



ITIA BULLETIN

June 2011

In This Issue

■ Editorial.....	2
■ Koreans and Scots Celebrate Legacy of Bible Translator.....	2
■ Ottawa court interpreters looking to unionize.....	3
■ Schoolgirl is youngest Parliament interpreter.....	4
■ Council of Irish Sign Language Interpreters Established.....	5
■ Mortality data delivers surprising results [extract].....	5
■ EU Patent Office, Google Seal Pact on Translation.....	6
■ Interpreters play vital role in court system.....	6
■ Interpreter completes three-year tour.....	7
■ Joining the ITIA.....	8
■ Conference Report.....	10
■ Contacting The ITIA.....	12

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■ Editorial

Welcome to the June issue of the Bulletin!

To compensate for the lack of a May issue, this issue is a little bit more extensive. Publications included here cover a broad spectrum of topics such as community, military, conference and sign language interpreting as well as literary, machine and legal translation. Therefore I really hope everyone can find something interesting and relevant to their own professional experience in this edition.

Some of you may have received the previous issue of the Bulletin twice, the second time being at the end of May. This was caused by a technical error and was totally beyond my control. Nevertheless I would like to apologise for this most unfortunate mishap. Let me assure you that I will do my best to prevent any such glitches from recurring.

Last week a new issue of Translation Ireland was brought out. It is wholly devoted to the topic of Community Interpreting and is therefore of particular interest to me, as a community interpreter. I found it a real page-turner as I could personally relate to a lot of research findings and articles contained in it. I think it is a must-read for all community interpreters working in Ireland and elsewhere. It sheds a lot of light on this most unregulated profession often filled with controversy. If you are an ITIA member, you have probably already received a copy of this edition of Translation Ireland, or will shortly receive it. If you are not, and would also like to receive a copy, please contact its editor, John Kearns at [kearns\(a\)pro.onet.pl](mailto:kearns(a)pro.onet.pl).

On behalf of John I would like to invite contributions to the next issue of Translation Ireland which will be a general issue. Suitable articles which would be of interest to ITIA members can be sent to John by the beginning of October.

I wish you all a very pleasant reading!

Adam Brozynski
Editor ITIA Bulletin
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■ Koreans and Scots Celebrate Legacy of Bible Translator

MAY 31, 2011,

Church leaders from Scotland and South Korea recently paid tribute to the Scottish missionary behind the first ever Korean Bible. They joined together earlier this month for the unveiling of a memorial remembering John Ross, who completed the Korean translation of the Bible a hundred years ago.

The missionary, of Easter Ross, was serving as a missionary in what was then called Manchuria, China, close to the border with Korea, when he started work on translating the Bible into the Korean language in 1875.

The first full translation of the Bible into Korean was completed and published by Ross and his team in 1911, by which time he had moved back to Scotland due to ill health.

The Rev Jae Min Ho, of the Korean Bible Society, credited Ross with helping Christianity to spread more quickly in Korea because of his use of Korean instead of Chinese characters.

“We have come to Scotland to celebrate the efforts of John Ross,” he said.

The head of the Catholic Church in Scotland, Cardinal Keith O’Brien, said: “It gives a great sense of pride to know that a Scotsman had a profound impact on a distant land before the advent of our modern means of travel and communication.”

“John Ross’s work in translating scripture into Korean was the foundation of a now vibrant Christian community in Korea which is eager to commemorate the life of John Ross.”

The publication of Ross’s translation was funded at the time by the National Bible Society of Scotland.

Scottish Bible Society chief executive, Elaine Duncan said: “The Rev John Ross could never have dreamed of the impact his work was to have on the Christian community around the world.”

“The church in Korea grew significantly in the latter part of the 20th century and today has some of the largest congregations in the world.”

“Missionaries from Korea now serve the church in many nations – so much stemming from the work of a gifted and skilled Scotsman.”

Original source: <http://tinyurl.com/6gaetca>

■ Ottawa court interpreters looking to unionize

Freelance court interpreters in the Ottawa area, many of whom are currently boycotting new assignments to voice their displeasure over wages that have stagnated over the past decade, are in the midst of holding discussions with the oldest and one of the largest media unions in Canada in a bid to strengthen their hand in negotiations with the Ontario government.

With the backing of the Court Interpreters Association of Ontario (CIAO), a loosely organized group of Ottawa-area freelancers, including the vast majority of French, Arabic, Portuguese and Spanish interpreters, pledged more than a month ago to stop taking new assignments after negotiations to increase the hourly rate from the current \$25 an hour to \$35 an hour stalled. "I received a flyer from a cleaning lady the other day, and she's asking \$29 an hour — and she isn't even accredited," pointed out Manuel Costa, one of three Ottawa freelance interpreters who launched the boycott.

As an association, we tried our best to communicate and negotiate with the ministry but they've said no every time.

Attempting to force the government's hand, in much the same way that freelance court interpreters successfully did in British Columbia nearly three years ago when they obtained a \$10 wage hike to \$45 per hour, has met with mitigated success. The tactics are beginning to take its toll on the administration of justice yet the Ontario government has not budged from its hard-line stance, said Stella Rahman, past president of the CIAO. Rahman says that the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario is hiring unaccredited and unqualified interpreters or contracting out the work at great expense to Toronto-based interpreters. Interpreters travelling over 80 kilometres to a court date can bill \$25 per hour for travel time as well as claim meals and mileage.

"The courts are having a very difficult time in filling in all the requests for interpreters, and that's why many serious criminal charges are being thrown out," said Rahman, adding that there are rumours that the ministry is compiling a blacklist of freelancers who are refusing to work — a charge the ministry flatly denies. "Interpreters are crucial for the justice system to

function normally but when it comes to paying interpreters they say they don't have any money. We have to push forward. Without a union, we're heading nowhere. As an association, we tried our best to communicate and negotiate with the ministry but they've said no every time."

According to Brendan Crawley, a spokesman with the ministry, there is "ongoing dialogue" between the ministry and "many" interpreter associations and ministry freelance interpreters. The ministry recently publicly stated that its current rate exceeds that which is offered by other provinces, and is comparable to that paid by other agencies such as the province's Citizenship and Immigration Ministry and the federal Immigration and Refugee Board.

"There could be a number of reasons a freelance interpreter is not available," said Crawley in an email exchange with *The Lawyers Weekly*. "The priority of the ministry is to ensure that the courts continue to run smoothly across the province. If an interpreter is unavailable for any reason, the ministry continues to contact other interpreters in order to meet the needs of the court."

The labour conflict is exacerbating an already precarious situation. With only three staff interpreters, Ottawa courts rely heavily on the region's approximately 100 freelancers. Ontario courts provide over 150,000 courtroom hours of interpretation annually but has only 142 fully accredited interpreters, including staff and freelancers, and 229 conditionally accredited, who can take on only less complex court proceedings such as bail hearings.

The dearth of qualified interpreters has become so severe that Ontario Superior Court Judge Casey Hill recently stated that judges are going so far as to poach them from one another. "Day in and day out, the courts are unable to get competent interpreters," said Judge Hill late last year to the Criminal Lawyers' Association (CLA). "The competition between courts has become almost cut-throat. There just aren't enough to go around."

It's a situation that was aggravated when the ministry launched an effort to improve standards with a new accreditation test in 2009. The test, developed by the Vancouver Community College, a pioneer with a national and international reputation for its multilingual programs in interpreter training, still rankles. Rahman, who points out that "even interpreters with 20 years of experience in the courts" failed the test, asserts the test

standards are not a true reflection of what actually takes place in court, particularly the test that examines an interpreter's capacity to conduct simultaneous translation. She says that the simultaneous test is delivered at a clip rate of 190 words per minute when in fact during court proceedings interpreters, depending on the language, speak at a rate of between 130 and 140 words per minute. "When the test preparations were sent out, CIAO pointed out the problems about the speed of the test, and the ministry promised to do something about it — they never did," said Rahman.

Every jurisdiction that has brought in testing has been dismayed at how poorly people do

Ted Hobrough, the managing partner of The Language Bureau, a Vancouver-based professional interpreter and translation agency who had a hand in developing the Ontario interpreter's test, categorically states that the test was not conducted at 190 words per minute. "That is wrong, absolutely unconditionally wrong," said Hobrough.

In fact, Hobrough says that he is frankly bewildered that so many Ontario freelance court interpreters passed the test, particularly since research on the subject indicates that the pass rate is a dismal five per cent.

"Every jurisdiction that has brought in testing has been dismayed at how poorly people do," said Hobrough, who is also the business manager of the Canadian Translators and Interpreters Guild, which is affiliated with the Communication Workers of America/Canada (CWA Canada), the union that has begun discussions with CIAO. "So here's the question that needs to be asked: If the normal pass rate is five per cent, how did Ontario court interpreters manage a 30 per cent pass rate. Are they six times better than every other body of interpreters in the world?" asked Hobrough rhetorically.

David Bosveld, an organizing director with CWA Canada who approached CIAO, believes that both freelance court interpreters and the Ontario government would benefit if the freelancers would join their union. "We feel that our organization and our ability to create a strong voice speaking in one direction will be able to possibly generate some changes in their working conditions," said Bosveld. While a traditional union model is out of the question, Bosveld feels that Ontario

freelance court interpreters could benefit from alternative models for independent contractors that CWA Canada has implemented with freelance writers at the CBC. The government, on the other hand, would stand to gain from the creation of a union because CWA Canada could offer training to raise the standards of interpretation, said Bosveld.

Even the CLA has weighed in on the situation. The CLA supports a "robust wage" for court interpreters so that they "can deliver consistent and high quality services" to clients facing criminal proceedings in Ontario in a manner that is in keeping with the rights of those clients, as enshrined in s. 14 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the common law, said Patrice Band, a CLA director, in an email exchange.

In the meantime, Odette Borris, an Ottawa-based interpreter, is calling on judges and lawyers to "officially ask, on the record, if the interpreter is accredited, and if they are fully accredited or conditionally accredited because we know there are cases where the ministry is sending interpreters not officially deemed capable of handling the task according to their policy."

This article originally appeared in the April 08 2011, issue of *The Lawyers Weekly* published by LexisNexis Canada Inc.

■ Schoolgirl is youngest Parliament interpreter

APRIL 18 2011.

A schoolgirl, blind since she was 2, has become the youngest interpreter for the EU Parliament at 10 years old, albeit only for a day.

Alexia Sloane is fluent in four languages - English, French, Spanish and Mandarin - though she is currently learning German at a Cambridge school in England.

Her mother is half-French and half-Spanish, while her father is English, leading Alexia towards being trilingual at an early stage. At the age of 6 she chose to take up Mandarin as her fourth language.

MEP Robert Sturdy invited Alexia to the European Parliament in Brussels after she was named 'Young Achiever of the Year' at the Cambridge News Community Awards. Afterwards, he praised her on his official website, saying: "It was a real pleasure to host a

visit for such a talented and charming young lady, and I have no doubt that one day she will be back in Brussels interpreting for the European Parliament.”

Alexia already has A* grades for GCSE French and Spanish, and is hoping to take her oral A-Level exams for the two languages later this year. She continues to harbour ambitions of becoming a full-time interpreter, revealing: “The trip was more than a dream come true. Unfortunately, I have to wake up to reality now.

“I am now more determined than ever to become an interpreter in the future and to return to Brussels in the not too distant future - to see all the wonderful people I met.”

Ben Lee

Original source: <http://tinyurl.com/66mb4a6>

■ Council of Irish Sign Language Interpreters Established

8TH MAY 2011

New national Irish Sign Language Interpreting council formed at historic meeting in Limerick

For the first time since 2007, Ireland has a new national representative association representing Irish Sign Language interpreters. The Council of Irish Sign Language Interpreters (CISLI) had its debut meeting on Sunday in Limerick’s Deaf Community Centre, where interpreters from all over the country gathered to usher in a new era for the profession. The Council’s Steering Committee has worked extremely hard since last November in preparing for the new organisation. All 24 attendees resoundingly approved this work as a basis for going forward.

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out next month. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 1,000 subscribers worldwide, send them to Adam Brozynski at theitiabulletin@gmail.com.

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The organisation, with a new Mission Statement, Constitution and Code of Ethics, will seek to place interpreters themselves firmly back at the centre of decisions made about sign language interpreting in Ireland – in full partnership with the Deaf community. “We believe the proposed organisational structure is the best way forward for us to embark on together,” said Chairperson Caroline O’Leary. “It is time for the Deaf and interpreting communities to initiate governance of ISL interpreting matters in Ireland. We are the service users and providers, and together we can and will pool our expertise to become the professional consultants in ISL interpreting matters.”

A new Committee has been formed, including Chairperson Caroline O’Leary, of the initial Steering Committee; Vice-Chairperson, Frankie Berry; Secretary, Cormac Leonard; Treasurer, Darren Byrne; Student Representative, Sarah Sheridan; and Irish Deaf Society representatives, John Fennell and Wendy Murray. For more information, please contact [cisli.ireland\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:cisli.ireland(a)gmail.com).

Cormac Leonard

Secretary Council of Irish Sign Language Interpreters

■ Mortality data delivers surprising results [extract]

MAY 3, 2011

[...] Better interpretation services for women who do not speak English was another key finding of the UK report. Ms Hughes says with 25 per cent of mothers giving birth in the Coombe themselves born in other countries (though not all unable to speak English), access to translation services is key. “It’s number two in the top 10 recommendations in the UK report,” says Ms Hughes.

She says while there can be a tendency for family members in large communities to seek to do the interpreting for a mother, “you don’t know what their level of understanding is, you can’t ascertain if they are able to convey the message”.

According to Ms Hughes and Dr Keane, most Irish maternity hospitals now have very good translation services in place. “We can get someone who can speak one of up to 40 languages within five minutes of making the call,” says Dr Keane.[...]

To read the full article follow this link:
<http://tinyurl.com/6l7zhbh>

■ EU Patent Office, Google Seal Pact on Translation

PUBLISHED 25 MARCH 2011 - UPDATED 29 MARCH 2011

The European Patent Office (EPO) and American Internet giant Google signed yesterday (24 March) an agreement to collaborate on machine translation of patents into 32 European, Slavic and Asian languages.

Under the partnership, already announced in November 2010, the EPO will use Google Translate technology to offer translation of patents on its website into 28 European languages, as well as into Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian.

Earlier this month, after years of deadlocked talks on a common EU patent, ministers from 25 member states decided to go ahead with plans to introduce a common system requiring patent applications to be submitted in English, French or German - the three working languages of the EPO.

Meanwhile, Italy and Spain are still refusing such arrangements because they disapprove of proposed rules regarding the choice of official languages.

EPO President Benoît Battistelli said the new translation tool was a further stepping stone to improving innovation in Europe and enabling European businesses to operate on a level-playing field with competitors in other regions.

“Moreover, I am convinced that it will facilitate the development of the unitary patent,” Battistelli added.

However, while the automatic computer-generated translation system will give real-time access to existing patent information free-of-charge, these translations will have no legal value and should be used for information and research purposes only.

Google to scan all patents

Under the EPO-Google agreement, the patent office will offer Google access to its entire corpus of translated patents to enable the Internet giant to optimise its computer-generated translation technology for the specific language used in patent registrations.

According to the EPO, “the agreement is non-exclusive, and there is no financial component involved”. Antoine Aubert, head of public policy at Google's Brussels office, said the project would be of huge benefit to inventors, scientists and innovators as it enables them to speed up R&D efforts by conducting searches in their own language, across the entire spectrum of EPO patents.

From 2011 onwards, companies, inventors and scientists will be able to search for patents on the EPO website in English, French and German, and translate between them on the fly.

The other European languages, as well as Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian, will be made available in phases, and the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

Original source: <http://tinyurl.com/4qztfq6>

■ Interpreters play vital role in court system

MAY. 30, 2011

Going to court can be intimidating for most people, but for those who don't speak English, the situation can be especially frightening.

State statutes give people who can't understand English, either because they're from another country or have a disability, the right to have an interpreter during hearings. The requirement applies to all types of cases, said Attorney Carmel Capati, Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program manager, but there are some types of interpreters who are in short supply.

“If you've ever been to court, you know it's not a pleasant environment,” Capati said. “The terminology used is quite technical. Being a court interpreter is a hard job.”

Just because people speak English doesn't mean they understand what is going on in court, said Mai Khou Yang, 42, Stevens Point, who has been interpreting in courts since she was 10 years old.

Wood County courtrooms need the services of an interpreter about once a week, Circuit Judge James Mason said.

“Our population requires them more and ever more frequently,” Mason said.

Interpreters are needed, not just for criminal defendants, but for witnesses, victims and jurors, Mason said. Although Mason hasn't been in a position where a juror didn't speak English, he has had jurors who have needed assistance because of hearing issues.

Wood County uses Southern Wisconsin Interpreting and Translation Services for interpreters, Mason said.

The role of an interpreter is to transfer the message from one language to another as closely as possible, said Saul Arteaga, a state-certified court interpreter in Spanish and director of Southern Wisconsin Interpreting and Translation Services' northern Wisconsin office. Interpreters must be familiar with the terminology used in the courtroom and get immersed in the situation. A good interpreter is as close to invisible as possible in the courtroom.

means she is working toward certification and has passed either the written or oral exam. There are 16 Hmong interpreters in the state listed as trainees.

Yang, who interprets all over the state, specializes in court interpreting but also interprets in other settings, such as medical facilities. Court interpreting jobs are sporadic, and she never knows when she's going to get a call. However, she doesn't want to do anything else.

“I have been here a long time,” she said. “It's a way of helping my own.”

Karen Madden

Original source: <http://tinyurl.com/6bdb8d3>

■ Interpreter completes three-year tour

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – After almost three years in Afghanistan, an American is returning home.

Interpreter Sabour Raouf works as the cultural adviser and command linguist with the Regional Support Command-South at Kandahar Air Field. Looking back on his time here, the name of the unit hasn't always been the same, but the job was always important.

“When I started with Afghan Regional Security Integration Command-South, we had the mentorship as well as the logistics side of the mission and we used to travel a lot and meet with the key Afghan military leaders and discuss the operations as well as the logistics,” Raouf said. “Then we started training the army and the police here in southern Afghanistan. So we used to meet these leaders on a weekly basis and discuss the mission with them so I got to know everybody and most of them are still in Southern Afghanistan.”

Having a close relationship with the local leaders has paid off for RSC-S as well as the Afghan National Army and Police.

“Sabour Raouf is without question the best linguist with whom I have worked in five countries and through five deployments,” said RSC-S commander, Col. Greg Baine. “Through his expertise, maturity, and understanding of the environment, he has developed relationships among senior ANA and ANP officials that have facilitated extremely smooth communications and significantly enhanced our operations. Sabour

If you've ever been to court, you know it's not a pleasant environment

Arteaga's company provides interpreters in all languages, as well as in American Sign Language. The size of the company allows it to have access to interpreters who might not otherwise be available for places such as Wood County.

In Wisconsin, there is a series of steps to becoming certified. People begin by attending an orientation session, which the state holds four times a year. Wisconsin has held training sessions for court interpreters since 2002.

Candidates to become interpreters go through a written test and oral exam. State officials do a criminal background check on each candidate.

State statutes require courts to have qualified interpreters, but they don't list qualifications. The guidelines indicate certified interpreters should be used for Spanish. For other languages, it's not always possible. “Hmong is a problem,” Capati said. “I believe the ones in Minnesota are the only ones certified in the entire country.”

Yang is one of only six Hmong interpreters in the state with a provisional classification -- a designation that

consistently demonstrated his expert knowledge of the tactical situation.

“He has a masterful ability to accurately translate not only words, but intent. Afghan National Security Force leaders trust him. Sabour’s professional demeanour and complete translations significantly increased the effectiveness of *shuras* (meetings) and key leader engagements.”

Raouf accompanied the commander on battlefield circulations and provided Baine with ready access to all senior Afghan officials because of the respect that the ANSF leadership has for him.

Raouf turned down positions in Kabul, in order to continue to make a difference on the ground in southern Afghanistan for the past three years.

Raouf is originally a native of Kabul, but he’s been a resident of New York City for almost 30 years. After a long career in accounting and mortgage brokering in 2008, the business was grinding to a halt. It was time for a change. As luck would have it, he had been receiving phone calls about becoming an interpreter in Afghanistan.

Starting out as a linguist didn’t come easy. On one of his first battlefield circulations, he began to translate for a visiting two-star general. “He stood up and started talking to the crowd, thanking them for the great lunch he had. I got up and I repeated in English the same thing that the general just said. And he looked at me and he said, ‘Well, I just said that. You have to translate that in Dari.’ I’ll never forget that. People started laughing and I started translating back in Dari.”

Despite a rocky start, Raouf takes great pride in what he’s accomplished in Afghanistan. “I definitely think this is a great thing for all the Afghans who live abroad, to come and help their people and try to make a difference. The people are great. We had good teams here, working hard every day, traveling and doing things.”

In a few days he’ll make the trip home that Soldiers anxiously await.

“The hardest part is being away from the family. We’re here six months and then we go home for two weeks. Two weeks is not enough to go home. Because we stay here for a longer period of time than the army or air force or coalition service,” said Raouf.

“Soldiers that come here, they serve for six or 12 months. But for us, it’s a longer period of time. Going home for two weeks, it’s not enough. It goes by so fast and then you have to come back. That’s the tough part.”

Raouf, however, will be able to enjoy his homecoming as long as he wants. His next career move is still up in the air.

“I’ll take a couple of weeks off maybe and then I have to look for another job. I will try to land a job in the same field, linguist either in Virginia or Washington or somewhere else. That’s the plan. Hopefully it will work,” he said with a smile.

Tech. Sgt. Adrienne Brammer

Original source: <http://tinyurl.com/5uxq7sy>

■ Joining the ITIA

The *Irish Translators’ & Interpreters’ Association* is pleased to welcome new members to the association. We currently have the following categories of membership:

- ◆ Professional
- ◆ Associate
- ◆ Corporate
- ◆ Institutional
- ◆ Student
- ◆ Honorary

Professional Membership is awarded to translators or interpreters who meet the strict criteria of the ITIA based on qualification and level of experience. Applicants must also achieve a PASS in the annual Professional Membership Examination (translator or interpreter) set by the ITIA.

Associate Membership is available to translators and interpreters who are starting out on their careers and to those who do not work full-time as a translator or interpreter. Many members avail of Associate Membership until such time as they have acquired the requisite experience and/or qualifications to apply for Professional Membership. Associate Membership is also availed of by people with a professional interest in the professions of translation and interpreting (e.g. terminologists, translation/interpreting tutors etc.) and by those who have a general interest in these professions.

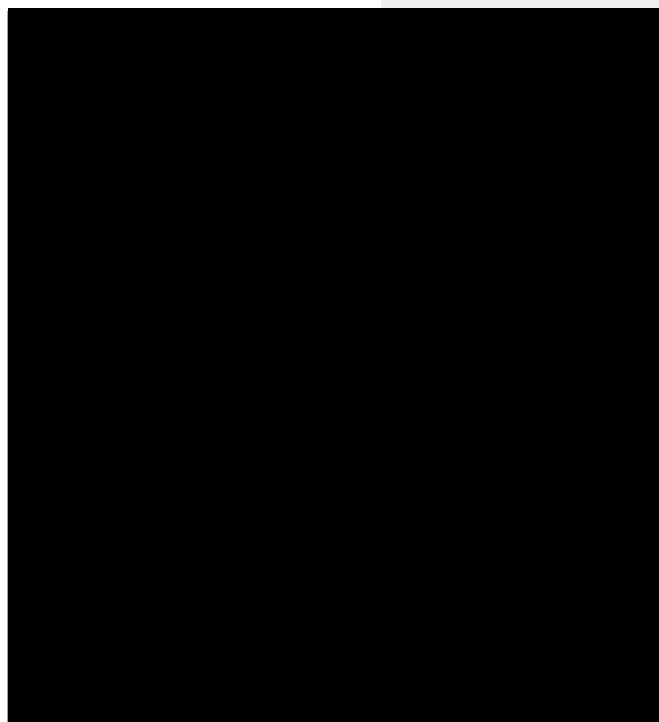
Corporate Membership is available to translation companies. As this category is currently under review, we are not accepting applications at the moment.

Institutional Membership is available to bodies that do not function as commercial agencies, for example university centres for translation and interpreting studies or cultural institutes. Application documents for Institutional membership are currently being prepared.

Student Membership is available to persons undertaking undergraduate studies in any discipline or those undertaking postgraduate studies in translation or interpreting.

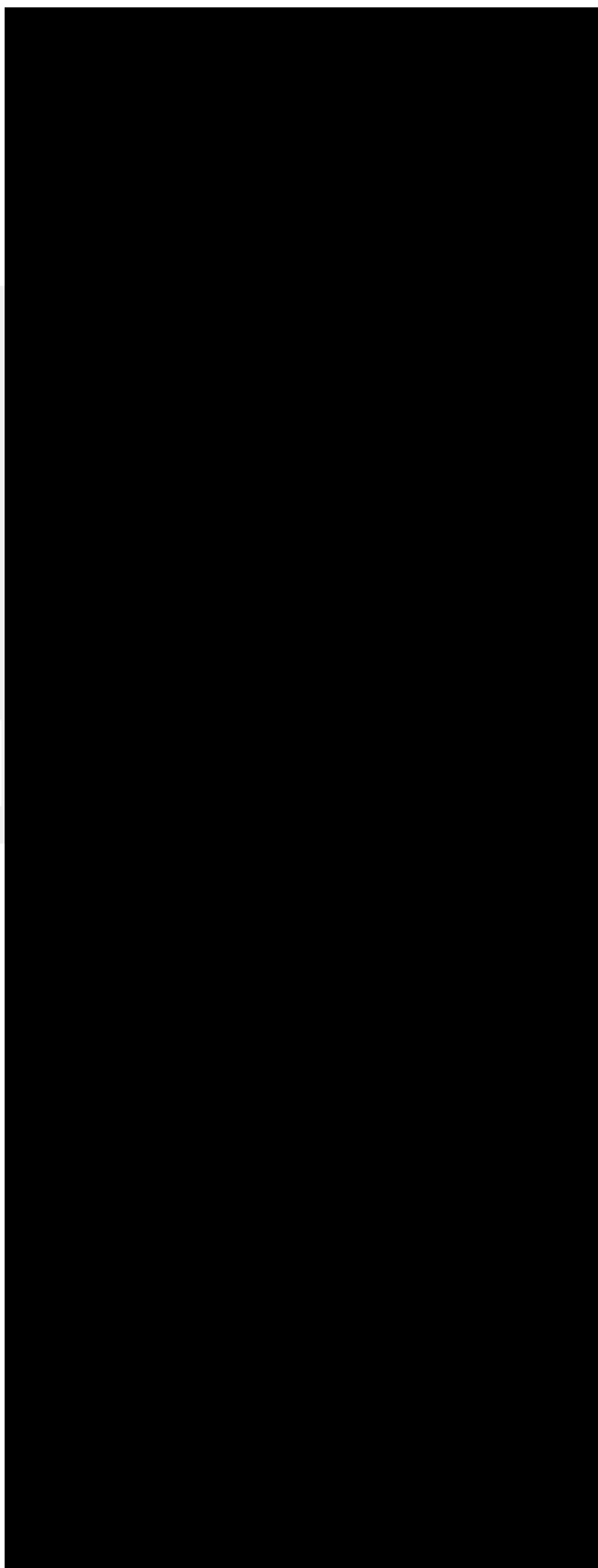
Honorary Membership is awarded by the ITIA AGM to persons in Ireland or abroad who have distinguished themselves in the field of translation or interpreting. For further details and application forms, please see our website at <http://tinyurl.com/y65bgtb>

New Professional Members of the ITIA 2011



The ITIA Executive Committee wishes to congratulate all new Professional Members on passing the 2011 Professional Membership examination. May today's success be the beginning of tomorrow's achievements!

New Associate Members of the ITIA April-June 2011





To keep up-to-date with our latest activities, events and news you can now follow the Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association on both Facebook and LinkedIn.

■ Conference Report

THE TENTH INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ETHICS AND GOOD PRACTICES

I recently attended an International forum on ethics and good practice which took place in Paris from the 19th to the 21st of May. The forum was organised by the FIT (*Federation of Interpreters and Translators*) Committee on Court Interpreting and Legal Translation in cooperation with the *French Interpreters' and Translators' Association* (UNETICA) and with the support of the *Institut Supérieur d'Interprétation et de Traduction* (ISIT).

The 3 day conference offered numerous opportunities for networking with other interpreters and translators and for learning more about current experiences in other countries. The formal conference papers covered different sections such as training and development of legal translators and court interpreters, current standards in translating and interpreting for the courts, professional status as well intercultural communication and the recognition of professional qualifications.

The Paris Court (*Palais de Justice de Paris*), right in the centre of the city, provided a wonderful setting for the Forum. More than 130 people were present, and they represented 15 countries including Argentina, Uruguay and the US.

The presentations were stimulating and varied. I was surprised by the facts presented in relation to

interpretation and certification of interpreters working for the Courts in Argentina and Uruguay. As stated by Sara Álvarez Catalá from Montevideo Law School, the official issuance of the degree of Sworn Translator in Uruguay has gone through several stages, starting in 1885. Uruguayan Sworn Translators are represented at the aforementioned "Colegio", the senior institution of its kind and the first Latin-American association to become a member of FIT.

We were told about the situation in French courts too. The importance of constantly updating the code of ethics was mentioned by various speakers taking into consideration issues such as the use of video link.

Most presentations generated lively discussion, and it was always fascinating to hear other international researchers' ideas on the topics.

Mr Claude Durand, Head of Unit for Multilingualism and Interpreter Training, Directorate General for Interpretation, European Commission, referred to a study on ethics "*The Final Report of the Reflection Forum on Multilingualism and Interpreter Training*", which served as a basis for the Council Recommendation. It is the background paper for the transposition/implementation of the new EU Directive on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings. The report is available from the following address: <http://tinyurl.com/62zebmo>.

A highlight of the conference was a talk by Nancy Schweda-Nicholson on the Nuremberg Trials. I found this talk particularly interesting because it referred to the universality of ethical issues that have confronted interpreters over the years. It is very clear that many of the challenges faced by the Nuremberg interpreters more than sixty-five years ago remain relevant today.

I found the presentation by Dr Krzysztof Kredens of the Centre for Forensic Linguistics at Aston University particularly relevant. He spoke about the reality in police interpreting in the UK. Dr Kredens' paper "A tale of two transcripts: interpreted police interviews as evidence" referred to some problems with transcription and translation of statements. As Dr Kredens pointed out the process of back-translation can result in semantically unequivalent versions of the original spoken interaction. He identified both linguistic and procedural reasons for why this should be so and suggested some solutions for addressing the problem.

Another paper on police interpreting "Beyond ethics: claim and reality in police interpreting" by Mira Kadric,

University of Vienna referred to the use of an interpreter in police interviews and the importance of attitudes and values with respect to interpreter-mediated communication, searching for a balance of individual and public interests.

Various speakers referred to the new EU Directive of October 2010 concerning the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings:

Assistant Professor Polyxeni Kanelliadou from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece said that the new directive will necessitate the use of highly qualified translators and interpreters and that EU Member States should take concrete measures for the implementation of the Directive.

Some points from the new Directive were highlighted such as the right to interpretation and translation services (Articles 2, 3), the services by legal interpreters and translators must be of good quality (defendants have the right to complain), registers of legal interpreters and translators are to be made available to courts and judicial stakeholders (Article 5), training of other stakeholders (Article 6). Interpreting and translation services must also be made available to deaf people (sign-language interpreting) use of modern technologies (e.g. video-conference interpreting). Some recommendations made by individuals at the forum were as follows:

- ◆ It would be desirable to hold examinations for sworn translators rather than merely relying on applicants' records and experience.
- ◆ The creation of a group of experts who will review the admission of candidates' sworn translators and interpreters, which is not the case at present.
- ◆ The possibility of certification reserved for people who are in possession of a diploma as a translator or interpreter from a university whose program aims to train professional translators and interpreters.
- ◆ The creation of a sub Committee as part of the Association of Translators and Interpreters who bring together professionals with an interest in training in legal translation and interpretation.

In her presentation Mary Phelan (ITIA's secretary) and lecturer from DCU explained how all EU countries except Denmark agreed on the directive which will come into force in October 2013. The directive builds on the European Convention on Human Rights and lays down common minimum rules. Mary pointed out that despite the absence of testing for interpreters in Ireland, the former Minister for Justice was happy to agree with

the proposal because Irish standards in interpretation in court cases are 'above the minimum required under the directive' (31st March 2010). According to the directive Member States should ensure that control can be exercised over the adequacy of the Interpretation and Translation provided when the competent authorities have been put on notice in a given case and that interpretation provided be of a quality sufficient to safeguard the fairness of the proceedings, in particular by ensuring that suspected or accused persons have knowledge of the case against them and are able to exercise their right of defence.

Liese Katschinka, President of EULITA, spoke about the work of the European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association and steps being taken by the association to contribute to the implementation of the Directive and explained how the TRAFUT project – Training for the Future – will comprise 4 regional workshops to which the judicial stakeholders (trainers of legal interpreters and translators, representatives of ministries of justice, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, office-holders of professional associations) will be invited.

It was a great opportunity to learn about the role of court interpreters and translators in other countries, in particular the French legal system. Many court interpreters based in France complained that to become a court interpreter there, candidates submit a CV which is checked by a committee. There is no interview and no test. Successful candidates are referred to as 'experts judiciaries' but according to interpreters, some court interpreters are not sufficiently proficient in French to be able to interpret competently in court.

It was very interesting to hear other international colleagues and research ideas on the topics concerning good ethics and standards. I was really impressed with the high quality of the presentations and the forum was an overall success. I look forward to the next FIT Forum in 2012.

Further info on Codes of Ethics ~ Codes de Déontologie can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/6ya3922>

The conference programme is available from <http://tinyurl.com/6fzulgn>

Miren-Maialen Samper

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