canadian translation associations.



Objectives

General objectives

- Discuss the best practices for improving the working conditions of specialized translators and promoting multilingualism in the international community.
- Generate original and viable ideas to upgrade translation training and raise public awareness of the practical and economic advantages of using specialized translation services.
- Present to influential international entities solutions and suggestions regarding the promotion of specialized translation as a key element in achieving respect for linguistic diversity.

Specific objectives

- Emphasize the fundamental role played by the specialized translator in the creation of a culturally diverse world, in which individuals can express themselves freely in their own languages to communicate with one another and obtain information.
- Contribute to increasing the efficiency of translators through more suitable on-line tools.
- Emphasize the importance of translation work in economic, social, political, industrial and other sectors.
- Report on the current situation of translation in international organizations, standardization entities, international patent agencies, international protocol bodies, etc., and on translation-related trends within these organizations.
- Encourage dialogue between translators and representatives of traditional and digital publishers and audiovisual production companies on the issue of translator rights.

Nature of the event

This event aims to be a forum for discussion on current international policies that advance the work of translators, a key factor in the preservation of linguistic diversity.

Besides the plenary sessions dealing with key topics, specific workshops will be organized around related themes and a technological showcase will present the main advancements in translation tools.



Description

Speakers

Two categories of speakers will participate in the Congress: those invited by the Congress' organizing entities and speakers selected through a call for participation. The academic committee will be responsible for the selection process.

Place and date

The World Congress on Specialized Translation will be held at the Habana Libre Hotel (Calle L, Vedado district), Havana, Cuba, from December 8 to 13, 2008.

Languages of the Congress

The official languages of the Congress are Spanish, French, English, Portuguese and Russian. The forum plans to have simultaneous interpretation services provided thanks to the support of the Center for Translation and Interpretation (ESTI) and the Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI).

Topics

The main topics of the Congress will be:

- Information sciences, the Internet and translators: efficacy and efficiency
- "Translation is too expensive and too slow," or the lies behind monolingualism
- Translation in international organizations, patents and norms
- The translator in dialogue with editors and producers of audiovisual material

Coordination and programming

The event will have an organizing committee, an academic committee and an honorary committee.

The **organizing committee** will comprise:

- The Unión Latina, whose principal duties will be to oversee issues of international management, funding, publicity and outreach, registration and receiving proposals and communications.
- The MAAYA network, which will help find funding and international sponsors for the event (UN, UNESCO, OIF, etc.)
- The Center for Translation and Interpretation (ESTI), which along with the Unión Latina Office in Cuba will play a part in all logistical aspects of the Congress.
- The Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI), which along with the Unión Latina Office in Cuba will play a part in all logistical aspects of the Congress.

- The Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC), which will collaborate closely to find renowned individuals who can lend greater prestige to the event. CTTIC will also coordinate the participation of North American congress participants.

The **Academic Committee** will be made up of renowned translators and language specialists who are familiar with the challenges of translation and are committed to multilingualism. The committee will be responsible for evaluating the proposals that will be part of the Congress program.

The **Honorary Committee** will be made up of renowned individuals (writers, artists, politicians, businesspeople and others) who share the values of the Congress.

Anticipated results

1. Increase recognition of the work of specialized translators.
2. Provide participants with information on the latest technologies and tools available to translators.
3. Identify pitfalls that are impeding the development of the profession.
4. Underline the need to contribute to a culturally and linguistically diverse world.

It is hoped that the Congress will lead to the development of a manifesto, a declaration or some other broad-based document that would then be sent to the UN and UNESCO, so that they can provide ongoing support for the work of translators.

Expected participation

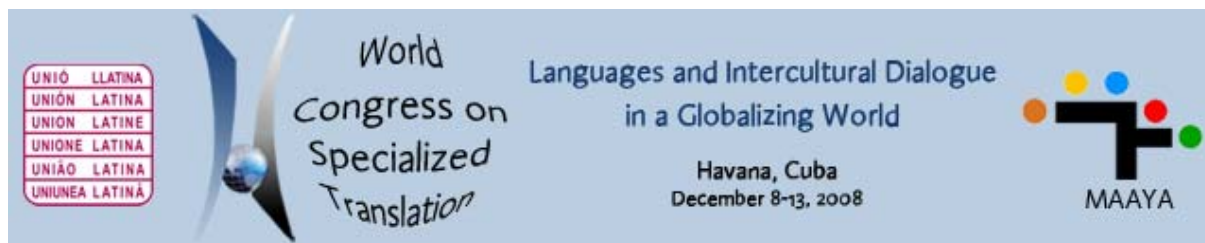
Approximately 300 people are expected to attend, mainly specialists in translation, language and translation-related linguistic policies, editors, lexicographers, terminologists and representatives of international organizations. University students are also expected to be present.

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Sponsors

Anticipated institutional sponsors

- The Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Cuban Academy of Science
- The Cuban Book Institute
- The International Federation of Translators (FIT)
- The United Nations
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- The International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF)
- The Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI)
- The Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)
- The Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP)
- The Commonwealth of Nations
- The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)
- Private sponsors (publishing houses, banks, language tool development companies, etc.)



Call for Participation

Paper (abstract) submission deadline: May 15, 2008

Notification of acceptance: June 30, 2008

Accepted papers to be submitted no later than: October 15, 2008

Official languages of the Congress: English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Abstract: The abstract must include: a title, the topic on which the paper is submitted, the official language in which the paper will be presented, the author's name, e-mail and postal addresses and telephone number(s). The abstract must be submitted in Spanish, French or English, exclusively. It must not exceed 500 words in length and must be sent via e-mail in one of the following formats: .doc, .txt, .rtf or .odt. No PDF files or documents with images will be accepted.

Other types of participation: In addition to presentations in the plenary hall, poster and demonstration sessions will be organized as part of the Congress. Proposals for these must not exceed 300 words. The above deadlines apply.

Workshop and roundtable proposals are welcome. Please contact Congress organizers before April 15 in this regard.

The call for participation in the technology exhibition will be issued shortly.

Topics: Proposed papers for the plenary session must be on one of the following topics:

- Information sciences, the Internet and translators: efficacy and efficiency
- "Translation is too expensive and too slow," or the lies behind monolingualism
- Translation in international organizations, patents and norms
- The translator in dialogue with editors and producers of audiovisual material

Participants: Approximately 300, including translators, language experts, linguistic policy-makers, editors, lexicographers, terminologists and representatives of international organizations.

Payment: All participants (except those to whom special conditions apply¹), speakers or not, must pay the Congress registration fee. Non-invitees must pay for their own transportation. Accepted papers by authors who do not pay the registration fee or who do not attend the Congress will not be included in the catalogue.

¹ Cuban residents, students, invitees and members of organizations with which there is a special agreement.

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Specific objectives:

- Emphasize the fundamental role played by the specialized translator in the creation of a culturally diverse world, in which individuals can express themselves freely in their own languages to communicate with one another and obtain information.
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For more information visit: <http://dtil.unilat.org/cmte2008>
Send proposals to: cmte2008@unilat.org



Additional information

About the Congress

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Besides the plenary sessions dealing with key topics, specific workshops will be organized around related themes and a technological showcase will present the main advancements in translation tools.

Congress venue and date

Venue: Habana Libre Hotel, Calle L between 23 and 25, Vedado, Plaza,
Havana, Cuba

Date: December 8 - 13, 2008

Official languages

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Coordination and programming

The Congress will have an organizing committee, an academic committee and an honorary committee.

The **Organizing Committee** will be made up of the Union Latina, the Maaya Network, the Centre for Translation and Interpretation (ESTI), the Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI) and the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC).

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