ITD 2016

Connecting Worlds!

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRADUCTEURS
La voix des associations de traducteurs, d’interprètes et de terminologues à travers le monde

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS
The voice of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists around the world

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Connecting researchers and practitioners at EST;
Man Booker Prize winner Deborah Smith & Han Kang; Logo of WASLI
The International Federation of Translators (FIT) is proud to announce the chosen theme for International Translation Day 2016 ‘Connecting Worlds’, proposed by our longstanding member and strong supporter, the American Translators Association (ATA).

The professions of translator, interpreter and terminologist, all represented by FIT, are dedicated to one common goal - facilitating high quality, impartial communication between people. As the world becomes more integrated, and societies and professionals more interconnected, fostering understanding between the multitude of interlocutors - speakers, writers, thinkers, researchers and policymakers has become more critical than ever. Whether it is in writing, in speech, or in the many facets of multimedia, translators, interpreters and terminologists are at the point of contact impacting on the development of business, science, medicine, technology, international law, politics - practically in all areas of human endeavour.

Translators, interpreters and terminologists provide the professional means for each of these worlds to learn from the other, to the benefit of society as a whole. Their role is to open up the whole world to all of us.

This year, we are not just celebrating International Translation Day (ITD), we are also celebrating the first anniversary of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) and FIT. Continuing a long tradition celebrating translators, interpreters and terminologists connecting worlds, this MOU connects the different fields of our profession and brings closer together individual sign and spoken language translators, interpreters and terminologists as well as their professional associations. Connecting people of different cultures, languages, beliefs and perspectives more closely is a shared aim.
The Deaf and hearing translators, interpreters, terminologists of many signed and spoken languages around the world unite in the goal of connecting communities through our professional dedication, skills and services.

This marks a new beginning where WASLI and FIT will be jointly celebrating ITD and spreading our common message and increasing the visibility of both signed and spoken language translators, interpreters and terminologists around the world.

Thanks to our ever stronger relationship with WASLI, FIT is delighted to announce that the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) will also be promoting ITD which coincides exactly with the International Week of the Deaf (IWD). This tradition which dates back to 1958 takes place annually in the last week of September: this year’s theme: "With Sign Language, I am Equal" aims to heighten awareness of the International Deaf Community.

This year’s IWD celebrations will also commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and acknowledge the recent adoption of the 2030 Agenda of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WASLI and FIT will be highlighting the central role that professional translators, interpreters and terminologists play in the implementation of the CRPD and SDGs (see separate Press Release).

We are very excited to celebrate the important role translators, interpreters and terminologists play - connecting worlds - at this year’s International Translation Day, especially now with its very own Twitter account @ITD_JMT. Let us overwhelm the Twittersphere around 30 September with hashtag #ITD-JMT16!