



2012 FIT Standards Committee Report

1. **Name of Committee:** Standards Committee

2. **Name of chairperson:** Jiang Yonggang

3. **Names of members of committee**

1. Jiang Yonggang, Executive Secretary General of TAC – Translators Association of China (Committee Chair)
2. Izabel Arocha, Executive Director of the IMIA – International Medical Interpreters Association, USA, Secretary General, FIT
3. Leo T.H. Chan, President of the Hong Kong Translation Society, China
4. John Douglas Graham, representative of FIT Europe; Council Member of ATICOM (Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters in Germany) and member of the BDÜ (Federal Association of Interpreters and Translators, Germany); Fellow of Chartered Institute of Linguists (UK) and Council Member and Fellow of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (UK).
5. Irene Elmerot, member of the Ethics Committee of the SFÖ (Swedish Association of Professional Translators)
6. Leticia Ana Martinez, Treasurer of the Colegio de Traductores Públicos de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina.
7. Nicole Sévigny, member of the CTTIC – Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council; FIT Council Member
8. Jiri Stejskal, Past President of ATA – American Translators Association; Vice President, FIT
9. Alex Tsemahman, FIT Council Member, Vice President, Business Development, Union of Translators of Russia Observer members (without voting right):
10. Huang Changqi, Assistant to President, Translators Association of China
12. Johanne Marquis, Project Manager–Translation Bureau, dedicated to ISO/TC 37 and FIT affairs.

4. **Working Plan**

The committee aims for three goals:

- 1) keep track of the development of standards/recommendations on quality and best practices in translation, interpreting and terminology across the globe and share the information on the FIT website;
- 2) represent FIT at various national and international standardization activities, and make recommendations to the Council as to how and to what extent FIT should get involved in those processes;
- 3) provide advice on standards to FIT member associations.

To implement the above goals, the following timetable was drawn:

Sept.-Dec., 2009 set up the committee via nomination from FIT member associations, finalize the mandate and the scope of work of the committee (definition of standards) □ June 2010 investigation on existing standards via a survey, with a report to Council and information on the FIT website

Aug. 2010 committee representative(s) attend the ISO TC37 meeting in Ireland; Proposition to Council on how FIT should get involved in relevant ISO standards activities □ March 2011 Final report for the FIT Statutory Congress 2011 □

August 2011 A panel on standards at the XIX FIT World Congress

5. **Description of how working plan has been followed (200-300 words)**

The work plan has been largely carried out with minor adjustments, and the committee has filed four reports as required: 1. Collect and share information about standards worldwide. After an internal discussion on the definition

and scope of “standards”, the Committee started a survey on related standards worldwide. Responses from the Council formed the first part of the report, which was shared on the FIT website in 2010. More information from FIT member associations were collected and a Report on the Survey on Language Standards Worldwide was submitted to the Standards Session at the 19th FIT World Congress in 2011. 2. Explore ways to increase FIT visibility in the standards circle. Some committee members have been active in the ISO standards activities related to language, and the Committee has been approached by ISO TC37 to send a representative of FIT to the translation-related standards work of ISO. Some members have been invited to join new initiatives such as the GALA Standards Initiative as representatives of FIT. 3. Provide information and materials on standards to those in need. The Committee provided information about major translation standards worldwide to a team in Thailand who were working on T&I standards. 4. Contribute to the 19th FIT World Congress. The Committee organized a standards session during the 19th FIT World Congress. Some Committee members also helped to review the Congress proposals under the category of “Standards”.

6. What actions, if any, are still pending?

The survey on standards collects only relevant information about existing standards. Pending documents, such as the proposed four ISO standards and the Austria standard (Community Interpreting) are not included. So the survey result needs to be updated regularly.

7. Suggestions for the next mandate

A comparison and analysis of the various standards are necessary to help people understand better these standards and their values. An update of the earlier translator certification study is also desirable in light of the investigation of a global accreditation of translator certification schemes. Proactively reaching out to translation organizations in countries that don't have any kind of standard and aren't working on one (to our knowledge) with a list of countries and organizations with a standard and the links to the already published ones. Providing further assistance when requested.

8. What support would assist your committee to achieve its objectives?

A strong committee chair and a smaller but more responsive group who are involved in international , regional or local standards activities; Some funding for more research.

9. Are you interested in continuing to serve? No

10. Are you prepared to serve as chairperson again? No

11. Which other members are prepared to serve another mandate (2012-2015)?

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3. Irene Elmerot, member of the Swedish Association of Professional Translators
4. Jiri Stejskal, Past President of ATA – American Translators Association; Vice President, FIT
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