MT News International

Newsletter of the International Association for Machine Translation

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Spotlight on the News

AMTA-2000 gets ready for "Information Future" in the new millennium

(Cuernavaca, Mexico, October 10-14, 2000)

With its timely theme, "Envisioning MT in the Information Future," the fourth biennial conference of the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas will be offering a forward look at the role of machine translation in a world increasingly dependent on information in digital form and in many languages. The organizers thought it fitting to hold its first meeting of the new millennium in Latin America, and so they have picked Misión del Sol, a unique conference center on the outskirts of Cuernavaca, Mexico, as its site. And they have chosen an ideal time of year, with the landscape fresh from recently ended rains. Information about Cuernavaca and Misión del Sol, together with registration and reservation forms, may be found in the centerfold of this issue of *MTNI*.

The Program

In keeping with the tradition established in previous conferences, AMTA-2000 will offer a mix of workshops, tutorials, invited talks, panels on current issues, practical and theoretical papers, system presentations, exhibits, and social events.

This year's invited speakers include Gary Strong of DARPA/ITO, who will address "The Need for MT Thrusts in the Americas"; Michael Anobile, of the Localisation Industry Standards Association (LISA), speaking on "The Role of M(A)T in Localization and Globalization; and Kevin Knight, Information Sciences Institute, University of Southern California, taking "A New Look at Statistically Driven MT."

Lively panel discussions will consider "Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Predictions of MT and Their Lessons" (John White and Jennifer DeCamp(co-chairs); "The MT.coms" (Eduard Hovy, chair); and "Postediting in a Production Environment" (W. Scott Bennett and Kurt Godden, co-chairs).

MT News International

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## Jun-ichi Tsujii assumes presidency of Asia-Pacific Association for Machine Translation

Professor Jun-ichi Tsujii of Tokyo University was elected president of AAMT on June 16 by the Board of the Association.

In 1999 Professor Tsujii was program chair of MT Summit VII in Singapore, which was organized by AAMT under the aegis of IAMT. He is also president of the Association of Natural Language Processing (ANLP) in Japan and a member of the International Committee of Computational Linguistics (ICCL).

He succeeds Professor Hozumi Tanaka of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, whose contribution as president of AAMT and IAMT has been greatly appreciated. Professor Tanaka will continue to serve AAMT as a member of the Board □

Professor Jun-ichi Tsujii
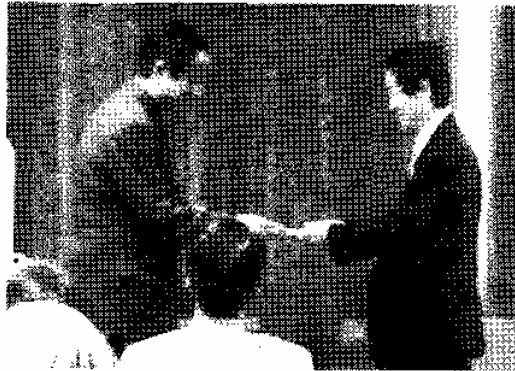
Outgoing AAMT president Hozumi Tanaka (above) passes the gavel to his successor, Jun-ichi Tsujii (left).

SYSTRAN teams up with OracleMobile.com

[From a press release]

SYSTRAN is working with the Oracle company OracleMobile.com to provide machine translation services on wireless devices. This new service will enable OracleMobile.com users to get on-the-fly text translations of words in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish.

OracleMobile.com was launched by Oracle Corporation earlier this year to offer wireless portal services for consumers and enterprises from leading Internet content providers. It is effectively "mobilizing" the Web. The consumer service is free of charge and supports any wireless device with Web or messaging capabilities.

Dimitrios Sabatakakis, chairman and CEO of SYSTRAN, looks forward to bringing translation technology to mobile consumers. □

Copernic 2000 search tool using Alis Gist-in-Time

Alis Technologies and Copernic.com have announced a partnership venture in which Alis' Gist-in-Time software will be used to provide automatic on-line Website translation.

With the new version of Copernic 2000, users will be able to get real-time Website translation in any of the 14 language pairs available. The solution is also able to detect the language of the page that is on the screen and automatically translate the links from the page of origin while maintaining the Web pages in their original state. There is no limit on the length of the document that needs to be translated.

Copernic president and CEO Martin Bouchard estimates that by the end of the year 2000, among the 15 countries that are the largest Internet users, 58% of the 375 million Web surfers will be from non-English-speaking countries. ❏

Transparent Language providing translation for J&R e-commerce site, e-mail at Siecor

J&R Project

Transparent Language, Inc., has licensed its Enterprise Translation Server to J&R Music and Computer World, a leading electronic retailer, to enable real-time translations of the company's e-commerce Website. J&R intends to expand its market in Puerto Rico.

Through Website translations into Spanish, J&R, which also has an agreement with StarMedia Network, will be able to provide StarMedia users in Puerto Rico with direct access so that they can purchase electronics, computers, software, and music and video products in Spanish. ❏

E-mail at Siecor

In a separate undertaking, Transparent Language has sold its Enterprise Translation Server to Siecor, soon to be known as Corning Cable Systems, to enable their 14,000 employees worldwide to communicate in real time using Lotus Notes, e-mail, and Lotus Sametime instant messaging.

With offices in North and South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Australia, Siecor employees rely heavily on e-mail for communication. Having the advantage of real-time translation is expected to result in significant gains in efficiency. ❏

Products

Language Partners opens European office

Language Partners International has opened a European head office in Dublin, Ireland. The office will focus initially on sales, customer service, and order processing.

Brian Briggs, Managing Director for LPI, points out that this new office will enable LPI to "provide multinational customers with centralized, enterprise-wide software solutions and pricing programs in addition to local time-zone customer service and support."

Since 1995, LPI has specialized in computer-assisted translation solutions. It works with best-of-breed tools to create solutions for professional translators, product localizers, software publishers, and international business users.

Further information: HYPERLINK *http://www.languagepartners.com. Contact: Jeremy Sharp: +1 (847) 492-1600. European Office—tel.: +353 (1) 475 3386.* ❏

L&H Power Translator adds text-to-speech, works inside MS Office

Lernout & Hauspie has incorporated major enhancements in version 7 of Power Translator Pro, including the company's own RealSpeak text-to-speech technology and seamless integration with the Microsoft Office 2000 product line.

The new software supports the translation of English to and from Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Japanese. RealSpeak reads translations back to users in English, French, or German in a natural-sounding voice.

Power Translator Pro becomes a menu item in the Microsoft Office 2000 suite, allowing users to translate directly from within their MS applications while preserving all formatting.

The included L&H International Proofreader provides not only spelling correction but also correction capabilities for complex writing errors and style issues in many languages.

Power Translator Pro sells at retail locations throughout North America.

Further information: Website: www.lhsl.com; tel.: +1 (800) 380-1234. ❏

Alis connector brings easy link to Lotus environments

Alis Technologies, Inc., has introduced a new connector that lets Lotus applications, such as Notes, Domino, Sametime, and others, work directly and seamlessly with Alis' Gist-in-Time language comprehension solution.

It is now possible for Lotus users to benefit from the full range of Gist-in-Time capabilities.

Further information: Website: www.alis.com; e-mail: info@alis.com; tel.: +1 (514) 747-2547; fax: (514) 747-2561. ❏

Conferences

AMTA-2000

The regular sessions—a number of which have been programmed to run in parallel—will offer a rich variety of innovative and thought-provoking papers. The following preliminary list of sessions has been announced by the Program Committee:

Application Technologies

- Building a Chinese-English mapping between verb concepts in multilingual applications—*B.J. Dorr, G.-A. Levow & D. Lin*

- Applying machine translation to two-stage cross-language information retrieval—*A. Fujii & T. Ishikawa*

- Mixed-initiative translation of Web pages—*M. Fleming & R. Cohen*

Comparative MT

- A self-learning method of parallel text alignment—*A. Ribiero, G. Lopes & J. Mexia*

- Handling structural divergences and recovering dropped arguments in a Korean-English machine translation system—*C. Han et al.*

- A machine translation system from English to American Sign Language—*L. Zhao et al.*

- OxyGen: A language-independent linearization engine—*N. Habash*

- Information structure transfer: Bridging the information gap in structurally different languages—*M. Budzikowska*

Evaluation

- The effect of source analysis on translation confidence—*A. Bernth & M.C. McCord*

- Contemplating automatic MT evaluation—*J. White*

- How are you doing? A look at MT evaluation—*M. Vanni & F. Reeder*

Semantics of MT

Understanding politics by studying weather: A cognitive approach to the representation of Polish verbs of motion, appearance, and existence—*B. Gawronska & H. Duczak*

- Small but efficient: The misconception of high-frequency words in Scandinavian translation—*P. Danielsson & K. Mühlenbock*

- Challenges in adapting an interlingua for bidirectional English-Italian translation—*F. Cavalli-Sforza et al.*

- Text meaning representation as a basis for representation of text interpretation—*S. Helmreich & D. Farwell*

Example-based MT & Translation Memory

- DTD-driven bilingual document generation—*A. Rubio*

- Combining invertible example-based machine translation with translation memory technology—*M. Carl*

- What's been forgotten in translation memory—*E. Macklovitch & Graham Russell*

MT Users

- Is MT software documentation appropriate for MT users?—*D. Mowatt & H. Somers*

- U.S. Government Center for Machine Translation: A vision for better U.S. Government support of MT—*J. DeCamp*

- MT and the emerging international civil society: A great leap forward in intercultural communication—*M. Urquidi*

- Evaluating embedded machine translation in military field exercises—*M. Holland, C. Schlesinger & C. Tate*

- Machine translation systems: E-K, K-E, J-K, K-J—*Y. S. Kim et al.*

System Descriptions & Demonstrations

- MT-based transparent arabization of the Internet: Tarjim.com—*A. Chalabi*

- The KANT-00 machine translation environment—*E. Nyberg & T. Mitamura*

- Pacific Rim Portable Translator—*J. Weisgerber, J. Yang & P. Fisher*

- LabelTool: A localization application for devices with restricted display areas—*J. C. M. Lu, L. Åkerman & K. Spalink*

- The LogoVista ES Translation System—*N. Decker*

- L&H Lexicography Toolkit for Machine Translation—*T. Meekhof*

- A new look for the PAHO MT System—*M. León*

Register now!
See centerfold, pages 9-12.

Exhibits

In addition to the system presentations, vendor booths will showcase commercial products throughout the course of the conference.

Vendors who wish to exhibit should contact Kim Belvin, Exhibits Coordinator, at kbelvin@ucsd.edu.

Related Events

Wednesday, October 11, 7:00 p.m.: Welcoming reception, to be held in the exhibit area.

Friday evening, October 13: Formal banquet at the Hacienda de Cortés. Further information about this site is given on page 12.

Side trips to nearby points of interest are being considered. An announcement will be included with confirmation of hotel reservations.

Organizing Committee

- David Farwell, General Chair, *e-mail: david@crl.nmsu.edu*

- John White, Program Chair, *e-mail: White_John@prc.com*

- Laurie Gerber, Workshops and Tutorials, *e-mail: lgerber.usc.edu*

- Muriel Vasconcellos, Local Arrangements, *e-mail: MurielVasconcellos @compuserve.com.*

- Debbie Becker, Registration, *e-mail: AMTAInfo@att.net*

- Kim Belvin, Exhibits, *e-mail: kbelvin@ucsd.edu*

- Eduard Hovy, President, AMTA, *e-mail: hovy@usc.edu.* ❏

Stay up to date!
Check out the AMTA-2000 Website:
http://www.isi.edu/natural-language/conferences/AMTA2000/

EAMT 2000 Workshop looks at resources for MT development

Jaro Lajovic

This year's "millenium" EAMT Workshop was held in Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia, on May 10-12, 2000, and hosted by the Slovenian Language Technologies Society (SLTS). In the ever more connected world, some language barriers are being quite swiftly reduced by MT, MAT, and related technologies. However, many still remain to be overcome, this being especially true for languages of lesser use. The chosen location and the host in a way very adequately reflected this and related issues: Slovenia—with its population of 2 million speakers of the Slovenian language, 10 years of independence, and an eye toward European integration—and the SLTS, a young society connecting members from several fields with quite a few achievements in these technologies.

The needs of such nations and their existing linguistic accomplishments, including the many linguistic resources they have developed, were the focus of the Ljubljana workshop. Thus, the workshop was a suitable continuation of last year's EAMT workshop, which suggested that numerous existing linguistic resources (e.g., those in Central and Eastern Europe) could be useful in M(A)T endeavours.

The Programme

Besides the topics dealing with the creation and use of language resources and text corpora for translation systems, the programme was structured to include presentations about tools for cost-effective translation workflow, translation of European Union legislation, evaluation of MT systems, and evolvement and exploitation of translation memories.

At the opening session participants from 12 European countries (including Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovenia) were welcomed by John Hutchins, president of the EAMT and IAMT, Olga Shrestha of the Slovenian Government Office for European Affairs, and Jaro Lajovic of the SLTS.

During the first session, Anthony Clarke of the Corporate Language Services presented integration of MT in the company's workflow, with special emphasis on the introduction of Alis Technologies Gist-in-Time, while Adriane Rinsche of the Language Technology Centre described a comprehensive software system for translation project management, developed by the LTC.

European Commission Translation Service (SdT) certainly is an animated arena of translation technologies, which was again demonstrated by Dimitrios Theologitis' lively report on SdT activities, including data on quite spectacularly rising yearly volume of translations performed by EC-SYSTRAN (600,000 pages in 1999). Adriana Krstic of the Slovenian Government Office for European Affairs outlined the problems of translation of EU legislation and detailed the terminological work being done with the support of software tools.

The last session of the first day was dedicated to systems evaluation. John Hutchins presented the IAMT certification initiative, along with suggestions for some changes of originally proposed definitions to make the latter more viable in practice. Rita Nuebel of the Institute of Applied Information Sciences in Saarbrücken referred to the use of evaluation as a language technologies deployment trigger, the model being based on experience in the domain of the automotive industry.

The session on translation memories was opened by Emmanuel Planas (NTT Cyber Solutions Laboratories), in proposing a new approach to TMs, introduced structures for matching on the sub-sentence level (as opposed to traditional segmentation) to yield better precision and recall. Spela Vintar (University of Ljubljana) and Gael Harry Dias (New University of Lisbon) in separate presentations introduced approaches for the extraction of terminological collocations/multiword units from suitable existing resources (parallel text corpora)—this, in combination with other tools, even enabling preprocessing (pretranslation) in TM environment.

In the final session, "MT and Language resources," Franz Joseph Och (RWTH, Aachen) presented the publicly available EGYPT toolkit, based on statistical processing of parallel bilingual texts and providing a promising approach to automatic development of MT systems. Krzysztof Jassem and his colleagues from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan introduced the use of monolingual corpus analysis for the improvement of translation qualitiy in POLENG, a rule-based Polish-English MT system. The closing presentation of the workshop was given by Tomaz Erjavec (Institute Jozef Stefan, Ljubljana) and focused on Slovenian-English datasets as possible resources for MT, with special emphasis on three such sets: the MULTEXT-East word-annotated corpus, the ELAN aligned corpus, and the Concede dictionary fragment.

Conclusion

For the organizers, it certainly was a satisfaction to hear the workshop referred to as "a great success" by a distinguished guest at the conclusion—and we also expect this to be true for the next meeting to be organized by EAMT, the MT Summit VIII in Santiago de Compostella. ❑

"Translating and the Computer" 22

London, 16-17 November 2000

Call for Papers

The annual conference "Translating and the Computer" has been an important forum for machine translation and translation aids users over the past 21 years. The conference is one of the few international events which focuses on the user aspects of translation software, and as such it has been particularly beneficial to a very wide audience including translators, business managers, researchers and language experts.

Against the background of an increasingly multilingual society and the all-encompassing impact of information technology, this year's conference will address the latest developments in translation (and translation-related) software.

This call for papers invites abstracts of papers to be presented at the conference. The papers (and the presentations) should focus on the user aspects of translation or translation-related software, rather than on research and development issues. Presentations accompanied by demonstrations are especially welcome.

Topics

The range of conference topics includes (but is not limited to):
* Use of machine translation systems
* Machine-aided translation and translation aids
* Memory-based translation
* Controlled languages and their use in MT
* Speech translation
* Terminology
* Localisation
* Translation aids for minority languages
* Multilingual document management/workflow
* Experience of companies using translation software
* Translating and the computer: the new millennium challenges
* The Internet and translation aids

Programme Chairs

Professor Ruslan Mitkov, University of Wolverhampton, UK
Chris Pyne, ICE, Germany
Daniel Grasmick, SAP, Germany

Submission Guidelines

Authors are requested to submit an extended abstract (between 500 and 1000 words) of the paper they would like to present. Extended abstracts should be sent by post, fax, or e-mail before 22 May 2000 to:

Nicole Adamides, Conference Organiser, ASLIB, The Association for Information Management, Staple Hall, Stone House Court, London, EC3A 7PB, tel: +44 (0) 20 7903 0000; fax: +44 (0) 20 7903 0011; e-mail: nicole.adamides@aslib. co.uk; Website: www.aslib.co.uk.

The full-length versions of the accepted papers will be included in the conference proceedings. Electronic versions of the full papers are expected at Aslib by 1 October 2000. ❏

Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing and Very Large Corpora

Sponsored by the ACL Special Interest Group for Linguistic Data and Corpus-based Approaches to NLP (SIGDAT)

Hong Kong, October 7-8, 2000

Final Call for Papers

In conjunction with ACL-2000: The 38th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, this conference aims to bring together academic researchers and industrial practitioners to discuss empirical and corpus-based natural language processing through technical paper sessions, invited talks, and panel discussions. Topics of interest include (but are not limited to):
* Statistical parsing
* Language and dialog models
* Machine translation
* Information retrieval
* Information extraction
* Comparative evaluation of empirical vs. rule- and knowledge-based technologies
* Lexical acquisition
* Statistical language understanding
* Phrase identification
* Noun phrase coreference
* Question answering
* Word sense disambiguation
* Word and term segmentation and extraction
* Alignment
* Bilingual lexicon extraction
* Text categorization

This year we are especially interested in papers discussing these topics in the context of Web-oriented applications.

Website: http://www-csli.stanford.edu/ ~schuetze/emnlp-vlc2000.html

Submissions

Submissions are limited to original, unpublished, and empirically evaluated work. Reviewing of papers will be blind. Electronic submissions are required; author instructions, stylesheets, and a Web-based submissions interface may be found at *http://nlp.cs.jhu.edu/~sigdat2k*. Submitted papers should conform to the colacl.sty style file (or the provided MSWord equivalent) for final two-column format, with the exception that name, affiliation, and address should be replaced with 'XXX'. Full paper-length submissions are strongly encouraged, and should not exceed 9 pages in specified format.

Submissions must be received on or before June 30, 2000.

Program Committee

Chair: Hinrich Schuetze, GroupFire (hinrich@groupfire.com)
Co-Chair: Keh-Yih Su, Behavior Design Corp. (kysu@bdc.com.tw)

Einat Amitav, Macquarie Univ. & CSIRO; Sophia Ananiadou, Univ. of Salford; Susan Armstrong, Univ. of Geneva; Thorsten Brants, Saarland Univ.; Eric Brill, Microsoft Research; Jason Chang, National Tsing Hua Univ.; Kim-Hae Chang, Korea Univ.; Key-Sun Choi, KAIST; David Elworthy, Microsoft Research Cambridge; Tomaz Erjavec, Institute Jozef Stefan; Pascale Fung, Hong Kong Univ. of Science & Technology; Eric Gaussier, Xerox Research Centre Europe; Niyu Ge, Brown University; Nancy Ide, Vassar College; Martin Jansche, Ohio State Univ.; Andy Kehler, UC San Diego; Geunbae Lee, Pohang Univ. of Science & Technology; Lillian Lee, Cornell Univ.; Dekang Lin, Univ. of Alberta; Kim-Teng Lua, National Univ. of Singapore; Chris Manning, Stanford Univ.; Yuji Matsumoto, Nara Inst. of Science & Technology; Helen Meng, Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong; Masaaki Nagata, NTT Cyber Space Labs; Dragomir Radev, Univ. of Michigan; Maosong Sun, Tsinghua Univ.; Bing Swen, Peking Univ.; Mark Wasson, Lexis-Nexis; Yorick Wilks, University of Sheffield; Dekai Wu, Hong Kong Univ. of Science & Technology; Jakub Zavrel, University of Antwerp. ❏

Important Dates

Deadline for submission of full-length paper	June 30, 2000
Notification of acceptance of papers	July 28, 2000
Deadline for camera-ready papers	August 29, 2000

Association News

Compendium of Translation Software now in print, on-line

Members of AAMT, AMTA and EAMT will by now have received their copies of the first edition of the Compendium of Translation Software. In comparison with the draft version that was distributed early last year, it will be seen that there have been many changes: many new systems have appeared, some systems are no longer available on the market, and there are numerous revisions of the details of most other systems.

As well as the printed version, an online version (PDF) will be made available on the EAMT website (*www.eamt.org*) which will be accessible via password to all members of the IAMT associations. It is intended that at regular intervals (perhaps every three or four months) the online version will be updated. From the evidence of the past year, there will be a number of changes between each revision. At somewhat longer intervals (perhaps two or three years) new printed editions will be produced – unless it is decided that an online version is sufficient for the demand.

As previously reported, this edition will be put on sale to the general public through the secretariats of the regional associations. The price will be US$ 20, or Euro 20, or ¥ 2,500. At the same time, purchasers will receive a password enabling them to see updates of the Compen-

dium on the EAMT Website. Those who are not members of the IAMT associations will also have the option of access to the on-line version only, by payment in the amount of US$ 10, Euro 10, or ¥ 1,250 for a password.

The Compendium is a detailed listing of all systems of machine translation and computer-based translation support tools that are currently available on the market. It does not include systems under development (whether commercially or not), or systems of limited availability. It does, however, include Internet translation services based on or using MT systems, and it includes a wide range of localization and terminological tools.

Keeping the information up to date is not easy, with the rapid turnover of commercial systems, and the compiler will welcome information from anyone about new systems, systems withdrawn from sale, and indeed any changes (however small) in the details and pricing of any system included in this first edition.

The compiler, John Hutchins (*WJHutchins@compuserve.com*), will also be pleased to receive any comments or suggestions which will improve the usefulness of this publication and its on-line versions. ❑

AMTA Postediting SIG gets new lease on life

At the recent controlled language conference (CLAW 2000) in Seattle, Washington, several people with an interest in the postediting of MT output had lunch to discuss reviving the never-quite-alive SIG. The participants included Scott Bennett of Logos Corporation, Kurt Godden of General Motors, Walter Hartmann of Lernout & Hauspie, Teruko Mitamura, and Eric Nyberg—

the latter both from Carnegie Mellon University. Godden and Bennett will co-chair the now resuscitated SIG.

The discussion was general and informal, and centered around what the purpose of the SIG should be. While no firm conclusion on this question was reached, some of the concepts discussed included:

- Postediting training and curricula
- Metrics for "grading" postediting
- Postediting environments
- Certification of posteditors
- How to measure postediting productivity
- Organization of workshops or tutorials at meetings of IAMT or the American Translators Association (ATA).

Scott Bennett has agreed to serve as liaison with interested people in the ATA.

Regarding the last topic, Bennett and Godden are organizing a panel session on postediting in a production environment at AMTA-2000 in Mexico.

Several people pointed out that, even though postediting is being successfully performed at a number of institutions worldwide, little information is available on this activity that is not proprietary. [Note: During the CLAW conference Daniel Grasmick at SAP in Germany, one of those successful companies involved in postediting, made the comment that postediting is not much different from editing fuzzy translation memory matches.]

During the week following this informal discussion, AMTA President Ed Hovy e-mailed participants to inform them that an e-mail alias for the SIG had been set up at *amta-sig-postediting@isi.edu*.

The SIG is open to all. To have your email address added to this distribution list, please send your address to Ed Hovy (*hovy@isi.edu*). Any e-mail sent to the alias will, of course, simply be routed to everyone currently on the list.

During the AMTA conference in October, we plan to hold a meeting of the SIG. Details will be announced by Scott Bennett at the above-mentioned panel session. Everyone is invited to attend and actively participate.

In the meantime, can we perhaps get some electronic discussion started? If you have any comments, questions, or controversies (especially welcome!), please send them to *amta-sig-postediting@isi.edu*. ❑

The IAMT Certification initiative

Excerpts from statement by John Hutchins, president of IAMT

At the EAMT Workshop in Ljubljana last May, John Hutchins, president of IAMT and author of the Compendium of Translation Software, reviewed the proposals that have been considered to date under the IAMT Certification initiative. To bring members up to date, parts of his paper are transcribed here. Because of space limitations, we cannot include the full comparison of approaches given in the paper. However, we hope that the excerpts below provide some enlightenment about the process. Those who would like to have more information may contact the author at info@eamt.org. —MV

Background

Since the middle of the 1990s there has been a rapid increase in the number and variety of translation systems available, in the form of stand-alone software for 'automatic' translation, computer-aided translation systems for large corporations, translator workbenches, translation memory systems, on-line systems provided on the Internet (some of them free), and there will no doubt be more in the future. For the general public, computer software for translation is a quite new product; they are unaware of the advantages, limitations and methods of using such systems. They are furthermore familiar with rapid improvements of computer technology and software, and will therefore be expecting similar rapid improvements in the quality of translation software. One of the tasks of the MT community must therefore be to convey some idea of the immense complexities involved in dealing with natural language (and in particular the kind of colloquial language used over the Internet), and to explain why automatic translation has progressed so slowly despite over forty years of intensive research.

For some time the IAMT has been concerned that some guidance should be provided for potential purchasers of systems, to explain, for example, the differences between MT and translation support systems, the differences between systems for 'home use' and systems for large companies, etc. The guidance should also cover the suitability of different types of systems for particular uses and tasks, information about components of systems and how they may be used (including their benefits and limitations), and information for the cost-effective and/or time-saving use of different types of translation support and MT systems.

In addition, it is recognized that ideally there should be some authoritative benchmarking or some reliable consumer evaluations, but these activities are currently beyond the resources and competencies of IAMT and its regional associations. It has therefore been decided that as a first step IAMT should attempt to provide a categorization of translation systems together with explanations of what different types of systems can and cannot do.

The IAMT initiative began in 1997 with the Council setting up a small subcommittee under Eduard Hovy (president of AMTA). Initially the idea was that IAMT might establish a "seal of approval" which would be awarded to companies conforming to agreed standards. However, it was quickly realised that this term would imply some evaluation of systems, and this was not intended. Consequently, it was decided that given the limited resources of IAMT as a voluntary organization, it should aim for a more modest approach: a "certification" or categorization of products in a form agreed by vendors, together with some general guidance for potential purchasers.

During 1998 there was an exchange of ideas among those who had expressed interest, and in October 1998 the AMTA conference included a panel where general aims and ideas were aired. As a result, the ad hoc group drew up a tentative set of definitions of categories for circulation during 1999 to manufacturers and others for their comments.

In the meantime, work on the Compendium of Translation Software has suggested a slightly different set of definitions, which appear to be more easily applied in practice. . . .

Towards guidelines for evaluation of systems

Among the needs of potential purchasers must certainly be counted guidance in the assessment and evaluation of systems. While most large organizations can be expected to undertake their own evaluations and will have reasonably clear ideas of how to go about them, there is good evidence that the individual or small company users and potential users would welcome well-informed expert advice. Ideally, perhaps, they would like to see up-to-date evaluations of currently available systems formulated in terms easily accessible to those unfamiliar or ignorant of translation operations. It is, however, unlikely that IAMT will be able to undertake this function, although subcontraction to another organization with greater experience in the testing of consumer goods might be an eventual option.

Before even this is possible, however, there is a need to establish more precisely what criteria should be adopted in evaluation. The criteria will ideally have to be applicable to the full range of translation software products (i.e. from fully automatic systems to specific support tools) and they will have to be easily (and cost-effectively) applied both in the evaluation of individual systems and in the comparison of systems. For this purpose, it is generally (but not unanimously) agreed that the IAMT could draw up a set of guidelines for companies and individuals to use when undertaking their own evaluations. The definitions of system types given in this paper might represent the first steps towards the establishment of such guidelines.

Traditionally evaluations have involved qualitative measures, such as faithfulness to the original message; intelligibility and comprehensibility; accurate rendition of terminology; and stylistic appropriateness (for the specific language and subject). Increasing use is made of measures for evaluating utility or usability: the savings of costs and time, in comparison with other systems or with wholly human translation; the ease of use (by experts, by novices); the level of intelligibility and/or accuracy, in accordance with the intended or expected application; speed and response times; training and setup

AMTA-2000
"Envisioning Machine Translation In the Information Future"

Cuernavaca, Mexico, October 10-14, 2000

http//:www.isi.edu/natural-language/conferences/AMTA2000/~

Register now!

To celebrate the new millennium, AMTA has chosen a very special site for its fourth biennial conference—Misión del Sol in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Cuernavaca, capital of the Mexican state of Morelos, lies about 50 miles (76 km) south of Mexico City in a valley 4,800 feet (1542 meters) above sea level surrounded by panoramic views of mountains. Famed as the "City of Eternal Spring," it has a delightful semitropical climate with an average daytime temperature of around 70° F (22° C). October brings days in the low seventies and nights cooling down to the fifties. AMTA-2000 falls at the tail-end of the rainy season, so an occasional brief shower in the afternoon or evening should not surprise.

Local Attractions

Over the centuries, Cuernavaca has provided a haven for those seeking an ideal climate, whether to live there year-round, escape from northern winters, or take a pleasant break from life in Mexico City or elsewhere—from Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés and Emperor Maximilian to heiress Barbara Hutton. Today tourists can visit palace that Cortés built (now a museum) and the famous murals by Diego Rivera, Maximilian's weekend residence and gardens, the city's magnificent 16th century cathedral, and other landmarks. Or they can wander on foot through the cobblestone streets, discovering fine restaurants, galleries, and shops, and end up sitting at an outdoor café on the main plaza, or *zócalo*, and drinking in its colorful ambience.

The map of the surrounding countryside is dotted with Aztec sites and the remains of colonial haciendas, convents, and monasteries, as well as caverns, waterfalls, and other natural sights. Cuernavaca also offers easy access to other popular tourist destinations—for example, Taxco, Acapulco, Puebla—without going through Mexico City.

Misión del Sol

The site of AMTA-2000 is located in the countryside, just beyond the outskirts of Cuernavaca, with beautiful views of mountains in every direction. Its carefully planned campus has winding streams and lush vegetation specifically designed and chosen to calm the senses; simple modern buildings made with environment-friendly materials; gardens of colorful flowers, healing herbs, and fresh vegetables; and it has its own self-contained water purification system. But Misión del Sol is more than just land with buildings and plants on it; it is a concept. It is an environment with a social conscience, and within that

Workshops
Tuesday, October 10

- "Hands-on Evaluation"—*Kathi Taylor, Flo Reeder, and Eduard Hovy.* In an effort to drive the evaluation process to the next level and unify past work, the workshop will focus on the challenge of hands-on evaluation within the framework of the ISLE MT Evaluation effort.

- "Interlinguas"—*Stephen Helmreich.* The fourth workshop of the Special Interest Group on Interlinguas (AMTA-SIGIL) will be interactive, focusing on multilingual texts and dialogues, as did the second workshop (San Diego, 1997).

- "MT in an Operational Setting"—*Mary Flanagan and Laurie Gerber.* The proliferation of Internet, intranet, and speech applications of MT has been driven by users responding to the increasing demands for globalization of information. The workshop will explore MT from the user's perspective, share success stories, explore frustrations, and develop a vision for the future.

Tutorials
Wednesday, October 10—morning

- "A Gentle Introduction to MT: Theory and Current Practice"—*Eduard Hovy.* This tutorial provides a nontechnical introduction to machine translation. It reviews the whole scope of MT, outlining briefly its history and the major application areas today, and describing the various kinds of MT techniques that have been invented, from direct replacement through transfer to the holy grail of interlinguas. It briefly outlines the difficult questions of MT evaluation and provides an introduction to the newest statistics-based techniques.

General Schedule

Day	Activity		
Tuesday, October 10	Workshops		
Wednesday, October 11	Tutorials		Reception
Thursday, October 12	Main conference	Exhibition	
Friday, October 13	Main conference	Exhibition	Banquet
Saturday, October 14	Main conference	Exhibition	(until noon)

environment it combines an attractive state-of-the-art conference center with a spa. The spa facilities, which of course will be available to AMTA-2000 participants, offer an impressive selection of therapies and treatments, including the Aztec sauna, *temazcal*. There are also programs of aerobics, water aerobics, walking, gym and weight-training, tennis, paddle tennis, tai-chi, and meditation. Participants who arrive early or stay after the conference to take advantage of these facilities will be extended the special AMTA-2000 room rates.

Coordinates. Misión del Sol, Av. Gral. Diego Díaz González 31, Colonia Parres, 62550 Cuernavaca, Mor., Mexico. Tel.: +52 (7) 321-0999; from the United States and Canada: +1 (800) 44 UTELL; from Europe: 0990300200; fax: +52 (7) 321-1195; e-mail: inform@misiondelsol.com.mx. Further information: www.misiondelsol.com.mx.

Hacienda de Cortés

The AMTA-2000 banquet will be held at the hacienda founded by Hernán Cortés himself in 1532. For centuries the site served as headquarters for the largest sugar plantation in Morelos—until the Mexican revolution, when the buildings were sacked and burned. Now gracefully restored with parts of the past still left untouched, the Hacienda de Cortés serves as a small hotel and offers an elegant setting for social and cultural events. It is located only 5 minutes by car from the Misión del Sol.

Getting There

Although there are some flights that go directly to Cuernavaca, most people will be arriving at the Mexico City airport. The bus to Cuernavaca leaves directly from the airport and there is no need to go into the city. The bus terminal is at the opposite end of the main concourse from international arrivals—straight ahead, no turns. The bus is marked "Cuernavaca" and leaves every half hour. It costs about $70 in pesos, roughly equivalent to US$ 7.00—money needs to be changed at one of the banks in the concourse. The bus company gathers up the baggage ahead of time and loads it onto the bus before people get on board—up until that point it is important to keep an eye on one's belongings!

In Cuernavaca there is a taxi stand at the bus station. The charge is about $50 in pesos (US$ 5) to go to Misión del Sol (a map will be mailed along with confirmation of the hotel reservation). Misión del Sol is just beyond the hotel Camino Real Sumiya, which was once the estate of Barbara Hutton.

Accommodations

AMTA is responsible for requesting room reservations. All requests should be sent to Muriel Vasconcellos, Local Arrangements Chair (see hotel reservation form on the previous page spread). Full information and instructions are given above the form.

Meals

Breakfast. Arrangements for breakfast are up to each individual participant—the Restaurant El Sol will be open. A complimentary continental breakfast will be served in the registration area on the opening day of the conference proper (Thursday, October 12).

Lunch. A buffet lunch is included in the registration fee for those attending the workshops on Tuesday (October 10) and Wednesday (October 11). Others should use the Restaurant El Sol. During the conference proper, AMTA is partially subsidizing buffet lunches on Thursday and Friday. Participants who do not expect to eat off-campus should definitely purchase the packet of two luncheon tickets for US$ 30 (by marking this option on the conference registration form).

Dinner. A complimentary dinner buffet will be offered at the opening reception on Wednesday (October 11). For the banquet on Friday, October 13, tickets at US$ 45 per person may be purchased on the conference registration form. Restaurant El Sol will be open evenings throughout the conference.

Menus—vegetarian and other choices. All meals served by the Misión del Sol will include poultry, seafood, and a variety of vegetarian options. The drinks available are coffee, tea, fruit juices, and Peñafiel soft drinks—nothing alcoholic. At the banquet the main dish will be a typical Mexican grill, and wine will be served. Before the banquet, a full open bar will be available. Those who wish to request a vegetarian plate should contact Muriel Vasconcellos (see the hotel reservation form on the previous page spread for coordinates).

Clothing

The management of Misión del Sol requests that guests wear light-colored clothing, preferably made of cotton. For evening meals at Restaurant El Sol something casual but elegant is in order. Musts for the packing list include sunglasses, a swimsuit, an umbrella (a raincoat would be rather bulky), and a light-weight sweater or shawl for evenings ❏

Tutorials (cont.)

• "Controlled Languages"—*Teruko Mitamura and Eric Nyberg.* The notion of controlled language (CL) is becoming increasingly important for both authors and translators working in a large-scale document production environment. The tutorial will introduce the concept of controlled language, discuss design and deployment issues, and summarize the state of the art in CL development.

• "Ontologies and Knowledge Bases"—*Sergei Nirenberg.* The tutorial will describe the acquisition and use of ontologies and their related resources—lexicons, onomasticons, and fact databases for knowledge-based text-processing applications such as machine translation, information retrieval and extraction, question-answering, etc.

Wednesday, October 10—afternoon

• "MTranslatability"—*Arendse Bernth and Claudia Gdaniec.* Current MT systems are often unable to produce high-quality output on arbitrary, unseen input. The output frequently does not meet user needs and requirements. The tutorial will address some of the reasons for the unsatisfactory quality of MT output, ways to improve translatability, and ways to measure the translatability of a document.

• "The Diversity and Distribution of Languages"—*Laurie Gerber.* Funding agencies and the market are placing greater emphasis on less common languages. Rapid response and short development times are crucial as economic or political events bring diverse regions and their languages to the front of the international stage. How can developers, researchers, and users prepare for, and even anticipate, the demands of handling the full diversity of the world's languages?

• "Statistical Machine Translation"—*Kevin Knight.* The statistical approach to MT seeks to extract translation knowledge automatically from on-line bilingual texts (e.g., publications of the Canadian or Hong Kong governments). This accessible but technical tutorial will cover the statistical MT literature to date. Graphical influence diagrams will be used to explain statistical translation models used in different research projects around the world. Language models and "decoding" algorithms that perform on-line translations will also be covered. ❏

Resources

Laurie's Links

Laurie Gerber

I mentioned in the last issue that all the information appearing here would also be made available on the EAMT Website at http://www.eamt.org/resources. In fact, the "archival" version appeared before MTNI, and I got some feedback on the column before it was even published! In this issue, I list free online MT services that are based on commercially available MT products. If you are aware of others, let me know and they will be added to the Website. Maybe in a future issue I can tackle the research systems available online. As always, I welcome your input. Pass on your requests and recommendations for valuable MT resources to the Resources column editor, Laurie Gerber, lgerber@usc.edu.

Free Translation

The MT mailing list (HYPERLINK"mailto: mt-list@eamt.org" mt-list@eamt.org) recently included links to several sites with free translation (thanks to David Mowatt for compiling this list, and Jeff Allen for additional links). Some of the following may be the same. I followed up on each of them and summarize my findings below. Apologies to any that have been overlooked in this list. I have covered at least four features for each system, as follows:

Languages available—to conserve space, the following languages are abbreviated with their first initial: Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Other language names are written out;

Size limit of text to be translated for free;

Input format—generally plain text or a URL/Website address;

Name of translation engine.

Disclaimers: The tests and searches I did to find the information below were done in a systematic but informal manner. I have not contacted the providers to verify the information below, and I omitted many details about the sites, providers and services.

The recently released Compendium of Translation Software by John Hutchins includes information about online services, with more useful information about the companies that provide such services.

The services below are listed roughly in descending order of the size of text allowed, but be aware that the services offered change frequently, and there are occasional outages.

Finally, I was surprised to find that about half the Websites made it relatively difficult to find out what engine was being used. If the free service is intended to promote sales, we have a way to go!

* *Website*: HYPERLINK "http://www. freetranslation.com" http://www. freetranslation.com/;
Languages: E->FGINSP; FSG->E;
Size limit: 4-5 pages (1.300 words) or one Web page of any size;
Input: Plain text or URL;
Engine: Transparent Language TranscendRT.

* *Website*: http://www.gv.com/language. htm;
Languages: SFG->E; E->FIGSP;
Size limit: One web page;
Input: URL only;
Engine: Uncredited, but seems to be powered by freetranslation.com and coincidentally offers the same language pairs with the exception of Norwegian.

* *Website*: http://www.translate.ru;
Languages: E->RFS; R->EGF;G->FER; F->EGR; I->R;
Size limit: Not specified, but my 1,200-word text translated without error messages;
Input: Plain text;
Engine: PROMT;
Special lexicons: Vary by language pair—for example, automotive, computers and Internet, business, sports, jurisprudence, or travel for the E->R language. Other language pairs had no special lexicons available.

* *Website*: http://officeupdate.microsoft. com/services/default.asp;
Language pairs: E->GIPS; F->EGI; G->EF; I->EFS; P->E; S->EI;
Size limit: 5K of text (approx. 800 words or 2 pages);
Input: Plain text only;
Engine: L&H;
Special lexicons: General, business, computers, legal, medical.

* *Website 1*: http://babelfish.altavista. digital.com/
Website 2: http://www.systransoft.com/
Website 3: http://voila.com/Services/ Translate/;
Languages: E->FGIPS; F->EG and F->DIPS (voila only); G->EF; I->E; P->E; S->E; R->E (babelfish only);
Size limit: 5K of text;
Input: Plain text or URL;
Engine: SYSTRAN.

* *Website*: http://www.tranexp.com/;
Languages: Translation between any of: EDFGJPR, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Finnish, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Polish, Romanian, Serbian, Slovenian, Swedish, Welsh (note: systems for both Latin American and European Spanish and Portuguese are offered);
Size limit: No explicit size limit (I found that a translation of 350 words went through, but one of 550 words bogged down; a longer passage of 1,200 words did not even seem to invoke the translation engine);
Input: Plain text or URL;
Engine: Translation Experts' InterTran;
Output feature: For many of the translated words, the user can see alternative words/phrases that could be used to translate the source word.
Website feature: Under the "links & info ->resources" item on the site's menu, you can jump to the Websites of a large number of international newspapers published online. The translation software will translate those that are not in English.

* *Website 1*: HYPERLINK "http://www.t-mail.com/" "http://www.t-mail.com/index2. shtml
Website 2: HYPERLINK "http://www.t-mail.com/cgi-bin/tsail" http://www.t-mail. com/cgi-bin/tsail

Jobs

Two positions open at ELDA

The European Language resources Distribution Agency (ELDA), a company specialized in human language technologies within an international context, acting as the distribution agency of the European Language Resources Association (ELRA), is currently seeking to fill two immediate vacancies for Technical Engineer/Scientist positions.

ELRA was established in February 1995, with the support of the European Commission, to promote the development and exploitation of Language Resources (LRs). Language Resources include all data necessary for language engineering, such as monolingual and multilingual lexica, text corpora, speech databases and terminology. The role of this nonprofit membership association is to promote the production of LRs, to collect and validate them and, foremost, to make them available to users. The association also gathers information on market needs and trends.

Under the supervision of the CEO, the responsibilities of the Technical Engineers/Scientists include market studies, reports, and development in the field of language engineering. Tasks will be technical in nature as well as investigating economic and market needs. This yields excellent opportunities for young, creative, and motivated candidates wishing to participate actively in establishing/building the European Union Language Engineering field.

The ideal candidate would have the following qualifications:

• Experience in the field of language engineering / computational linguistics / speech processing or a related field;
• Experience in developing market studies and writing technical reports in the field of information technologies or human language technologies;
• Knowledge/experience in integrating and implementing language resources in new applications;
• Experience with technology transfer projects, industrial projects, collaborative projects within the European Commission or other international framework;
• Experience/motivations in establishing and supervising external contracts;
• Citizenship (or residency papers) in a European Union country;
• Ability to work in at least two European languages (English essential).

Both positions are based in Paris.

Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applicants should e-mail, fax, or post a cover letter addressing the points listed above, together with curriculum vitae, to: *Khalid Choukri, ELRA/ELDA, 55-57, rue Brillat Savarin, 75013 Paris, France. Tel : +33 1 43 13 33 33; fax . +33 1 43 13 33 30; e-mail: choukri @elda.fr. Website: http://www.elda.fr.* ❑

... Links *from previous page*

Website 3: HYPERLINK *"http://www.t-mail.com/t-text.shtml" http://www.t-mail.com/t-text.shtml*;
Languages: E->CFGIJNPS; F->EGI; G->EF; I-EFGS; P->E; S->EI;
Size limit: Not stated, but tests of the plain text translation at Website 3 indicated no more than a medium-sized paragraph;
Input: Website 1. submission via email (cc the message to HYPERLINK *"mailto: SourceLang-TargetLang@t-mail.com" SourceLang-TargetLang@t-mail.com* e.g. HYPERLINK *"mailto:French-English @t-mail.com" French-English@t-mail.com*—the translation will go to the "to" addresses in the message.); Website 2. URL; Website 3. plain text;
Engine: T-mail seems to draw on more than one translation engine (all uncredited). I ran German-English and English-Spanish short translations on the T-Text page which came out identical to the freetranslation/Transcend output. However, there are a number of language pairs here not available from freetranslation.

• *Website: http://www.voila.fr*;
Languages: F->EGR; E->FRS; G->FER; R->FEG; I->R;
Size limit: About a paragraph;

Input: Plain text or URL;
Engine: Softissimo's Reverso.

• *Website: http://t1.sail-labs.com/t1probe. html*;
Languages: G->E; S->E;
Size limit: One sentence;
Input: plaintext
Engine: L&H T1 (derived from METAL);
Special lexicons: General tech. Data processing, economy and trade.

• *Website: HYPERLINK "http://lexica. epiuse. co.za/CyberTrans.html" http:// lexica.epiuse.co.za/CyberTrans.html*;
Languages: E->FG plus Afrikaans, Zulu; FGP, Afrikaans, Swahili, Tswana->E;
Size limit: 20 words;
Input: Plain text;
Engine: CyberTrans (formerly known as EPI-use).

• *Website*: HYPERLINK *"http:// translate.gotoworld.com/ "http:// translate.gotoworld.com/*;
Languages: Translation between any of: ACDEFGINPRS, Czech, Danish, Esperanto, Farsi, Finnish, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Indonesian, Latin, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish,

Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Zulu;
Size limit: One word (for free without downloading); unlimited with regular products;
Input: Plain text (for free one-word lookup service) or URL (you must download and install the GoToWorld browser and plug-ins—many are free);
Engine: Language Force's Universal Translator.

• *Website: HYPERLINK "http://www. handyserv.com index.html" http://www. handyserv.com index.html*;
Languages: Bilingual dictionary lookup between any of DEFGIPS;
Size limit: 20 words;
Input: Plain text;
Output: Source language grammatical information for each sense of each word, and the appropriate translation for each of those senses (as individual items, not recomposed into target language sentences);
Engine: Language Dynamics' WinDi.

• *Website: http://www.babylon.com/*;
Languages: E->CDFGIJPS, Hebrew, Swedish;
Size limit: Single words only;
Input: Plain text;
Engine: Babylon. ❑

Calendar

2000

September 21-22: Cross-Language Evaluation Forum (CLEF), Lisbon, following the 4th European Conference on Digital Libraries (ECDL-2000: see http://www.bn.pt/org/agenda/ecdl2000) Information: http://www.iei.pi.cnr.it/Personal/carol.html. Contact: Carol Peters, Istituto di Elaborazione della Informazione, Consiglio Nazionale delle Richerche, Area della Ricerca di Pisa, via Alvieri, 1, 56010 Ghezzano, Pisa, Italy; e-mail: carol@iei.pi.cnr.it; tel: +39 050 315 2897; fax: +39 050 315 2810.

September 28-30: TTIT-2000: Col-loque international de traduction, Tunis. Information: TTIT-2000, ISEFC, 43, rue de la Liberté, le Bardo 2019 Tunisia; e-mail: taieb.baccouche@ceres.rnrt.tn; tel: +216 (1) 56 33 43; fax: +216 (1) 56 89 54.

October 7-8: EMNLP/VLC-2000: Joint SIGDAT Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing and Very Large Corpora. Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. In conjunction with ACL-2000: The 38th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics. Sponsored by the Special Interest Group for Linguistic Data and Corpus-based Approaches to NLP (SIGDAT) of the ACL. Information: Program Chair, Hinrich Schuetze, GroupFire, e-mail:hinrich@groupfire.com; Co-Chair: Keh-Yih Su, Behavior Design Corp., e-mail: kysu@bdc.com.tw. Website: www-csli.stanford.edu ~schuetze/emnlp-vlc2000.html. [*]

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[*] See further details in this issue.

October 12-13: 2nd Annual Symposium on Multilingual Documentation for the Automotive Industry, Dearborn Inn, Dearborn, MI. Sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers. Information: Kurt Godden, Manager, Translation Process Development, GM Service Operations, 480-205-196, 30007 Van Dyke, Warren, MI 48090; e-mail: kurt.s.godden@gm.com; tel: +1 (810) 492-7735; fax: +1 (810) 492-4252.

October 10-14: AMTA-2000: Envisioning Machine Translation in the Information Future, Misión del Sol, Cuernavaca, Mexico. Organized by the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas. Information: David Farwell, General Chair; e-mail: David@crl.nmsu.edu; John White, Program Chair: e-mail: White_John@prc.com; Laurie Gerber, Workshops and Tutorials, e-mail: lgerber@usc.edu; Kim Belvin, exhibits, e-mail: kbelvin@ucsd.edu; Debbie Becker, registration, tel./fax: +1 (703) 716-0912; e-mail: AMTAInfo@att.net; Muriel Vasconcellos, local arrangements, hotel reservations, fax: +1 (619) 449-3361, e-mail: MurielVasconcellos@compuserve.com. Website: http://www.isi.edu/natural-language/conferences/AMTA2000.html. [*]

November 12: 11th ASIS Classification Research Workshop, Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, IL. Information: http://uma.info-science.uiowa.edu siger. Contact: Padmini Srinivasan, SIG-CR Chair. e-mail: padmini-srinivasan@uiowa.edu.

November 16-17: 22nd "Translating and the Computer." One Great George Street, London, SW1. Sponsored by ASLIB. The

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Association for Information Management. Information: Niciole Adamides, Conference Organiser, ASLIB, Staple Hall, Stone House Court, London, EC31 7PB; e-mail: nicole.adamides@aslib.co.uk; tel: +44 (0) 20 7903 0000; fax: +44 (0) 20 7903 0011. Website: www.aslib.co.uk. [*]

November 13-16: ASIS-2000: Knowledge Innovations: Celebrating Our Heritage, Designing Our Future, 63rd Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science, Chicago, IL. Information: http://www.asis.org/Conferences/AM00/am00.html; e-mail: am00@asis.org, Contact re program: Nancy K. Roderer, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894; e-mail: Nancy_roderer@nlm.nih.gov

November 20-22: MT-2000: Machine Translation and Multilingual Applications in the New Millennium, Crossmeads Conference Center, University of Exeter, UK. Organized by Exeter University and the Natural Language Translation Specialist Group of the British Computer Society. Information: David Wigg, Chairman, BCS-NLTSG, e-mail: wiggjd@sbu.ac.uk, tel: +44 (0) 1732 455 446, or Derek Lewis, Queen's Building, University of Exeter, Exeter, UK EX4 4QH, e-mail: D.R.Lewis@exeter.ac.uk; tel:/fax: +44 (0) 1392 264 296 or 264 306. Conference Website: http://www.bcs.org.uk/siggroup/nalatran/mt2000/index.htm.

2001

September 18-22: MT Summit VIII, Santiago de Compostela, Spain. □

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costs; impact on an organization's overall translation throughput; compatibility with other systems (e.g. for authoring, publishing, terminology management, etc.) It has always to be stressed that systems suitable and cost-effective for one particular organization or individual may be quite unsuitable and uneconomic for another organization or individual.

While the compilation of evaluation guidelines is a feasible near-future objective, the establishment of benchmarks must be seen as still, despite continued progress in evaluation methodology, a more distant goal. Benchmarks are, however, undoubtedly desirable for both vendors and consumers. Ideally, there should be benchmarks to measure the (comparative) performance of systems with respect to both translation quality and system usability. These could arise out of the application of agreed guidelines for evaluation. Whether the IAMT will ever be in a position to undertake its own benchmarking is an open question. More probable is that IAMT would co-operate with other associations in

neighbouring fields in the formulation of benchmarks, and that it would subcontract benchmarking tests to a reliable and trustworthy organization. At the least, however, I believe that one role of the IAMT could be to offer, through its members, advice to other organizations on setting up and applying agreed benchmarking tests. Such is the latent demand for benchmarking that if the IAMT does not undertake or sponsor authoritative tests of systems then it may well find that some other (perhaps less well qualified) organization may be doing it within a few years. □