

FIT Asia in Progress

With the support from APTIF Joint Committee members, TAC's proposal to establish FIT's regional centre in Asia was approved unanimously during FIT's council meeting in Barcelona, Spain on April 20. Before an internal meeting to be held among APTIF members on FIT Asia arrangements, TAC has been working on some preliminary research in the wake of the approval, regarding procedures of regional centre setup, collection of required documents and best practices of existing regional centres of FIT.

To ensure that FIT Asia is put in place in a timely and orderly manner, the APTIF Secretariat will maintain close contact with colleagues at APTIF concerning further steps as instructed by FIT. Please stay tuned for more updates and a forthcoming kick-off meeting.



Iraqi Translators Association (ITA)

The “Translating Cultural Difference in the Novel *Monkeys Cell* by the Iraqi Novelist Abdul-Khaleq Al-Rikabi” Symposium

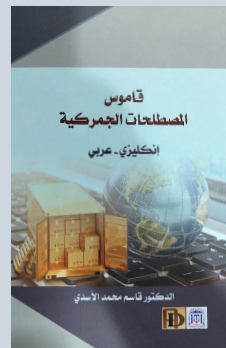
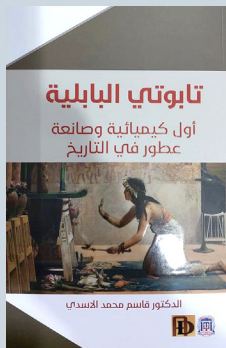
On 13 May 2023, the ITA organised a symposium titled “Translating Cultural Difference in the Novel *Monkeys Cell* by the Iraqi Novelist Abdul-Khaleq Al-Rikabi”, in which Dr Reda Al-Musawi lectured. The symposium was moderated by Dr Qassim Al-Asadi and was attended by members of the administrative body of the ITA, as well as a group of those interested in literary translation.



Newly Published Books

A new collection of books are published by ITA as part of the 100 Book Project.

1. *Taputti Bellatikalim, The Babylonian- Mesopotamian woman: First Chemist and Perfume Maker in history*, by Dr Qassim Al-Asadi
2. *Glimpses from Mesopotamia: the Favour of Mesopotamia on Humanity*, by Dr Qassim Al-Asadi
3. *Globalisation and its Impact on Translation*, by Dr Haseeb Al-Yas
4. *Dictionary of Custom Terms and Dictionary for Interpreters and Translators*, by Dr Qassim Al-Asadi



Malaysian Translators Association (MTA)



Book launching

International Conference on Translation (ICT-19)

The 19th International Conference on Translation (ICT-19) drew its final curtain after being held for 3 days from 24-26 May 2023. This year, for the second time, the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) was given the honour of hosting the conference. Previously in 1999, IIUM hosted ICT-7. In ICT-19, representing the host, IIUM Press, and the Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS) collaborated with the permanent organisers: MTA, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP), and Malaysian Institute of Translation & Books (ITBM) in organising the event. Also, this year's conference invited the Malaysian Federation of the Deaf (MFD) as the collaborative partner.

This biennial conference was first organised in 1984. It was an initiative by MTA and DBP prompted by the awareness of the importance of translation as a means of core knowledge transfer in advancing the nation and

its people. ICT has stood steadfastly as a well-known landmark among those involved in the translation world, locally and internationally. The event is the sole international conference on translation organised in Malaysia that welcomes everyone in the translation industry, including academicians, policymakers, practitioners (translators and interpreters), publishers, researchers, students, and the public.

Corresponding to ICT-19 theme, Global Translation for *Rahmatan 'lil' Alamin*, the event offers opportunities to exchange knowledge, practitioners' experiences, study outcomes, and the latest ideas in the translation field. These activities clearly illustrate the critical role of translation in ensuring that the transmission of knowledge is clear, accurate, and within the context of *Rahmatan 'lil' Alamin* (Global Well-being) as a universal humanitarian and welfare service that is present in all corners of this world. Generally, the conference discussions encompassed training, well-being, Islamisation through translation, as well as issues and challenges in areas such as translators' professionalising, translation and interpretation ethics, translated books publication copyright, technological development in Malay translation, latest technological advancement – ChatGPT, Artificial Intelligence (AI), sign language translation, semiotic aspect, etc.

The post-pandemic inaugural ICT-19 presented 33 selected working papers, including 4 policy papers by the co-organisers: IIUM, MTA, ITBM, and DBP. Five plenary papers were presented by the invited presenters, namely Professor Dr Ahmad Faris Ismail (IIUM), Professor Dr Mohammed Zeki Khedher (International Computing Institute for Quran and Islamic Sciences (Jordan), Professor Claudia V. Angelelli (Herriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, United Kingdom), Ms Alison Rodriguez (President of the International Federation of Translators, France), and Professor Dr Omar Hassan Kasule (Professor of Epidemiology and Islamic Medicine at Institute of Medicine, University of Brunei Darussalam). The ICT-19 participants and presenters came from several countries: China, Indonesia, Iraq, Singapore, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Malaysia.

The 2023 conference illustrated the hard work of the co-organisers: IIUM Press, MTA, DBP, and ITBM, and each of them has an excellent track record in translation. Congratulations to the host and co-organisers for the remarkable continuity of the ICT organisation by having ICT-19, 2023.

In the forthcoming ICT-20, the organisers welcome the next host – Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). Let us travel to Sarawak, a Malaysian state on Borneo, which stretches along the island's northwest coast, including many beaches on the South China Sea. Sarawak is a unique plethora of culture, adventure, nature, food, and festivals. It is the place where the journey of endless exploration begins...

Let us meet all APTIF Members in 2025!



Official opening ceremony

In conjunction with the 19th International Conference on Translation which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 24-26 May 2023, Professor Claudia V. Angelelli, Chair in Multilingualism and Communication at Herriot-Watt University, Edinburgh Scotland, and one of the renowned invited speakers at the conference had graciously accepted the invitation of the main organisers, namely MTA and DBP (Institute of Language & Literature) to deliver a public lecture entitled *Professional and Non-Professional Translation and Interpreting* to share her vast experience and in-depth knowledge, particularly as a freelancer and consultant in translation and interpreting. The lecture was held at the Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir Seminar Hall, Wisma DBP, Kuala Lumpur on 27 May 2023 and chaired by Associate Professor Dr Mohamed Zain Sulaiman, Head of Foreign Language and Translation Unit, UKM (National University of Malaysia). About 60 participants were present, consisting of MTA members, freelance translators, DBP language planning officers, researchers, students and the public. This lecture is the 5th lecture in a series of lectures held alternately by the Translators & Interpreters Dialogue, and organised annually by the Forums, Lectures, Seminars and Workshops Committee of MTA.

One of the main topics encompassed in this public lecture is different terms and concepts from the aspects

of language and bilingualism as well as communication encountered by translators and interpreters in their real work situations. At the same time, non-professional translators and interpreters are attributed to characteristics such as being naive, untrained, uncertified and certified, doing work voluntarily, ad hoc and supporting more than one role in real situations.

Whilst in the real situation, their professionalism is based not on a universal assessment but on culture and social practices that attribute to the code of ethics formed according to cultural provisions and the extent to which they understand the role of the culture. In terms of the ethics of translators and interpreters, they follow general humane ethics, rather than specific international professional and corporate domains.

The presenter's experience regarding the professionalism and ethics of professional and non-professional translators and interpreters in her country is a new revelation for the Malaysian setting. This can be fully utilised as a guide in anticipating the new domain and potential of the translators' and interpreters' profession in relation to the future economic globalisation.

The presentation ended with a Q&A session, when the enthusiastic participants took the opportunity to ask as well as to share various related issues that were brought up in the lecture.



Participants at the public lecture

2023 Hong Kong Translation Society Honorary Fellowship Conferment Ceremony & International Conference

The Hong Kong Translation Society, in collaboration with the Centre for Translation Studies of the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, successfully co-hosted the international conference titled “Translating the Humanities and Technologizing Translation: Translation Master Lectures cum International Conference on Translation, Culture and Technology” (THTT2023) from 16 to 19 June 2023. The event aimed to provide a platform for scholars, researchers, practitioners, and technology service providers worldwide to exchange innovative ideas and present their latest research findings in the field of translation studies. The primary focus was on the significant impact of translation and translation technology on promoting literature and the arts, as well as fostering intercultural understanding and communication.



The event, held in a successful hybrid format, attracted over 100 attendees and featured 46 presenters from various countries.

The three-day event began on 17 June with the Hong Kong Translation Society Honorary Fellowship Conferment Ceremony, recognising the exceptional achievements of honourees in the field of translation studies in Hong Kong. This year, Prof. Leo Tak-hung Chan from Guangxi University, Prof. Douglas Robinson from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Prof. Yuan-fang Tung from Tunghai University, and Prof. Kefei Wang from Beijing Foreign Studies University received Honorary Fellowships for their outstanding contributions to translation studies.



Dr Janice Pan, President of the Hong Kong Translation Society, presented certificates to the incoming Honorary Fellows, following citations read by Dr Elsie Chan, Dr Janice Pan, Dr Dechao Li and Dr Siu Sai Cheung, respectively. Prof. Douglas Robinson offered thanks at the end of the ceremony, after which the incoming Honorary Fellows delivered four "Translation Master Lectures", providing attendees with the invaluable opportunity to learn from the wisdom and experience of esteemed leaders in the field.



The afternoon session comprised two parallel sessions: “Translation and Literature” and “Translation and Technology”, with scholars discussing various topics, from the role of research in literary translation to the reception of minor literature and from translation pedagogy to the implications of AI on the translation industry. The afternoon also featured two invited speeches by Prof. Haidee Kotze from Utrecht University and Prof. Sara Laviosa from the University of Bari 'Aldo Moro', addressing the typicalities of translated language and the integration of translation, cultural, and technology literacies in higher education.

The second day began with two featured speeches focusing on the role of technology in translation, delivered by Dr Dechao Li from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Dr Sai-cheong Siu from The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong. Following the speeches, two panels were held simultaneously, discussing topics related to translation and culture and interpreting studies. After a lunch break, two additional panels were held, focusing on audiovisual translation and translation technology as well as translation and literature. The day concluded with two invited speeches by Prof. Lynn Bowker from the University of Ottawa and Prof. Jeremy Munday from the University of Leeds, discussing the balance between translation technologies and the future of translation and translation studies in the age of artificial intelligence.

The third and final day of the conference began with three featured speeches by Dr Kanglong Liu from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Dr Janice Pan from Hong Kong Baptist University and Dr Andrew K.F. Cheung from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University respectively. The speeches explored the intersection of technology with translator and interpreter training, with the latter two speeches focusing specifically on AI’s influence on interpreting.

The following panel sessions focused on translation pedagogy and quality assessment, corpus-based translation studies, and translation and culture. The conference concluded with closing remarks by Dr Dechao Li, the Committee Chair of THTT2023.

The conference provides a timely and valuable opportunity to explore the impact of technology on interpreting and translation training, highlighting the need for collaboration between researchers, professionals and trainees in specialised settings. The conference provided a platform for both venerable masters and the younger generation of researchers in this field, with Honorary Fellows of the Hong Kong Translation Society sharing their wisdom and experience.



HKTS report page:

<https://www.hkts.org.hk/events/2085>

Conference website:

<http://www.cbs.polyu.edu.hk/THTT2023/about-organizer.php>

Conference e-booklet (with citations of the 2023 Honorary Fellows):

<http://www.cbs.polyu.edu.hk/THTT2023/doc/Booklet.pdf>

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