



From the President

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ATA to Host XIX FIT World Congress

Last month, we reviewed

the fifth bylaws objective, namely to “provide a medium for cooperation with persons in allied professions,” and looked at ATA’s cooperation with the Joint National Committee for Languages at the national level. Let us now look at ATA’s international involvement.

ATA has been a member of the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs (FIT), or International Federation of Translators, since 1963, and has maintained a strong presence in the federation. For the past nine years, ATA’s past president and current treasurer, Peter Krawutschke, has served on FIT’s executive committee—the last three as FIT’s president.

Founded in Paris in 1953, FIT is a federation of associations of translators, interpreters, and terminologists, bringing together more than 100 organizations from all over the world. Its purpose is to promote professionalism in the disciplines it represents. FIT is also concerned with the conditions of professional practice in various countries, and strives to defend freedom of expression in general and translators’ rights in particular. FIT maintains formal consultative relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Protection and Improvement of the Legal and Social Status of Translations and Translators, adopted in Nairobi in 1976, is a milestone in the history of FIT.

Every three years, FIT holds a World Congress. The event provides translators and interpreters with a unique opportunity to meet their colleagues from around the world and to discuss their professions in formal workshops and informal discussion groups. FIT’s Congress also serves as the supreme governing body of the

organization, where the council and executive committee are elected. The council consists of 17 members, including a six-member executive committee (president, three vice-presidents, treasurer, and secretary). Following their election at the

(South Africa) was elected president, and Huang Youyi (China) and Miriam Lee (Ireland) were elected as the other two vice-presidents. Andrew Evans (Luxembourg) will serve as the treasurer, and Frans de Laet (Belgium) as the secretary general.

At the closing ceremony the organizer of the XVIII FIT World Congress and executive vice-president of the Translation Association of China, Guo Xiaoyong, handed the Congress flag to ATA’s president, who will organize the XIX FIT World Congress in San Francisco in 2011.

Congress, the council and executive committee members assume a three-year mandate to administer the organization’s business.

The XVIII FIT World Congress was held August 4-7, 2008 in Shanghai, and was hosted by the Translation Association of China. The event attracted about 1,500 attendees from more than 70 countries. The theme of the Congress was “Translation and Cultural Diversity,” and over 400 delegates made presentations in 90 seminars on a wide variety of topics. The World Congress was preceded by a Statutory Congress, where the federation’s business was conducted and new council members were elected. ATA maintained its strong involvement during the two-day Statutory Congress, with ATA’s president being elected as one of the three vice-presidents of FIT for the 2008-2011 period. Marion Boers

At its July meeting, ATA’s Board agreed to submit a proposal to host the next FIT World Congress. ATA’s proposal was accepted, and at the closing ceremony the organizer of the XVIII FIT World Congress and executive vice-president of the Translation Association of China, Guo Xiaoyong, handed the Congress flag to ATA’s president, who will organize the XIX FIT World Congress in San Francisco in 2011. This will be the first time the Congress is held in the U.S., and it will provide ATA members with a unique opportunity to interact with colleagues from translation and interpreting associations from around the world. Stay tuned to find out how you can contribute to and benefit from a truly global event that fosters international cooperation. You will find more information on FIT at www.fit-ift.org and on the Shanghai World Congress at www.fit2008.org.