

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS

The voice of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists around the world

TRANSLATIO

No. 2, 2022 FIT Newsletter



President's message

Alison Rodriguez

Dear FIT members,

Welcome to the new FIT mandate 2022–2025.

I'd like to welcome all members of the new Council and thank them for sharing their skills and time and for their commitment to serving the Federation. We're lucky to have such an experienced team. Working with them over the next three years will be a pleasure, and we are eager to collectively roll up our sleeves and get down to the serious work of continuing to build a credible, global professional federation.

Our first task will be to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our colleagues at the Asociación Cubana de Traductores e Intérpretes (ACTI), who managed to put on a first-class World Congress amidst unprecedented uncertainty. They did us proud! The enormous challenges of the last few years did nothing to dampen the creativity, enthusiasm, and dedication of their amazing team.

In this issue of *Translatio*, you can read delegates' experiences of Congress and hear from the hosts of the XXIII FIT Congress, ANTIO Costa Rica. You can also read about the FIT Prizes, awarded at each Congress thanks to the work of the Awards Standing Committee, chaired

this past mandate by FIT Honorary Advisor Reina de Bettendorf. Another momentous event was the adoption of Spanish as an official language of FIT. This will increase our exposure and our reach, taking us from bilingual to multilingual, which is definitely a step in the right direction. FIT also [welcomes](#) its 22 new regular members and 6 associate members ratified at the Statutory Congress.

Many of the challenges we faced during the last mandate are still with us, and will remain with us, it seems. The new Council will have a lot to manage; however, they are well prepared. I would like to take this opportunity to, as it was so beautifully articulated in the e-group (*obligada*, Giovanna), "express our gratitude for our colleagues who brought us this far". Standing "on the shoulders of giants" only increases our reach, so many, many thanks go to all those who have served on previous FIT Councils since our creation in 1953, from our first Council up to and including our most recent. FIT is its people, and that means all of us. The human side of the Federation that has been so desperately missing throughout the pandemic years is slowly coming back. Council is looking forward to its first in-person meeting next April

in Barcelona, hosted by APTIC, and to many more chances to get together in the future.

You will also see from this issue's articles that the Congress was not the only event happening in the FIT arena, and we are yet to hear about the tenth Asia Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum, APTIF10, held in hybrid format on 25 and 26 June, not long after Congress but too late to be included in this edition of *Translatio*. Indeed, the FIT calendar is filling up. We hope you'll be able to join us at an event near you, as we are looking forward to meeting you all.

We hope you enjoy the very first issue of *Translatio* of this mandate.

Alison Rodriguez, president@fit-ift.org



The FIT Congress, without barriers... finally

It seems to be an irony of fate that the theme for FIT's 22nd World Congress was "A World Without Barriers." The Congress was originally due to be held in 2020, but the Covid-19 pandemic proved to be a sizeable barrier, and the Congress had to be rescheduled. Linguists from many parts of the world were finally able to convene in Varadero, Cuba, in June 2022 for a historic Congress – the first in Latin America. And what's more: Spanish is now an official language at FIT.

In an attempt to chart the coming years of our profession, a significant number of presentations discussed topics such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, algorithms, and digitalisation (though other non-tech topics were also popular – the terms "culture/cultural" and "literature/literary" appeared in many titles).

Interestingly, some speakers looked into the past before pondering the present and discussing what the future may have in store for us. That was the case of honorary member of FIT Frans de Laet, whose

keynote speech was titled *After eighty years of training translators and interpreters for a world without barriers... How challenging will our future be?* Mr de Laet's presentation was a memorable cruise (his slides showed our profession as a boat riding down a river) packed with important questions and considerations. His talk ended with an optimistic quote: "If there is an extensive, universal, permanent profession, it is ours," from Pierre-François Caillé, founding member of FIT.

I would also like to make a special mention of the historically insightful keynote lecture by Donald Barabé, President of OTTIAQ in Canada: *The importance of translation and status of the profession.* Mr Barabé raised a very relevant point: translation was an activity for millennia and did not become an organised profession until the 20th century. Talking about the present time, he raised an issue that was also discussed by Mexican interpreter Tony Rosado in the World Congress in Brisbane, Australia in 2017: translation is

a profession, not an industry. The bottom line is that we should care about the way we frame our trade, since it has critical implications.

Finally, I myself came to the stage to speak and focused on a historical theme in Varadero: *From Nuremberg to Wuhan – The instant rise of remote interpreting?* As I plunged into the history of the interpreting profession, I was amazed to see a number of parallels in seemingly unrelated events. History shows that ours is an increasingly technology-mediated profession, and we need to make sure we fully understand our responsibilities and the importance of our work so that we can cope with the limitations of technology, for the benefit of all stakeholders. I was very happy to see that the presentations that followed my talk that morning built on many of the issues I raised.

It was worth waiting longer than usual to attend the FIT World Congress. And now on to Costa Rica in 2025!

Marsel de Souza, ABRATES

Flashback to the 2022 FIT Congresses in Varadero

ANATI-O Colombia is a new association (formed in 2020) that only recently joined FIT (2022). That being the case, it is worth asking, "why join FIT?"

The answer: Varadero, Cuba 2022. In fact, I should say "the answers," because there are so many reasons why joining FIT was the right choice.

First, all translators and interpreters around the world, whether from industrialised or developing countries, face similar challenges. The congress agenda demonstrated how we might find solutions to these challenges, such as pricing, quality control, ethics, teamwork, and advancements in technology, by working together, even though the right solution for each association may be unique.

Second, the FIT congresses were an opportunity to present scientific developments. For example, Dr Eliza Kalderon presented



María Luisa Molano (Colombia), Mary Ann Monteagudo (Peru), Marita Propato (Argentina), Carina Barres (Argentina), Pablo Reyes (Colombia)

her doctoral thesis, *Neurophysiology of Simultaneous Interpreting: an fMRI Study with Conference Interpreters*, on how interpreters use their minds while interpreting. Using MRI, she found that “shadowing” in the same language consumes more mental resources than interpreting.

Third, it was a place where attendees could tap into a training network where so many were willing to share their knowledge. ACTI, the host association, organised at least 20 courses, but that was only the tip of the iceberg. There were courses on many challenges associations may face.

Fourth, it was an opportunity to learn and

share best practices. At the risk of sounding trite, those who don't know history are destined to repeat it. By revisiting and learning from the experiences of fellow associations around the world, in all their legal, administrative, and ethical complexity, we can all be better prepared for what the future holds. This lesson is what lawyer Carina Adriana Barres from Argentina talked about in her lecture, *The Experience of the Ethics Committee of Colegio de Traductores Públicos de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires*. She also took the opportunity to invite us to her association's Congress in Buenos Aires in April 2023.

Lastly, it opened our eyes to new work opportunities. In her talk, *Dealing with 'AI Unknowns' in the Future of Translation*, Sarah Bawa Mason, MA, FITI, University of Portsmouth, told us how many job opportunities there are for cross-cultural communication consultants. According to her academic analysis, all the new technology out there has opened a whole new realm of possibilities.

Thank you, Varadero, for showing that face-to-face meetings have an unequivocally intrinsic value.

Dr Luis H. Guío Suárez, ANATI-O

¡Viva el español!

As this has been my first year as president of the Asociación Colombiana de Traductores, Terminólogos e Intérpretes (ACTTI), I attended the FIT Statutory Congress and also wanted to go to the World Congress in Varadero.

There were a lot of expectations from fellow LatAm associations regarding the motion to adopt Spanish as the third official language of FIT. We knew it had been a controversial issue in previous years, but our Cuban colleagues presented it with compelling arguments. The debate was lengthy, and there was opposition. At the end of the first day, we added an additional agenda item to the LatAm Regional Centre's Annual General Meeting and worked together to amend the motion and prepare supporting arguments for the voting that would take place on the second day. ASETRAD, from Spain, joined our efforts, and together we presented the motion again for voting. I felt I was witnessing a historic event. After a suspenseful voting session, we got enough support to approve the motion. Tears of joy came to our eyes. We jumped, we hugged, and gave out a loud “¡Viva el español!”

Of course, we are aware of the hard work we have in front of us to translate FIT's important documents into Spanish. We are certain our members will be more than happy to contribute to this endeavour. To start, associations will oversee translating documents such as the bylaws, the rules of procedure, the translator's charter, and other documents prioritised as urgent.



Frans de Laet and Pablo E. Reyes

This will be done on a pro-bono basis. After that foundation has been laid, we could use remaining translation tasks as a source of work for colleagues who might be struggling to make ends meet because of the pandemic. I want to take the opportunity to invite all Spanish translators to join in these efforts with the responsibility and professionalism that should characterise our work.

Another exciting moment was the selection of the venue for the next world congress. After the votes were tallied, our colleagues from Costa Rica, under the leadership of ANTIO, won the majority and will host that event in 2025.

It has been a privilege to be at these events, representing not only ACTTI, but also Colombia. Meeting colleagues from

Latin America whom I had only seen virtually at events held by FIT LatAm was special and gratifying. It was an opportunity to appreciate the human contact the pandemic had taken away from us. I also talked to colleagues from all over the world, and we shared our experiences about this beautiful profession. During these conversations, we reflected on the motto of the congresses, a world without barriers, and concluded that, rather than eliminating barriers, we build bridges to overcome them. Another important point is the idea of uniting around common interests: being part of an association is more than just appearing on a list and paying an annual fee. It means putting in the work for the good of the profession.

Pablo E. Reyes, President, ACTTI

Costa Rica – host of the 2025 FIT World Congress

"You see things; you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say 'Why not?'"

George Bernard Shaw

Dreams usually begin with a small idea that stays in your mind. Costa Ricans dare to dream because our history allows us to do so. We are a nation that is small in size and geography, but big in principles and courage.

We saw an opportunity and we resolutely seized it with the audacity we've learned as citizens of a prosperous and peaceful nation with a stable democracy that is admired throughout the world. We have an educated population, an internationally recognised system that allows us to protect large swaths of nature across the country, a long history of protecting human rights, excellent infrastructure, and a safe investment environment that is open to the private sector. In 2021, with the encouragement and support of our country's public institutions, ANTIO submitted our first proposal to host the FIT Congress in 2024, which was moved to 2025 due to the pandemic. We stayed on our path, sure of our vision, and attended the FIT Statutory Congress in Varadero, Cuba on 30 and 31 May 2022 to present our proposal.

ANTIO Costa Rica presented a comprehensive offering that accounted for current political and economic realities and highlighted our country's technological capabilities to offer a hybrid Open Congress, with interaction via podcasts to provide a dynamic experience we have never seen before. We also made special considerations for families, so parents travelling with children could leave them in our "Family Room" while attending the Congress, as well as the use of conference management tools to provide all the necessary services for a successful event. Lastly, as the theme, we proposed advances in artificial intelligence and the implications for linguists, translators, and interpreters around the world. We believe this topic merits discussion, so we can take all necessary measures and come up with creative and beneficial solutions for us all. We put together a unique and innovative proposal, and the attending delegations' vote of confidence confirmed that we are on the right path.

Our Costa Rican hearts feel honoured that our country was chosen as the next host of the FIT World Congress in July 2025, and we want to assure you that we will do our very best to make your stay in our



Katia Jiménez Pochet and Gilda Castro Jenkins, from ANTIO Costa Rica, present the winning proposal at the Statutory Congress.

home productive and interesting. Welcome to beautiful Costa Rica! Pura vida!

Katia Jiménez Pochet and Gilda Castro Jenkins, ANTIO Costa Rica

A giant leap for Spanish

The Asociación Cubana de Traductores e Intérpretes (ACTI) welcomed representatives from all four corners of the globe who convened in Varadero, Cuba for the FIT Statutory Congress on 29–30 May and the XXII FIT Open Congress on 1–3 June 2022. It was the first time a Latin American country served as the venue for the most important meeting of FIT's governing body and the World Congress.

FIT Latin America, one of the three regional centres of FIT, also held its general meeting of members on 29 May to elect a new board. For the first time, the Colegio de Traductores Públicos del Perú (CTP), represented by its President Mary Ann



Spanish-speaking Latin American and European representatives celebrating after Spanish was added as FIT's third official language. Credit: CTP

Monteagudo, was elected to chair the FIT LatAm board. The other board members are the two vice chairpersons: Marita Propato from AATI (Argentina) and Katia Jimenez from ANTIO (Costa Rica); the secretary, Bianchinetta Benavides from ACO-TIP (Costa Rica); the treasurer, Lidia Jeansalle from CTPCBA (Argentina); a member at large for academic affairs, Cristian Araya from COTICH (Chile), and a member at large for cultural affairs, Estela Díaz from ACTI (Cuba). This was also the first time that members of Costa Rican associations became part of the FIT LatAm board.

The FIT Statutory Congress also turned out to be a great success for the entire

Spanish-speaking community, as the proposal to add Spanish as FIT's third official language alongside English and French was approved. It will be such a breath of fresh air to see the language of Cervantes in future communications and records. Furthermore, statutory congress members voted and chose Costa Rica as the next venue for the XXIII FIT World Congress in 2025.

Without a shadow of a doubt, ACTI was up to the challenge of hosting these events and was able to make its international guests feel welcome and valued in such a magical venue.

Eduardo Castillo Vargas, CTP



From left to right: Hilda Ascencio, former CTP President; Eduardo Castillo, Press, Publicity and Public Relations Member; Mary Ann Monteagudo, current CTP President, and Hedwig Spitzer, former Member for Cultural Affairs.

Revolutionary Vibes in Varadero

The Asociación Cubana de Traductores e Intérpretes (ACTI) cooked up a storm with the long-delayed 2022 FIT Conference in Varadero in late May to early June this year. Despite a number of challenges – not least fuel shortages imposed by the current world situation and the US blockade on the nation – they pulled off a veritable *tour de force* with a fantastic five-day event in Varadero, Cuba that was full of surprises.

Toward the end of day one of the Statutory Congress, a motion was proposed for Spanish to be made the third official language of FIT. Objections were raised mainly on the point of potential additional delays while waiting for official translations of all documentation and the related cost (professional translator associations really should pay professional rates for translations, and FIT is not known for its massive budget). But the feeling in the room, and the underlying conviction of multilingualism being the 'right' way forward, coupled with convincing numerical arguments on the number of Spanish speakers in FIT, took the day. The motion was passed with the support of 35 of the 65 associations present in the room.

The second set of surprises came with the selection of the new council. There was a general feeling of a new broom sweeping clean, with Alison Rodriguez elected president (despite her absence) and the appointment of an executive dream team with Annette Schiller, Alejandra Jorge, and Eleanor Cornelius as Vice Presidents,

Ted Wozniak as Treasurer, and Alexandra Jantscher-Karlhuber as Secretary General. Council comprises associations from all around the world, including Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Macao, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, and others – a truly global group representing a great range of FIT members. I was left feeling very hopeful for the future of FIT.

The Open Congress that followed was a joyful experience from beginning to end. For me, it started with the great pleasure of presenting the first ever Polish Society for Sworn and Specialized Translators (TEPIS) and ITI Albin Tybulewicz prizes for Professional Solidarity to a pair of excellent colleagues from Latin America: Sergio Alarcón Marín of the Colegio Mexicano de Intérpretes de Conferencias (CMIC)

and Adriana Zuñiga of the Asociación Costarricense de Traductores e Intérpretes Profesionales (ACOTIP).

The rest of the week passed in a whirl of presentations that confirmed the excellent professional status of the translation and interpreting professions within the state of Cuba and all around the world. There were first-rate speakers on all topics from audiovisual translation in Mexico to the struggles for the interpretation of Indigenous languages from Australia to the Americas. I came home with a full list of potential speakers for my students here in the UK and with commitments for me to speak both virtually and in-person to a number of groups around the world.

All in all, a fantastic event!

Sarah Bawa Mason, FITI



Photo by: @Jørgen Chr. Wind Nielsen

Presentation of the new Council members

FIT prize winners announced

FIT announced the winners of its prestigious awards on the first day of its recent triennial congress.

The ceremony took place in the ballroom of Hotel Meliá Internacional Varadero. As chair of the Awards Management Standing Committee, I was honoured to act as emcee for the event. This year, 12 prizes and six honourable mentions were awarded. Thirteen of the 18 winners of prizes and honourable mentions were present to receive their awards on stage. We began the awards ceremony by expressing our appreciation to ACTI, the organisers of the FIT Congress, for giving the Awards Management Standing Committee an opportunity to carry out one of the most important and widely recognised functions FIT fulfils for its member associations: recognising outstanding work by awarding FIT prizes at FIT World Congresses.

We were also proud to announce that we had winners in each category, and that some awards also had honourable mentions, i.e., a distinction granted to nominees for the high quality of their work in the world of translation, terminology, and interpreting. In fact, more prizes were awarded at this congress than ever before, a clear sign of the growing strength of FIT. This is an achievement we are very proud of.

The 2022 FIT Awards would not be complete without expressing our appreciation to our sponsors, volunteers, and our jury members, whose work has been a critical part of the process of selecting the FIT prize winners. We are grateful for the time and energy that went into reading all the supporting materials and nominations, and for the discussions regarding the relative merits of each of the nominees on a number of Zoom calls and email exchanges.

To our prize winners and honourable mention recipients in each category: many thanks for your invaluable work for the benefit of our professions.

To those who were present in Varadero and those who were unable to attend in person but who followed our work closely: we offer our sincere thanks as well.

We look forward to seeing you again in 2025 at our next FIT Congress in Costa Rica. *Pura vida!*

Reina de Bettendorf, Honorary Advisor



Here's the list of outstanding professionals who were recognized at the ceremony:

Pierre-François Caillé Medal

Frans de Laet

Astrid Lindgren Prize

Carlos Mayor, APTIC • Honourable Mention: Stian Omland, NO

Aurora Borealis Prize for Outstanding Translation of Fiction Literature

Olga Sánchez Guevara, ACTI

Aurora Borealis Prize for Outstanding Translation of Non-Fiction Literature

Leonardo Marcello Pignataro, AITI • Honourable Mention: Mateo Cardona Vallejo, ACTTI

FIT Prize for Best Periodical

InTouch, AUSIT • Honourable Mention: La Linterna del Traductor, ASETRAD

FIT Prize for Best Website

Atanet.org, ATA

FIT Prize for Interpreting Excellence

Georganne Weller, CMIC

Karel Čapek Medal

Lars Kolbjørn Moa, NO • Honourable Mention: Jennifer Lazaric, HDZTP

Marion Boers Prize for Translation of Work of Fiction or Nonfiction by an Author from a SADC Member State

Alfred Mtawali, EIATA • Honourable Mention: Marius Swart, SATI

FIT Prize for Excellence in Scientific and Technical Translation

Luis Alberto González Moreno, ACTI • Honourable Mention: Morteza Neshat, ITIA

Albin Tybulewicz Prize for Professional Solidarity in the Translation and Interpreting Community

Sergio Alarcón, CMIC and Adriana Zuñiga, ACOTIP

A heartfelt thank you

There is no doubt about it: the XXII FIT Congress was a success shared by all participants from 58 countries who met in Varadero after a long five-year wait. The outstanding presentations delivered by the speakers, the relevance of the questions and comments from attendees, the excellent work of the interpreters, but above all the atmosphere of camaraderie and respect among colleagues made it one of the best congresses in FIT history.

That success would not have been possible without the hard work and team effort of my colleagues on the Congress Organising Committee: ACTI executives, the volunteers and students from the University of Havana School of Foreign Languages, the interpreters on the Translators and Interpreters Service Team, journalists, and sponsors, including Cuba Ron S.A., the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba, the Abdala record label, Artex S.A. and the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Cuba. A special thanks goes to the management and employees of the Meliá Internacional Varadero Hotel, the Continental Cabaret, and the Xanadú Mansion



FIT Council Member Gretchen González Nieto thanks the Organising Committee at the closing ceremony. Photo: Marita Propato

for their commitment to the congress and their assistance with every detail. Last but not least, I'm grateful to the outgoing FIT Council for its support. When others doubted that Cuba would be able to organise an event like this in the midst of the

current situation, they always trusted us, and they said yes.

Thank you all!

Luis Alberto González Moreno
ACTI President / Organising Committee

A long journey with a happy ending



ACTI's winning bid to host FIT'S XXII World Congress announced in Brisbane, 2017



FIT Council visits Meliá Internacional Varadero Hotel, still under construction. Varadero, 2018



Former FIT President Kevin Quirk and Former Secretary General Réal Paquette meet with Cuban authorities. Havana, 2019



FIT Presidents' Forum. Vienna, 2019



End of the journey: XXII FIT World Congress. Varadero, 2022

Photos of 2022 Congress: Jørgen Chr. Wind Nielsen

Photos of hotel under construction and Presidents' Forum: Luis Alberto González Moreno

Watch the media coverage on Cuban TV [here](#).

Excellence in SciTech translation recognised

The FIT Award for Excellence in Scientific & Technical Translation, funded by Pamela Mayorcas, FITI, MSclnfSc, was awarded for the third time at the 22nd FIT Congress in Cuba. The recipient, Luis Alberto Gonzalez Moreno, was selected by the jury for his life's work devoted to the translation of highly specialised technical texts, the quantity of translations produced, his commitment to terminological work, which is the backbone of all technical translation, and his sustained and significant contribution to supporting the profession at the national and international level.

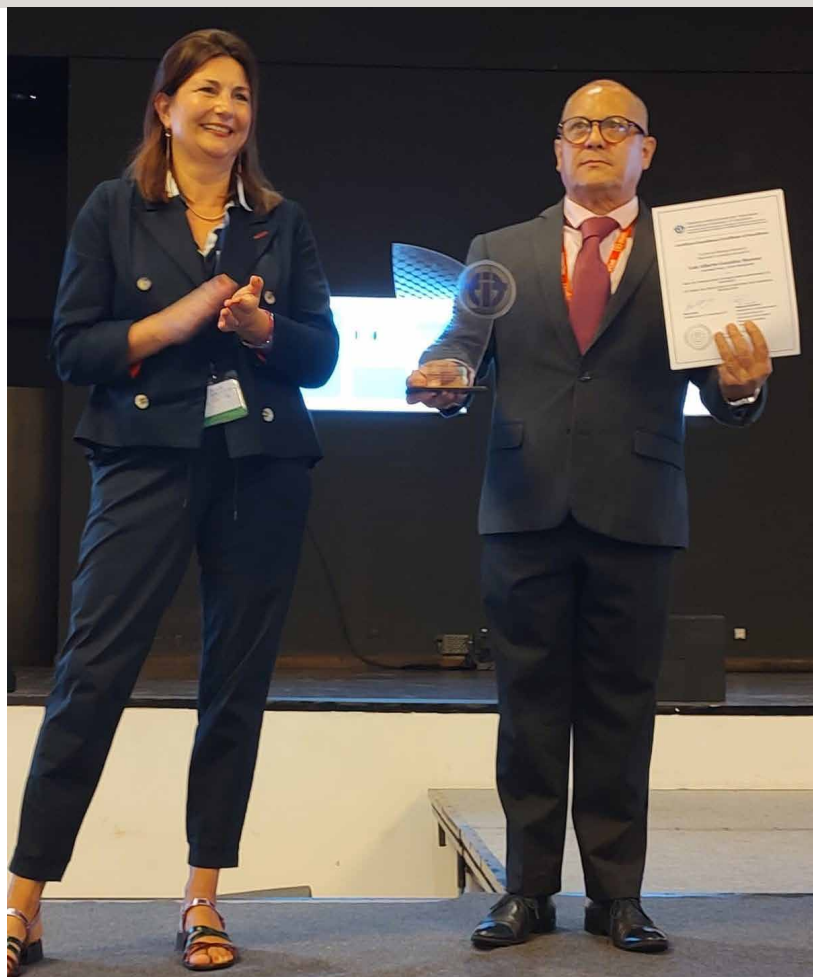
He was recommended by a number of his clients, including the Cuban Translation Centre of the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment, the publishing house Ediciones de la Noche, and the Director of the Centre for Translation and Specialised Terminology.

Mr Moreno was presented with the plaque and a cheque for €300 by Marita Propato on behalf of jury chairman Pamela Mayorcas.

The jury also awarded an honourable mention to Morteza Neshat, who created an important translation aid, *The First Terminology Dictionary of Journalism Terms from German to Persian/Persian to German/German to English*. This is a corpus-driven audiovisual dictionary of journalism and media terms, in an unusual language combination with more than ten thousand specialised terms and words. The dictionary will help ensure the transmission of information across language barriers, one of the objectives of FIT.

As Mr Neshat was unable to be in Cuba to accept his award, a plaque and €150, he sent a video in which he expressed his appreciation for having received the honourable mention.

As jury chairman, Pamela thanked her fellow members for their diligence in reading the huge amount of background material, for the time spent in online meetings, for individual research that provided important background material for the jury's discussions, for the time spent writing emails, and above all, for their kind and friendly support. She also acknowledged the help and support of Daniel Muller as FIT Secretary and Magister



Presentation of SciTech Translation Prize for Luis Alberto Gonzalez Moreno

Reina Bettendorf, Chair of the FIT Awards Management Standing Committee.

Jury members:

Pamela Mayorcas (ITI), Marian Dougan (ITI), Marita Propato (ATA, AATI, CTPCBA), Alison Rodriguez (NZSTI), Jasper Tilbury (ITI)

Pamela Mayorcas FITI

DACTI is back!

DACTI, the Danish Association of Certified Translators and Interpreters, is a founding member of FIT. After a bit of a hiatus, we are now back in the FIT family, and what a welcome, what a congress! I had the special honour of representing DACTI in Cuba, and below I share some of the highlights of my time there.

The congresses, both statutory and open, were very well organised by our Cuban hosts, who deserve our utmost thanks. The venue served its purpose very well for the congresses, networking, and socialising.

Everyone's spirits were high, demonstrating the importance of FIT and our excitement for such a great in-person event.

I have attended all but one FIT congress since 1993, and the discussion about the official languages of FIT was one of the best and highly qualified I have ever witnessed. It is exciting that Spanish has become an official FIT language, and in Cuba, of all places.

It is truly amazing how much the outgoing president, executive committee, and council have done and achieved through

the last five years, which were most extraordinary. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to FIT. It was likewise an honour to see so many FIT members recognised for their work during the well-organised awards ceremony.

On behalf of DACTI, we are looking forward to taking part in many FIT activities moving forward.

Those who are interested can view and download my unedited collection of photos from the festivities [here](#).

Jørgen Christian Wind Nielsen, DACTI

Francophone associations meet in Cuba

After twice being postponed because of the pandemic, the FIT Statutory Congress took place on 30 and 31 May 2022 in Varadero, Cuba. The Federation's official report will be coming soon: we'll leave it to them to tell you all about it!

The congress was also an opportunity for associations from French-speaking countries to build on their already close relationships. Four of our colleagues from Quebec, representing the *Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec* (OTTIAQ), had packed their floral shirts for the Caribbean, where they met with two delegates from the *Société française des traducteurs* (SFT), Sabine Deutsch and Wanda Ruiz-Brunelot, as well as Guillaume Deneufbourg, the *Chambre belge des traducteurs et interprètes* (CBTI) delegate, who is also a long-standing SFT member.

The three associations took advantage of this translation gathering to have informal discussions (in other words, over a good mojito!) about French-language issues. They covered plenty of ground: from the current situation and latest developments to the outlook on the world market. It was a lively, high-spirited conversation.

After the first *Traduction en francophonie* world conference (www.ctf2020.org), due to take place in Belgium in May 2020, was unfortunately cancelled for reasons we are only too aware of, the three associations have also been considering organising an event on a similar scale in the near future – in Mons, Montreal, Paris or at another venue – ideally in partnership with one or more French-speaking associations in Africa, either APTIC (Association des professionnels de la traduction et de l'interprétation du Cameroun), ATIPCO (Association de Traducteurs et Interprètes



From left to right: Réal Paquette (OTTIAQ), Donald Barabé (OTTIAQ), Sabine Deutsch (SFT), Sébastien Saint-François (OTTIAQ), Hélène Gauthier (OTTIAQ), Wanda Ruiz-Brunelot (SFT), Guillaume Deneufbourg (CBTI-SFT)

Professionnels du Congo), or ASTRA (Association sénégalaise des traducteurs), which was invited to be the guest of honour at CTF2020 and became a regular FIT member earlier this year.

In general, Quebec, France, and Belgium, as well as our Swiss colleagues at ASTTI, who sadly did not make it to Cuba, are eager to work more closely with all our French-speaking counterparts, from Africa and elsewhere, to discuss the issues and peculiarities unique to French. FIT is the perfect platform for bringing these conversations together. Come and join us!

The French-speaking 'team' would also love to help associations in Spanish-speaking countries meet the (major) challenge of adding Spanish as FIT's third official language – a development we are thrilled about.

Guillaume Deneufbourg, on behalf of CBTI, OTTIAQ, and SFT

¡Ay caramba, Cuba!

The recent FIT congress in Varadero, Cuba, was my very first congress of its kind. Thanks to the goodwill and determination of outgoing liaison between the FIT Council and FIT North America Alan Melby, I was able to attend one day of the statutory congress, two days of the open congress, and enjoy several days of fun in the sun and exploration of Havana and Varadero.

First impressions of the statutory congress: an enormous hotel exuding luxury, a large conference room neatly laid out with tables for each member association in attendance, in alphabetical order, and a little flag of the member's country to top things off. Being from the United States, I sat at the back of the room, right in front of the interpreters for the sessions. Members of the host organisation, ACTI, had set up proper interpreting booths and were serving as the interpreters for the congress. A monolingual earpiece sat at each attendee table for those needing interpretation.

The Cuban interpreters and translators were a convivial group. They seemed to be enjoying themselves, and their skills were put to the test. Nearly all the sessions I attended were in Spanish; the programme had somewhat of an academic focus, but included



Alan Melby, FIT North America, and Diana Rhudick, New England Translators Association, in front of the Hotel Valentín El Patriarca, Varadero, Cuba

talks on uniquely Cuban topics, such as Cuban sign language.

The beauty of these conferences is being able to mingle with colleagues from across the world. I chatted with Finns, Mexicans, Belgians, and more, to hear what translation was like in their countries. The topic

of the hour: Do you use MT? I had a particularly fascinating conversation with the sole representative from Mozambique, a woman who founded her association, was one of the first women to attend architecture school in her country, and was establishing a publishing company.

Lasting impressions: a well-organised, professional statutory congress, a hard-working ACTI team, international goodwill, and rapport.

Diana Rhudick, FIT North America

New FIT LatAm Board

The new FIT LatAm 2022–2025 Board was elected at the general meeting of the Latin America Regional Centre held in Valadero on 30 May:

Chair: Mary Ann Monteagudo, CTP
fitlatampresidencia@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Marita Propato, AATI
fitlatamvicepresidencia1@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Katia Jiménez Pochet, ANTIO
fitlatamvicepresidencia2@gmail.com

Secretary: Bianchinetta Benavides Segura, ACOTIP
fitlatamsecretaria@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lidia Jeansalle, CTPCBA
fitlatamtesoreria@gmail.com

Member at Large – Academic Relations: Cristian Araya Medel, COTICH
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Member at Large – Culture: Estela Díaz Barbazán, ACTI
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Members of the FIT LatAm 2022–2025 Board – Photo by Luis Alberto Gonzalez Moreno

We'd like to thank our community of Latin American colleagues for their support. We are committed to continue pursuing new goals, promoting our professions, and increasing integration across associations in our region, in close collaboration with the FIT family. We will build on the achievements of recent years, while addressing new aspirations and challenges. We look forward to cooperating with all association boards in the region, especially now that Spanish is the third official language of FIT.

FIT LatAm Board 2022–2025

FIT LatAm mentoring and networking

FIT LatAm recognises the need to build strong, democratic, and thriving leadership teams for the sake of our professions – and both the present and future of our region.

Given that several associations recently appointed new members to their management boards, and that preparation for the FIT Statutory Congress was in order, the board of FIT LatAm invited leaders of member associations to a special mentoring and networking session held on Saturday, 19 March. The two-hour interactive session was hosted on FIT's Zoom account and brought together delegations from all over Latin America.

Alejandra Jorge, then chair of FIT LatAm, and the other members of the FIT LatAm Executive Committee welcomed participants and explained the purpose and flow of the meeting.



Alejandra gave an overview of the general structure and organisation of FIT Mundus, the regional centres, publications, task forces and standing committees, and asked participants to interact in breakout rooms and answer a questionnaire called “How much do we know about FIT and FIT LatAm?”, covering topics that every leader of a FIT member association is supposed to know, followed by a group discussion and debriefing.

The session continued with an outstanding presentation by guest speaker

and certified coach Clara Beileiro, who addressed what it means to be a leader today and how to create effective teams in associations, including the various dimensions of leadership: personal, relational, and systemic. After Ms Beileiro’s inspiring 30-minute talk, participants gathered in small groups once more to discuss some follow-up questions that led to interesting reflections and next steps, with a focus on regional integration, and the Cs of leadership: commitment, confidence, curiosity, compassion,

courage, co-leadership, co-inspiration, collaborative action, culture and continued growth.

Many thanks to the delegations of FIT LatAm associations for joining us at our very productive mentoring and networking session for leaders! With these collaborative actions, Latin America continues to foster teamwork, expanding opportunities for co-creation.

*FIT LatAm Executive Committee
2018–2022*

FIT LatAm Regional Forum

The inaugural Regional Forum on Translation, Terminology, and Interpretation organised by FIT LatAm was a great experience – in more than one sense.

That diverse associations in the region managed to set up a full, one-of-a-kind day of webinars on a wide range of topics in just two months was a huge challenge, and the region proved to be up to the task.

Preparations started in February, when the Organising Committee met for the first time to brainstorm and work on the collaboration model around the theme “Integration and Diversity” and to assign the tasks leading to the forum, which took place on Zoom on Saturday 30 April.

After this collective effort was met with excellent feedback from participants,

Alejandra Jorge, then chair of FIT LatAm, commented, “I am extremely proud and I cannot thank everyone involved enough for making this event an absolute success. It was a dream come true for the LatAm Board that representatives from 15 Latin American associations met for the first time during a regional forum to celebrate our profession and explore and share knowledge on such a wide range of topics.”

More than 350 people registered for the forum, which was free and reserved for members of FIT associations, in response to a social media campaign with carefully curated posts in Spanish, Portuguese, and English. Participants joined from 16 countries on four continents, with six distinguished speakers addressing audiovisual

translation and accessibility, terminology development as a community service, the specifics of the work of sworn translators in Brazil, breakthroughs in artificial intelligence and their repercussions on translation, and the magic of translating haiku into Spanish.

The Organising Committee was led by AATI’s training department and Dagmar Ford, former VP of FIT LatAm, and left no detail to chance. The team of Spanish–English–Portuguese interpreters had two coordinators and included volunteers from Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela. The moderators were presidents of several associations from the region who made the introductions and transitions even more interesting and fun. Participants showed their engagement in the lively Q&A that followed every session. The forum even had its own playlist for the breaks: a compilation of folk songs from all over the region that became an instant hit. Latin America, you rock!

Special thanks to FIT for providing the Zoom account.

This first Regional Forum was as educational as it was inspiring – a great way to start our engines and get ready for the FIT World Congress in Varadero. And, of course, an exceptional way to celebrate FIT LatAm’s 19th anniversary as a Regional Centre.

Marita Propato, AATI, CTPCBA, ATA



Panellists, moderators, speakers, interpreters, and organisers delivered a great Regional Forum, the first of many more to come!

Introduction to NAATI

The National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) is Australia's only standards and certifying authority for translators and interpreters. We are pleased to have recently joined colleagues from across the world as an associate member of FIT. Our organisation was formed in 1977, when it started as part of the Federal Government's immigration portfolio. NAATI was initially tasked with determining standards for levels of accreditation for translators and interpreters: a function that remains our core business to this day.

Today, NAATI's certification framework is unique globally, as it is the only universal, national system to certify practitioners in so many languages across various fields. There are now more than 13,000 NAATI-certified translators and interpreters across 185 languages, including 38 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Certification enables practitioners to demonstrate their competence and ongoing professional practice quickly and easily to clients. Anyone certified by NAATI

has met the minimum standards to work as a translator or interpreter, including:

- Appropriate training
- English proficiency
- Ethical and intercultural competency

In recognition of the quality of our certification system, NAATI certification has recently been adopted as the standard for interpreters working for the New Zealand Government. We are always willing to support other countries looking to professionalise their translating and interpreting industry.

We are only a small national team of around 70 full- and part-time staff (plus many hundreds of casual test invigilators and role-players for our live interpreting test), but we provide regular language testing services across over 50 languages. We delivered more than 1,800 certification tests and issued close to 990 credentials in the 2020–2021 financial year – which even surprised us, given the logistical and wellbeing challenges thrown up by the Covid-19 pandemic.



Mark Painting, Chief Executive Officer at NAATI

If you would like to know more, you can read about us and our work on our website: www.naati.com.au or follow us on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/naati.

Lee Yacoumis, NAATI



Certified Provisional Interpreter test candidates in Alice Springs, Northern Territory

8th National Congress of TAC

The 8th National Congress of the Translators Association of China (TAC) convened in Beijing on 1 April 2022. The new leadership of TAC was elected at the congress, with Mr Du Zhanyuan, President of China International Communications Group (the parent organisation of TAC) elected president and Mr Gao Anming, chairman of the Joint Committee of the Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF) elected executive vice president and secretary general.

Some 450 TAC members and representatives from government departments, institutions, universities, and language service providers from across the country participated in the congress, both online and in person. Mr Lü Yansong, deputy head of the Publicity Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Mr Zhou Mingwei, president of TAC from 2015 to 2022, and Mr Kevin

Quirk, president of the International Federation of Translators (FIT), gave addresses during the opening ceremony. During the congress, TAC's members deliberated on and approved the work report of TAC's last council by Mr Zhou Mingwei, as well as the revised version of the association's bylaws.

The *2022 Report on the Development of the Translation and Language Service Industry*, a flagship annual publication of TAC, the *2022 Report on the Development of Translators and Interpreters* (a first of its kind in China) and five sets of industry standards were also released at the congress.

To recognise major contributions by individual translators to exchanges between Chinese and foreign cultures, cultural exchanges between diverse ethnic groups, and the whole translation service industry, TAC presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to eight renowned translators, the

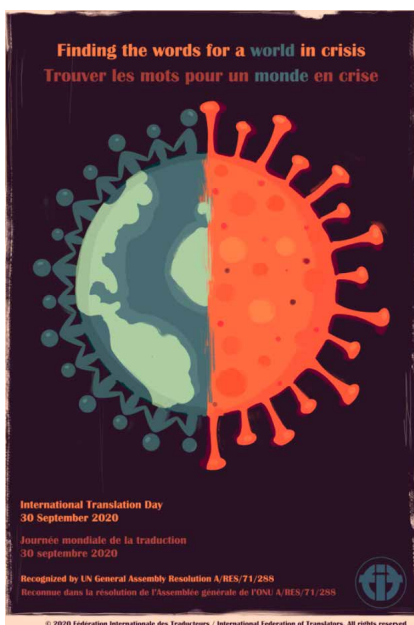
title of "Senior Translator" to 117 translators, and the title of "Senior Foreign Translator" to international language experts working in China.

Launched in 2006 by TAC, the Lifetime Achievement Award is by far the most prominent for individual translators in China. It has been presented to 33 widely revered expert translators and interpreters to date.

Launched in 2001, the Senior Translator Award has been presented to more than 3,650 translators and received nationwide recognition.

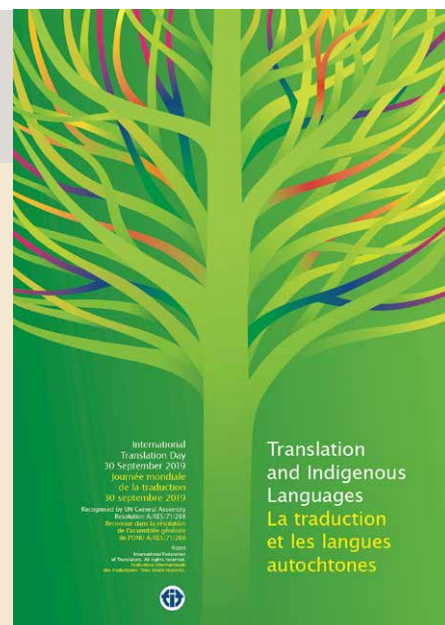
The Translating-China Foreign Translator Award was the first of its kind presented to China-based foreign translators and international communication experts for their contribution to bridging China and foreign countries.

Liu Junhuan, TAC



Reminder: poster competition closing 31 July

Professional designers are encouraged to design a poster to pay tribute to the pivotal role of professional translators in promoting a world without barriers, thus contributing to preserving culture and cultivating global understanding and lasting peace. The winner will receive a prize of CHF 500. View past posters [here](#).



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