

# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS

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

# TRANSLATIO

No. 2, 2019 FIT Newsletter

## FIT XXII World Congress

SAVE THE DATE!



A world without barriers  
VARADERO, CUBA



3-5 DEC  
2020



## President's message

Kevin Quirk

Dear FIT Members,

Welcome to this Q2 edition of *Translatio*! Much has happened in FIT since the first issue was published earlier this year. Among other things, FIT Council held its annual face-to-face Council meeting in Panama for the first time, with many Council members also staying on to attend the Third International Congress arranged in Panama City from 29 to 30 March. Read on to hear more from the Congress organisers and Council members, who were thrilled to visit beautiful Panama.

The FIT Executive Committee also held a physical meeting in Seoul, South Korea on 4 July 2019 in conjunction with the APTIF9 conference, jointly hosted by the Korea Association of Translators and Interpreters (KATI) and the Graduate School of Interpreting and Translation (GSIT) at the Hankuk

University of Foreign Studies (HUFUS). It was a pleasure to be present and to see such enthusiasm from students about the future of our profession in the face of technological changes.

This issue of *Translatio* also showcases some of the work of our member associations, from larger, established associations such as ATA, ITI and SFT to smaller but equally important associations eager to join the FIT family.

I would urge all associations to send in articles about events being held and measures being taken to raise the profile of translators, terminologists and interpreters around the world.

Looking forward, it will be my great privilege to welcome as many presidents and chairs as possible to the first ever Presidents Forum at the Hotel Regina in Vienna on 6 October 2019. I am well aware that FIT

is sometimes criticised for being bound by bylaws and rules of procedure that make it difficult to adapt to change. We are arranging the Presidents Forum precisely because FIT is uniquely placed to bring together decision-makers from our member associations so that they can share best practices and point out where they think FIT should be focusing its efforts. While no decisions will be taken at the Presidents Forum, it is my sincere hope that we will all learn from one another. The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive, and I firmly believe the Presidents Forum will be a success. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the FIT *Translatio* Standing Committee, who do such sterling work in publishing a new issue of *Translatio* every three months. Thank you!

Kevin Quirk, [president@fit-ift.org](mailto:president@fit-ift.org)

# FIT XXII World Congress

## A World Without Barriers – Language professionals at the service of peace, understanding and culture

The FIT Congress is once again heading to sunny shores! FIT and the Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI), the hosting association, are pleased to invite you to Varadero, Cuba, for the FIT XXII World Congress in December 2020.

In keeping with tradition, the Statutory Congress for member associations will be held from 1–2 December, followed by the Open Congress from 3–5 December.

The theme of this Congress once again emphasises the critical role that translators, terminologists, and interpreters play in facilitating dialogue at the international, national, and local levels and in official, community, and personal spheres.

The call for papers will be launched soon.

To include your name on the pre-registration list to receive information as it becomes available, or if you have any questions, please write to [fitvaradero2020@fit-ift.org](mailto:fitvaradero2020@fit-ift.org)



## FIT Council meets in Panama for the first time

The 2019 face-to-face FIT Council meeting took place at the Intercontinental Miramar Hotel in Panama City on 27 & 28 March 2019. All but two FIT Council members were present in Panama, with many staying on after the Council meeting to participate in the APTI Conference. They were joined by two Honorary Advisors, as well as the Secretariat.

The packed agenda submitted to Council members in advance of the meeting was accompanied by no fewer than 72 documents to be read and digested – taking care of the need to obtain reading matter for the flights to the Isthmus from the four corners of the globe. Council members were able to download copious reports, myriad briefings and several strategy documents prior to their journeys, saving them from having to haul papers all the way to Panama.

The venue for the meeting was situated in Panama City's downtown district, overlooking Panama Bay with its vista of the ocean-going freighters queuing to enter the Panama Canal and take the shortcut to the Atlantic. A visit was arranged to see this marvellous feat of engineering at the Miraflores locks that coincided with the transit of the final freighter of the day, a

Cypriot bulk carrier named Carme bound for Montréal.

While the tropical sun kept daytime temperatures in the low thirties, within the air-conditioned confines of the hotel, Council considered applications from prospective members, officially welcoming the Costa Rican association ANTIO to the FIT fold. It is a privilege for Council to consider applications to join FIT as an observer, associate or full member. The FIT family is growing, and it is wonderful to see the progress our federation is making.

Away from the conference room, a warm Panamanian welcome was found around every corner. This was especially true at the

gala dinner organised at the Intercontinental Miramar Hotel, featuring a taste of local folklore. Dancers wearing a variety of different costumes to illustrate aspects of Panamanian culture entertained and enthralled the Council members and other guests.

Thanks must go to the local organising committee in Panama City, especially Reina de Bettendorf, who left no stone unturned in her quest to ensure the comfort of her guests. When the time came to return home, we left with sadness that the trip had not been longer, but with fond memories of a beautiful city, warm welcome and stimulating meetings.

*By Iwan Davies, Council Member, ITI (GB)*



# When Cultures Meet Languages

This year, the Panamanian Association of Translators and Interpreters (APTI) celebrates our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark the occasion, we have prepared several educational activities, the most prominent of which was our Third International Congress, held from 29–30 March in Panama City, Panama. The theme of the Congress was “When Cultures Meet Languages”, a nod to the United Nations General Assembly proclamation declaring 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

What better way to open our programme of activities than with this outstanding event, bringing academics and professionals from around the world together to exchange knowledge and skills.

For the first time in our history, presentations at the Congress were accompanied by sign language interpreters from the National Association for the Promotion of Interpretation Services for the Deaf in Panama.

Suzet Gonzalez de Helleisz, president of APTI, offered remarks to convene the Congress.

The welcome address was made by Kevin Quirk, president of the International Federation of Translators (FIT). In his address, he asked for a minute of silence in mem-

ory of FIT past president, Marion Boers, and Etilvia Arjona Chang, APTI’s founder and the 2005 recipient of the Pierre-François Caillé medal, a symbol of excellence and prestige awarded by FIT. Ms Boers and Ms Arjona Chang both passed away in 2018.

Frans De Laet was the keynote speaker. His speech, “From Filene and Finlay to live automatic interpreting: on to new perspectives in the symbiosis between artificial intelligence and humans”, was well received by the audience.

Because indigenous languages were the focus of the Congress, we presented a panel entitled “The situation of indigenous languages: three cases (Panama, Peru, Africa)”. The panellists were Elizabeth Quintero from Panama, the honourable Mario Lopez Chavarri, ambassador of Peru in Panama, and Chief Gloria Williams Taylor, a chief of the Igbo tribe in Nigeria residing in the Bahamas. The panel was moderated by Emma Gomez, a representative of the Panamanian Academy of Language. All members of the panel stressed the need to preserve and revitalise indigenous languages around the world.

Flavio Mendez Altamirano, ambassador of Panama to UNESCO, was among our distinguished guests. He gave a short talk

about our profession and the importance of indigenous languages.

The FIT Education and Professional Development Task Force hosted a round table discussion for representatives from Latin America entitled “Professionalisation of translators and interpreters around the world: a comparative view”.

Thirty-eight speakers (28 international and 10 national) participated in this year’s Congress, with 42 papers on different topics of interest for both translators and interpreters. In conjunction with the Congress, the FIT Executive Committee and Council held their annual face-to-face meeting in Panama for the first time in their history. It was also the first time Council met in Central America. In addition to hosting this landmark meeting, we also had the privilege of welcoming Andrew Evans, FIT honorary advisor, as an observer at the Council meetings and special guest at our Congress.

Jørgen Christian Wind Nielsen, a skilled photographer from Denmark, attended as a speaker and photographer for the event. His photos can be found [here](#). Many thanks to everyone who participated and our dedicated team of organisers.

*Reina de Bettendorf, FIT Vice President and organiser of the Congress*

## KATI hosts the July FIT Executive Committee meeting in Seoul

The Korean Association of Translators and Interpreters (KATI) kindly invited FIT to hold its Executive Committee (EC) meeting at the Hotel President in Seoul on 4 July 2019, ahead of the APTIF9 Conference, which was co-hosted by KATI and the Graduate School of Interpreting and Translation (GSIT) at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS).

FIT EC had a packed agenda to debate, under the watchful eye of KATI President Soon Mi Kim, FIT Council member Professor JC Kwak and FIT Honorary Advisor Henry Liu. Items under discussion included the creation of new Regional Centres,

# KATI

## *Korean Association of Translators & Interpreters*

funding of existing and new centres, and the planned Presidents Forum in Vienna in October 2019.

Immediately after the EC meeting concluded, FIT President Kevin Quirk had an opportunity to follow the Joint Meeting of the Asian Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum, attended by representatives for KATI, the Association of Indonesian Translators (HPI), the Federation

of Translators and Interpreters of Macau (FTIM), the Malaysian Translators Association (MTA) and the Translators Association of China (TAC).

We thank the members of KATI for their warm hospitality throughout the day and for their generosity in providing a gourmet dinner for FIT EC and other FIT members at the end of a hectic day.

*Kevin Quirk, FIT President*

# APTIF9 – A resounding success

The Ninth Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF9), jointly hosted by the Korean Association of Translators and Interpreters (KATI) and the Graduate School of Interpreting and Translation (GSIT) at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS), was recently held in Seoul from 5–7 July 2019. APTIF9, arranged under the auspices of FIT, brought together some 500 professionals, researchers and students from all over Asia and was a resounding success.

Aptly titled 'Reality vs. Illusion: From Morse Code to Machine Translation', the theme of APTIF9 was reflected in many of the papers presented. Artificial intelligence is transforming every aspect of our lives, and translation and interpretation, previ-



ously believed to be the exclusive domain of humans, have not been immune to the changes brought on by technological development.

We are still blinded by many unrealistic expectations, however, and many of the claims that machines have already achieved parity with human translators have recently been proven false, as FIT's own vice-president Alan Melby reassured a crowded auditorium.

Among the keynote speakers was translator and machine translation specialist Jost

Zetzsche, who explained why translators are going to be the ones to turn off the lights in offices after everyone has long gone home. Jost Zetzsche advocated for the co-existence of both human translation and artificial intelligence, highlighting that translation is one of the oldest and most enduring activities and professions.

Most encouraging was the enthusiasm displayed by many of the students present, who showed no fear of being replaced by machine translation in the near future.

Our thanks go to KATI and GSIT for arranging such a successful event – and, in particular, to FIT Council member Professor JC Kwak for coordinating all aspects of APTIF9.



# Preview of the 60<sup>th</sup> annual ATA conference in Palm Springs

The ATA is gearing up for its 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference from 23 to 26 October 2019 in Palm Springs, California. This will be the first time the ATA has met in Palm Springs, a beautiful desert city just two hours from Los Angeles known for its Mid-Century modern architecture and 350 days of sunshine per year.

July marks the start of conference registration and is the month when special events, sessions, speakers and more are all announced on the official conference website.

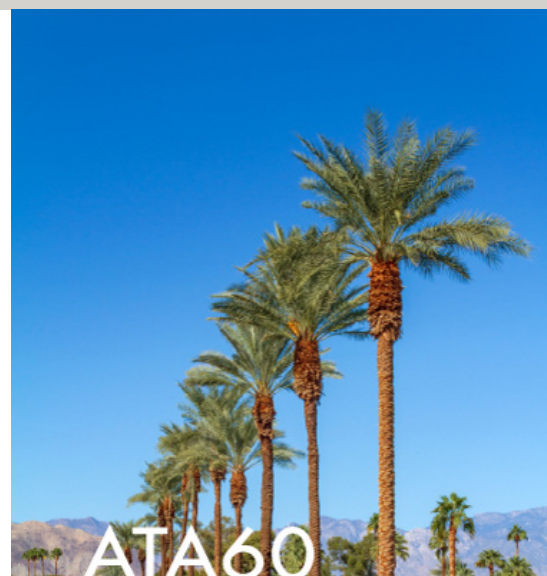
This year's schedule features over 170 sessions offering excellent educational opportunities for translators and interpreters alike. In addition to the regular sessions, there will be an impressive slate of separate sessions on Advanced Skills and Training (AST) Day offering intensive training (and limited seating) for optimal learning.

The ATA Annual Conference is all about learning and connecting, and attendees

from more than 50 countries make the journey every year to this much-anticipated conference. Year after year, first-time attendees express how exhilarating it is to be around other professionals who "get" what they do. They also note how welcoming the conference culture is and how willing presenters are to share their knowledge and expertise. 88% of attendees report learning new skills.

In-person networking is one of the key benefits of attending the conference. The conference is the perfect opportunity to reconnect with old acquaintances and meet new ones. 98% of attendees report making new connections, which can often lead to job opportunities and smarter ways to run your business. The conference job fair, which extends over two evenings, and the exhibit hall, which is open for three full days, are perfect venues for meeting new people.

In the tradition of past ATA conferences, ATA60 promises to deliver the education



ATA 60TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OCT 23-26 2019 Palm Springs CALIFORNIA  
ata American Translators Association

you want and the networking you need. The ATA hopes to see you in Palm Springs this October! For more information, visit the conference [website](#).

## Introducing CTPSF

CTPSF, the *Colegio de Traductores de la Provincia de Santa Fe*, is pleased to have become an observer member of FIT and a full member of FIT LatAm.

Founded in 1992 through provincial law no. 10.757, CTPSF is a not-for-profit organisation and member of the Argentine Federation of Translators (FAT) with jurisdiction in Santa Fe, a province located in central eastern Argentina. Its main role is to protect the legal practice of the profession. The law states that every translation, whether technical, scientific, literary or legal, must be performed by a certified translator duly licensed by the association and bear the translator's certification. This certification ensures that the work is performed by a competent and recognised professional.

CTPSF aims to promote the legal practice of the profession while defending the interests of its members. It also works towards the observance of ethical standards, continuing education and mutual exchange with public and private organisations and related associations.

The organisation comprises nearly 900 sworn translators and interpreters certified in nearly two dozen languages. To be a practising translator, members must also hold a qualifying degree granted by a university or an official institute of higher education.

CTPSF's certified translators cover many fields – medicine, economics, administration, education, IT, law, among others – and work in many different sectors. In Argentina, translations performed by a



Training session in the city of Rosario

certified translator are valid for all legal purposes and constitute enforceable official documents.

For more information, please visit our [website](#) and stay in touch by following us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

By Silvia Bacco, CTPSF Representative.

# Landmark ruling for Afghan interpreters employed by the French army

On 1 February, France's Council of State (*Conseil d'État*) reviewed the case of Basir Ibrahim, an English-speaking Afghan interpreter who previously worked for the French army and whose many applications for asylum and protection had come to nothing. Why? Because his employment contract "did not include a clause stating it was subject to French law". In other words, it was governed by local law.

Like many of his Afghan colleagues, Mr Ibrahim was forced to flee his country, where he was viewed as a traitor and received death threats. With the support of the Association of Former Afghan Interpreters of the French Army (*Association des anciens interprètes afghans de l'armée française*), in late 2018, he turned to France's highest court of law in an attempt to have his application for "functional protection" approved.

The Council of State ruled in his favour, in a decision described as "historic" by Caroline Decroix, Vice-Chair of the Association, and lauded in a press release: "This decision by the highest court means that, from now on, all French army auxiliaries in every conflict zone will be afforded protection if they are threatened because of their work. This is a major victory in the fight for justice and for the

Afghan auxiliaries employed by the French army."

The Société Française des Traducteurs (SFT) has been supporting Afghan interpreters since 2015, when it invited its members to sign a [petition](#) demanding that translators and interpreters working in conflict zones be protected. In 2017, the SFT was one of the signatories of an [open letter](#) to French President Emmanuel Macron urging him to open the country's doors to Afghan interpreters. The following year, it sent a letter drawn up by FIT to the French ambassador to the United Nations, calling on the latter to adopt a resolution on protecting civilian translators and interpreters working in conflict zones. It also publicised the [call](#) by Rupert Swyer to form a team in support of Afghan interpreters to take part in the Paris-Versailles-Mantes night walk held on 26 and 27 January this year. Several SFT members took up the call and joined the team, with other supporters also taking part in the walk. More than 3,000 euros were collected via the online fundraising page launched in conjunction with the walk and donated to the Association of Former Afghan Interpreters of the French Army – a fine



Rupert Swyer (right), who organised the walk in support of Afghan interpreters, and Michel Nercessian, interpreter and member of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC), Image: Rupert Swyer

example of what collective action can achieve!

The SFT welcomes the Council of State's decision and invites those who want to learn more about the fate of Afghan interpreters to read [Tarjuman, enquête sur une trahison française](#) (in French) by journalists Brice Andlauer and Quentin Müller, which was published by Bayard Éditions in February 2019.

Société Française des Traducteurs: [www.sft.fr/](http://www.sft.fr/)

## Conference Review: BP19 in Bologna

Business and Practice, Badass Polyglots, Boosting Productivity... there seems to be no shortage of phrases for what "BP" stands for. Though, as I learned, it initially stood for Budapest, where the first BP conference organised by Csaba Bán took place. This year, the conference was held in Bologna from 1 – 3 May.

The conference focused on the business side of things. The practicalities of the translation process really appealed to me when I was looking at the BP19 schedule. Having never attended a translation con-

ference before – despite working in the translation industry for more than 13 years – I thought it would be a great chance to take a few days off to focus on my business, network and explore a new city.

After booking the conference, attendees could take advantage of a dedicated app. At first, I was a little reluctant to install yet another app on my phone, but leading up to the conference, it was invaluable for getting to know people who work in the same language pairs, have similar specialisms or live in the same country. Putting

a name to a face in advance made approaching colleagues at the actual event that much less daunting.

On the first day, we were spoilt for choice with 18 sessions running in three parallel tracks. Sometimes it was hard to decide which to attend, but luckily, conference attendees will be able to access the talks they couldn't go to online. The two speakers that stood out for me were Alessandra Vita and Herman Boel. Alessandra shared effective strategies for getting better clients and improving working conditions:

setting your own terms, filtering who you want to work with, quoting for projects depending on their urgency and understanding what clients care about. The strategy that worked for Alessandra was creating an excellent website with plenty of content targeted at end clients, which meant they were coming to her, rather than her having to go to them.

Herman Boel worked as a project manager in the translation industry for 15 years before founding his own translation company. His talk was useful for anyone working with translation agencies and aimed to help fine-tune project manager relationships. Herman shared helpful tips and tricks, like not mentioning expensive holidays in exotic places and announcing rate increases at any time other than the end of the year.

Coffee breaks and lunches proved a great opportunity to enjoy amazing food while chatting and sharing experience with colleagues from all over the world. Talking to other Russian translators based in the UK and in other parts of the world, I picked up some great ideas and useful tips, and a few action items went straight onto my to-do list.

The second day was filled with short presentations focused on building relationships with clients, raising rates, dealing with conflicts, positioning yourself as a true professional, teaming up with colleagues for mutual benefit, and useful translator-specific productivity tips.

Looking back at BP19, I think what made this conference so successful was its friendly atmosphere, a great line-up of speakers, a variety of formats (workshops, more in-depth sessions as well as shorter talks), lots of opportunities to network, and brilliant organisation, which definitely required a lot of planning.



BP19 Conference attendees

During the closing speech, everyone was excited to find out the location for next year's event. Drumroll... BP20 will take place in Nuremberg, Germany. I cannot wait to go back for another dose of inspiration and some serious professional development!

*By Yulia Tsybysheva, CIOL*

## Brazilian linguists for ethnic inclusion

In 2017, I was a member of the Board of Directors of the Brazilian Translators and Interpreters Association (ABRATES) and was very interested in discussions around social, cultural, and ethnic inclusion in Brazil, particularly those focused on outlying black communities where the most preeminent manifestations of our African heritage seem to flourish. I am using the word "black" to refer to those communities for a good reason. Our history and statistics show that the vast majority of Brazilians have African ancestry, regardless of the colour of our skin. However, dark-skinned Brazilians are those who experience the ups (cultural and artistic richness) and downs (prejudice, bigotry, and violence) of our African heritage. Their communities are the ones struggling to be seen and heard. Ironically, though, they also seem to be the ones ignoring the eye-opening potential of our profession the most. More on that below.

At the end of our 8th International Conference that year, I finally had the opportunity to meet a dear online friend, Rane Souza, in person. I had always been keen on the discussions that Rane – being black herself – frequently raised online about African culture, feminism, and social violence against the black population. She told me how amazed she was seeing a black translator and interpreter, Maryam Abdi, as a keynote speaker at our event. She said: "This is the first time I've seen a black female colleague speaking in public. I'm amazed!" I replied, "Well, it's your turn, then. Why don't you prepare something about the lives or obstacles faced by black translators and interpreters in the Brazilian language industry and present at our next conference?" She not only agreed, she went above and beyond. In 2018, the association's then president, William Cassemiro, and I decided to invite

Rane to be one of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference's opening speakers, and her presentation on the black population's representativeness in Brazilian society and our profession was both brilliant and eye opening. She explained how although approximately 55% of the Brazilian population identifies as black or brown, according to the latest official census data, black individuals appear to account for approximately only 10% of the Brazilian professional linguist community. She concluded her presentation with the following statement: "I dream of the day when ABRATES has an initiative to make our profession more inclusive". We heard her.

That year, I would be elected as the association's new president and my very first measure was to call Rane to action. That's how ABRATES Afro was born. Our initial step was to identify where the Brazilian black population was most concentrated,



Rane Souza (ABRATES Congress Speaker, right) with Gio Lester (ABRATES's General Secretary, centre) and Karla Rodrigues (ABRATES Afro's distinguished student, left)

and the answer was easy: outlying communities. Next, we had to select a community where we could start and find partners inside it to support the initiative. As both Rane and I live in Rio de Janeiro, we decided to reach out to Nova Holanda, one of the largest *favelas* in a grouping of *favelas* called Maré. There, the [Instituto Maria João Aleixo](#) welcomed our project enthusiastically and introduced us to the local community. It was no surprise for us to see how unaware they were of what translators and interpreters really do, or how excited they became at the possibilities these paths offer.

After an initial introductory course with 14 students last April, the results were so positive that plans are being made for a proper training course to be implemented in Nova Holanda. Representatives from other communities in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo are already asking ABRATES to implement the initiative elsewhere. Next August will see a new edition of the ABRATES Afro Initiative, and Rane Souza will lead it as the program's General Coordinator.

As for me, my term as ABRATES's president ends in June 2020, but my enthusiasm for the program will not. I will always be there for Rane, the program, and the association itself. After all, we linguists say that we are here to make the world better. ABRATES Afro is a perfect opportunity to show that we mean it.

*By Ricardo Souza, ABRATES President*

## ÖVGD reloaded: a new Executive Committee takes the helm

Every three years, the Austrian Association of Court Interpreters (ÖVGD) elects a new Executive Committee. During the spring 2018 elections, a new team was voted into office, ending the more than thirty years of Christine Springer's presidency and ushering in a new era for Austria's court interpreters. Seven of the ten members of the new Executive Committee are newcomers to their ÖVGD functions, including Andrea Bernardini, the president, and Brigitte Messner, the vice-president.

While the previous ÖVGD administration focused primarily on Vienna, Austria's capital, there is now more emphasis on interacting closely with members in Austria's various regions.

One urgent issue the new Executive Committee is tackling is the fees paid by the courts for penal law assignments. While these fees are regulated by law and indexed to allow for rate adjustments in line with cost of living increases, the last increase was in 2007. Recent budget cuts have also affected court interpreters, as several of the fee elements were actually

lowered. "This is an uphill battle where we seem to be going around in circles," Bernardini said, "but we will do our best to achieve this priority goal."

The new team took off with plenty of energy and enthusiasm to make the ÖVGD over into a 21<sup>st</sup>-century professional association that serves member interests. As it so happens, it was the ÖVGD's turn in 2018 to host celebrations for International Translation Day, which the Austrian T&I associations traditionally celebrate together. This offered the new Executive Committee a welcome opportunity to present itself to other T&I stakeholders in Austria with an event held at the House of the European Union in Vienna.

Since Austria is one of the countries coping with the recent inflow of migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa, there is a huge need for interpreters working in their languages. Universities, as well as public and private institutions, are making every effort to train and qualify interpreters for Arabic, Farsi/Dari and Turkish, to name but a few of the languages needed in court and for community services.

The ÖVGD is now also reviewing its relations to these bodies to support activities to improve the qualifications of language staff needed, especially for police investigations and asylum proceedings.

In a genuine stroke of luck, the Austrian media began to take an interest in court interpreting issues last summer, kindled by the ÖVGD's new media contact. As a result, several leading Austrian newspapers and magazines ran articles and features on court interpreters and their role in the judicial process. The culminating highlight to date has been a short interview with the ÖVGD president that was broadcast during the prime-time Saturday evening news.

The change in ÖVGD leadership came at an opportune time: the ÖVGD will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October 2020, and preparations are getting underway. We will inform FIT of the details in due time and hope that many of our FIT colleagues will join us for this remarkable anniversary.

*By Liese Katschinka*



# ITI Conference in Sheffield, May 2019

More than 350 translators, interpreters and language professionals gathered in Sheffield, UK, in early May for the biennial conference of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI), the UK's main professional association for the language services industry. The conference is a highlight in the ITI calendar, when its members can come together with those of its many networks and regional groups to meet the Board, think about future initiatives and celebrate member achievements through, among other things, the ITI Awards. It also brings together attendees from around the world, attracting linguists not only from the UK, but also other European countries, the Americas, Australasia and China. Some 32 languages were represented this year, including many not commonly encountered at western conferences, such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Turkish and Afrikaans. Our Welsh-, Catalan- and Faeroese-speaking colleagues deserve special mention as well.

The 2019 conference took as its theme "Beyond the core: forging the future of the profession" and its programme encompassed current practices in the sector in all its diversity, covering topics such as the translation of illustrated books, interlingual respeaking and revision in international organisations, to name just a few. It also tackled the challenges posed by artificial intelligence and suggested ways the industry can respond, in addition to offering food for thought and tools that all attendees could take away to inform their own working practice (e.g., mutual revision arrangements, stress management for interpreters and practical tips on public speaking).

The Sheffield conference served as not only a forum for sharing ideas, but also an opportunity for attendees to get together and socialise, whether over a meal, on the dance floor or in smaller groups at the many fringe events, which included a guided tour of Sheffield, a walk in the Peak District, yoga, running and a saké tasting.

Following on from Wales in 2017 and central and northern England, speculation is rife over which British city will host the 2021 conference. In the meantime, follow the #ITICnf19 hashtag on Twitter for reactions to this year's event and check out the [photo gallery](#) now available on the conference website.

*Sandra Mouton, ITI Associate and SFT member*



Paul Appleyard, the ITI's newly elected Chair, and Chief Executive Paul Wilson thank Anne de Freyman on behalf of the whole ITI for her work organising recent conferences.  
Image: Institute of Translation and Interpreting



**ITI Conference**  
**10 & 11 May 2019**  
Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield



Oliver Kamm accepts the 2019 John Sykes Memorial Prize for Excellence from outgoing Chair Sarah Bawa-Mason on behalf of his late mother, Anthea Bell.  
Image: Institute of Translation and Interpreting

# News from OTTIAQ

To secure the future of the Quebec Order of Certified Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters (OTTIAQ), the Board of Directors has instituted a Young Professionals Committee whose eight members are all 35 or younger.

The committee began its work last fall. Primarily comprised of registered students, the committee explores and promotes interest in the Order in the next generation. This energetic committee has already organised its first networking event, held numerous meetings with universities and, in conjunction with the Order's Communications Officer, developed a strong action plan that focuses on social media.

The networking event attracted about one hundred young language professionals, translation students, entrepreneurs and stakeholders. After an open networking period, a speed mentoring activity had small groups meeting with resources who led discussions on a variety of themes, such as certification, entrepreneurship, finding a job, working for a firm, and networking. The committee is already hard at work planning a second edition for 2020!

Among the committee's achievements in recent months, it provided the Communications Officer with content and visuals to use in the Order's social media posts, helping increase the Order's reach with Quebec's youngest language professionals.



From left to right: Antoine Galipeau, Meaghan Girard, Certified Translator and the Order's Vice President, Émilie Bachelier, Communications Officer, Simon Frappier, Mariya Goncharova, Véronique Baillargeon, Lae Schmidt. Not pictured: Stéphanie Lamontagne, Certified Translator.

As part of its action plan, the committee will have a presence at all universities whose translation programmes are recognised by the Order, as well as at all OTTIAQ recruiting activities.

Lastly, to encourage the next generation to participate more actively in the Order's activities and ensure that the perspective of young language professionals gets greater consideration, the committee plans to add

more young members and registered students to various committees (conference program committee, professional development committee, publicity campaign working group, awards committee).

OTTIAQ would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of the next generation and thank all of the committee members for their inspiring work. We are very proud of you!

## FIT LatAm: from Panama to Buenos Aires and everywhere in between

To start, I'd like to share some great news: Costa Rica was accepted as a full, regular member of FIT at the Council meeting in Panama City during the Third International Congress on Translation and Interpreting organised by the Panamanian Association of Translators and Interpreters (APTI) from 29 to 30 March. Congratulations!

FIT also has two new observer members from Latin America, the sworn translators associations of two Argentinian provinces: Colegio de Traductores de la Provincia

de Santa Fe and Colegio de Traductores Públicos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires. Welcome to the FIT family!

During the congress in Panama, I was asked to lead the round table "The Professionalisation of Translators and Interpreters Around the World: A Comparative View", an incredibly fruitful exchange about education and training initiatives in countries throughout the region.

From 22 to 24 April, the Second University Congress on Translation and Interpreta-

tion Training was held at the University of Buenos Aires School of Law. As the chair of FIT LatAm, I had the pleasure of addressing the audience on behalf of FIT and enjoyed the privilege of formally opening the congress. The three-day event, organised under the motto "Times of Change: Towards an Avant-Garde Approach to Training" and coinciding with UN Spanish Language Day on 23 April, was packed with presentations by well-known speakers such as Prof. José Luis Moure, former

president of the Argentine Academy of Letters. The congress, which also featured round tables and panel discussions, did a magnificent job of bringing together keynote professionals, translator and interpreter trainers and students to discuss key issues in the field of translation, interpreting and terminology training.

That same week, I presented some of the projects that both FIT LatAm and FIT participate in, actively promote and sponsor at the professional sessions hosted by AATI at the Forty-Fifth Buenos Aires Book Fair. One such project is currently being organised between AATI (Argentina) and ACTTI (Colombia) about the role translators and interpreters play in ensuring language access for minority language speakers. UNESCO has recently reported that about 40% of the world's population receives education in a language they do not understand. These findings make this project even more relevant. A five-day seminar to be held in Colombia has been planned to train a group of indigenous language translators/interpreters in subtitling. One of the expected outcomes is the development of a 24-part micro-documentary series in indigenous languages, with subtitles, as well as publicising the status of indigenous language translation and interpreting in Latin America.

I also presented on a project developed by colleagues from Mexico, Peru and Panama. Given the varieties of Spanish spoken in the region, and that translators and especially interpreters work with professionals from other Spanish-speaking communities, or address audiences from other Spanish-speaking countries, it is of-



Alejandra Jorge, FIT Council Member, with AATI colleagues at the Book Fair, and with Beatriz Rodriguez, Director of the Translation Programme at University of Buenos Aires



ten necessary to define which terms are correct and used to refer to different communities, and the terms used by those communities themselves. The goal will be to create a database that can be consulted by interpreters to maintain linguistic consistency and use language that is politically correct while being inclusive and non-discriminatory.

As you can see, it has been a busy past few months! Thank you for reading about these highlights. We are looking forward to sharing even more news in the next issue of *Translatio*.

*Alejandra M. Jorge, FIT LatAm Chair, Member of FIT Council*

## FIT LatAm webinar: translation and accessibility

### What accessibility really means

The 2019 FIT LatAm Webinar series is off to a great start with more than 80 participants from 11 countries joining the first online session in May. FIT LatAm, in partnership with AATI, hosted a Zoom webinar for members of FIT associations with a focus on translation and accessibility featuring the first speaker of the year, Rosana Famularo. The webinar was organised by FIT LatAm Vice President Dagmar Ford

and AATI's Continuing Education team: Martín Chamorro, Santiago de Miguel, Camila Carnevale and Pat Clivio. The team encouraged non-members to participate by organising a raffle and announcing the webinar on social media. This innovative and welcome initiative amplified the reach of the regional centre's activities. An Argentine Sign Language-Spanish interpreter, French professor, translator, in-

terpreter coach, and inclusion and diversity expert, Rosana Famularo is the co-lead of the Audio-Visual Translation and Accessibility Task Force and Council member of the Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters (AATI). She is the author of three books and various academic publications and was recently conferred a Doctor Honoris Causa degree by Universidad Nacional de Cuyo in recognition of

her record in sign language interpreting. During the webinar, Rosana shared an overview of accessibility trends in different media, with an emphasis on the connections between accessibility in its various forms and translation. She addressed the notions of segregation, inclusion and integration, explained how specific accessibility terms are properly used, and commented on recent regulatory, academic and professional developments. Additionally, she mentioned various organisations and initiatives and encouraged participants not only to reflect on accessibility but also take action to help build a more inclusive world.

As the founder of AATI's Sign Language Interpreter Division, Rosana has inte-



Rosana Famularo, AATI Sign Language Interpreter and Accessibility Expert

grated the vision of the sign language community into the work of professional associations in Argentina. In her honorary speech, she said, "For those of us who are devoted to the task of crossing bridges with cases full of messages, the exercise of translation represents, in addition to a calling and a profession, a political and ethical gesture that turns the ideal of understanding into a reality, beyond language barriers and borders. Translation is evidence that diversity exists."

The next LatAm webinar was launched with acclaimed speaker Olga Jeczmyk, author of the T&I blog [www.20000lenguas.com](http://www.20000lenguas.com), who presented on digital marketing tools and branding for translators.

*By Pat Clivio and Marita Propato*

## Technical, scientific and educational cooperation agreement signed between ANTIO and APTI

On 25 May 2019, ANTIO (National Association of Translators and Official Interpreters of the Republic of Costa Rica) and APTI (Panamanian Association of Translators and Interpreters) signed a Technical, Scientific and Educational Cooperation Agreement in San José, Costa Rica.

The agreement was signed by the presidents of both associations, Suzzet Gonzalez de Helleisz (APTI) and Katia Jimenez Pochet (ANTIO). The Vice-President of FIT also signed as a witness of honour.

The excellent relations of friendship and support that have existed between these two associations were strengthened during the Third International Translation and Interpretation Congress, which was held in Panama City between 29 and 30 March 2019.

With this agreement, both associations seek to exchange academic and professional information that will benefit their members. Both organisations' experience and networks will be made available through the various activities they are developing.

Both parties expressed their desire to strengthen their relations through cooperation and are confident that exchanging knowledge will lead to best practices in the fields of professional translation and



Left to right: Berta Alicia Chen (APTI), Suzzet G. Helleisz (APTI) and Reina de Bettendorf (Vice-President, FIT)

interpreting. This exchange will be carried out through developing and organising courses and conferences, undertaking joint projects on various aspects related to the parties' work, sharing information, holding virtual meetings, reciprocal visits to address topics of interest for both associations, and exchanging ways to facilitate the provision of professional translation

and interpreting services. Both associations will also share ways to provide professional recertification for translators and interpreters, as all language professionals need to continue their academic training to gain more knowledge and experience to meet the demanding requirements of the fields that need information conveyed in other languages.

# Welcome to the first FIT Presidents Forum!

**F**IT has invited the presidents and chairs of regular member associations to attend the first ever FIT Presidents Forum, which will be held at the Hotel Regina in Vienna, Austria, on 6 October 2019.

In accordance with Article 4 (d) of the FIT Bylaws, the planned Presidents Forum will '... encourage the exchange of information and best practice among its member associations'. In our opinion, a triennial Statutory Congress, where delegates are often not the president or chair of their association, is not sufficient to achieve this goal.

Furthermore, we feel FIT is not necessarily that well known to presidents and chairs of member associations. Providing the opportunity for such a gathering will also allow association presidents and chairs to network with one another and to learn from each other.

We have already received a lot of positive feedback from members and we look forward to seeing as many association presidents and chairs as possible in Vienna in October. If you are an association president and you have not received a personal invitation, please contact me as soon as possible at [president@fit-ift.org](mailto:president@fit-ift.org).

*Kevin Quirk, FIT President*

**T**he book *Tras las huellas de una profesión, La interpretación de conferencias en México*, Memoria histórica has been published to the delight of Mexican conference interpreters and the Mexican Association of Conference Interpreters (CMIC).

The book was presented on 20 June at the Mora Institute by the Justice of the Federal Electoral Court, María del Carmen Carreón Castro, historical researcher Silvia Cuesy, oral history specialist, coordinator and prologue writer Graciela de Garay, and the editorial director of Tirant lo Blanch, María Goerlich.

The oral interviews and workshops with the interpreters who started the profession in Mexico were conducted by oral history specialists. This laborious research and creative synthesis describe the evolution of the interpreting profession in Mexico and will become a historical legacy. The book is available in main Mexican bookstores, on Amazon, and on the website of the Tirant publishing house. Enjoy!

## NEW BOOK

Investigación histórica y contextualización  
**Silvia L. Cuesy**  
Coordinación, investigación, edición, diagramación  
**Isabel Correa Etchegaray**  
**Josefina Mac Gregor Anciola**  
**Edna Torres de Cerf**



## TRAS LAS HUELLAS DE UNA PROFESIÓN

LA INTERPRETACIÓN DE CONFERENCIAS EN MÉXICO  
MEMORIA HISTÓRICA



# Meet the winner of the 2019 ITD poster competition

**F**IT is pleased to announce the winning design for this year's poster to celebrate International Translation Day (ITD) on 30 September 2019, the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

Created by Graphic Designer Claudia Wolf ([website](#)) in celebration of this year's theme, the poster's "colourful branches represent the many indigenous languages, metaphorically growing on the big language tree."

"People from everywhere in the world visit Berlin, the city I live in", said Wolf, "and the sound of their different languages brings me joy. I can vividly remember life before

the fall of the Berlin Wall, and I wouldn't want to experience that kind of linguistic monotony ever again."

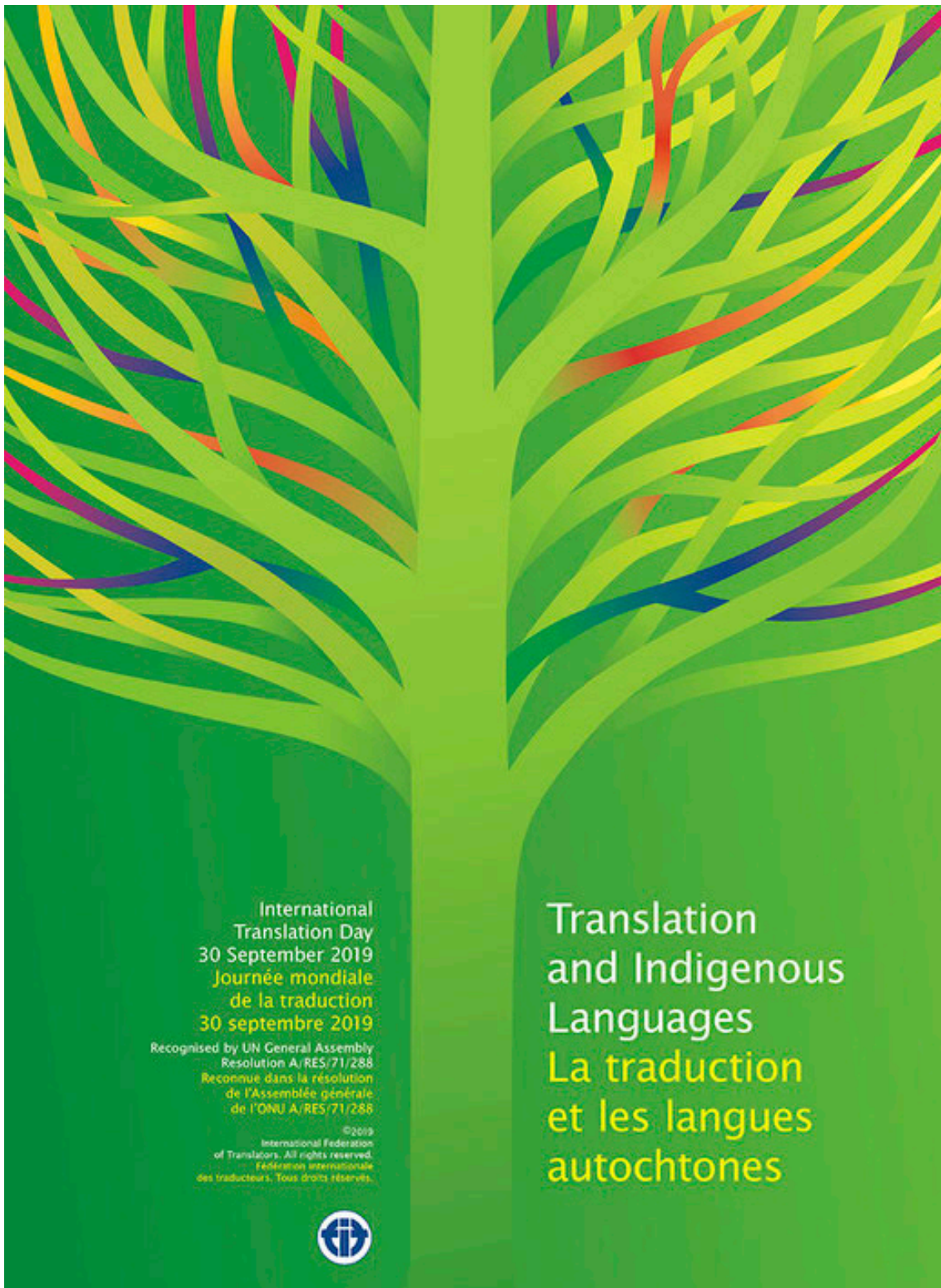
Indigenous languages embody the world's cultural diversity, supporting intergenerational transfer of cultural heritage and knowledge that will assist us in facing the challenges of an increasingly complex global future. Elevating the status and use through translation and interpreting helps fight against their disappearance. Wolf drew inspiration from this as well: "To me, diversity is wealth. And how much of that we'd be lacking,

without all these unique languages."

This very special year recognises indigenous language speakers and honours the interpreters, translators and terminologists who give them a voice.

What does Ms Wolf do when she's not designing winning posters? "Working on illustrations and typography as a graphic designer takes up a big part of my life", she said. "As a freelance designer, I work for a variety of clients, and I also retouch images for historical exhibitions."

Thank you, Ms Wolf, and congratulations on your winning submission!



International  
Translation Day  
30 September 2019  
Journée mondiale  
de la traduction  
30 septembre 2019

Recognised by UN General Assembly  
Resolution A/RES/71/288  
Reconnue dans la résolution  
de l'Assemblée générale  
de l'ONU A/RES/71/288

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Translation  
and Indigenous  
Languages  
La traduction  
et les langues  
autochtones

2019 International Translation Day poster design by Claudia Wolf



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