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Greetings everyone,

As requested by Sabine Colombe a week ago, here is a brief report on activities conducted by FIT North America in the last year. Unfortunately, I have no information, other than personal recollections, from the period before the fall of 2014, which is when I became involved with FIT-NA. I tried to get the information from my predecessor, Denis Bousquet, but I apparently was unable to reach him.

- In August 2014, my predecessor attended the FIT Statutory Congress and Open Congress in Berlin in his capacity as FIT-NA Chair and FIT Council member, and he presented a report on FIT-NA's activities at the Statutory Congress. Also present in Berlin, based on the List of participants, were representatives of ATA, CTTIC, IMIA, MIIS and OTTIAQ. I also attended both events as an individual member.
- On November 8, 2014, an in-person meeting was held in Chicago IL, USA. My predecessor then reported that NAJIT had withdrawn for financial reasons and was no longer a member of FIT-NA. He also welcomed OTTIAQ, which had officially become a full-fledged member of FIT at the Berlin Statutory Congress. The meeting consisted essentially of an informal discussion aimed at the development of a FIT-NA position regarding the competency requirements being discussed in the context of the ISO 17100 standard for translation service providers. A statement on this issue was later drafted by my predecessor based on our discussion.
- On January 28, 2015, a Regular Meeting was held by teleconference. A report was given on the status of the discussions regarding the ISO 17100 standard. And I was unanimously elected as the new Chair of FIT-NA. As of today, we are still in the process of getting the Secretary and Treasurer positions filled.
- On February 9, a letter was sent the highest officials in the Government of Denmark to express FIT-NA's support for the three Danish associations of translators and interpreters in their opposition to pending legislation which would result in the abolition of the authorization process for language professionals in Denmark. A copy of the letter was also sent to selected Danish media, the three associations involved and the FIT Secretariat.
- On February 25, 2015, a Regular Meeting was held by teleconference. The main topic for discussion was the last draft of the proposed FIT-NA Regulations. The final draft was subsequently approved by an e-mail vote, and submitted for approval by the FIT Council.
- As we look ahead, a major priority for FIT-NA will be the consolidation of our membership. As reported above, NAJIT has left, and other associations are reconsidering their membership in FIT, some quite seriously. This represents a major concern in our view and will need to be addressed quickly, not only by FIT-NA, but also by FIT as a whole. FIT-NA will definitely follow up on this particular issue, both with the associations involved with regard to their specific concerns, and with FIT, in the search for a viable solution.
- Another priority will be to make full use of the FIT-NA webpage on the main FIT website, and to ensure it is kept current at all times. This is also something we intend to follow up on.

Thank you, and all our best.

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