



June 2010

FIT Executive Committee and Council meetings May 2010

The FIT Council met in Moscow, Russia, at the end of May 2010 at the invitation of the Union of Translators of Russia (UTR). The Executive Committee (EC) meeting was held on 27 May and the Council meeting on 28 and 29 May. One observer each from FIT Europe, the UTR and the Translators Association of China (TAC) attended the Council meeting. The meetings were held in conjunction with the 7th National Congress of the Union of Translators of Russia, which was preceded by a pre-congress conference and a seminar for translators from the CIS states. Council members had the opportunity to meet members at these events and the FIT President and Secretary General addressed the various gatherings.

President of the UTR, Leonid Gurevich, welcomed the Council members to Russia. He commented on how impressed he was with the work being done by the Council and hoped that their interaction with the translators from the CIS states would result in the establishment of new associations that would in time become members of FIT.

FIT Secretariat

The Council had received notice that OTTIAQ will not be renewing its contract to host the FIT secretariat when it falls due in November 2010, and neither will Véronique St-Pierre be available to continue working as executive director. Council will shortly issue a new call for tenders and make the necessary arrangements to set up a new secretariat.

The FIT brand

Various interactions at international and regional level have made it clear that there is a widespread misconception that FIT exists only to protect the interests of translators; many people have no idea that interpreters and terminologists fall under the FIT banner as well. Council agreed that steps need to be taken to rectify this. Initially a tagline will be added to the FIT name – the final wording is still to be decided, but it will be along the lines of “Representing the world’s translators, interpreters and terminologists” – while a possible change of name is considered.

Voluntary translations for FIT

Council was greatly encouraged by the generous response to the call for volunteer translators to assist with preparing FIT documentation. Around 20 volunteers have responded so far. Council member Sabine Colombe will coordinate the work of the volunteers.

FIT identity cards

Owing to the costs and the administrative challenges involved, it was resolved to change the period of validity of the FIT ID card to six years, to run between two congresses, starting from the 2011 FIT Congress, and to increase the price to US\$30/€25. The validity of cards that expire in the interim to August 2011 will be automatically extended. Thereafter the period of validity will be standard, with all renewals falling due at the same time, irrespective of when the card is applied for.

Efforts will also be made to attach greater benefits to the FIT ID card.

FIT and international organisations

The Council is continuing to extend its contacts with other international organisations, in order to establish new partnerships with some and to exchange information or propose closer cooperation with others. In line with this, FIT participated in the 2010 Forum organised by CIUTI (International Permanent Conference of University Institutions of Translators and Interpreters), is working together with the ELC (European Language Council) in the Special Interest Group on community translation and interpreting and the role of higher education, is represented at the meetings of JIAMCATT (annual international meeting on computer-assisted translation and terminology) and has initiated direct contacts with AIIC (International Association of Conference Interpreters). Interaction with EST (European Society for Translation Studies) and ACALAN (African Academy of Languages) is also being followed up. FIT members are also kept abreast of relevant

information distributed by IFRRO (International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations) and International PEN. Finally, relations with EULITA (European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association) have been formalised.

FIT has also strengthened its relations with the European Union translation and interpreting services. The Federation was subsequently invited to participate in the annual meeting between universities and the Joint Interpreting and Conference Service (SCIC) of the European Commission's DG Interpreting and the annual conference of the European Masters in Translation network organised by the DG Translation.

Membership

Sixteen (16) new professional and/or university organisations have indicated their interest in FIT. Some are at an advanced stage in the membership process, while others are still preparing their applications.

FIT committees

All but one of the FIT Committees have elected a chairperson(s) and submitted a programme of work and budget. The Council discussed these and approved them or referred them back to the committees for clarification or amendment. The programmes of work will be published on the FIT website together with related documentation. Some interesting projects have been put forward.

FIT Website

A new call for proposals for overhauling the FIT website will be issued soon.

Advertising in the FIT media

The FIT media kit had been circulated to around 50 potential advertisers shortly before the meeting. Responses had not yet been ascertained, but the first contract for an advert on the FIT website was being finalised. It is hoped many more will follow!

Regional Centres

FIT Europe had submitted a detailed report on its activities since the previous meeting and was in addition represented at the Council meeting by a member of its Steering Committee, who was able to provide clarity where necessary. Council will provide feedback on FIT Europe's new regulations by the end of July 2010. The next FIT Europe annual meeting will be held in London on 2 October 2010.

Talks aimed at creating a new regional centre covering North America, Asia and Oceania are continuing.

FIT publications

The first issue of *Translatio* for 2010 was published in March and the second issue is being finalised and will come out in June. Member associations are requested to submit material for future issues.

Babel and the *Translatio Bibliography* continue to appear regularly. Owing to a backlog of articles, negotiations are under way to increase the number of pages in each issue of *Babel*.

International Translation Day

The 2010 International Translation Day press release will be issued shortly. Council decided to use the theme of the next World Congress – "Bridging Cultures" as the theme for International Translation Day 2011.

FIT representation at forthcoming events (June–November 2010)

- 10 July 2010: New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters annual conference – Christchurch, New Zealand – <http://www.nzsti.org/events/details/20/> (FIT representative: Henry Liu)
- 12–21 July 2010: Training event for teachers of translation in China organised by the Translators Association of China (TAC) – Beijing, China (FIT representatives: Youyi Huang, Frans De Laet, Hannelore Lee-Jahnke and other members of FIT Training committee)
- 16–18 September 2010: China Language Industry Conference 2010 – Beijing, China (FIT representative: Youyi Huang)
- 1–2 October 2010: International Association Language and Business (IALB) annual conference: Languages and Business Today and Solutions for Tomorrow – Lisbon, Portugal – <http://www.ialb-tradulex.org/> (FIT representative: Frans De Laet)
- 11–13 October 2010: Fourth European Masters in Translation Conference – Brussels, Belgium (FIT representative: Marion Boers)
- 22–24 October 2010: National Interpreting Competition for university students and 6th National Conference on Interpreting – Chengdu, China (FIT representative: Youyi Huang)

- 27-30 October 2010: ATA 51st Annual Conference – Denver, Colorado, USA – <http://www.atanet.org/conf/2010/> (FIT representative: Jiri Stejskal)
- 5-6 November 2010: Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators biennial national conference – Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia – <http://www.ausitconference.org/> (FIT representative: Henry Liu)
- 6-8 November 2010: FIT 6th Asian Translators Forum – Macau, China (FIT representatives: Various EC members)
- November 2010 (date to be confirmed): FIT Literary Translation Committee (FITLit) event *World Literature – Francophonie – Jean Genet – Censorship – Literary Translation* – Paris, France (FIT representatives: Miriam Lee and other members of FITLit)

FIT World Congress

The agreement between FIT and the American Translators Association on the organisation of the XIXth World Congress was signed at the EC meeting. Arrangements for the congress, to be held in San Francisco on 1-4 August 2011, are in hand. The congress website has been launched – www.fit2011.org – and the first announcement prepared. The statutory congress will take place on 30-31 July.

Forthcoming meetings

The Executive Committee will meet in Macau, China, at the time of the FIT 6th Asian Translators Forum from 6 to 8 November 2010. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled to take place around mid-February 2011. A definite date has not yet been set. The meeting will probably be held in Europe.