

TRANSLATIO

No. 1, 2020 FIT Newsletter



President's message

Kevin Quirk

Dear FIT Members,

Welcome to this Q1 2020 issue of *Translatio*, which summarises just some of the recent activities of FIT, its Regional Centres and its member associations.

The highlight of this upcoming year will undoubtedly be the XXII FIT World Congress in Varadero, Cuba from 3 to 5 December 2020. We would like to welcome all of you to join us there in celebrating translation, terminology and interpreting together with our colleagues from the Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI) under the broad theme of *A World without Barriers: The Role of Language Professionals in Building Culture, Understanding and Peace*. ACTI and FIT hope that this congress will be our most memorable event to date, so please do your utmost to be there in December! To ensure you receive all updated announcements, kindly send an email to fitvaradero@fit-ift.org to request that your name be added to the preregistration list. If you already know you will be travelling to Cuba this December, I would urge you to register at the early bird rate before 31 March, guaranteeing you considerable savings compared to signing up after that date. More information about the congress is provided in this issue. Please note too

that the deadline for the call for papers is 30 April 2020. We look forward to hearing many perspectives from a diverse array of presenters this year.

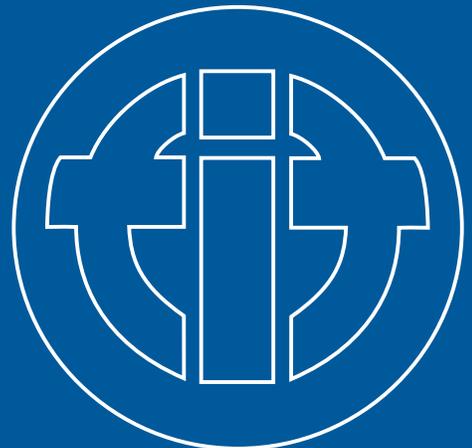
In addition to the XXII FIT World Congress, this year looks set to be a packed and important year for FIT. Our physical Council meeting, scheduled for 21–22 April 2020, will be hosted by the Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters of Catalonia (APTIC Catalunya) in Barcelona, Spain. And since this meeting will be held immediately before Sant Jordi's Day, which I have been reliably informed is a day for lovers, books and roses, FIT Council is looking forward to celebrating the importance of translated literature there. Watch out also for upcoming news of APTIC and FIT's World Atlas of Translation and Literature.

It is clear that FIT's member associations are battling many of the same issues. Whether it is the folly of putting interpreting and translation contracts out to tender and awarding contracts based solely on price and not quality, as we have seen previously in the United Kingdom and more recently in Denmark, for example, or reclassifying freelance translators and interpreters as employees, as has happened with the passage of State Assembly Bill 5 in California, known as AB5, we all have a job to do in

bringing pressure to bear on the powers that be and in informing those responsible that the high quality services we provide are not commodities and that we have no plans to be part of the "gig economy". It is my hope that FIT can become more involved in similar cases by issuing statements of support for our members who are battling such issues, promoting professionalism in the disciplines we represent and living up to our goal of being "the voice of associations of translators, terminologists and interpreters around the world".

Happy reading!

Kevin Quirk, president@fit-ift.org





A world without barriers

VARADERO, CUBA



3-5 DEC
2020

The International Federation of Translators (FIT) and the Asociación Cubana de Traductores e Intérpretes (ACTI), as the hosting organisation, are pleased to announce the XXII FIT World Congress, to be held from 3 to 5 December 2020, in Varadero, Cuba. All language professionals are welcome to join us for the first FIT World Congress ever to be held in Latin America.

The work language professionals do is not always valued enough. However, our work makes it possible to enjoy world literature and the fruits of scientific and technological progress, assist those affected by conflict or natural disasters, and access different cultures. Understanding among nations and the pursuit of peace would be at risk without the contributions of language professionals. Translation, terminology and interpretation support the human rights and fundamental freedoms that are crucial for sustainable development, inclusive governance, peace and social equity. They are vital to creating a viable and desirable future.

Translators, terminologists, interpreters and other language professionals are invited to dialogue on the broad theme *A World without Barriers: The Role of Language Professionals in Building Culture, Understanding and Peace*. Some of the topics we would like to address during the XXII FIT World Congress are, among others:

- Current and future issues affecting language professionals' work
- Sign languages
- Legal translation and interpreting
- Literary translation and access to minority languages and cultures
- Language professionals in international organisations
- Risks interpreters and translators face in their work environments
- Relationships between practitioners, academics, agencies and clients in the TTI sector
- Benefits and threats of the internet and CAT tools
- Training of language professionals and the need to keep up with rapidly changing times

FIT and ACTI are committed to providing a forum for exchanging ideas, fostering the development of professional relationships between translators and interpreters, agencies and language service users, government entities, third-party organisations and other industry stakeholders, and promoting ethics and quality standards throughout the industry.

If you are interested in attending the XXII FIT World Congress, please contact fitvaradero2020@fit-ift.org to have your name

added to the preregistration list to ensure you receive future announcements.

REGISTRATION FEES

| | Before 31 March 2020 | | Before 30 September 2020 | | After 30 September 2020 | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Type of participant | 3-day registration | 3-day registration | 1-day registration | 3-day registration | 1-day registration | |
| Member of a FIT association | CUC 330 | CUC 440 | CUC 220 | CUC 550 | CUC 275 | |
| Non-member | CUC 430 | CUC 550 | CUC 275 | CUC 660 | CUC 330 | |
| Student | CUC 165 | CUC 220 | CUC 110 | CUC 250 | CUC 150 | |

*Registration fees are non-refundable.

ALL-INCLUSIVE ACCOMMODATION

| Hotel | Single room | Double room |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Meliá Internacional | CUC 208 per night | CUC 256 per night |

For hotel reservations, please contact Grupo Gira at ventas1@gira.co.cu.

CALL FOR PAPERS

If you would like to present a paper at the Congress, please write to paperproposalsfit2020@fit-ift.org to request the Speaker Proposal Form. Proposals should be received no later than 30 April 2020. The Programme Committee will review your proposal and give you an answer before 30 June 2020.

The Congress will be held in FIT's official languages (English and French) plus Spanish. Most presentations and panel discussions will be interpreted.

Time allotted:

- Presentations: 20 min + 10 min Q&A
- Posters: displayed throughout the day, with the presenter being available for 40 min to answer questions from attendees
- Panels: 60 min + 30 min Q&A from the floor
- Workshops: 120 min

Please share this invitation with your language colleagues, professional associations and translation agencies. The more numerous, diverse and representative the participants, the richer the discussion and exchange on these topics will be.

See you in Varadero, 3 to 5 December 2020!

ACTI: International Literary Translation Symposium in Havana and XXII FIT World Congress

The 15th International Literary Translation Symposium, organised by the Literary Translators Division (STL) of the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC) and the Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI) was held in Havana on 27–28 November 2019.

More than 80 literary translators, academics, researchers and writers from 12 countries participated in the event, which featured nearly 20 sessions dealing with various aspects of translation.

Kevin Quirk, President of the International Federation of Translators (FIT), and Réal Paquette, Secretary General of FIT and honorary member of ACTI, were the organising committee's special guests. They were welcomed by Luis Morlote Rivas, UNEAC President, and Otto Vaillant Frías, Director of the Centre for Translation and Interpretation (ESTI) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During his opening remarks, Kevin Quirk underscored the vital work of Cuban translators, who have won several international awards.

In his remarks, Luis Alberto González Moreno, ACTI president, announced the formal invitation and call for papers for the XXII FIT World Congress, which will be held in Varadero from 3–5 December 2020.

During the closing ceremony, the José Rodríguez Feo Literary Translation Award was presented to José Adrián Vitier Rodríguez for his excellent translation into Spanish of *The Napoleon of Notting Hill*.

The symposium received considerable media coverage, both written and televised, and was the capstone on a year of celebrations for ACTI's 25th anniversary.

The day before the symposium, the FIT World Congress 2020 organising committee took advantage of the FIT president and secretary general's visit to Cuba to tour the Meliá Internacional de Varadero resort hotel to "inspect" the congress venue and confirm some of the planning details. Both visitors were pleased with the conference halls, rooms, and services offered. They were also amazed by the beauty of the resort and its surroundings.

Luis Alberto González Moreno, President of ACTI



L to R: Jesús Írsula, Miguel Barnet (writer and honorary UNEAC president), Kevin Quirk, and Ana Elena Arazoza (acting as an interpreter)



L to R: Luis Alberto González Moreno, Otto Vaillant Frías, Jesús Írsula (STL president), Luis Morlote Rivas, Kevin Quirk, Ana Elena Arazoza (STL vice president), and Réal Paquette

What's new at APTI

The Panamanian Association of Translators and Interpreters (APTI) celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2019, a milestone that was marked by a number of special events during the year.

The year-long celebration began with APTI's Third International Congress, held in Panama City in March. The theme was "When Cultures Meet Languages", a nod to the UN General Assembly proclaiming

2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages. Thirty-eight speakers (28 of whom came from overseas) participated in the event and more than 40 papers were submitted on topics of interest to translators, terminologists, and interpreters. In conjunction with the congress, the FIT Council held its annual meeting in Panama City, marking the first time the Council has met in Central America.

Throughout the year, APTI held numerous professional development events for translators and interpreters seeking to enhance their skills. These events were attended primarily by APTI members, although some professionals from abroad also participated.

APTI signed four cooperation agreements in 2019 with Latin American member associations, three of which are members

of FIT. The agreements provide for technical, scientific, and educational exchanges between the various associations and APTI. The agreements with the National Association of Official Translators and Interpreters (ANTIO) of Costa Rica and the College of Translators of Peru (CTP) led to a webinar presentation on ISO standards for the members of each association. The webinar was conducted by Alan Melby, FIT Vice President.

The third agreement, entered into with the National Sign Language Association of the Republic of Panama (ANPROSIS-REPA), led to a workshop on sign language interpreting during which APTI members were taught basic signs by ANPROSIS-REPA members.

The fourth agreement was signed with Intercontinental University (UIC), an associate member of FIT, in Mexico City, Mexico. UIC will make an online translation and interpretation curriculum available to APTI members. Upon successful completion of the coursework, participants will receive a diploma from UIC in specialised translation and online professional interpretation.

To strengthen professional standards in Panama, APTI has taken the lead in helping



APTI Sign Language Seminar attendees

to draft a document that could be used as the basis for a new law to regulate the translation and interpreting profession in Panama. The draft introduces the creation of a Technical Board of Translation and Interpretation, designed to be a regulatory agency that oversees the development and operation of the profession. The new board would be responsible for evaluating and approving applications for licenses to provide translation and interpreting

services. It would also serve as a venue for discussing technical or ethical issues. APTI is looking forward to meeting with the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Education in the near future to review the draft and make adjustments suggested by the Ministry. The completed draft is expected to be submitted to the National Assembly in 2020.

Reina de Bettendorf, FIT Vice President (APTI)

OTTIAQ launches new advertising campaign

As 2020 gets underway, the Ordre des Traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec (OTTIAQ) is targeting potential clients and employers across Quebec as it unveils a new digital advertising campaign to promote membership in the Order and enhance the visibility of its members as translation, terminology and interpretation professionals.

OTTIAQ's last large-scale public awareness campaign, which ran mainly in Montreal and Quebec City from 2015 to 2017, relied primarily on advertisements displayed on city streets (photos of the campaign [here](#)). As the Order paved the way for a major digital shift in 2019 with a new website, online membership application process and proactive social media strategy, it was only natural to embrace a web-based campaign this time. It was crafted in collaboration with ad agency Camden, whose strategic and creative input will continue to flow all the way through the rollout phase.

Mettez de l'Ordre dans vos communications.

Exigez un professionnel agréé.

A source of great pride for OTTIAQ, this initiative is the result of extensive discussions that stemmed from an upstream thinking process, and the members of our advertising campaign working group deserve many thanks for their valuable contribution.

A number of mass media sites in Quebec will be carrying the campaign, including LaPresse.ca and Radio-Canada.ca, over a period of around three months from January to March 2020. Another aspect of the campaign will involve the programmatic targeting of web users based on direct

and indirect interest in online translation tools.

Using a colourful yet classy palette, the campaign features a simple and effective call to action for clients and employers to "keep their communications in Order by insisting on working with a certified professional". The idea is to highlight the added value that OTTIAQ members can offer their clients and employers while subtly drawing attention to our professional order.

Émilie Bachelier,

OTTIAQ Communications Officer

BDÜ Conference: Machine translation – threat or opportunity?

Machine translation (MT) and artificial intelligence (AI) are, without a doubt, game changers for the language services industry as we know it. How will they affect our future as translators and interpreters? Will our industry survive, and in what form? And how do we best position ourselves to prosper in the digital age?

These and many more questions were at the heart of the conference “Translating and Interpreting 4.0 – New Ways in the Digital Age”, held by the Federal Association of Interpreters and Translators (BDÜ), the professional association of interpreters and translators in Germany, on 22–24 November 2019 in Bonn.

More than 1,000 attendees from 25 countries participated in the event, which was hosted at the historic former German parliament building, now the World Conference Centre, in Bonn, under the watchful eye of the iconic federal eagle. The three-day schedule left plenty of time to enjoy the fabulous location and food, network and attend fringe events such as a guided tour of the Haus der Geschichte, a

museum dedicated to post-war German history.

The programme was packed with high-calibre, thought-provoking presentations, workshops, panel discussions and keynotes from Florika Fink-Hooijer, the Director-General of the European Commission’s Interpreting Division, and Florian Faes, co-founder and managing director of language services intelligence provider Slator.

Workshops and presentations explored the rise of MT and its impact on the industry from multiple angles. These included providing insight into how neural machine translation systems work, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses compared to human translators; suggesting strategies for translators and interpreters to specialise and position themselves in the market and acquire new skills that will help them stand out in the changing business landscape; the translation buyer’s perspective; and questioning how the academic training of translators and interpreters needs to change to prepare them for the digital age.

The conference tackled the “fear factor” of MT head on, encouraging translators and interpreters to take a proactive approach in order to help shape the development of our profession (rather than being shaped by it), embrace machine intelligence and work in partnership with it.

My main takeaway from the conference was that expertise is key. While less qualified providers will struggle to compete with MT, the changing landscape is an opportunity for highly skilled language professionals to refocus and highlight their expertise, using their intimate knowledge of both technology and their subject matter. It is also a chance to add new skills and additional services in order to create value for and strengthen relationships with clients.

I, for one, left the conference reassured and with a more confident, proactive outlook. I would like to thank the BDÜ for a superbly organised, insightful event.

By Daniela Gieseler-Higgs (ITI)

Photo Credit: Daniela Gieseler-Higgs



Fantastic ATA60 in Palm Springs includes FIT presentation

In a picture-perfect setting of sunbathed slopes, radiant skies, swaying palm trees and exceptional architecture, the 60th annual American Translators Association Conference (ATA60), held from 23–26 October 2019, offered wonderful opportunities to meet colleagues, explore new specialisations, and further professional development at the stately Palm Springs Convention Centre.

The conference featured advanced skills training, networking with colleagues, exchanges with sponsors in the exhibitor hall, a sleek app with all the information needed to make the most of the event, and a well-curated line up of thought leaders and distinguished speakers with highly relevant lectures. It was also a great setting for the T&I Forum, which took place prior to the opening session. The forum brought together leadership from various North American associations who engaged in a lively discussion about the challenges facing the profession and new opportunities to engage with new generations of members.

The conference programme offered several continuing education tracks covering diverse topics, language combinations and interests. Alan Melby, FIT Vice President, FIT ISO Standards Standing Committee member and ATA member, and Bill Rivers, FIT North America chair, delivered an enlightening presentation on “what FIT is all about” entitled *Get FIT: No physical exertion required*. They walked attendees through FIT’s origins, current activities, key events (such as the yearly ITD celebration, the Statutory Congress and the recently introduced FIT Forum) and the status of its work on professional standards. Importantly, they also shared some of the benefits translators, terminologists and interpreters receive when their professional associations are members of FIT. The speakers’ informative presentation was followed by a Q&A with the audience that helped paint a better picture of FIT’s purpose and advocacy initiatives at the global level. It was a great session, inviting attendees to get involved in association work and spread the news of what FIT stands for. It blended perfectly into the very complete schedule of activities at ATA60.



Alan Melby and Bill Rivers presenting at ATA60

Judging from participants’ gleaming faces at the educational sessions, brainstorming events, communal outdoor breakfasts, and the opening and closing celebrations, ATA60 delivered on its promise to be the perfect place to connect, learn and leave inspired and re-energised. It was certainly a conference to remember! For official conference highlights, visit this [link](#).

Marita Propato (AATI, CTPCBA, ATA) and ATA60 presenter
Photo credit: Marita Propato

First international meeting of native and minority language translators and interpreters

Of the many metaphors used to represent translation, that of the bridge is one of the most common. However, we often forget that sometimes, the bridge may be broken, only allow for crossing in one direction, have a different toll for different people, or that the people on one side serve those on the other. Relationships between languages (and their speakers) often occur in contexts of social and/or economic inequality, discrimination, diglossia, and language conflict.



Perhaps because of this, little research has been done about minority and minoritised language translation. In these situations, translators play an essential role in providing access to fundamental rights, such as the right to health, justice, communication, education and identity. They also help disseminate cultural heritage and different ways of understanding the world. It is important to create spaces that serve as meeting points and enable the exchange of experiences and shared challenges.

With this in mind, the first international meeting of native and minority language translators and interpreters was held in Bogotá, Colombia from 25–29 November 2019. Participants included 18 translators and interpreters of native and minority languages from 12 countries, who focused on the importance of their role, the tasks they perform, and the contexts in which they work.

The experiences they shared stood out for their diversity: from indigenous language interpreter training organised by the government or NGOs in coordination with universities to the complete absence of any public policy. The viewpoints were diverse but agreed on several points, including promoting and protecting linguistic rights, strengthening language revitalization processes, advocating for cultural sovereignty, and valuing indigenous wisdom and world views, among others.

Understanding that new technologies are a fundamental tool for the dissemination of language, culture and knowledge, two workshops were organised to train attendees in digital sound editing and subtitling. Each participant worked on a clip recorded in their own language. These skills are particularly relevant, as they help minority and minoritised language speakers own their words, because far too often, it is others who speak for them.

The conclusions drafted by participants can be found in the meeting's social media page ([Facebook](#)) and the podcasts made



from interviews with each participant are available on SoundCloud. The clips recorded in different languages, as well as a short documentary about the importance of translators and interpreters of native and minority languages, will soon be available with subtitles in Spanish, English and Portuguese on the [AATI YouTube channel](#). Sharing is encouraged!

This meeting was jointly planned by the Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters (AATI), the Caro y Cuervo Institute, and the Colombian Association of Translators, Terminologists and

Interpreters (ACTTI). The meeting was supported by FIT and FIT LatAm, the Swiss Arts Council's Coincidencia initiative, University of East Anglia (UEA), the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), Research England, the Brazilian Association of Translators and Interpreters (ABRATES), the National Indigenous Organisation of Colombia (ONIC) and the National Organisation of Indigenous Peoples from Colombian Amazonia (OPIAC).

Georgina Fraser and Salome Landivar (AATI)

Translated by: Marita Propato (AATI, ATA)

Photo credit: Yann Decaumont

Disastrous interpreting public tender – the latest from Denmark

The Danish National Police recently terminated a contract worth DKK 520 million (approx. €70 million or £60 million) with language service provider EasyTranslate after observing alleged breaches of Danish data protection regulations. This contract had a far-reaching effect on the Danish interpreting market, which is still reeling.

In broad terms, the Danish interpreting market comprises interpreters working at different crossroads of the labour market, from public health and hospitals to the courts to corporate meetings and

international organisations. Up until now, they have been organised according to their formal training, if at all.

Denmark: small, digitised and well-organised

Denmark has a small population just under six million people. Within a given profession, most people get to know each other. Denmark is also one of the most digitised countries in the world, with around 85–90% of the population on social media, mainly Facebook and LinkedIn.

In Denmark, if you do not know someone in real life, you very well may be connected to them via social media.

The contract

The now infamous contract was limited to a specific area, namely authorities under the National Police, the Ministry of the Interior and Migration, the courts, and asylum seekers. When EasyTranslate won the tender in April 2019, working conditions and fees for interpreters in these fields deteriorated. The interpreters felt

humiliated. They wanted better recognition, better training, better conditions and better pay. They wanted to be proud of what they were doing, but what happened was the opposite.

Organisation

Danish interpreters who have organised generally belong to one of five different associations, two FIT member associations and three others. The FIT members are the Union of Communication and Language Professionals (Forbundet Kommunikation og Sprog) and Danske Translatører (Danish Authorised Translators and Interpreters). The others include Translatørforeningen (The Danish Association of Certified Translators and Interpreters, a former FIT member), Tolkeforeningen

1993 (Interpreters' Association of 1993), and HK, a general trade union for office workers. A new organisation, Tolkesamfundet (The Interpreters' Society) was even created with the idea of unifying members of other associations under an umbrella organisation that focuses on the needs, wishes and demands of interpreters. Whether this was a good idea is still being debated. What interpreters need is better organisation, not necessarily more associations.

Interpreters push back

Denmark's highly connected digital community of interpreters did not take these changes lying down. It organised on social media and managed to boycott job offers from EasyTranslate, even though it

did not use the term "boycott" for competition legislation reasons. Over the six months that followed, EasyTranslate was unable to fulfil the contract. After two parliamentary committee hearings with the minister in charge, the National Police were close to terminating the contract. After EasyTranslate hired IT staff who were not cleared by the National Police, they finally did.

Back to square one

Danish interpreters are now back to the system as it was before the tender while the parties debate what will happen next. It is unclear what the future holds for Danish interpreters, but Denmark's FIT member associations will do our best to advocate for them.

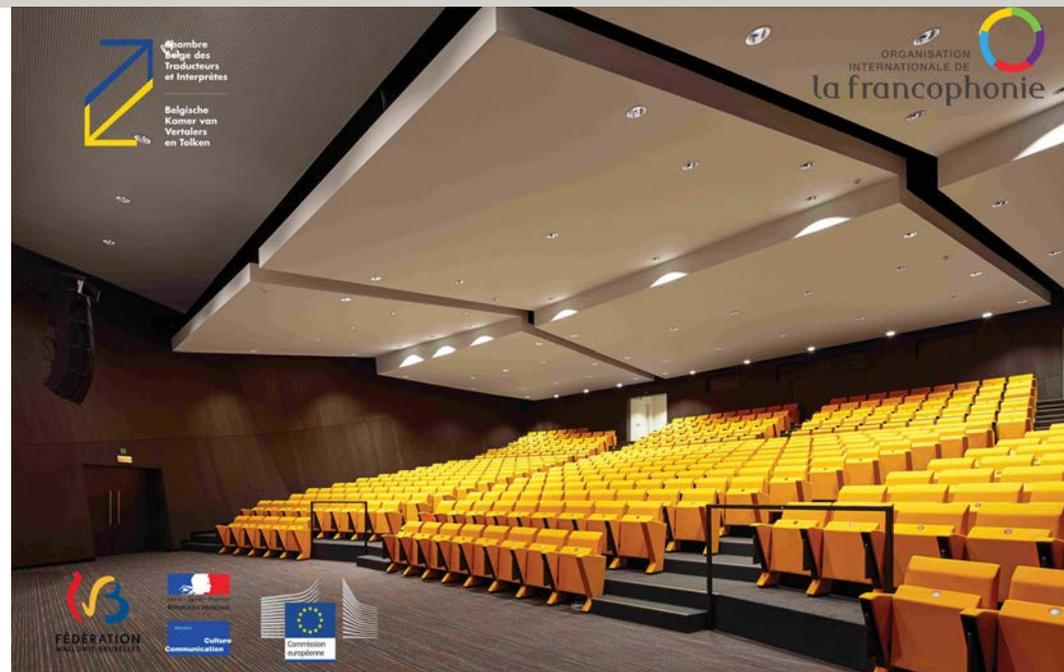
By Jørgen Christian Wind Nielsen (KS)

International conference on translation in the French-speaking world

2020 will see the first major international conference on translation in the French-speaking world, organised by the *Chambre belge des traducteurs et interprètes* (CBTI-BKVT). The conference, which will take place in Mons, Belgium, on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 May, will revolve around the theme of "The French language and its variations".

The conference is being organised with the support of the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF), the European Commission (French language department of the Directorate-General for Translation), the French Ministry of Culture and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. The programme will feature a series of talks by big-name speakers on Friday followed by translation workshops on Saturday. Those already confirmed include François Lavallée, a translator and speaker from Quebec, grammarian Michèle Lenoble, and Étienne Quillot, Project Lead for the Terminology Commissions at the General Delegation for the French language and the languages of France. A gala dinner will be held on Friday evening.

Representatives from across the translation industry (including developers of



spelling/grammar correction software and translation programs, dictionary publishers, professional associations, translation agencies and others) will have booths during the conference.

At the end of the conference, representatives from professional associations, the OIF, and various international institutions will sign an agreement committing to championing the values and importance of multilingualism on the world stage.

The CBTI hopes that the conference will be the first of many major events bringing together those working in French translation around the world. Don't miss out on this inaugural year! Visit www.ctf2020.org for the programme, practical information and registration.

Chambre belge des traducteurs et interprètes www.cbti-bkvt.org

Landmark publications on conference interpreters in Mexico

In 2010, the board of the Mexican College of Conference Interpreters (CMIC) started to wonder how conference interpreting started in Mexico as well as what types of work interpreters do and how they do it. After discussing these questions with the media and those using interpreters at conferences and seminars, we came to realise that interpreting was not widely recognised as a profession in Mexico and that little was known about its history. There were no books or reference works on it, nor had any attempts been made to trace its history.

At that time, Mexico's first interpreters were still alive, so the CMIC devised a major project with the help of two specialists in oral history, Melina Alzogaray and Genaro Recabarren of the "Memoria Migrante" project. The Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil in the San Ángel neighbourhood of Mexico City provided the venue for interviews with the retired interpreters who had agreed to take part in the project, as well as for recorded conversations with younger interpreters, agencies, and businesses that use interpreting services. The process benefited from the expertise and guidance of Graciela de Garay, a specialist in oral history at the José María Luis Mora Research Institute, which is known

in Mexico and beyond for its excellence in social sciences and history.

Afterwards, the task of processing all the recordings got under way – a mammoth undertaking given the number of audio hours. Once we had finished, we had to find a suitably qualified person to write the book. Silvia Cuesy, a historian at the National Autonomous University of Mexico who has written widely on Mexican history, agreed to compile all the available material. Despite a delay in the initial editing process caused by earthquakes in Mexico in 2018, the book committee worked hard to make progress and get it finished.

Tirant Humanidades, a division of the Spanish publishing group Tirant lo Blanch, took a close interest in the book, as it was the first to focus on the history of interpreting in Mexico. *Tras las Huellas de una Profesión, la Interpretación de Conferencias en México, Memoria Histórica* was unveiled at the Mora Institute on 20 June 2019. One of the interpreters interviewed for the project, Guido Gómez de Silva, worked at the UN for many years, wrote several dictionaries, and was a member of the Mexican Academy of Language. An interview with him, *La Entrevista Guido Gómez de Silva*, was recently published, much to the

TRAS LAS HUELLAS DE UNA PROFESIÓN
LA INTERPRETACIÓN DE CONFERENCIAS EN MÉXICO
LA ENTREVISTA
GUIDO GÓMEZ DE SILVA



Adaptación
Edna Torres de Cerf
Coordinación, edición e investigación
Isabel Correa Etxegaray
Josefina Mac Gregor Anclola
Edna Torres de Cerf
Corrección
Margarita Garza Ramos



delight of Mexican interpreters. It is available in all major Mexican bookstores and can also be purchased online from the Tirant website.

Even more publications are in the works in Mexico. We look forward to sharing them with you.

Edna Cerf, CMIC

Fifth national ceremony of the Translators and Interpreters Association of Tehran

Every year, translators, interpreters and those interested in the T&I field gather to celebrate Translation Day in Tehran. The fifth annual event, which used to be held by the Translators and Interpreters Association of Tehran (TIAT), was organised by the Iranian Union of Professional Translators and Interpreters Association (IUPTIA). As in previous years, many professionals attended to support the union, learn about Iranian translation industry trends, and meet other professionals.

Second International Award for the Translation of Iranian Works

Among the different parts of the ceremony, the winners of the second International Award for the Translation of Iranian Works were announced. The judges awarded the prize to Mithra Farzad (Persian to French), Georg Asatorian (Persian to Armenian), and Dorothea Suapa (Persian to Polish).

"Most Popular Translator" prize

The winners of the second annual "Most Popular Translator" prize were also announced during the event. Book lovers select the Most Popular Translator prize winners in two categories: translators over 50 and translators under 50. Anderanic Khechumian, Leili Golestan and Elah Shamsnejad were selected as the first, second and third place winners respectively in the over 50 category and Shiva

Moghanlou, Mahsa Khorasani and Mahsa Malek Marzban were selected as the first, second and third place winners respectively in the under 50 category. Surprisingly, five of the six winners this year are women.

Honorary Translator of the Year 2019

Translation master Mahmood Behforoozi was selected as the Honorary Translator of the Year for 2019. During the ceremony, Behforoozi gave the following advice: "I suggest that all new translators study more books in Farsi and familiarise themselves professionally with the rules of our language, as well as procure a few editing books to help them choose new words in their writing." It is worth mentioning that in his 35 years of experience, Behforoozi has translated 53 works covering literature, psychology and history.

Among the remarkable speakers this year, Mohammad Reza Arbabi, who addressed attendees as the president of IUPTIA, said, "IUPTIA has done great things since it was founded, such as introducing highly qualified translators to publishers, assisting with developing translation studies and holding more than 50 workshops in Alborz, to name just a few." Arbabi also declared that TIAT and IUPTIA were independent and receive no financial support of the government.



Translation Day in Tehran attendees

He also emphasised IUPTIA's struggle to regulate copyright in Iran. More than 400 translators and interpreters from all over the country took part in the event, which was covered by more than 50 press releases, social media posts, newsletters, and TV and radio reports.

Leila Heidari, TIAT

Introducing MACMA and new pathways for professional development

The Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters (AATI) has been invited to take part in the Advisory Board for Audiovisual Media Accessibility (MACMA), a project that is bringing together associations, public institutions, Argentine Sign Language interpreters, companies that provide accessibility services, and people with disabilities.

MACMA is the Spanish acronym for *Mesa de Accesibilidad Comunicacional a los Medios Audiovisuales* (Advisory Board for Audiovisual Media Accessibility). The project's main goal is to ensure that the blind and deaf, as well as senior citizens or any person who may have hearing, vision or intellectual impairments, have access to audio-visual materials in the media by adapting them into accessible formats. In doing so, MACMA supports various initiatives in the field of subtitling, sign language, closed captioning and the use of plain language.

MACMA members met for the first time in August 2019, and in just a few months, this diverse group managed to raise awareness of the role of accessible media in building truly inclusive societies. It has established a solid relationship with

the National Institute of Cinematography of Argentina, launched an accessible [website](#), filed three formal petitions with the organisation in charge of ensuring accessible formats on TV, and launched an active campaign to spread awareness of this topic during the 34th Mar del Plata International Film Festival last November.

Additionally, at this major event, AATI presented the first-ever award for adapting a short film for people with visual or hearing impairments. The judges included Maria Laura Ramos, member of the AATI board and audio-visual translation specialist, as well as Fernando Galarraga and Federico Sykes, expert blind and deaf consultants, respectively, for AATI's Audio-Visual Translation and Accessibility Committee. The winner was Nicanor Loreti, whose short film Pinball will be provided with closed captions and an audio description.

Accessibility is gaining momentum and some event organisers have already turned to AATI for advice on how to make their venues friendlier to people with disabilities.

Maria Laura Ramos and Marita Propato (AATI)

Photo Credit: Maria Laura Ramos



Federico Sykes represents AATI and the MACMA group on stage at the awards ceremony of the Mar del Plata Film Festival. Nicanor Loreti receives the Festival's first Accessibility award for her short film Pinball

FIT North America holds Symposium on Translation and Interpreting for Indigenous Languages

On 9 November 2019, FIT North America (FIT NA) convened a day-long symposium on translation and interpreting for indigenous languages at the offices of the Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec (OTTIAQ) in downtown Montréal. The Symposium aligned with the FIT 2019 theme for International Translation Day, honouring the UN International Year of Indigenous Languages, and had the goal of raising awareness of the roles that translation and interpreting play in the civic and economic lives of indigenous peoples in North America.

The multilingual symposium opened with Donald Barabé, president of OTTIAQ, welcoming the participants and acknowledging that we were meeting on unceded lands belonging to the Haudenosaunee nations. Elder Kenny Diabo of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake gave a traditional opening speech partly in Kanien'kéha, invoking the Haudenosaunee traditions of consultative government and problem solving in addressing the global challenges faced by indigenous cultures of preserving and transmitting their



languages and the legacy of colonialism. Several speakers provided thoughtful interventions; the full program is available [here](#). Among the highlights were a presentation by Lucie Séguin, Chief Executive Officer of the Translation Bureau of Canada, who addressed the status of translation and interpreting for Canadian First Nations languages in light of the passage of the Indigenous Languages Act in June 2019, and Odilia Romero, a Zapotec–Spanish–English translator and interpreter who works in the Los Angeles Basin and at the Mexico–US border in community, medical, judicial, and immigration interpreting. All the speakers emphasised the need for language access for indigenous peoples, the scarcity of qualified translators and interpreters, and the need for training programs and technical support, such as terminology databases, translation memories, and font support, among others. Indeed, one of the first projects to result from the symposium is the development of a terminology database for immigration interpreting at the US–Mexico border.

FIT NA is now planning its next symposium, which will focus on translation and interpreting for governmental entities in North America with a focus on removing language barriers, in keeping with the theme of the [2020 FIT World Congress](#)

Dr Bill Rivers, Chair, FIT NA and Executive Director, Joint National Committee for Languages

Photos: Réal Paquette, FIT Secretary General



Donald Barabé



Odilia Romero



Kenny Diabo

2019 FIT LatAm webinar series – a year in review

FIT LatAm has just concluded another year of hard work. We are proud of our achievements and happy with the sustainable growth and success of our regional educational initiative on FIT's Zoom platform.

Some facts and figures of our 2019 programme:

- We were honoured to deliver and co-organise several webinars with international keynote speakers:
- *Translation and Accessibility* by Rosana Famularo, hosted by the Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters (AATI) and moderated by Martin Chamorro and the AATI team
- *Digital Marketing Tools and Branding for Translators* by Olga Jeczmyk, hosted by FIT LatAm and moderated by Dagmar Ford
- *Work Market for Translators* by Lorena Roqué and Federico Luis Viale, hosted and moderated by the Association of Public Translators of the City of Buenos Aires (CTPCBA)
- *Working as an international translator – will I have a job after I graduate?* by Henry Liu, hosted by the National Association of Graduates in Translation and Interpretation (CONALTI) and moderated by Dagmar Ford and Emma García
- Total participants: Nearly 680
- Average number of attendees per live session: 81

- Average number of webinar participants: 120, with a new record of 340 for a single webinar
- Average number of countries participating per session: 10, with a record of 14
- Number of non-members who won passes through social media contests: 12 (Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela and Poland). This initiative put the spotlight on our activities as a FIT Regional Centre and increased our target audience.
- This year, through FIT's cooperation agreement with the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI), the members of the Argentinian Association of Sign Language Interpreters (AAILIS) also attended FIT LatAm webinars.

FIT LatAm Vice President Dagmar Ford has prepared a series of tutorials about the FIT Training Platform that will be shared with all FIT Regional Centres and Associations to help develop joint educational activities (available in January 2020).

Upcoming webinars will be announced on social media by mid-January. We invite associations in the region to submit new webinar proposals for 2020.

We would like to thank all speakers, attendees, participants and colleagues who contributed to the success of our 2019 Webinar Series, which has allowed us to bring training to all members, beyond physical borders and across the region.

Dagmar Ford, FIT LatAm Vice President

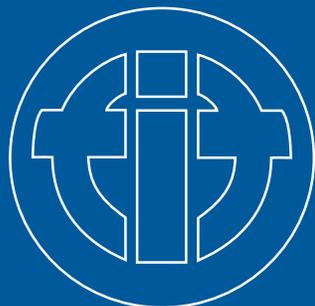
2020 FIT Awards

The FIT Statutory Congress and the FIT World Congress will be held in less than a year in Varadero, Cuba. In keeping with tradition, FIT will be awarding prizes to acknowledge special contributions to the various fields of our profession.

This past year, the Awards Management Standing Committee worked to draft a new awards booklet describing the prizes for FIT awards. The new booklet will be available in January 2020. Two new awards were added this year: the Marion Boers Prize for Translation of Work of Fiction or Non-Fiction by Authors in Any of the SADC Countries, and the Albin Tybulewicz Prize for Professional Solidarity in the Translation and Interpreting Community.

Please take this opportunity to nominate outstanding colleagues for the FIT prizes described in the awards booklet. Associations may nominate one candidate per prize. All FIT member associations are encouraged to submit nominations. Nominations may be submitted from 1 April to 1 July. A link to facilitate the submission of nominations will be made available before the end of the first quarter of 2020. The Committee will continue to post newsworthy information on its web page until the Congress later this year.

Reina de Bettendorf, Chair, Awards Management Standing Committee



TRANSLATIO • FIT Newsletter

January 2020, No. 1

Publication Director: Kevin Quirk

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Registered office: c/o Regus, 57 rue d'Amsterdam, 75008 Paris, France

www.fit-ift.org ISSN 1027-8087

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