



1-2²⁰¹⁴ TRANSLATIO

FIT Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looking back, looking forward

As I write this, it is exactly four weeks to the opening of the FIT XXth World Congress in Berlin. At that stage, a new FIT president will have been elected and so this is the last message I will write in this capacity. I am fortunate to be ending my term at such a prestigious event, and I look forward to following FIT's progress under other hands over the years to come.

As always, moments like this are bitter-sweet. I look back with pleasure over the six years that I have led FIT. It has been a tremendously enriching experience for me personally: I have been exposed to our profession in a way that I could not even have imagined previously, I have learned an enormous amount and I have been stretched to my limit at times. I have had the privilege of working with enthusiastic and dedicated members of our profession, who have all touched my life in some way. I have visited interesting places on FIT business and addressed a wide variety of gatherings and forums. I have been reinforced in my belief that one cannot assume that conditions are the same everywhere in the world. As facilitators of communication, we translators and interpreters should above all be aware that we can never take for granted that the person we are engaging with sees things the same way we do.

At the same time, I step down with the perfectionist's frustration at the fact that there is still so much to be done. We have made progress over the past six years. In this mandate we have concentrated on improving communication, both with our members and with outside stakeholders, and on raising FIT's profile at a regional and international level. We have been helped by technological developments, and we have built on what those before us started. FIT is a stronger and more united organisation than it was six years ago; it has become more efficient; but there is still much work to be done in sharpening its focus. I am confident that the new leadership will bring new energy and vision to the task of ensuring that FIT is fit for the future.

At the Berlin Congress we end our celebrations of the Federation's 60th anniversary. In many ways that does not seem very old, but think about the changes that have taken place over that period! Like any organisation, FIT has had its ups and downs; sometimes one is able to achieve something spectacular, but often growing an organisation means working at the small things and building them up over time. Yet there has never been any doubt that it has a role to play and that as the world became smaller, so that role became ever more important. FIT is the home of translators, interpreters and terminologists across the globe and the belief that through solidarity and mutual support we can make things better for all is as strong now as when Pierre-François Caillé took the first steps to establish FIT. We have a proud history, and looking back at how far we have come gives us the enthusiasm and drive to keep moving forward and make sure that we support our members as they face further challenges.

Marion Boers, President

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**Albin Tybulewicz
A man of professional dignity and solidarity**



Celebrating the profession and FIT in Asia



The FIT Asian Translators' Forum, which takes place in a different country in Asia every three years, is an international conference and a significant event in the Asian regional translation community. With the theme 'Translator and Interpreter Training: Innovation, Assessment and Recognition', the 7th Asian Translators' Forum (ATF7) was held on the island of Penang in Malaysia between 27 and 29 August 2013, aimed at bringing together academics, researchers and professionals from Asia and beyond to exchange insights, experiences, views and perspectives on current and future developments in the translation and interpreting fields.

ATF7 was co-organised by the Malaysian Translators Association (MTA), Universiti Sains Malaysia, the Malaysian Institute of Translation and Books and the Institute of Language and Literature (DBP), under the patronage of the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Education. Universiti Sains Malaysia hosted the event, together with the MTA's 14th International Conference of Translation.

FIT 60th anniversary

The FIT Executive Committee held a meeting in conjunction with the Forum and so were able to attend the full event, which was also the occasion for the official celebration of FIT's 60th anniversary. The auspicious event was celebrated during the conference dinner, where the participants were entertained by Malaysian traditional dance performances, a video message from FIT honorary advisor René Haeseryn, who has been involved in FIT for a very large part of its existence, and, of course, a celebration cake and birthday song specially dedicated to FIT.

Objectives

The objectives of the forum included the exchange of ideas and experiences in the translation field with a view to strengthening international academic excellence and cooperation. The main



MTA President Abdullah Hassan and FIT vice-president Henry Liu with FIT's 60th birthday cake!

focus of the conference was translator and interpreter education and training. In line with this, the three days saw inspiring intellectual and professional discourse take place, covering current theories, techniques, issues, perspectives, practices, research and accreditation in the translation field.

The conference was opened by Professor Datuk Morshidi Sirat, Director General for the Higher Education Section of the Malaysian Ministry of Education. Four position papers were presented by the co-organisers, and there were eight invited speakers: Emeritus Professor Muhammad Hj. Salleh (Malaysian Nobel Laureate), Professor Christiana Nord (European Society for Translation Studies), Professor Chan Sin-wai (Chinese University of Hong Kong), Professor Jeremy Munday (University of Leeds), Professor Jemina Napier (Herriot-Watt University), Associate Professor Franz Pöchhacker (University of Vienna), Dr Jorge Diaz-Cin-

tas (Imperial College, London) and Associate Professor Dr Hasuria Che Omar (Universiti Sains Malaysia).

FIT assistant treasurer Andrew Evans was struck at ATF7 by the close relationship between associations and academia. He observed, 'This is not easy for a European mind to grasp. The many academics present showed a lively interest in the practical aspects of being a translator, and the particularities of the European scene; there was also a strong willingness to share experiences and insights. Clearly, the two strands of translation studies and professional translation have not diverged as far in Asia as they have in Europe. Talking to the many working translators present I was also much less conscious of anything like the siege mentality which is a frequent leitmotif of meetings of European translators.'

The conference attracted around 330 participants from 26 countries, including New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom, China and Indonesia. ATF7 was strongly supported by the Translation Association of China (TAC), whose members were given two special sessions.

The 8th FIT Asian Translators' Forum will be hosted by Xi'an Foreign Studies University in China in association with the Translators Association of China in 2016, and they received the baton from USM symbolising their willingness to take on this task.

Based on the report of the organisers



FIT representatives, special guests and organisers at the ATF in Malaysia

FIT at 60 – where do we go from here?

FIT's 60th anniversary is an opportunity to take stock of what it is like to be a translator/interpreter today and to consider foreseeable trends. What are FIT's future plans and perspectives? What sort of role should it play? We asked some colleagues from SFT (France), PEEMPIP (Greece) and AUSIT (Australia – see the interview with Adolfo Gentile, page 5) about their hopes and fears for the development of the profession.

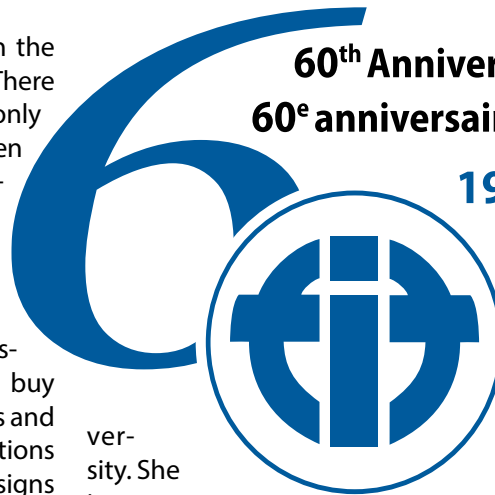
Hopes and fears

'I fear that our job could slip down the value chain,' says Rupert Swyer. There is a risk of a loss of visibility not only amongst the general public, but even more so amongst heads of purchasing at large companies and institutions, increasingly oblivious to qualitative issues, since the quality of a translation cannot be measured in the same way as that of an industrial product. Purchasing officers buy translations the way they buy screws and are then surprised that those translations are not up to scratch. Yet there are signs of increased awareness lately. For example, a recent report on the overall cost of poor quality published by the Directorate-General for Translation (DGT) of the European Commission strongly argued the case for quality in translation!

Technology is another challenge for the future. Expanding international trade is generating steady growth in the demand for translations, with a surge in volumes. Because of the growing recourse to intermediaries, moreover, multilingual project management is now a profession in its own right. Translators generally lack the requisite skills and training. They should focus on their core business, leverage their intelligence and natural curiosity, be aware (and make others aware) of their value, take advantage of the technology at their disposal, and learn to occupy their niche in the market. Their training and education give them the skills to use technology to best advantage, but they must not lose sight of their ultimate goal: a quality translation.

Specialisation – a double-edged sword

'Do not become a translator, study something else; language skills will be an added bonus in your job!' was the seemingly shocking statement from a teacher when Debora Farji-Haguet entered uni-



60th Anniversary of
60^e anniversaire de la FIT

1953 – 2013

versity. She is now a translator/interpreter and lecturer at ESIT and Paris-Diderot! Was her teacher wrong? The growing demand for highly specialised translators at least confirms the trend of people from other professions moving into translation. The figures are sobering: out of SFT's approximately 1,300 members, 760 graduated with degrees in translation or interpreting, 806 have other degrees in other subjects, and 412 have both.

Language proficiency, in English especially, is increasingly widespread thanks to international student exchanges and cross-border mobility among employees of large companies and institutions. As a result, certain types of documents have disappeared from translators' in-trays. Nowadays correspondence, emails and internal documents are often written directly in English by secretaries, communication divisions and technicians who are not native English speakers. This would have been inconceivable even twenty years ago. But as levels of technical specialisation rise, graduate translators need to acquire a good knowledge of their area of specialisation in order to keep pace with the market.

Dimitra Stafilia (Greece) reports that the demand for translators with specialised knowledge already poses a threat to

trained translators. A press release recently issued by the local representative of the European Union in Greece to the translation profession highlights the need for greater numbers of translators with advanced qualifications in other subject areas. The document even proposes creating dedicated translation programmes for them. More general documents 'could be given to unskilled (sic) translators'. According to our Greek colleagues, this opinion does not reflect the DGT's own selection procedure. The aforementioned DGT report on the cost of poor quality also addresses this point.

This need for specialization also means that competency in English is essential for interpreters as well, because, like it or not, English has become the *lingua franca* for all subjects, not just technical or scientific.

Another important issue for the future concerns the number of working languages a professional translator requires. Should one have several working languages, or is it preferable to specialise in a single language pair? Many people do work in more than one language pair, but this is also a question of balance: even supposing a translator is proficient in more than two languages, does working from more than one language offer the best prospects for the translator, and does it offer the best service to users of translations?

Markets and quality

The laws of the market to which translators are subject are the same as for any other business, namely value for money. As such, independent translators and interpreters are very competitive, to be sure. But project managers and other intermediaries are squeezing prices and taking market share from freelancers. Increasingly, when tendering, it is not enough simply to establish lasting relationships with buyers, or even to be fully satisfied with the quality of translations. Procurement departments (European institutions especially) regularly issue

calls for tenders from which individual translators are for all practical purposes barred from responding. They lack the requisite administrative and commercial capabilities; there is too much red tape involved. Likewise, responding to tenders for large companies has become a full-time job that only intermediaries can undertake.

At one of the regular SFT morning meetings held in Paris, the head of a large translation department in Paris expressed his dilemma, 'Translation requests arrive too late, so we have to act in emergency mode, giving documents to quick-responding agencies, but you know very well the result will be bad. It will bounce back and have to be translated again.'

The European Commission DGT report on the cost of poor quality cited above has much to say about the consequences. This is an area where FIT could contribute to long-term client education. The decision to translate must be taken early in the process of producing a document, film or other media, and the cost must be budgeted in the same way as the cost of quality assurance in the production of any industrial product.

What is true for European institutions is true in the film industry also. A recent glaring example of the consequences of poor-quality translation of subtitles into English, 'Welcome to the Chtis', jeopardised the success of the film, giving rise to a protest backed by several actors and directors, including Roman Polanski. The Association of Subtitle Translators in France (ASIF) has also launched a petition drawing attention to unreasonably low rates: 'Good quality subtitling helps to sell a movie with profit. But outsourcing of captioning to the lowest bidder is putting pressure on rates, with a resultant decline in quality.'

As every translator knows, the quality of the target text must be fit for purpose. However, the requirements are not the same for a washing machine manual as for a European directive. Arguably, the first can be translated rapidly with the aid of technology. For the latter, on the other hand, translator selection is a vital part of the overall procedure and is a much more time-consuming under-

taking. Things are not always black and white, however. Translators' associations should work together via FIT to inform and train their members, so that each translator can find his or her place in the market.

Preparing for translation

Businesses are not alone in failing to allow for the time needed for translation; governments, legislative bodies and legal systems are equally guilty. A recent example is the implementation of the 'Right to Translation' European Directive (Directive 2010/64/EU) into national law. This directive asserts the right of every European citizen facing prosecution to understand the proceedings, which involves the translation of documents and interpretation of the record of the proceedings in a language familiar to him. Like all other European directives, each European country is obliged to implement it in national law. Yet France has failed to define the requisite skills of interpreters and translators, together with the scope of documents to be translated. Does this right relate to key documents only or to all of the documents involved in the trial? A round table in Paris attended by, among others, Sylvie Monjean Decodin – director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Juritranslatology – representatives of the European Union, and translators and interpreters from France and other EU countries found 'there had been little consultation of translators or interpreters and little cooperation with professional associations in its implementation.' It seems that France is not alone in its haphazard application of this European directive.

As an international organisation, FIT and FIT Europe, with its focus on issues within the European Union, must take a stand on this and related issues. Their opinions, forged in consultation with member associations, deserve to be heard and will provide invaluable support to member associations in their dialogue with their national authorities.

FIT and translators: Several lines of action for the future

'Being a member of FIT has been extremely important for us in gaining recognition as a professional organisation by the

Greek government and has opened the doors of ministries,' states Dimitria Stafilia, whose Greek association PEEMPIP joined FIT some years ago. 'We have sought contact with other associations of FIT Europe, assistance with regard to management and development, as well as the adoption of a code of ethics.

'However, we regret that FIT has terminated its ID card project, because this was perceived as a quality label and has strengthened our position abroad, especially in countries where there are certified translators. European-wide certification, for example by FIT Europe, would be a big step forward for us. To be credible, the certifying organisation must have a high profile and have wide coverage. Such a project is probably extremely complex, but PEEMPIP would be willing to work with FIT Europe.'

Today, FIT is essentially in contact only with the council or governing body of its member associations. For their individual members, FIT is a distant and abstract body in which they take little active interest. Debora Farji-Haguet suggests that to improve its visibility among translators, FIT should adopt a carefully planned communication strategy. Certainly, one cannot expect miracles from an individual contribution of €2.80 per annum per translator. But few translators, for example, are aware of *Translatio* – the FIT newsletter, and its contents do not appear to reach individual translators in the same way that publications of member associations do. Exchanges of experience among those responsible for publications in FIT member associations would certainly be beneficial for the visibility of the entire profession.

FIT has a strong presence internationally, but there are more avenues to explore. Rupert Swyer points out: 'Many associations have surveys of working conditions, including prices, but we know very little of who our end-customers are and their expectations.' How do they define their needs, how are translators or intermediaries selected? And how are they evaluated beforehand and afterwards? Such a market survey could help translators to better meet their needs, educate clients, raise the profile of both individual translators and the translation profession. Above all, it would offer a basis for

more effective customer/translator relations going forward.

Many aspects of translation are often left vague, such as proofreading and other aspects such as the level of detail of correction, and this vagueness leads to misunderstandings prejudicial to translators and their clients. FIT could usefully formulate and publicise rules of good practice, which translators could then promote in their dealings with customers.

Finally, while relations between FIT Europe and European Union institutions are already good, they need to be strengthened further, according to Di-

mitria Staffilia, given that the DGT's decisions affect large swathes of the translation market.

In Greece, much effort has been put into developing the training of translators. But a large portion of the teaching time is now spent on technology at the expense of language skills. Not surprisingly, the DGT complains that graduate translators lack the relevant skills. Here, FIT needs to cooperate with universities and translation schools. It should also be aware of the conditions in which junior translators start work, often being falsely classified as 'trainees'.

In conclusion, FIT needs to play an active role across an increasing array of aspects of our profession. But does it have sufficient financial, and even more so human, resources? The Council and the committees of FIT consist of volunteers whose time, and sometimes skills, are not sufficient for current and future tasks. To navigate the future successfully, FIT needs to set priorities, and encourage more active participation among its member associations. After all, FIT represents 80,000 translators!

*Article in French by FIT Council member
Sabine Colombe
English translation by Henry Liu*

An interview with Adolfo Gentile

Adolfo Gentile was FIT's first president from the southern hemisphere, between 1999 and 2002. Here Catherine Hodot speaks to him about FIT's role in the light of our changing profession. Catherine is a NAATI-accredited member of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT) and the French translators association SFT.

What are your hopes and fears? What do you think would be important changes to anticipate?

Nobody can predict the future but I think we are just at the beginning of the changes in the profession. I think that the exciting part is that translators/interpreters/terminologists are becoming more visible as professionals and that this will continue. Our profession will benefit from greater visibility in the future. What we have done so far has been behind the scenes, but translators are going to become more and more active. I think the profession is moving beyond its traditional boundaries. In general, the reason for this is technology. The insistence on quality will continue to increase.

Technology has brought about great changes. In the past translators weren't specialists except in certain circumstances, but now access to information is everywhere and it's become easier. Instead of needing a day to research something as happened before the Internet era, in-

formation is now readily available within a few clicks. This will alter perception of translators/translation, with the downside that more people will believe that "anyone can do it" by just turning on a computer and clicking a button.



Adolfo Gentile

This is what some people already think. They confuse translation with transcription. We constantly have to explain what we do and I believe this is the responsibility of every translator. My biggest hope for the future is that more and more people will understand what we do; it may sound very simple, but it is

clearly not, given that there is so much misunderstanding, even among educated people. FIT has a more global voice to help with this issue.

My opinion reflects the situation in a market like Australia, even though we cannot really talk about a market situation as translators are now available and accessible in every corner of the world. That is another big difference. Some translators might bid on a translation even though they are not expert in the required field, just because information is so easily available.

These are the types of problems FIT has to deal with. I don't have any fears as such. For example, I don't believe that computers are going to replace translators anytime soon. We have to be open to change.

What is the reason(s) your association is a FIT member today? What do you think the benefit of FIT membership is, particularly for your own association?

The main reason to be a member of FIT is that you are not alone, there is a shared professional culture. Being a FIT member allows AUSIT to see what other associations are doing. At the same time, AUSIT gets feedback on where it stands in the world of translation. This means its members can be informed about what's going on. It is a good channel of communication, as it gathers information

and passes it on to its members. I know that AUSIT receives a lot of information from FIT, from conferences and courses to events or drafts of policies, etc.

The other reason is that Australia is a young country in terms of translation – it only really started in the seventies and I think we have a need to see where we are at, otherwise you become a bit self-conscious, you don't know if you are at the forefront of the profession or way behind.

The third thing which has happened in the last few years with the changes in Europe in terms of immigration mainly is that many countries have been looking at Australia to see what has been done in relation to 'community interpreting'. In recent years, there has been a lot of interest in the way we have handled things, especially in the human rights context. Interpreting can be considered a human right in certain situations we have had here and that occur in a lot of other places now, including Europe. Australian interpreters and translators started to participate in committees like those in FIT and this has helped everyone to understand what we do. Places such as South Africa or China have adopted a lot of the things we do with our national standards and accreditation body NAATI (which is the only agency able to issue accreditation for practitioners who wish to work in this profession in Australia). A lot of countries are looking at an accreditation system nowadays.

Is there anything FIT does but not in the right way or not sufficiently? Please give concrete examples.

I believe anything can be done better and more, but in terms of communication, because it's now so easy to send people information, we have to ask ourselves if we really want/need this information. Going through emails each morning is time-consuming and often a waste of time. People easily put you on a mailing list and click the button and I cannot bring myself to delete my emails without at least scanning what's there. So even if I think that more communication is better, we have to think what are the priorities in terms of information. People always complain about communication, they believe they do not get

enough information, especially if they miss out on something. I don't think FIT can afford yet to have a communications officer, somebody that would sort the information and summarise it and provide references if people want to look at the information further. FIT has probably tripled its communication and I think it's very good, but the issue of volume vs. content is becoming more relevant for the future.

I have been involved in a committee which deals with governance issues within FIT and we did a survey of the members. I believe it's a good exercise as it provides the membership with an avenue to give feedback to FIT. This could become a more regular feature and would probably improve communication, even though from the committee's point of view it can be frustrating if not everybody replies as it involves a lot of work. This is the flipside of the coin. But I don't think it's a reason not to do it. It would help FIT to become closer to its members. There is also a need to interact with the actual professionals and not only the organisations. There are opportunities for better communication.

We also have to keep in mind that in some parts of the world, a computer in good working condition is something rare or that some people do not have any expertise with computers. Sometimes, we take it for granted but it is something that people have to keep in mind.

What action do you think FIT should be considering to support the member associations in the face of the changes in the world of translation? What kind of changes will they be?

FIT has to deal with the new issues. From an organisational point of view, there are many more players in the field than just a few years ago. There is EULITA for example and employer organisations that weren't there before. There are also much larger agencies than before. Therefore, the relationship with the profession is different. I believe that FIT has to deal with this new arrangement more promptly. Once upon a time, its association members were the main point of contact for FIT, but now it has to look outside. It has to increase its scanning of all organisations that are related to

translation and look at more translation events around the world. I know FIT has done some of this, but it now has to do more.

I also think that there should be a bigger role for FIT in actually keeping the profession together. We are a profession where people mainly work by themselves, with no or little contact with other people. We don't necessarily talk to each other. FIT should be the place for the profession to share their problems, so that people feel they are not the only ones with problems. As a former president of FIT, I have been all over the world and have met with people talking about their problems. Very quickly you see that they think they are the only ones with these problems, whereas in 99% of cases the problems remain the same, whether people are in countries where the profession is already well developed or in countries where the profession is only developing. I believe that this is the main role for FIT: to provide people with a shared knowledge of the profession, to make sure that people from different parts of the world can debate issues of the profession. This is not easy to do, as some countries cannot participate in this dialogue because of socio-economic circumstances. FIT has always made special provisions for members in countries that cannot afford the membership fees, to try to bring people in.

The other issue is a cultural issue. In some parts of the world, the culture is not about associating. In Europe in general people are more than happy to form groups and work together, but there are some societies around the world where this is an alien concept. This is a real issue in Australia too. Here we have people working from about 120 languages into English, yet the number of people who participate in the AUSIT committee or other work is fairly limited: the representation of these languages is low. I have thought about this for a while and come to the conclusion that this has a lot to do with the way people think about association. We take it for granted, but it is not a universally shared concept. It could also be because of political issues or political systems in which people grow up and that prevent them from thinking in those terms. So that's another challenge.

FIT highlights 2011 – 2014

Translators and interpreters are inclined to work quietly in the background, but we'd like to share with you the results of some of the work of the FIT Council, regional centres and committees over the past three years. We'd be even more happy if you would spread the word too and encourage all to get involved where they can!

FIT has been working with Red T, AIC and IAPTI on the **Conflict Zone Field Guide for Civilian Translators/Interpreters and Users of Their Services**. This valuable document is already available in English, Arabic, Danish, Dari, Dutch, French, Hebrew, Norwegian, Pashto, Spanish and Swedish, and we will continue to work with our member associations to provide an even wider range of translations and to publicise the guide.

On a similar theme we have participated in an **Open Letter Project** with the three associations above to raise awareness about and combat the unjust persecution, prosecution and imprisonment of translators and interpreters in countries across the world as well as the problems faced by linguists in conflict zones.

We are also working to help raise **awareness about our professions** through promotion of the booklets by Chris Durban *Translation: Getting it Right* and *Interpreting: Getting it Right*. The former is now available in 14 languages – get in touch with us if you can help us increase that number even further, so that the booklets can be used all over the world!

In 2012 we introduced a competition for a poster for **International Translation Day** (ITD), another mechanism for promoting the profession. The number of entries has slowly been building up and there is clear evidence that translators

and interpreters are members of the creative professions!

The **Seventh FIT Asian Translators' Forum** was held in Malaysia in August 2013, gathering several hundred participants for three days of interesting presentations and interaction. The FIT Executive Committee attended the Forum, which included a celebration of FIT's 60th anniversary. The anniversary has been marked by a number of our members at their own events, and we were pleased at the participation in our competition for a special anniversary logo and mini-posters.

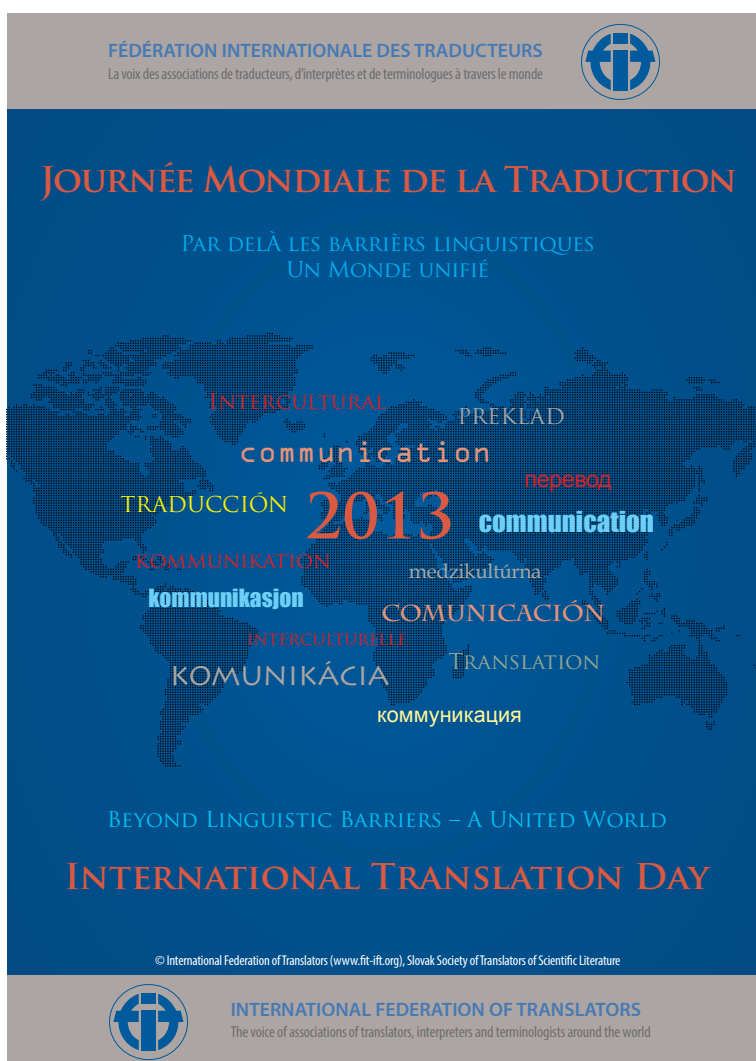
LatAm has held two regional meetings and a third is planned for later this year – the challenge of geographical spread is matched by the members' determination to grow the profession in South America. FIT NA had their first get-together in November 2013, and have plans for a conference in 2015.

Ten **committees** have been working in support of different aspects of the profession and the federation. The Legal Translation and Interpreting Committee held another interesting forum in Belgrade in September 2013. The Standards Committee is monitoring the development of translation standards and is also involved in monitoring certain technological developments that could affect the way we work. Members have been considering the federation's structure and operation, and others have been involved in the prizes that will be awarded at the statutory congress.

We have worked at building up **relationships** with a range of sister organisations and other important stakeholders in the profession. We will be signing memoranda of understanding with CIUTI and EULITA in Berlin, and have strengthened our cooperation with a range of EU institutions, AIC, EUATC, TAUS, Translators Without Borders, and others.

Our various **publications** continue to provide information about FIT, our member associations and the profession.

Many, many hours of volunteer effort go into the work behind the scenes at FIT each year. The highlights above are only part of the big picture and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our member organisations and each individual who plays a part in making FIT the organisation it is. We couldn't do it without you!



FIT's North American Regional Centre has been revived and all three **regional centres** – FIT Europe, FIT Latin America and FIT North America – have broadened the work done by FIT. FIT Europe has held three round tables, at which a range of interesting topics have been discussed. FIT

Academic studies under the spotlight in Colombia

The *Universidad Externado* of Colombia in cooperation with the Colombian Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI) hosted a seminar entitled “*Dar Sentido*” (Giving Meaning) on 21 and 22 October 2013.

The event gathered over 100 professionals and representatives from universities in Colombia and abroad in Bogotá (Colombia) for two full days of presentations under the theme *Socio-cultural and linguistic tension in translation*.

The opening session was addressed by ACTI President Jeannette Insignares, José Fernando Rubio, Coordinator of the Linguistics Programme at the Externado University, and Silvana Marchetti, FIT Vice-President and FIT LatAm President, who brought words of welcome from FIT President, Marion Boers.

Most of the conference speakers were representatives of different universities such as Universidad Externado (Colombia), University of Darms (Germany), Universidad Javeriana (Colombia), Universidad Industrial de Santander (Colombia),

University of Rouen (France), Colombian Institute of History and Anthropology, University of Los Andes and Universidad Pompeu Fabra (Spain), among others.



Alejandra Jorge, Silvana Marchetti, Jeannette Insignares

Speakers dealt with different research topics, such as translation theory, research methodology in translation and intercultural translation.

Each day closed with a round-table to discuss the current status of translators and interpreters in Colombia. The lack of

academic studies in translation or interpreting was a central topic. The university representatives sparked a debate and exposed ideas that will be analysed in detail in the next seminar.

Silvana Marchetti, as President of the FIT LatAm Steering Committee, made an audiovisual presentation in Spanish about the history, organisation, objectives and projects of FIT LatAm. She also presented the outcomes of a questionnaire distributed among member associations. The answers reflect the need to strengthen professional academic and postgraduate education at regional level.

Alejandra Jorge, Secretary of FIT LatAm, presented the Translator and Interpreter Copyright Bill recently triggered by the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Argentina.

At the closing session, Silvana Marchetti presented the audiovisual material on FIT’s 60th anniversary and addressed the current activities and forthcoming events of FIT, including the upcoming FIT Congress in Berlin in August 2014.

Argentine translators host first industry-specific translation seminar at BA International Book Fair

For the first time, the Buenos Aires International Book Fair dedicated a full-day seminar to translators, and entrusted AATI with its organisation.

On 22 April 2014, translators gathered at a seminar of their own at the 40th International Book Fair in Buenos Aires, one of Latin America’s leading cultural events. Organised by the Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters (AATI), this industry-specific seminar was the first of its kind for translators and was part of the renowned Professional Sessions, an annual showcase of the latest publishing trends, hosted by *Fundación El Libro*.



40th International BA Book Fair

A feeling of elation spread through the conference room as AATI President Alejandra Jorge and UBA Professor Améri-

co Cristófalo delivered their keynote speeches to an audience from diverse translation fields, language combinations, regions and countries. The reason for such excitement is no secret: the language professionals present at the conference knew they were starting a new tradition, i.e. *La Jornada Traductores*, in the Book Fair’s jargon, or Translators’ Seminar. The BA Book Fair has for years been hosting dedicated seminars for publishers, writers and illustrators, but so far translators had been underrepresented at this major cultural event. Though individual translation-related sessions had been featured in previous years,

this was the first full-day 'official' seminar sponsored by Fundación El Libro specifically for the translation community, thus positioning translators as key players in the array of language professionals who convene every year from April to May to celebrate the world of books.



Keynote speakers

Addressing a full house, Alejandra Jorge opened the seminar on a witty note, quoting world-acclaimed Mafalda, the comic character created by renowned Argentine writer Quino, who "wished to become an interpreter when she grew up, to help people in the world understand each other." Guest speaker Américo Cristóbal, from the University of Buenos Aires, invited the audience to reflect upon the depth of the translation task and the complex relationship between originals and translations. Various speakers throughout the seminar referred to the mission of translators in building bridges between languages, between cultures, and between authors and readers.

Sponsored by the International Federation of Translators (FIT), the Copyright Chamber of Argentina (CADRA), the Argentine Writers' Association (SADE), the Goethe Institut and the Institut Français, the seminar was designed to enable translators, publishers, writers, illustrators and other book industry professionals to share insights and exchange opinions. Tasked with the selection of the panel themes, Lucila Cordone and Estela Consigli, from AATI's Translator Copyright Committee, commented, "It was a unique occasion to join efforts for the dissemination of literary works, and to advocate for the major role played by translators among other stakeholders in the publishing world." Because enrollment was through the Book Fair Professional Sessions, it was possible to reach

a wide-ranging audience of language professionals; and for many of them, it was their first contact with a professional association.

Activities included a reading workshop for translators led by writer and translator Andrés Ehrenhaus from Pompeu Fabra University, and roundtable discussions with publishers, writers, lawyers and cultural representatives of various countries. Topics included the relationship between translators and publishers, translator copyright, translation grants, and the role of translators in the value chain of book production. The last panel was the colorful cherry on the cake: it was organised jointly with the Illustrators' Seminar, and dealt with the challenges and joys of collaboration in authoring, translating and illustrating a book for children. Each panel was moderated by a distinguished professional, and concluded with a Q&A session that evidenced the presence of a highly committed audience.

The First Translation Seminar at the Book Fair closed with a cocktail for the attendees. Special thanks to all the organisations that supported our efforts, and to Fundación El Libro, for helping translators to enter the spotlight of such a prominent international event.

In addition to the Translation Seminar, AATI organised a series of special events. Of note, AATI coordinated a Cultural Diversity activity sponsored by FIT's Translation & Culture Committee: the presentation of *Wawkes Pukllas* (Siblings Playing), the first compilation of Quichua texts, entirely written by a group of native language Quichua students led by professor Héctor Andreani. The book was presented on April 28, in a very pleasant atmosphere. Co-author Elias Baraza from northern province Santiago del Estero came into town to share with a highly engaged audience how a haphazard compilation of native texts and songs was made into

a full-fledged book. The presentation was in the form of a casual lounge talk introduced by AATI Vice-President María Laura Ramos, and concluded with a bilingual live folklore music performance. The initiative to sponsor this presentation was brought to AATI by Gabriel Torem, a Quichua-Spanish-English translator concerned with giving visibility to the rich cultural legacy of indigenous communities in Argentina.

AATI also contributed the translation milestones for "The History of Books: A Timeline," a huge mural in a special booth called *ESPACIO LIBRO*, highlighting the role of translation in the annals of the world's literature.

In this very dynamic section of the Fair, AATI was assigned a permanent presence with an advocacy activity, *TRADU-TRIVIA*, a Powerpoint presentation aimed at bringing visitors closer to the reality of translation and translators. Other very popular activities for children and young participants were called "mini-translators" and "Harry Potter in Translation." These challenging, awareness-raising quizzes were met with great enthusiasm. And AATI members facilitating the activities had as much fun as the participants.

There is no question about it-- translators are finally on board. It is to be expected that future editions of the Book Fair Programme will continue to feature full-day seminars exclusively devoted to translators. This accomplishment inspires the AATI team to continue working towards a bright future for the profession.

Article and photos: Marita Propato



Presentation of *Wawkes Pukllas*

Dutch L4L Needs Translators

Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L) is an independent Dutch foundation with the status of an institution for the promotion of the public interest established in 1986 on the initiative of the Professional Lawyers of *Amnesty International Netherlands* with the support of the Dutch Bar Association, the Dutch Legal Committee for Human Rights (NJCM) and the Study and Information Centre Human Rights (SIM). L4L was granted Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council in July 2013.

Objectives: In conformity with international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers and the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders of the United Nations L4L has committed itself to enabling lawyers to practise law freely and independently.

Organisation: L4L has a board consisting of (former) lawyers and human rights specialists. An executive director is responsible for the day-to-day work. Regions that require special attention are monitored by groups of volunteers, who may take action in consultation with the board.



Financing: For its income, the foundation depends entirely on donations from individual lawyers, law firms and lawyers' organisations.

Working method: L4L provides financial, moral and legal support to oppressed

lawyers and lawyers' organisations, by bringing the position of the threatened lawyers throughout the world to the attention of international legal and political institutions, civil society organisations and the relevant authorities of the country in which the particular lawyer is based. Special emphasis is put on the importance of compliance with the *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*. They organise fact-finding or observation missions and letter-writing campaigns. Whenever appropriate, they mobilise lawyers to provide legal assistance to oppressed lawyers.

Translators needed: L4L desperately needs volunteer translators to help it distribute its documents in a wider range of languages. If you are able to help, please contact Stephanie Dekker (Stephanie.dekker@cms-dsb.com) or Adrie van de Streek (info@lawyersforlawyers.org).

ASETRAD elects new steering committee

On 29 September 2013, Asetrad (Asociación Española de Traductores, Correctores e Intérpretes) held its AGM in Toledo, Spain. It featured two days of various activities celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Association. The event saw the culmination of the biennial electoral process to elect a new committee. The outcome of the vote was:

Presidency: *Llorenç Serrahima*; **Vice-presidency:** *Ana Fernández*; **Administration:** *Paula Varona*; **Treasury:** *Ana B. Guerrero*; **Events:** *Isabel G. Cutillas, Verónica Salvador, Ana M. Pérez*; **Local groups:** *Verónica Salvador, Pilar T. Bayle*; **Social networks and communication:** *Isabel G. Cutillas, Ana M. Pérez*; **Training:** *María Galán, Mer-*

cedes Sánchez-Marco, Pilar T. Bayle; **Judicial and fiscal matters:** *Pedro Satué*; **Web**

site: *Paul Carmichael*; **University practices:** *María Galán, Isabel G. Cutillas*.



From left to right: Paula Varona, Mercedes Sánchez-Marco, Ana B. Guerrero, Ana Fernández, Llorenç Serrahima, Isabel García, Pedro Satué, María Galán, Verónica Salvador and Ana María Pérez

New Chair for Swedish FAT

At the annual meeting of the Swedish Federation of Authorised Translators (FAT), held on 15 March 2014 in Stockholm, Nadja Chekhov was elected the new chairperson of the Federation. Nadja is an authorised translator from Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian to Swedish and is also an authorised court interpreter.

The new Board of the Federation of Authorised Translators comprises the following people: Chair: Nadja Chekhov; Secretary: Birgitta Önnarfält; Treasurer: Johan Sör; Coordinator: Ljuba Sandberg; Webmaster: Lena Evstropova Blom; Other Board Members: Giovanni Barcio, Donald Hughes, Meta Kågeson, Katari-

na Lindve, Daniel Lodeiro, Marian-Jozef Waszkiewicz.

The outgoing chair, Kajsa Pehrsson, served as a member of the FAT Board for many years and was appointed an honorary member of the Federation for her highly valuable contributions over this period.

FIT gathers legal T&Is

The Eleventh International Forum of the FIT Committee for Legal Translation and Interpreting entitled THE LIFE OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS – JOY AND SORROW? was held from 19 to 21 September 2013 in Belgrade. In cooperation with the Association of Scientific and Technical Translators of Serbia and under the auspices of FIT as well as with the support of EULITA, numerous international and local experts in the field of legal translation and court interpreting gathered to discuss their current situation. Before the official opening of the Forum, a Get-Together Reception was given at the host's premises, where speakers and official guests received a plaque from the Serbian Association for their valuable achievements in the field of translation.

The Forum opened with welcome speeches by the President of the Serbian Association, Mila Jović, and the Secretary General, Dragić Vukićević. After the opening speeches of the Serbian State Secretary, Danilo Nikolić, and the Acting President of the High Criminal Court, Zoran Pašalić, the Co-Chairs of the FIT Committee for Legal Translation and Interpreting, Monique Rouzet Lelièvre and

Christine Springer, took the floor and conveyed greetings and the support of Marion Boers, the President of FIT.

Over two working days and a total of six sessions, 18 speakers from various countries and continents developed a wide range of themes and issues inherent to the nature of legal translation and interpreting.

After addressing the participants during the opening ceremony on behalf of Directorate A of DGT, the European Commission's Directorate General for Translation, Ingemar Strandvik told us about multilingual law-making and multilingualism regarding EU translation. Liese Katschinka, President of EULITA, gave an introduction to the profession of legal interpreting and translation and the status of legal interpreters and translators in the light of the EU Directive 2010/64. The participants from the Association of Police & Court Interpreters in the UK gave probably the freshest example of the consequences of misunderstanding the role of court interpreters, and presented the latest developments in the UK regarding the Capita TI outsourcing contract and Framework Agreement. Given the venue of the Forum, it was

inevitable to mention the experience of translators gained in the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

In addition to a photo-session at the Translators Tree in the Park of Friendship at the confluence of the Danube and the Sava River and a visit to the Supreme Court of Cassation, the supporting programme was organised in a traditional atmosphere representative of Serbian hospitality. At the closing session, a resolution was adopted to request FIT Europe to investigate ways and means to initiate a macroeconomic study into the impact on the quality of translation and interpreting services obtained on the basis of procurement procedures based on EU Financial Regulation (966/2012) and the costs, both social and economic, thereof.

The Forum gave the participants the highly valuable opportunity to become familiar with various legal solutions and regulations for legal interpreters and translators, both at EU level and in other parts of the world, as well as with new trends in different national legislations.

*Article: Miodrag Vukčević
Photo: Branislav Strugar*



Albin Tybulewicz (1929 – 2014)

A man of professional dignity and solidarity

Albin Tybulewicz – a former winner of FIT's Nathhorst Prize for scientific and technical translation and a strong supporter of the Federation and the profession in both Poland and the UK, passed away in April this year at age 85.

Born in pre-war Poland, deported with his family to the Soviet Union in 1940, migrated to Iran and India where he lived from 1942-1947, Albin Tybulewicz moved to Great Britain in 1948. His dramatic life since childhood taught him not only how to survive but also how to live with simple human dignity and intellectual and professional dignity.

Refugee camps were certainly not the best places for teenagers to acquire their education. But Albin was strong and persistent, and also open to his young companions with whom he made friendships that lasted throughout his life. As a graduate of the English Jesuit High School in Bombay, he entered the University of London, where he obtained a BSc in physics. Then he combined the curiosity of a scientist with his inborn talent to transform the exotic language of the original work into an easily accessible text through translation and became an editor and translator of scientific journals and books from Russian into English. He worked in the editorial office of Physics Abstracts, eventually becoming Editor-in-Chief. For his outstanding contribution to scientific and technical translation at world level, he was award-

ed the FIT Nathhorst Prize for Non-Fiction in 1990 in Belgrade.

Albin was not just an excellent translator; he always devoted time and attention to his professional community, both in Britain and in Poland. Here is what ITI says about his pre-eminent contribution to the profession of translation in the UK:



In memory of Albin Tybulewicz

'When the new Institute of Translation and Interpreting was launched in 1986, Albin was at the forefront of the drive to establish it as a national and international authoritative organisation and served for many years as a Member of Council, and as vice-chairman. He remained a staunch and steady supporter and, as an individual and corporate member, that support came in the form of words, deeds and money: hours of voluntary endeavour, contributions to networks,

advice to newcomers to translation – he was generous and successful, an example to follow. He was delighted to be made an Honorary Fellow of the Institute, to be a recipient of the Institute's John Sykes Prize for Excellence – fitting, as Albin always demanded excellence from himself, his Institute and his colleagues in translation.'

Albin Tybulewicz was also a steadfast colleague of Polish translators and interpreters as a Polish patriot *par excellence*, imbued with solidarity. In 1980-1984, as a co-founder and chairman of the Food for Poland Fund, he also helped his colleagues in the Association of Polish Translators and Interpreters. TEPIS, the Polish Society of Sworn and Specialised Translators, enjoyed his kind and substantial support, from its foundation in 1990, in improving the legal status of this professional group through his official and unofficial efforts in connection with his political activities in Poland after the transformation. For his merits he was awarded the title of TEPIS Honorary Member in 2010.

Albin was involved in the politics of Poland for all his adult life. He helped Poles wherever and whenever he could. In 2006 he was awarded the Officer's Cross, Order of Polonia Restituta by Lech Kaczynski, the President of Poland.

*Article by Danuta Kierzkowska, TEPIS
Photo from <http://www.mysl-polska.pl/node/55>*



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