

TAC Holds a Series of Public Activities in Celebration of International Translation Day

The First “National Seminar on the Translation of Public Signs”, co-sponsored by Translators Association of China (TAC), *China Daily* Website, China National Institute of Standardization and Beijing International Studies University, was held on Sep. 26, 2005. Mr. Liu Xiliang, President of TAC, and Mr. Huang Youyi, Vice President of FIT and Vice President of TAC, each delivered a speech on the opening ceremony, calling for more attention to and greater effort on improving the translation of public signs into foreign languages. More than one hundred scholars from around the country attended the seminar.

In order to improve the English language environment to welcome the 2008 Olympic Games and XVIII FIT World Congress, to be held in China in 2008 in succession, TAC has worked closely with some institutions and local translators associations to organize public campaigns aimed at improving and standardizing the translation of public signs in some major cities. Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Chongqing, Shenzhen, Qingdao and Guilin have been selected as pilot cities for such campaigns. Research into English signs at various public places such as tourist sights, airports, train and bus stations, streets and shopping centers will be carried out and problems will be identified. Language specialists will then be convened to work on those problems, and provide instructions or measures to treat such problems. In this way, we hope to standardize the use of English signs in public places. Some of the pilot cities have already launched this activity.

This seminar marks the beginning of a series of events organized by TAC in celebration of International Translation Day.

On September 29, 2005, TAC held a half-day event characterized by commending senior translators and interpreters and admitting the first group of corporate and individual members. More than 300 translators and interpreters who have worked for decades in the field of translation and have made outstanding achievements received the honorary title.

TAC started to commend senior translators in 2001. So far, a total of 518 translators and interpreters working in the fields of diplomacy, international communication, social science, literature and ethnic languages in 15 language combinations have been awarded. Each time, the event was widely reported by the media, drawing people’s attention to the great contributions made by translators and interpreters to our society as a whole.

On the same day, TAC also welcomed the first group of corporate and individual members. Prominent institutions and corporations such as the Central Compilation and Translation Bureau, *Shanghai Daily*, China Translation&Publishing Corporation,

the Commercial Press, Beijing Foreign Studies University as well as a number of established professionals were admitted to TAC on this memorable occasion.

It is the first time for TAC to admit institutions, corporations and individuals as its members since its founding in 1982. Previously, TAC was composed by member associations only, with 54 local associations throughout China under its umbrella.