

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS

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

TRANSLATIO

No. 1, 2023 FIT Newsletter



President's message

Alison Rodriguez

Dear FIT members,

We continue to be battered by terrible events – flooding in New Zealand, deadly earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, a tragic train crash in Greece – and while sudden shocks like these have always been a part of life, it doesn't make them any less catastrophic.

The FIT family sends our condolences to our members affected by these events for the tragic loss of life and the terrible emotional impact on survivors. Particularly tragic is the death of Turkish translator and scholar, Ali Ölmez. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. You can read a tribute to him in this issue. We also pay homage to our members who have worked tirelessly and selflessly to support rescue and humanitarian efforts, particularly Çeviri Derneği Disaster and Emergency Interpreters in Turkey, and those in all areas marred by crisis and conflict.

The well-attended Third Africa International Translation Conference (AITCO2023) in Mombasa was foundational for building collaboration and a strong basis for a FIT Regional Centre in Africa. FIT believes strongly in our mission to connect our member associations, and to this end, we're looking to hold our next Presidents'

Forum in mid-2023. Watch for news of this and other future FIT events, including the FIT Legal Translation Forum, to be held in Spiez, Switzerland from 8–9 July 2023. With thirteen speakers from four different continents, it will be a forum not to be missed!

2023 is also the year of FIT's 70th anniversary, which we will celebrate in Barcelona in conjunction with our annual Council meeting and hosted by the Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters of Catalonia (APTIC). Events will include a joint literary salon with the Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires (CEATL) and a celebration of World Book and Copyright Day on 23 April, the anniversary of the passing of two literary greats, Cervantes and Shakespeare. APTIC has been planning this meeting since 2019, but it was postponed due to the dark clouds of COVID. We have nothing but gratitude and awe for their incredible persistence and patient hospitality and cannot wait to join them in Barcelona.

Another supremely important FIT event, but one that comes around every year, is International Translation Day (ITD). FIT Council is pleased to announce our

chosen theme for ITD 2023: *Translation unveils the many faces of humanity*. To mark this 30 September, we wish to recognise not only the important role that translation plays in each of our lives, but also our shared humanity. In our 70th anniversary year, it also gives us a chance to honour the many faces that make up the history of our federation: a history we can be proud of and a history that belongs to all of us.

Here's to working together to build a united, sustainable profession we're all proud to belong to.

Alison Rodriguez, president@fit-ift.org



FIT Europe at SCIC-Universities Conference

The 26th annual SCIC-Universities conference held by the European Commission Directorate-General for Interpretation (DG SCIC) took place in Brussels on 17 and 18 November 2022. This conference gathers around 180 attendees every year from over 40 partner universities and international organisations across Europe, as well as EU institutions. It was the first in-person event of its kind since the pandemic and was also streamed online. The two-day conference opened with an address by Commissioner Johannes Hahn; the presentation of the Young Interpreters Award to #NextGenerationEU-Interpreters; and statements by DG SCIC Director-General, Genoveva Ruiz-Calavera, as well as the Director-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences (DG LINC) and the Director of

Interpretation of the European Court of Justice. The remaining programme featured a series of interesting and engaging presentations with topics ranging from state-of-the-art technologies for hybrid and remote conferences to new skills, challenges, and expectations for the profession such as new training requirements and accreditation tests for interpreters, shifting market demands, ever-increasing uncertainty, and the importance of sound quality.

The presentations were followed by two parallel participatory sessions. Each session consisted of three workshops in English, French, and German, respectively. One was held on site and focused on the new reality and interpreters' backgrounds and involved European institutions and trainers. The other was held online for

students, with the aim of gathering feedback, questions, and requests from the next generation of interpreters. Interestingly, both sessions came to (roughly) the same conclusions (for more information, click [here](#)).

The event was very thought-provoking and inspiring, the main takeaways being the following:

- There is a strong need for multilingualism and interpreting in the post-COVID world. In fact, interpreting has become even more important during post-COVID recovery.
- The need for interpreting is the same as ever; what has changed is the way meetings and conferences are held.
- Meetings are becoming increasingly hybrid, and new technologies for hybrid

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR REMOTE SPEAKERS IN MULTILINGUAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

To make the best out of your participation and ensure that your message comes across in all languages, **watch your sound quality!**

It is all about the connection

- Connect with an Ethernet cable for stable internet and clear sound.
- Otherwise, only very strong and stable WiFi provides the needed sound quality.
- Have your connection and sound tested before the meeting, when invited by the meeting organiser.

Equipment that makes the difference

It is your responsibility to use the appropriate connection and equipment.

- Use an external USB unidirectional desktop microphone.
- Do not use Bluetooth headphones, headphones with an integrated microphone, smartphone-style headphones, microphones built into your PC/Webcam, collective or omnidirectional microphones/ speakerphones.
- Connect from your computer. Do not connect from your phone or tablet.
- Once you connect a microphone to your computer, select it in the audio settings of the software you will use.

Know your turn

- Only speak when given the floor.
- Check if your microphone and camera are on.
- Mute your microphone at all times when not taking the floor.

Choose the right setting

- Connect from a well-lit and quiet office-like environment.
- Avoid large, sparsely furnished rooms as they can create an echo.
- Do not connect from noisy interiors, public places, outdoors or on the move. Do not connect without image.
- Moreover, public locations put security at risk, since you may be overheard by others.
- Always switch your camera on: non-verbal cues are crucial for communication.

Make it your own

- Speak naturally and avoid reading out.
- If you must read, read slowly. Include pauses and clearly enunciate key elements.
- Send your speaking notes in advance to your meeting organiser that will share them with the interpreters.

Help interpreters help you

- Observe this code of conduct to be understood by all participants.
- If your sound is poor, interpreters will not be able to interpret you.
- For more information, check the [disclaimer](#).



As we work in close cooperation with the European Parliament, please check the following [video](#) for more tips.



and remote meetings require new skills and greater flexibility on the part of interpreters.

- Hybrid and remote meetings also require compliance with a “code of conduct” (see image) for remote speakers. This means speakers must have an appropriate connection and equipment to ensure not only that their message comes across, but that interpreters stay safe.
- Sound quality is an issue that we at FIT Europe have been dealing with since the onset of the pandemic. We’ve organised two webinars since then and are planning to hold another in 2023.
- The EU has set clear carbon emissions reduction targets, and the three directorates are hoping to set an example for the whole industry.

We are very grateful to these European institutions, especially DG SCIC, for having invited FIT Europe to this year’s SCIC-Universities conference!

FIT Europe



Surveying mental health support for language professionals

FIT Europe recently collaborated with the University College London (UCL) Centre for Translation Studies (an associate member of FIT) and the Dublin City University (DCU) School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies to survey what kinds of mental health and wellbeing support FIT’s member associations offer to interpreters and translators working in conflicts, emergencies, crises, and disasters. The succinct [report](#) of the findings was published in January 2023.

The survey was a pilot and collected responses from 27% of FIT Europe’s member associations in 2022. The findings confirm that there is growing attention towards the need to support the mental wellbeing of professionals who experience trauma as part of their work. Over half of respondents (56.3%) were planning to offer some form of training in 2023. There was consensus that training should involve sessions with psychologists and mental health experts.

Protecting the longevity of members’ careers squeezed by economic crises and the pressures of the sector requires supporting professionals who have to manage working in stressful and traumatic situations.

An opportunity to do more and share best practices

The results suggest that a broader, global survey of FIT member associations would be timely and provide further impetus to consider whether FIT should put forward related guidelines, training suggestions, or even training content. Involving organisations that are already active in supporting and protecting translators and interpreters who work in traumatic contexts might also help to identify priorities and key content. Understanding where and how these professionals work would be useful for discussing effective ways to support them (e.g., training on vicarious trauma for interpreters, or sessions with psychologists to recognise the impact of traumatic translation and interpreting work on mental wellbeing and how to cope).

The survey may be a jumping-off point for a discussion on how to share local best practices for the benefit of FIT associations around the world.

Federico M. Federici (CenTraS), John O’Shea, Chairperson, FIT Europe, Sharon O’Brien, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies, Dublin City University Ireland

**FIT EUROPE
DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

TRANSLATING AND INTERPRETING IN CRISIS SETTINGS

TRAINING OPTIONS REPORT

by
Federico M. Federici
Sharon O’Brien
John O’Shea



Cover of the report, courtesy of the authors

Celebrating ITD in 2023

Translation unveils the many faces of humanity

FIT Council is pleased to announce its chosen theme for International Translation Day 2023: *Translation unveils the many faces of humanity*.

To honour International Translation Day (ITD) this year, we wish to recognise not only the important role that translation, interpreting, and terminology play in each of our lives, but also our shared humanity.

The theme recognises the many ways that translation unveils a world of human experience, allowing us a peek into cultures other than those we know. As climate and

geopolitical shocks resonate across the globe, it also plays an important role in addressing threats to peace and security of people and the planet, and in diplomacy and multilateralism, sustainable development and humanitarian aid, human dignity and human rights.

In this 70th anniversary year since the founding of FIT, it also gives us a chance to honour the many faces that make up the history of our federation. Although ITD was officially recognised by the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopting Resolution

A/RES/71/288 declaring 30 September to be celebrated across the entire UN network, FIT has been celebrating it for over 30 years.

We hope that all our members will again celebrate ITD with us this 30 September.

As in past years, we are holding our annual ITD poster competition and inviting professional designers to create a poster paying tribute to the many human faces that become more visible through translation. The [competition](#) will close on 1 May 2023.

FIT Council

ATA certification: online and on demand

After nearly 50 years of offering translator certification, the American Translators Association (ATA) offered its certification examination online and on demand for the first time in 2022. This was the culmination of a multiyear process to make the exam more accessible, and like so much else, the final push came from the restrictions imposed during the COVID crisis.

For most of its long history, the certification exam was administered in a rather old-fashioned format: candidates would handwrite their translations of the exam passages at an in-person sitting using only print references. In 2016, a new alternative was offered, where candidates could do their work on a laptop using a limited range of internet resources, but still in person.

Everything was upended in 2020 when it was suddenly impossible to stage in-person sittings, so ATA took a closer look at online platforms for administering the exam. We discovered that the offerings by potential vendors had grown substantially since we had last considered online testing in 2015. One of the biggest

challenges was finding a vendor that could handle right-to-left languages like Arabic. We soon found that ExamRoom.AI was well equipped to meet our needs and collaborate in offering our exam remotely.

The first online exam took place in April 2021, with prearranged remote “sittings” being held throughout the year. With that experience under our belt, we decided to take the final step and introduce on-demand scheduling. This means that candidates register with ATA and are then directed to ExamRoom to schedule their sitting at a time of their choosing. For this to work, we had to change our approach to proctoring/invigilation. Rather than actively monitoring test takers to ensure they aren’t using prohibited sites like DeepL, we introduced an “allow list” system, where candidates can only access a limited number of carefully selected internet resources – and passages are selected and adapted with this list in mind. This approach proved highly successful over the course of 2022, with registration numbers nearly reaching pre-COVID levels.

The advantages of the online, on-demand exam cannot be overstated. Candidates

no longer have to incur travel and accommodation expenses to attend an in-person sitting. They use their own computers in a familiar setting and can take the exam at nearly any time – regardless of time zone. Exam security is also enhanced because all exams are recorded. Plus, by reviewing recordings, we can spot patterns that may lead to changes that improve the exam experience for candidates.

ATA certification remains a highly sought-after credential and is now accessible to virtually anyone in any location. Other organisations looking to bring their credentialing programs online would be well advised to choose their vendor carefully, with flexibility being a high priority. Moreover, any remote testing situation, without invigilators on site, necessitates strong security measures, including comprehensive monitoring and recording of the candidate, their screen, and their keystrokes.

Click [here](#) for more details about ATA’s certification program.

David Stephenson, CT, Chair, ATA Certification Committee (ATA)

Challenging an unconstitutional law in Germany

Certified court interpreters around the world are used to struggling with unsatisfactory rules regulating court interpreting. In Germany, things are no different. Currently, however, an exceptionally flawed piece of legislation (known by its German acronym GDolmG) that came into force on 1 January 2023 is causing accredited court interpreters in Germany a lot of headaches.

For decades, court interpreter accreditation has been governed by laws enacted by Germany's federal states, the Bundesländer. This changed in mid-2019 when the former coalition government under Chancellor Merkel tabled a proposal for reform legislation on criminal procedure. As part of this legislative project, Germany's Ministry of Justice, led by former Minister Christine Lambrecht, thought it wise to include a draft GDolmG in the reform bill with the intention of introducing uniform accreditation standards throughout Germany.

Unfortunately, the reasonableness of this aim was matched only by the flawed nature of the ensuing legislative process and, ultimately, the actual GDolmG itself. Contrary to common practice, the Ministry ignored input from relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, Ms Lambrecht did not permit any discussion of the criticism expressed by professional language associations, nor did she ensure thorough preparation before enacting the bill. When the bill reached Germany's second parliamentary chamber, the Bundesrat, things got even worse. Although Bundesrat lawyers



On our way to the German Federal Constitutional Court
Photo Credit: Depositphotos, licensed to ADÜ Nord

issued an official legal opinion warning of the unconstitutionality of the bill, the relevant committee members ignored it by removing it from their agenda.

This was when we, the Hamburg-based Northern German Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters (ADÜ Nord) decided to challenge the law before the German Federal Constitutional Court (Bundesverfassungsgericht). First, we raised money and commissioned a specialised constitutional law firm to prepare a second legal opinion on the potential unconstitutionality of the law. It confirmed there was a chance we could successfully file a complaint to annul it. The opinion identified legal flaws both formal and material in nature: that the legislator had lacked the requisite legislative competence, that the bill had disproportionately encroached on the basic freedom of long-standing court interpreters to practice their profession, and that

it discriminated against both translators and sign language interpreters.

Encouraged by these findings, in autumn 2022, we began fundraising for the legal fees to file the complaint. Of the thousands of court interpreters in Germany, hundreds made financial contributions to support our initiative, and within three months, we raised more than €45,000. Two months later, we have secured the involvement of three colleagues who will act as complainants and have signed a retainer for the preparation and submission of the requisite writ of complaint. Our plan is to have the complaint filed by early April, and we hope that the Bundesverfassungsgericht will accept and rule on our case.

Anyone who would like to learn more can contact me directly at joerg@adue-nord.de.

Jörg Schmidt, President, ADÜ Nord

JST announces 2022 award winners

Due to the pandemic, the Japan Society of Translators (JST) had cancelled its annual general meeting and the accompanying award ceremony in 2022. The JST Awards Committee would like to recognise those winners who were to be honoured at that ceremony and the following distinguished works:

- The 59th Annual Translation Award: Fumiaki Noya for the Japanese translation of Mario Vargas Llosa's *The Dream of the Celt*, published by Iwanami Shoten.
- The 58th Annual Publication Award: Jimbun Shoin for publishing the Japanese edition of Jean-Paul Sartre's *The Family Idiot: Gustave Flaubert, 1821–1857* in five volumes.

- Special Translation Awards: Yuri Nagura for the Japanese translation of Svetlana Alexandrovna Alexievich's *Zinky Boys* and Etsuko Nozaka for the Japanese translation of Els Pelgrom's *The Acorn Eaters*.

Congratulations to the winners!

Atsuko Kanaya (JST)

APTIF welcomes new members

The Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF) proudly welcomes three new members this year: the Translators and Interpreters' Association of Tehran (TIAT), Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), bringing the total number of members to 14, plus two observers. This addition was recently ratified by APTIF's joint committee.

Formerly known as the Asian Translators Forum, APTIF was created in 1995 under the International Federation of Translators (FIT) to facilitate exchange among Asian translators, interpreters, and other language professionals. So far, the forum has held ten meetings in various Asia-Pacific countries.

In 2016, the APTIF Joint Committee was established to build APTIF into a prominent and sustainable platform for translator associations and institutions in Asia and Oceania and to share ideas and further the translation and interpreting professions.

APTIF Regular Members

- Azerbaijan Youth Translators Association (AYTA)
- Federation of Translators and Interpreters of Macau (FTIM)
- Association of Indonesian Translators (HPI)
- Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK)
- Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)

- Hong Kong Translation Society (HKTS)
 - Indian Translators Association (ITAINdia)
 - Iraqi Translators Association (ITA)
 - Korean Association of Translators and Interpreters (KATI)
 - Malaysian Translators Association (MTA)
 - Myanmar Translation Network (MTN)
 - Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)
 - Translators Association of China (TAC)
 - Translators and Interpreters' Association of Tehran (TIAT)
- Observers
- New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters (NZSTI)
 - Australian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (AUSIT)

Liu Junhuan, (TAC)

ITIA honours Maya Hess of Red T

Honorary Membership of the Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association (ITIA) is conferred on a person who has made a substantial contribution to translation or interpreting in Ireland or internationally. Previous recipients include Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney and Jin Di, Chinese translator of James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

The ITIA is delighted to announce that Maya Hess was added to this distinguished group at a conferring ceremony hosted by the [Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation](#) at [Trinity College Dublin](#) on 23 February 2023.

Maya is the founder and CEO of [Red T](#), a not-for-profit organisation that advocates worldwide for the protection of translators and interpreters in high-risk settings, including war zones, detention camps and centres, prisons, and sites of political unrest.

Maya is honoured for her unstinting work with Red T to improve the situation of linguists active in settings where, as she says, 'the simple practice of our profession makes us vulnerable to loss of life and limb'.

Her consistent inclusion of the widest possible coalition of international partners in this vital lobbying work has helped to increase the understanding and awareness of linguists at risk.

In her acceptance address, Maya referenced the work carried out by Red T, for example, the [Open Letter](#) project, the preparation of expert opinions for court cases, and also the [Safety Guidelines](#) for linguists in the field and users of their services, which were created in collaboration with FIT and the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC).



L to R: James Hadley (TCLCT), Mary Phelan (ITIA), Maya Hess (Red T), Annette Schiller (ITIA). Photo by Eithne Bowen (TCLCT)

One of the major campaigns initiated by Red T aims at obtaining a UN resolution that would ultimately 'encourage the implementation of an environment of safety' around our colleagues in high-risk settings. To this end, Red T is asking people to [sign the UN Petition](#) to end the targeting of translators and interpreters.

The ITIA is honoured to count Maya Hess among its Honorary Members.

Annette Schiller, Vice President, FIT

AI & interpreting: the way or not?

As an engineer and conference interpreter, I have a unique perspective on the potential benefits and challenges of technology and AI. Some reasons why I believe we need to foster these are:

- **Efficiency:** They can help us work more efficiently and effectively. For example, machine translation can help conference interpreters by providing quick translations of basic phrases or concepts, allowing us to focus on more complex language and nuances.
- **Accuracy:** Innovative technologies can help us achieve greater accuracy in tasks such as speech recognition or text analysis. This can be especially important in engineering, legal, and medical interpretation, where precision is key.
- **Innovation:** AI is driving innovation across many industries, including our own language fields.
- **Accessibility:** Machine intelligence can help make information and services more accessible to people who might otherwise have difficulty accessing them. For example, machine translation can facilitate communication among people who don't speak a certain language, while assistive technologies can help people with disabilities navigate the world more easily.

I believe that we, the language industry as a whole, need to provide greater support for the education and training that are critical to developing a skilled workforce

that can leverage and apply these new technologies. Governments and organisations should invest in specialised programs to prepare individuals for careers in our industry.

We also need to be aware of the potential challenges that come with these technologies. The most pressing are privacy concerns, as well as the potential for job displacement as automation becomes more prevalent. Ensuring that AI is developed and used in a responsible and ethical manner will be critical to maximising its potential benefits while minimising its negative impacts.

Technology and AI can reinforce biases if not properly designed, and automation can lead to job loss if not balanced with reskilling and job creation. As language professionals, we are uniquely positioned to understand the importance of responsible design and implementation and may advocate for ethical practices and regulations to ensure they are used in ways that benefit society.

ANTIO Costa Rica has decided to focus the next FIT Congress in 2025 on the complexities of AI. Experts from various fields will be able to come together to discuss



Photo: Unsplash

these emerging issues and work towards solutions. It will provide a platform for exchanging ideas and sharing best practices on how to responsibly develop and deploy AI, while also addressing the challenges and opportunities it presents. We look forward to hosting the FIT community in Costa Rica in two years' time.

Overall, fostering technology requires a multifaceted approach that requires the engagement and collaboration of the language industry and professionals from around the world, based on diverse ethical considerations. By working together, we can ultimately create a brighter future for us all.

Ron Araya, President (ANTIO Costa Rica)

Les Rencontres de la traduction et de l'interprétation: a new SFT event

The [Société française des traducteurs](#) (SFT), the union for translators and interpreters in France, is organising its first French-language conference for colleagues in France and around the world on 25, 26, and 27 August 2023 in Angers: Les Rencontres de la traduction et de l'interprétation.

Its aim? To bring together both established and aspiring translators and interpreters

and offer sessions assisting them in their current work and further growth.

With a variety of speakers, panel discussions, workshops, booths, and networking opportunities, the conference will be a chance for attendees to develop their professional skills and chat with colleagues working from or into French over a few days between the end of the summer holidays and the start of the school year.



Members of FIT associations are eligible for a discounted rate. Find out more at rti.sft.fr.

The SFT Board

A Global group for SFT!

The 13 existing regional groups within the Société française des traducteurs (SFT), the union for translators and interpreters in France, are now joined by a fourteenth: the [Global group](#), which was set up in 2022 at the request of members living abroad. By adding this new international flavour to the mix, the SFT's groups have gone from regional to global.

This group was set up for translators and interpreters living outside France, who can join the [SFT](#) under certain [conditions](#). The Global group will ensure members find out about activities organised in France well in advance, so they can plan to take part more easily, as well as give them their own discussion forum and the opportunity to organise activities that meet some of their specific needs.

The Global group has over 140 members residing in countries around the world, including Australia, Spain, the United States, Italy, and the United Kingdom, some of whom actively represent the SFT abroad.

Three representatives based in Germany, Italy, and Switzerland have been elected to head up the group for 2023. SFT members working in Europe are well represented, but what about members from other continents? All efforts and interest in organising events with or within the SFT Global group are welcome, such as bringing together translators and interpreters working from or into French in your country; meeting up with interpreters whose B or C language is French to help them hone their skills; learning about training opportunities; and organising events

about French or France for a particular occasion such as International Translation Day in September or Bastille Day.

There is still work to be done to set up this new group so it can share the SFT's three missions (bring together, inform, and support) abroad and participate more fully in inter-association and international activities with other FIT members. A general framework for the group already exists, as defined in the SFT's by-laws. All that remains is for its members, wherever they reside across the globe, to bring their new group to life.

To find out more or share your ideas, contact the Global group at delegation.monde@sft.fr.

Nonny Bamba (representative of the SFT Global group) and Orane Desnos (Communications Officer at SFT)

OTTIAQ receives funding from MIFI

The Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration (MIFI) has allocated \$864,772 over three years to the Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec (OTTIAQ) as part of the Programme d'aide à la reconnaissance des compétences to make it easier to become a language professional in the province.

"This vote of confidence from MIFI confirms the great professionalism of OTTIAQ's linguists. This funding will allow us to adapt our tools to better meet the needs of immigrants," said Donald Barabé, certified translator and president of OTTIAQ.

This project aligns with MIFI's objectives to reduce how long it takes to complete the competency recognition process and improve its success rate. MIFI is supporting OTTIAQ's initiative to ensure that immigrant professionals can start practising as soon as possible after their arrival in Quebec.

More broadly, this MIFI funding programme supports professional orders, educational institutions, and other organisations specialising in competency recognition in the development and implementation of tools, services and activities aimed

at making it faster and easier to recognise the skills immigrants acquired abroad.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Customised or specialised refresher training, including educational materials, leading to the practice of a profession or trade (regulated or not) in Quebec
- Online refresher training (distance learning) on the skills needed to practise a profession or trade (regulated or not) in Quebec
- Tools, services, or refresher training intended to reduce the length of internships required by a professional order or other regulatory body
- Training on the assessment of professional qualifications provided in paragraph 5 of Article 62.0.1 of the Professional Code intended for people working towards certification by a professional order
- Tools to assess the international education and work experience of immigrants, including self-assessment questionnaires, structured interviews, assessment exams, and competency validation courses

- Educational support to improve competency recognition and speed up the process of obtaining a license or permit to practise for internationally trained immigrants
- Training or self-study guides for internationally trained immigrants
- Tools, including information groups, to help prepare for exams required by professional orders and to help increase the pass rate for such exams
- A collaborative platform to pool resources on immigrant competency recognition and to share quantitative data on competency recognition processes
- Competency frameworks required to practise a profession or trade (regulated or not) in Quebec
- Website content of a professional order or other regulatory body that is specifically targeted at internationally trained immigrants and hence deemed to be already understandable for them
- Information sessions, short videos and guides explaining the competency recognition process

Nora Azouz, OTTIAQ, nazouz@ottiaq.org

In memory of Ali Ölmez

It is with deep sadness that we inform our colleagues of the passing of translator and academic Ali Ölmez, who lost his life in the devastating earthquakes that hit Turkey's southeastern region on 6 February 2023. The two earthquakes, nine hours apart with magnitudes of 7.7 and 7.6 on the Richter scale, claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people. Antakya (in Hatay province), an ancient city with an important place in the history of Turkey and the world, was one of the cities most affected by this devastating earthquake. Ali was among those who lost their lives in Hatay, and we want to share this short biography of him in memory of our dear colleague.

Ali Ölmez was born in 1988 in İskenderun, Hatay. He graduated from the Translation and Interpreting Department of Marmara University, Istanbul, in 2010. He worked as a lecturer at Istanbul Gedik University from 2011 to 2013 and joined the Foreign Languages and Cultures Department at the Social Sciences Vocational School of Niğde Ömer Halisdemir University in 2014, where he was also department head.

In 2017, Ali began his master's degree in translation studies at the Social Sciences Institute of Mersin University and completed his thesis, "A Translation Competence-Based Analytic Scoring Rubric Sample in Translation Studies," in 2020. Ali focused his research on areas such as translation competence and translator training. At the Applied English Translation Department of Niğde Ömer Halisdemir University, he taught courses such as Introduction to Translation, Translation of Social Sciences Texts, and Translation of Trade and Finance Texts.

In addition to his teaching and translation experience, Ali was also a diligent and productive researcher who in 2020 registered for a doctorate in Translation Studies at the Social Sciences Institute of Istanbul University. His research on the evaluation of metatexts in Qur'an translations from the perspective of reception aesthetics



was ongoing when he tragically lost his life in the earthquake.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Ali's family, friends, colleagues, and students during this difficult time. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Emergency and disaster volunteer interpreters in Turkey

More than 200 interpreters working for the Emergency and Disaster Volunteer Interpreters Organisation (ARÇ), affiliated to the Translation and Interpreting Association – Turkey (CD), have been assigned to locations across eastern and south-eastern Turkey, where they have assisted more than 100 foreign search and rescue and humanitarian aid teams in at least 10 language combinations. For more information, see [this page](#) on CD's website.

Fatih İkiz (CD)

Translation's sleeping giant has woken up!

The continent of Africa has been known to lag in many things, and this includes the language profession. A huge piece of the global translation cake is being munched elsewhere, with only a small piece going to Africa's table. But all is not lost. The giant has woken up!

The East Africa Interpreters and Translators Association (EAITA) was launched in 2016, and a few years later began organising international translation conferences in the region to empower its members and create networking opportunities for them. The first and second conferences were held in Nairobi, Kenya,

in 2019, and Arusha, Tanzania, in 2020. This year, on 10 and 11 February, translators and interpreters gathered in the sandy beach city of Mombasa to talk translation. Attendees and speakers came from across Africa, Europe, and even the Bahamas and New Zealand. A total of 90 language professionals, including 23 speakers, participated in this lively conference, known as the Third Africa International Translation Conference (AITCO2023).

Despite the fact that there are very few translators' associations in Africa, at least four associations were represented: EAITA, the South African Translators' Institute

(SATI), Association de traducteurs et interprètes professionnels du Congo (ATIPCO), and the Ghana Association of Translators and Interpreters (GATI). The conference received wide coverage in the media and was even featured on television.

AITCO2023 was graced by the presence of FIT Vice President Professor Eleanor Cornelius from South Africa. As the opening keynote speaker, she talked about the need to establish a FIT Regional Centre in Africa and expressed the hope that FIT Africa's logo would appear on the promotional materials for the next AITCO conference. Her speech kept attendees talking,

especially about the position of African languages within the global translation sector and their representation in the digital space. The closing keynote speech was delivered by Dr Omboga Zaja, a translation trainer and practitioner from the University of Nairobi. Dr Zaja highlighted the need for language professionals to specialise in their fields.

Besides the multiple conference sessions, there was a networking dinner and a gala dinner. These events created

opportunities for attendees to network and exchange information for future collaborations. A unique feature of AITCO conferences is the opportunity to go on a safari to some of Africa's magnificent parks and nature reserves. This year, participants visited Tsavo East National Park and Nairobi National Park. Those who had more time in Kenya also visited the Giraffe Centre in Nairobi.

Africa is known for its love of singing and dancing, and music abounded! Attendees

sang and danced at every opportunity. All of us will forever remember the warmth, fun and laughter that made this conference so special.

The next AITCO conference will take place either in Kigali, Rwanda or Zanzibar, Tanzania, in February 2024. An announcement will follow soon.

Alfred Mtawali, Chair Emeritus, EAITA

Towards an Africa Regional Centre

In recent weeks, huge strides have been made towards realising FIT's dream of a Regional Centre for Africa. On 10 and 11 February, the third Africa International Translation Conference (AITCO2023) was held in the exotic location of Mombasa, Kenya. And what a memorable event it was! The conference is organised annually by the [East Africa Interpreters and Translators Association](#) (EAITA), a vibrant association that was established in 2016 to cater to the cross-border needs of translators and interpreters in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi. EAITA is a member of FIT and is making its presence felt on the African continent in no small way. Its well-organised leadership team is young and committed, and the membership is active and passionate – eager to see the profession grow and the continent's networks formalised. The spadework done by Alfred Mtawali in the formation of this regional association and his mentorship and generosity in assisting up-and-coming translators and interpreters should be acknowledged. He truly is a champion for the profession in Africa!

Speakers and participants came from all corners of the world (see Alfred Mtawali's article in this issue of *Translatio*). As FIT Vice President, I was able to attend to give the opening keynote. I shared insights on Africa's position and market share in the global translation industry and how African languages feature vis-à-vis colonial languages, particularly in the digital space (data courtesy of CSA Research, an American research firm). Part of my keynote focused on the role and function of professional translator associations in the wider translation sector and the importance of getting a Regional Centre for Africa off the ground.

The most notable outcome of this conference was the networking opportunities and the progress made towards establishing a Regional Centre. This followed the inception of an African Forum in 2020. FIT currently has six member associations in Africa:

- East Africa Interpreters and Translators Association (EAITA)
- South African Translators' Institute (SATI)



Eleanor Cornelius delivering the opening keynote address. Photo credit: Emmanuel Riziki

- Association sénégalaise des traducteurs (ASTRA)
- Association des professionnels de la traduction et de l'interprétation du Cameroun (APTIC)
- Association de traducteurs et interprètes professionnels du Congo (ATIPCO)
- Mozambican Translators and Interpreters Association (ATIM)

ASTRA and ATIM's memberships were ratified at the most recent Statutory Congress in Varadero, Cuba.

Towards the end of 2022, FIT's Association Development Taskforce met with these African members. The outcome of this meeting was that the bylaws of the planned Regional Centre will be drafted with due regard for Africa's unique context and its particular needs and expectations. All FIT members in Africa will give their input to ensure that the founding document is strongly supported and accepted all round.

Viva Africa!

Eleanor Cornelius, FIT Vice President and representative for Africa



AITCO2023 participants. Photo credit: Emmanuel Riziki

Celebrating AGIT's 50th anniversary

The Asociación Guatemalteca de Intérpretes y Traductores (AGIT) celebrated its 50th anniversary on 4 February. Its current president, Silvia Patricia Ovalle de Ardón, expressed her gratitude while welcoming the 182 attendees who gathered to celebrate this momentous event at the Barceló Guatemala City Hotel.

The event featured a presentation with a brief explanation of the origin and history of AGIT, as well as a timeline showcasing the names and photographs of each of the 16 presidents behind the organisation and their most significant contributions. Congratulatory videos that were kindly sent by AGIT's sister organisations and by FIT LatAm and FIT representatives were added as a final touch.

Ernesto Falla, the founder of AGIT, received honours and warm applause from AGIT members, as well as from his family and friends who accompanied him. Following this tribute, commemorative plaques and medals were awarded to lifelong honorary members for their extraordinary contributions: Fernando Linares Beltranena, Sheila Wilkin, Ana Herrerías, Evelio Cuadrado, and Alicia García-Vassaux.

For the first time in AGIT's history, the event featured an induction ceremony for new members, who were given lapel pins – a highly anticipated and moving moment.

The night continued with a gala dinner that served as a networking opportunity for members, collaborators, and friends. In true Latino fashion, attendees ended the evening on a high note by taking to the dance floor and expressing themselves to the rhythm, forgetting about translation and interpreting for just a moment.

Happy birthday, AGIT! May we share many more years of passion for translation and interpreting.

Silvia Patricia Ovalle de Ardón, President, AGIT



Photo: From left to right: first president-elect, Fernando Linares; current president, Silvia Patricia Ovalle de Ardón; founder, Ernesto Falla
Photo by Karen Gabriela Solís Pérez

VII Latin American Congress on T&I

The foundations shaping the future of our profession

20–23 April 2023 in Palais Rouge, Buenos Aires, Argentina

The upcoming Latin American Congress on Translation and Interpreting is a much-anticipated chance for colleagues to get together after years of virtual interaction and work throughout the pandemic. It will welcome professionals from across Latin America and the world, providing an opportunity to share and learn from presentations and research by specialists who enrich our profession.

This event pays tribute to the Colegio de Traductores Públicos de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires (CTPCBA)'s 50th anniversary and will include a special celebration of the 20th anniversary of the creation of

the FIT Regional Centre Latin America (CRAL), the predecessor to FIT LatAm. Special guests will be welcomed from Spain, France, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Argentina, together with renowned speakers from the United States and Argentina. It is sponsored by important organisations like the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC).

The VII Congress offers a comprehensive four-day programme covering a wide range of professional subjects and specialisms in translation, interpreting, and terminology. It promises a wealth



of opportunities to exchange ideas with colleagues, take advantage of continuing education, and strengthen professional networks. This event is the latest in a long line of international congresses and specialist forums organised by the CTPCBA, starting from the I Latin American Congress in 1996.

There is still time to sign up! Read more at www.traductores.org.ar/viicongreso/.

For any queries, write to informes@congresosctpcba.org.ar.

CTPCBA Organisation Committee

Certified translations enter the digital age

As part of ongoing efforts to optimise certified translators' services, in July 2020 the Colegio de Traductores del Perú (CTP) introduced a new virtual certified translation service: Digital Certified Translation (TCD). This digital option uses modern technological resources and security measures to respond to the increasing public demand for more dynamic, accessible translation services.

The launch of TCDs coincided with the need to meet the challenges of the new normal caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the final document is digital (PDF), it reduces the need for in-person contact between clients and translators. TCDs are created on a virtual platform and signed and legalised electronically, so they present no health risk to people using translation services.

The entire process of issuing a TCD is digital: both the translation and the original document are uploaded to the CTP-TCD platform, which creates a digital cover sheet. The system then automatically links each item, adds the translator's electronic signature and a QR code to each page, and includes the legalisation element in the translator's signature on the cover sheet. The final product is a PDF that can be downloaded and sent to the client. Translators benefit from the fast certification process, and their clients can trust that the translations are secure and verifiable, thanks to the QR code and the translator's electronic signature.

Since TCDs were rolled out, the CTP has held a number of informative sessions to promote this new service among TCD users and any certified translators interested in

using the platform. A representative from the platform developer and representatives from the national board have attended the sessions. During these sessions, attendees have had the chance to ask specific questions about the platform and discuss their own experience issuing TCDs.

To date, 202 CTP members have electronic signatures and have issued over 91,000 digital certified translations in numerous language combinations. This method has enabled certified members to increase their productivity and help improve administrative procedures for their clients. We hope that further recognition of TCDs by public and private organisations will mean a continued favourable outlook for TCD users and translators.

Andrea Valenzuela / Diana Carrillo
CTP Press Committee



Credit: Cover of CTP Traduceando newsletter no. 13

KATI presents new oath of professional conduct

As part of its 15th anniversary celebration, the Korean Association of Translators and Interpreters (KATI) held a series of online conferences and workshops in 2022, entitled 'Digital Literacy Academy for Translators and Interpreters'. A series of four conferences of the academy provided participants with an overview of the latest translation and interpreting technologies and software, including computer-assisted translation (CAT), computer-assisted interpretation (CAI), and terminology software and platforms, including ChatGPT, that they can use to prepare for interpreting assignments.

Approximately 120 attendees from academia and industry joined the Interpreting Technology Workshop, the final virtual event of the series which was held on 25 February and broadcasted from a conference room at Chung Ang University, Seoul.

A noteworthy moment of the final conference was the presentation of an Oath for Translators and Interpreters based in the Republic of Korea, outlining the foundations of professional conduct, such as the commitment to quality, confidentiality, neutrality, collegiality, professional dignity, and the fulfilment of contractual obligations. KATI members will be expected to recite this oath when they join, and it will also be administered upon completion of various T&I programs in the country. The oath reminds us all of the importance of professional ethics in an era where technology and artificial intelligence are playing a growing role.

Silhee Jin, President, KATI

A new Oath of Professional Conduct is presented to KATI members by President Silhee Jin (Photo credit: Minjae Song)



Oath of Interpreters and Translators

As a professional interpreter and translator based in the Republic of Korea, I swear that:

I shall keep my clients' information confidential. In particular, I will not use non-public information for my personal gain.

I shall maintain neutrality between parties. Specifically, I will not have prejudice against either side or give biased interpretations between opposing parties.

I shall strive to deliver the highest quality of translation and interpretation. In this vein, I will explain to the client what is necessary to complete the job, will not accept any assignment beyond my capabilities, and will do my best to prepare for the work accepted.

I shall maintain professional dignity to help elevate the professional status of interpreters and translators. Specifically, I shall strive to gain trust and refrain from words and behaviours that harm the professional status of interpreters and translators.

I shall treat my fellow interpreters and translators with respect and camaraderie. In this vein, I will refrain from speaking negatively about fellow interpreters and translators in front of our clients and will offer my assistance when needed.

I shall fulfil my duties and responsibilities for my clients. In particular, I will inform clients without delay if it is difficult for me to perform a task given my capabilities and circumstances and I will faithfully fulfil my responsibilities for work accepted.

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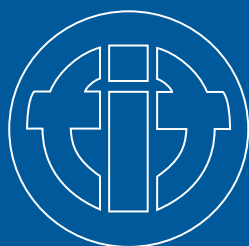
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