

ASLIB Conference

16-17 November 2006, Kensington, London

Translating and the Computer 28

Presentation of FIT

Miriam Lee, FIT Vice President and self-employed translator



What is FIT?

- International federation of associations and organizations of translation and interpreting professionals, with
- Members in about 60 countries world-wide, is
- Strictly apolitical, an NGO non-governmental organization, 50 years young, has
- Close ties with UNESCO

What are FIT's central objectives?

- Bringing together and promoting co-operation between associations
- Sponsoring and facilitating the formation of associations
- Providing member organizations with information and advice
- Promoting training and research
- Promoting the harmonization of professional standards
- Upholding the moral and material interests of translators throughout the world, advocating and advancing the recognition of their profession, enhancing their status in society and furthering the knowledge and appreciation of translation as a science and an art*
- Promoting human rights of translators and interpreters

How does FIT work to achieve its objectives?

FIT Committees

- Bibliography
- Community-based Interpreting CBI
- Copyright
- Human Rights → *FIT ID card (Int'l. Federation of Journalists)*
- Information on the Status of the Profession
- Languages of Limited Diffusion
- Legal Translation and Court Interpreting
- Literary translation (FITLit)
- Media
- Terminology
- Training
- Translation Technology

How does FIT work to achieve its objectives? (cont.)

FIT Regional Centres:

Regional Centre Europe
Regional Centre for Latin America
Regional Network for North America
Virtual Asia-Pacific Network

Seminars, conferences, FIT World Congress

International Translation Day

International Conventions and Recommendations

The Translator's Charter

*(approved by the Congress at Dubrovnik in 1963,
and amended in Oslo on July 9, 1994)*

- I. General obligations of the translator**
- II. Rights of the translator**
- III. Economic and social position of the translator**
- IV. Translators' societies and unions**
- V. National organizations and the International Federation of Translators**

noting

that translation has established itself as a permanent, universal and necessary activity in the world of today; that by making intellectual and material exchanges possible among nations it enriches their life and contributes to a better understanding amongst men ...

desiring

to lay down, as a formal document, certain general principles ...for the purpose of

- stressing the social function of translation,
- laying down the rights and duties of translators,
- laying the basis of a translator's code of ethics,
- improving the economic conditions and social climate in which the translator carries out his activity, and
- recommending certain lines of conduct ...

The Nairobi Recommendation

The “Recommendation on the legal protection of Translators and Translations and the practical means to improve the Status of Translators” was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its Nineteenth Session in Nairobi on November 22, 1976...

- I. DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION
- II. GENERAL LEGAL POSITION OF TRANSLATORS
- III. MEASURES TO ENSURE THE APPLICATION IN PRACTICE OF PROTECTION AFFORDED TRANSLATORS UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND IN NATIONAL LAWS RELATING TO COPYRIGHT
- IV. SOCIAL AND FISCAL SITUATION OF TRANSLATORS
- V. TRAINING AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF TRANSLATORS
- VI. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
- VII. FINAL PROVISION

How is FIT structured and governed?

Statutes: FIT Bylaws and Rules of Procedure

Supreme governing body

FIT Statutory World Congress held every 3 years
Sets 3-year budget framework
Decides on membership and statutory issues
Elects the FIT Council

FIT Council

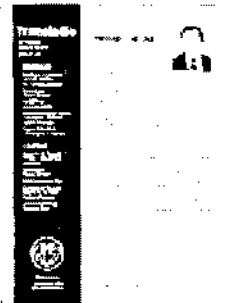
17 members, geographic representation, meets once a year
***Pro bono* volunteers**

Executive Committee

Formed from Council members by a Council election:
President, 3 Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary General
Meets 3 times a year
Handles day to day running of FIT and prepares items for decision by FIT Council
Assisted by a Secretariat in Montreal with services of an Executive Director

FIT Publications

Babel: academic publication
by subscription



Translatio — FIT Newsletter
free of charge

FIT's two regular quarterlies with a wide
readership both inside and outside FIT

FIT Publications (*cont.*)

FIT Flash: 1-pg bulletin with the news of Executive Committee meetings circulated and posted on the FIT website

Press Releases: on topical issues, published on the Intranews news wire, the FIT website and released for the press at large

Titles of 2 recent FIT press releases:

Assassinations of Iraqi Translators and Interpreters

International Translation Day 2006:

Many Languages – One Profession

FIT OVER 50 YEARS: 1953-2003 by René Haeseryn

(in French; English translation by Marion Boers)

FIT 50th anniversary publication

FIT Translation Terminology, John Benjamins, FIT Monograph Series/Coll 1
Bibliographical supplement

FIT Website: www.fit-ift.org