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flash

March 2013 (Please distribute widely)

FIT Council meeting March 2013

The FIT Council and the Executive Director met in Oslo, Norway, on 2 and 3 March at the invitation of the Norwegian Association of Literary Translators (NO) and the Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association (NFF). Some 18 observers from all over Europe attended the meeting. The meetings took place at NO's offices in a historic Oslo building and were held in association with three days of translation-related events at Oslo's House of Literature.

The Executive Committee met the day before the Council meeting to deal with matters requiring preparation for the main meeting.

The meetings were also the occasion to launch the Federation's 60th anniversary, as NO was a founding member. FIT President Marion Boers said a few words in this regard at the end of a presentation at the Literature House and on opening the meeting, and a toast was raised to FIT at a dinner for the Council members hosted by NO and NFF in a historic restaurant set above Oslo.

Reports and administration

The meeting approved reports from the president, secretary general, treasurer and executive director which gave an overview of work within the Federation over the 10 months since the last Council meeting. It was felt that reasonable progress had been made, and the next 18 months would concentrate on finalising the various projects. The treasurer reported that the change of currency to the Swiss franc had brought an element of stability to FIT's finances. Council agreed to the treasurer's request to stand down and act as assistant treasurer for the remainder of his term. Reina de Bettendorf was subsequently elected treasurer.

All reports submitted for the meeting are available to members on the FIT website.

The organisers of the 2014 FIT Congress made a presentation of the progress to date and their future programme. The meeting participants were enthusiastic about the plans and agreed to assist with dissemination of information about the Congress. The Congress contract was signed at the meeting. Members are encouraged to consult the Congress website on a regular basis (www.fit2014.org).

Regional centres and committees

Representatives of each of the three regional centres were present and reported on their activities. Council welcomed the reconstitution of the North American regional centre. The regional centres will soon announce their plans for celebrating FIT's 60th anniversary, among other activities.

The workplans of FIT's committees were considered and approved. The ambitious plans will further the mission of FIT in various domains. Details of the workplans are available on the website and individuals with an interest in a specific project should contact the committee chair about becoming involved.

The Awards Committee will soon be announcing several new awards to be made at the Congress in Berlin in August 2014. Nominations will open soon – keep an eye open, so that you can nominate your members!

The need to modernise some of our systems and procedures identified at the 2011 Congress had been taken up by the Organisational Development Committee, whose initial report was discussed in detail at the meeting. Membership input will be requested to support further proposals.

Projects and visibility

The FIT ID card project had been thoroughly analysed and with regret Council came to the conclusion that the project is not currently viable and should therefore be discontinued.

The various items on the Council's action plan for 2011-2014 were discussed. These cover a wide range of activities largely related to communication and awareness-raising and work will proceed on them in the coming months.

The entries for the FIT 60th Anniversary logo competition were analysed and a winner selected. Plans for celebrations at the FIT Asian Forum in Malaysia in August 2013 were discussed. Members are encouraged to attend the Forum and join in the festivities.

Marion Boers and Henry Liu had visited a range of organisations and European institutions on their way to the Council meeting and reported that they had been warmly received and all parties agreed on the need for continued interaction and communication. A full report will be available soon.

Work with Red T and AIIC on a *Guide for Interpreters in Conflict Zones* has progressed, with the Guide now available in five languages. FIT will be encouraging members to volunteer further translations and to assist in promoting its use.

An exciting development is progress with the social media plan: FIT now has a presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube! Join us and help raise awareness about FIT, the profession and the Berlin Congress.

Membership

The following new members have joined FIT since the last Council meeting:

- The Department of Translation and Interpretation at Atilim University, Turkey
- The Legal Translation Section of the Supreme Judiciary Council of the State of Qatar
- The Azerbaijan Youth Translators Association
- The Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec (OTTIAQ)

FIT representation at events in 2013

- 23-24 March 2013: Translation and Localization Conference – Warsaw, Poland (FIT representative: Renate Dockhorn)
- 22-24 April 2013: Third UN-MoU Universities Conference – Shanghai, China (FIT representative: Changqi Huang)
- 4-9 June 2013: Fourth International Conference on English, Discourse and Intercultural Communication – Macau (FIT representatives: Mao Sihui and members of the FIT Committee on Translation and Culture)
- 12 March 2013: Lecture at Tokyuu University – Tokyo, Japan (FIT representative: Izabel Arocha)
- 12 May 2013: Seminar in memory of Prof. Miriam Schlesinger – Tel Aviv, Israel – (FIT representative: Izabel Arocha)
- August 2013: Second International Conference of the Uruguayan Association of Translators (details forthcoming) (FIT representative: Silvana Marchetti)
- 27-29 August 2013: Seventh FIT Asian Translators Forum – Penang, Malaysia (FIT representatives: EC Committee)
- October 2012: Symposium organised by the Colombian Association of Translators – Bogota, Colombia (details forthcoming) (FIT representative: Silvana Marchetti)

Forthcoming meetings

The next meeting of the Council will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in March 2014.

The FIT Executive Committee will meet at the FIT Asian Translators Forum in Malaysia in late August 2013, but will also continue their monthly e-meetings.

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRADUCTEURS
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS