PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I write this message, we in South Africa have just finished the period of mourning following the death of Nelson Mandela. This great man influenced lives all over the world, in addition to the miracles he wrought in my own country. Even in death he continued to have an influence, on the translation profession specifically.

I am sure that you all followed the incident of the “fake” sign language interpreter at the memorial service for Mr Mandela in Johannesburg. While this was news for all the wrong reasons and it is most unfortunate that the incident should have occurred at such an important event, it certainly gave great visibility to the translation and interpreting profession across the world. My own association has never managed to raise awareness about the importance of hiring professional, properly trained and competent interpreters and translators with anything near the success that this incident brought about, and I hope that it has had similar results around the world. I am sure that Mr Mandela would not object to being the catalyst for such awareness-raising, as he was passionate about language and very aware of the importance of using people's mother tongue!

More awareness-raising about our profession is occurring with the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and the question of what happens to the locals who served them as translators and interpreters. It was tragic to hear during December of the death of one such linguist while waiting for his visa to move to Australia and another waiting to move after receiving asylum in Germany. How many more have to die before governments around the world give proper consideration to the linguists who assist them in areas of conflict? FIT is proud to be working with Red T, AIIC and IAPTI to raise awareness and push governments into action. Fortunately, most of us in this profession will not have to give our lives for it, but we can all work for the cause by talking about these things wherever appropriate. It is only through solidarity and working together that we will advance our profession and obtain the recognition due to it.

Thank you to you all for your support of FIT and its work. We look forward to further success in 2014. We will be discussing many of these issues at our World Congress in Berlin in August (www.fit2014.org) – hope to see you there!

Marion Boers,
President

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.”
Nelson Mandela (1918 – 2013)
Every year, International Translation Day (ITD) on 30 September is a special day to showcase the work that translators, interpreters and terminologists do in their concerted efforts to bridge diverse cultures. It is always interesting to see the variety of activities and events that associations organise to share their experience while making good use of the opportunity to raise awareness among T&I professionals and the general public. The reports below represent some of the many activities that took place around the world in 2013 in the celebrations of ITD.

Grand celebrations of ITD 2013 in Germany by VdÜ

Five years ago the Federation of German Literary and Scientific Translators (VdÜ) first celebrated International Translation Day here and there in Germany, joined by fellow organisations in Austria and Switzerland. This year the scene was quite different!

A group of translators based in Hamburg (Ingo Herzke, Annette Kopetzki, Miriam Mandelkow, Friederike Meltendorf and Eva Profousová) travelled to Berlin – at the invitation of the BDÜ-Landesverband Berlin-Brandenburg – to perform their widely acclaimed theatrical collage “We need to talk!” addressing the various ways of translating spoken language from British and American English, Russian, Czech or Italian into German. “The back of the literary carpet – translating poetry” was a topic discussed in Bremen by literary translators Hedwig Binder, Jürgen Dierking, Reiner Kornberger, Wolfgang Schlott and Dorota Tarach, some of whom are also poets in their own right.

In the Central Library of Frankfurt, the “Transparent Translator” was to be seen again, this time embodied by Michael Kegler. He publicly translated a passage from the novel Passageiro do fim do dia (Passenger at the end of the day) by the award-winning Brazilian writer Rubens Figueiredo. Hamburg was – once more – a centre of various activities: Here International Translation Day in fact encompassed several days, even allowing for the missionary trip to Berlin mentioned above: “DIRT – The World of David Vann” was presented by Miriam Mandelkow, long-time translator of the American writer, and bookseller Michael Keune.

Andreas Löhrer and Inka Marter took their audience on board an imaginary ship sailing from Buenos Aires via Oslo to the South China Sea, reading from their translations of the Mexican crime author Paco Ignacio Taibo II and the Argentinian novelist Norah Lange. “A reader’s heart can be reached through his stomach” – a group of nine translators dished up some delicacies from their current work: pigs in a blanket, goji berries and baby squid, mustard eggs, nettle jam and Devonshire double cream, some kosher, some not, seasoned with love or hate and appetites of all sorts.

Last, but not least: a new translation of Nick Hornby’s novel Fever Pitch (first published in German in 1992), an early classic, was presented by his new translator, Ingo Herzke. The Society of Saxonian Translators (“Die Fähre”) is based in Leipzig, where several translators celebrated an evening with music and literature from all over the world: Shakespeare’s sonnets and Soviet cuisine, JM Coetzee’s The Childhood of Jesus and Tunisian women, to name but a few highlights.

Article by Patricia Klobusiczky on behalf of VdÜ

Photos by Katrin Harlaß (Berlin), Hasco Fischer (Hamburg) and Ina Kronenberger (Bremen)
Words and music celebrate ITD in the Netherlands

The 2013 ITD theme Beyond Linguistic Barriers – A United World in Amsterdam was embedded in a variety of lectures and musical performances and the event was attended by over 90 participants.

Dr Jan ten Thije of the University of Utrecht delivered a lecture on the possibilities and limitations of “listen language” in cross-border and international communication. “Listen language” is a solution for multilingual communication in which partners each use their own language. They have sufficient receptive skills in the language of the other person to understand them well. This form of communication is relatively unknown, but has always been used. It is also called polyglot dialogue, inter-comprehension or receptive multilingualism. In the borderless Europe, this form of communication is increasingly used at all levels of cross-border and international communication.

Lawyer Marco Anink explained the liability of the translator in the case of a serious misunderstanding leading to extensive damage for the users of a translation. Is it fair to have the damage covered by the translator? Could general terms of delivery reduce the potential risk? What about the hierarchy of each party’s terms of delivery and the decision of the judge when a conflict has been brought to court? Is professional indemnity insurance a clever investment? These were all questions he addressed.

Sign Language interpreter Marlijne Hemelaar gave examples of the way the sign language interpreter facilitates communication between the deaf and the hearing. It is more complicated than just translating and communicating expressions from one language into another. She mentioned what is needed to optimize this communication and pointed out how often non-verbal communication is used between the hearing.

Musicologist Dr Sabine Lichtenstein outlined the historical discourse around the length and translations of the libretto of Haydn’s Creation. The lecture went further in this matter, on the basis of “The Creation” but also other music by Haydn, Bach and Mozart, focusing on an understanding of a neglected phenomenon: the concrete (“language”) meanings of musical techniques. Haydn used numerous techniques from the extensive “dictionary of the final target language”, the music. Furthermore, style, performance and perception of the humorous masterpiece were discussed.

Poet and translator Peter Brouwer explained what poetry means to him as a poet. He discussed the relationship between translation and writing poetry, and the transition of poetic aspects during the translation process. He looked at lyrics by Jacques Brel translated by Ernst van Altena some 30 years ago. To celebrate the 35th anniversary of the death of the Belgian singer, composer and songwriter, he and his colleague Michael Åbspoel gave a theatrical show about Brel’s poems and stories, accompanied by live music.

Trilingual celebration of ITD and FIT’s 60th anniversary in Macao

To celebrate International Translation Day (ITD) 2013 and the 60th anniversary of FIT, the School of Languages and Translation (ESLT) of Macao Polytechnic Institute organised a commemorative session with the Federation of Translators and Interpreters of Macao (FTIM) on 26 September 2013.

For this year’s celebration, FIT had chosen the theme “Beyond Linguistic Barriers – A United World” in recognition of translators and interpreters’ efforts to overcome language barriers and bring people closer together.

A student performance and an academic lecture were presented to reflect this year’s theme. ESLT currently offers two bachelor’s degree programmes, in Chinese-English and Chinese-Portuguese translation and interpretation, and it enrolls local and mainland China students as well as exchange students from Portugal. Three undergraduate students kicked off the celebration by reciting the 2013 ITD Communiqué in English, Chinese and Portuguese respectively. Professor Choi Wai Hao, Director of ESLT and Chairman of FTIM’s General Assembly, delivered the opening speech. He pointed out that MPI, a true embodiment of multilingualism, requires almost daily translation and interpreting services to guarantee its smooth running, and the ESLT trilingual teachers have made significant contributions to the Institute as well as to the community of Macao as a place of linguistic and cultural diversity. He expressed the hope and confidence that our graduates should become not
The Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters (AATI) gathered members, academia, students and only qualified translators and interpreters, but also great bridge-builders between different cultures.

Professor ZHANG Meifang, Vice-President of FTIM and a member of FIT’s Translation and Culture Committee (TCC), gave an academic lecture entitled “Text Functions, Translation Purposes and Translation Strategies”. She explained the Functionalist theories of the German School and their applications to the translation of different text types. Her lecture, full of practical and interesting examples, was well received by the audience, especially the translation students.

More than 160 people attended the commemorative session, including ESLT students, faculty, and some FTIM and FIT TCC members.

ITD at AATI: So much to celebrate in Argentina

The Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters (AATI) gathered members, academia, students and prominent guests for a special celebration of International Translation Day at IESLV J.R. Fernández translation school in Buenos Aires on Thursday 3 October 2013.

The celebration opened with speeches by AATI President Alejandra Jorge, and FIT President Marion Boers, who attended together with FIT LatAm Chairperson Silvana Marchetti. Other special guests in attendance were AIIC Vice-president Vicky Massa, ADICA President Ana de Choch, and the deans and professors of various translation schools in Buenos Aires.

FIT strongly supports the move in Argentina and issued an official letter to AATI in Buenos Aires on Thursday 3 October 2013.

With the motto ‘Spotlight on Young Professionals’, AATI organized a panel session with successful young colleagues representing different languages and disciplines, who shared with the audience their first steps in the profession.

“We believe it is important for recent graduates and senior students – the next generation of translators and interpreters – to hear first-hand how they can address a wide range of issues, including what fees to charge, how to approach new clients, and how to behave ethically and responsibly when they join the TT&I workforce,” said Alejandra Jorge.

It was then the turn of Lucila Cordone, from AATI’s Copyright Commission, to present the Translation Copyright Bill that is being promoted by AATI and renowned translators. The “Translation and Translator Protection Bill” was drafted and promoted by translators Pablo Ingberg and Andrés Ehrenhaus, and Estela Consigli and Lucila Cordone, from the Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters (AATI) Copyright Commission. The bill is be-
ing discussed in Congress and, if passed into law, will provide copyright protection for translators working for publishing houses, introduce a national award for translation, and give visibility to the translation profession. The bill is supported by prominent translators, writers and publishing houses, as well as major institutions, including SADE (Argentine Writers’ Association), Goethe Institut-Buenos Aires, ACEtt (the Book Translation Section of the Spanish Writers’ Association), LITTERAE Foundation, and ADICA (the Argentine Association of Conference Interpreters). The bill represents a milestone in the advancement of the profession. “The goal of the bill is to offer an effective legal tool to dignify translation and secure protection for professionals who translate for publishing houses. It would be a hallmark law even at international level, as there is no precedent of such legislation specifically designed for translators,” said Cordone.

Before the traditional raffle and cocktail, the audience was surprised and also entertained by a witty standup show about translators, led by translator Paola Medrano and her team. The performance showed the audience the most hilarious and ironic sides of the translation profession. “I’d like to thank […] AATI once again for the lovely celebration on Thursday. I thoroughly enjoyed it and am so pleased that the timing worked out so that I was able to participate. All aspects of the evening were great, but the performance by your translator-actress and her colleagues was just the cherry on the top,” said FIT President Marion Boers in a message after the event.

Three senior students in AATI’s Future Professionals programme provided valuable help during the meeting with accreditations, pictures and other key organisational tasks. Students in attendance were able to learn more about AATI and its role as a professional association, and had the opportunity to interact with experienced translators. Luli López, student, commented: “Thank you for the wonderful meeting today! It was all very positive and moving, and left me with warm feelings for the profession. The pleasant atmosphere was a sign of the excellent relationship among all colleagues.”

First National Translation Forum held in Azerbaijan

On 30 September 2013, International Translation Day, the First National Translation Forum of Azerbaijan on “Translation in Azerbaijan – the past, present and future: Challenges and the outlook” was held in Baku by the Azerbaijani Youth Translators Association (AGTA) with financial support from the Azerbaijan Youth Foundation and the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This event – a highlight in Azerbaijan’s translation history – brought together some 200 translators, linguists, students of translation schools and journalists, as well as representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations and diplomatic missions.

FIT was represented at the event by the head of its European Regional Centre, Eivör Fogarty, who welcomed the forum participants and delivered greetings from FIT president Marion Boers to the forum attendees, as well as wishing the participants and organizers success.

The forum started with a panel discussion on “Translation technologies of the 21st century. Translation and ICT”. The next panel, under the title “Modern Azerbaijani language”, focused on contemporary challenges facing the Azerbaijani language, with

A participant makes a point during the forum
The China International Translation Contest 2013 (CITC 2013) was launched in Beijing on 2 September 2013. The contest targets translations of 30 well-chosen contemporary Chinese short stories into the other five UN official languages, namely English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic. The submission deadline is 28 February 2014.

The translations by top award-winners will be published by partner publishers of the target languages, i.e. China International Publishing Group (China), Penguin Books (England), Hachette Livre (France), Editorial Popular (Spain), Oriental Literature Publisher (Russia) and Egypt-China Cultural Exchange Association (Egypt).

All translators of the five languages who love Chinese culture and are dedicated to the translation of China's contemporary works both at home and abroad are welcome to participate in this contest.

The event, the first of its kind, is co-hosted by the State Council Information Office, the Chinese Writers Association and China International Publishing Group (CIPG), with the Translators Association of China (TAC) being a key organiser. TAC is entrusted with setting up an authoritative judging committee for each language and looking after the evaluation process and procedures.

Up to now, a dozen entries from England, the Philippines, Brazil and China have already been received.

For more details of the Contest, please visit the official website (in Chinese and the five languages mentioned above): http://www.china.org.cn/arts/citc/.

Article by HUANG Changqi,
FIT Council member
Photos by Kou Laiang
The First International Translation and Interpretation Conference of the Panamanian Association of Translators and Interpreters (APTI) was held on 20 and 21 September 2013. The welcome speech by APTI’s President, Maria Ana Antoniadis, followed the inaugural keynote address by Education Minister Lucy Molinar, praising the initiative that convened the first historic conference in Panama exclusively presented by language professionals for language professionals. One of the highlights included challenging and tasking APTI’s board of directors to draft a proposed and improved bill containing updated regulatory guidelines in order to introduce an amendment to existing legislation regulating the profession.

The conference theme “Link between Cultures – Panama 2013” focused on bringing together multi-disciplinary expertise from relevant fields of linguistic diversity and the influence of new technologies, which transcend borders and cultures. The eighteen parallel presentations were filled with educational sessions, updates on technological resources and networking, and recognized linguists from across the translation and interpreting spectrum, leading prominent figures from professional associations, recognized language experts and trainers shared experiences and innovative best practices, showcased intercultural communication and provided professional development opportunities for translators, interpreters and anyone interested in the profession.

Distinguished speakers from Spain, Colombia, Guatemala, Argentina, Costa Rica and the United States reiterated the importance of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and ethical conduct. Topics ranged from the importance of training translators, interpreters and language professionals by Xosé Castro; international translation and interpretation marketing opportunities by Aurora Humarán; and challenges in conference interpreting by Elizabeth Lewis of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC); to an interactive workshop on interpreting in legal settings by Carlos Sanad and Berna Pérez Ayala de Burrell, director of the Panamanian Academy of Language, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the language legacy for international understanding.

Reina Bettendorf, past president of APTI and current FIT treasurer, delivered the closing remarks, noting the association’s milestones and ongoing achievements in providing translation, interpretation and related language services and reiterating that the successful event benefitted association members, students and conference attendees, as participants celebrated International Translation Day and the 60th anniversary of the International Federation of Translators.

Comprised of conference speakers such as Adriana Fernández, president of the Costa Rican Association of Professional Interpreters and Translators (ACOTIP); Carola Green of the National Centre for State Courts (NCSC); Aurora Humarán, president of the International Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters (IAPTI); Jeannette Insignares, president of the Colombian Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI); Mariana Landaverde of the Guatemalan Association of Interpreters and Translators (AGIT), APTI President Maria Ana Antoniadis, and renowned translator and subject matter expert Xosé Castro, a panel discussion was moderated by language consultant Thelma Ferry, engaging in discussions on real challenges of the profession, the role and importance of languages in a globalized world, and initiating a collaborative agreement among organizations to seek unity and exchanges in communication.

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CONALTI tours Caracas Corners

Today there are only two cities in the world – Caracas and Mérida in Mexico – that can still boast of street corners nicknamed after icons or events of times past: a family, an incident, a tree, etc. In Caracas, the many efforts to change these informal names (the last in the 1980s) were doomed to failure, so much so that these nicknames have now been accepted as the formal nomenclature.

All this was explained to members of CONALTI (the Venezuelan Association of Translators and Interpreters) by Stefany Da Costa on 11 August 2013 when we began our guided tour, Paseo por las Esquinas de Caracas (Tour of Caracas Corners), organised by Urbanimia, a recently created private project designed to highlight the human side of Caracas using tales of the city’s past. The tour, arranged to celebrate CONALTI’s 33rd and FIT’s 60th anniversary, involved a three-hour stroll around downtown Caracas, an opportunity to discover the past lurking in the midst of the city’s day-to-day present.

Stefany shared a number of surprising facts with us – for instance, that the Cathedral is the only building in the entire city that has an untouched Colonial façade, all the others from that period (Simón Bolívar’s house, for example) having undergone restoration work. She also shared several secrets: for example, tunnels dating back to colonial times, which lead to the National Pantheon and the Cathedral, lie hidden underneath Plaza Andrés Eloy Blanco; what we see today is the entrance and a plaque. The stories behind the names of the corners, apart from being interesting and informative, also provided us with a glimpse into our forefathers’ lives and thoughts, their problems, fears and loves.

Following the tour, we set off to enjoy the culinary delights of La Candelaria, an old Caracas neighborhood, in this case a delicious paella washed down with sangria, followed by a birthday cake and song for CONALTI. The tour and lunch provided us with a wonderful opportunity to find out more about our city and share thoughts and ideas with our translation colleagues.

Article by Patricia Torres, member of CONALTI’s Editorial Committee
Photos by Betzabeth Ford, graphic designer and expert pastry designer

TATI life-long honorary membership for TCC member

The Fifth Cross-Taiwan Straits Symposium on Translation and Intercultural Communication (CTSSSTIC) was held in Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China, between 22 and 24 September 2013. Over 90 scholars from the Chinese mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao attended the symposium, including the presidents of the translation associations from these four regions.

At the opening ceremony of the 5th CTSSSTIC, the Taiwan Association for Translation and Interpretation (TATI) officially awarded Professor HU Gengshen life-long honorary membership. Prof. HU is a member of the FIT Translation and Culture Committee (TCC) and chairman of the CTSSSTIC. In the past ten years, he has organised five of these biennial conferences and, as the editor-in-chief, also published five volumes of proceedings comprising over three million Chinese characters.

As a TCC member, Prof. HU Gengshen is also committed to better serving the scholars of translation, interpretation and intercultural communication from the four regions across the Taiwan Straits and making new contributions to the research and development of translation and intercultural communication in Greater China.

Article & photo by the Secretariat of CTSSSTIC

From left: TATI President Prof. LIAO Posen, Prof. HU Gengshen, TATI Vice-President Prof. YANG Chengshu
Eco-translatology symposium attracts top scholars

The Fourth International Symposium on Eco-Translatology, sponsored by the International Association for Eco-Translatology Research (IAETR) and organised by the College of Foreign Studies, Central China Normal University (CCNU), was held in Wuhan, China, between 22 and 24 September 2013.

Eco-translatology is an emerging eco-translation paradigm of Translation Studies from ecological perspectives. With metaphorical analogies between the translational ecosystem and the natural ecosystem, and conceptual borrowings as its methodology, Eco-translatology probes translational eco-environments, textual ecologies and “translation community” ecologies, as well as their interrelationships and interplays. Eco-translatology originated in China and has been steadily gaining acceptance by translation scholars both there and in other parts of the world since 2001.

Some 46 papers were presented at the symposium, which brought together over 60 scholars from different parts of the world, including Professor MAO Sihui, Council Member of FIT and President of the Federation of Translators and Interpreters of Macao (FTIM), Professor Juliane House, President of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Communication, and Professor JIN Li, Vice-President of the Translators Association of China, Professor LIAO Posen from Taiwan, Professor Leo Chan and Professor Douglas Robinson from Hong Kong, and Dr Sedat Mulayim from Australia. The theme of Eco-Translatology: Paradigmatic Features and Research Methods saw discussions on the paradigmatic analysis, the theoretical framework, research methods, application and empirical study of eco-translatology, as well as frustrations, reflections and prospects related to research in this field. Selected papers will be published in the Journal of Eco-translatology in 2014, and the 5th International Symposium on Eco-translatology, which also marks the fifth anniversary of the founding of the IAETR, will be held in Macao from the end of June to early July 2014, according to Professor HU Gengshen, President of IAETR and a TCC member.

New chair for Association of Welsh Translators and Interpreters

2013 marks the beginning of a new era for the Association of Welsh Translators and Interpreters. Mary Jones, of Aber-porth, has been elected to the chair of the association. She follows in the footsteps of Berwyn Prys Jones, who held the post for many years. We appreciate greatly the leadership he provided and the important contribution he made to the development of the association and the profession in Wales.

Responsibility for funding the activities of the 2012–13 grant which was awarded by the Welsh Language Board was transferred to the Welsh Language Commissioner on 1 April 2012 in accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. A living language: a language for living, the Welsh Government’s Welsh language strategy for the period 2012–17, asks the commissioner to support and develop the translation industry.

The commissioner offered the association the opportunity to develop itself as a body that would focus on regulatory matters and representing its members. A three-year business plan, up to 31 March 2016, has been agreed upon. The main priority for the current year is to research and produce a first draft of a plan for continuous professional development, which will be introduced during 2014–15.

Article by Geraint Wyn Parry, Chief Executive, Association of Welsh Translators and Interpreters
Man vs. Machine?
The Future of Translators, Interpreters and Terminologists

International Conference · Trade Exhibition · Job Exchange

Host
German Federal Association of Interpreters and Translators (BDÜ)

Patronage
Androula Vasiliou – European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth

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ISSN 1027-8087

Berlin · August 4–6, 2014
Freie Universität Berlin
Henry Ford Building
www.FIT2014.org