



Chair's Message: Farewell to 2023

Gao Anming

Dear colleagues at APTIF,

As we are saying goodbye to 2023, the new year of 2024 begins with some heartening news. You will read from this issue of newsletter that APTIF11 is about to be held in Hong Kong where I look forward to meeting you all in person instead of online. Our congratulations go to Dr. Hasuria Che Omar, Vice President of the Malaysian Translators Association (MTA) for being co-opted onto FIT Council, a recognition of her expertise and the growing importance of Asia's translation community on world stage.

The past year has been an eventful and memorable one. We welcomed with open arms new members into APTIF family, namely Translators and Interpreters' Association of Tehran (TIAT), Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). Our newsletter, *APTIF Bulletin*, continued to be a hub for us to communicate, share and inspire. We are grateful to all contributors who have not only shared a wide variety of industrial, academic and educational activities, but also demonstrated firm commitments to raising public awareness of the translation profession as a whole.

FIT Asia is our common pursuit for long. We have seen and will continue to see solid progress on the establishment of FIT Asia. I'm grateful for those who sent endorsement letters in the first place and have spent time reviewing and commenting on the regulations. Thank you all for your care and support of this endeavor.

On behalf of the APTIF Joint Committee, I would like to wish all our members prosperity, peace and happiness for the year to come. Wherever and however you are celebrating, happy new year to you all!



Gao Anming
Chair of APTIF Joint Committee

Updates of APTIF



Dr. Hasuria Che Omar Co-opted as FIT Council Member

The APTIF Secretariat takes great pleasure in announcing that, during the recent FIT Council meeting on 14 December 2023, Dr. Hasuria Che Omar, Vice President of the Malaysian Translators Association (MTA), was co-opted onto FIT Council. The Secretariat would like to extend sincere congratulations to Dr. Hasuria herself, MTA, and the entire APTIF community.

As the vice president of MTA, Dr. Hasuria brings a wealth of experience in translation field, among them, as a senior member of university academic staff and a higher education ministry's

assessment panel for translation academic programs. This appointment not only honors Dr. Hasuria personally but also elevates the global standing of Malaysia and the wider Asian region within the translation community.

APTIF11 to be Held in Hong Kong



The 11th edition of the Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF), aka APTIF11, will be held in 2025 in Hong Kong. Joint organizers are Hong Kong Translation Society (HKTS) and Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). Stay tuned for more updates of APTIF11.

Hong Kong Translation Society (HKTS)

Incorporated in 1971, HKTS aims to enhance bilingual standards and the status and development of translation and interpreting in Hong Kong. With over 300 members, it is the only body for translation scholars and professionals in the territory. The society has been active in organising language, culture, and translation-related events, and in engaging international connections. The Society has released monographs, anthologies, and conference proceedings, contributing significantly to translation studies in Chinese.



Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)

Established in 1956 and attaining full university status in 1994, HKBU is a leading liberal arts institution in Hong Kong. With around 11,000 students across eight faculties and schools, HKBU offers diverse undergraduate and postgraduate programs and emphasizes whole-person education, interdisciplinary inquiry, and research excellence. The Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies within HKBU, founded in 1990, is globally recognized for translation studies.



Copyright in Translation: Overcoming Obstacles in Iran

Understanding copyright laws in Iran

Translators in Iran face unique challenges, as the country is not a member of the Berne Convention. The Copyright Act of 1970 governs how rights are protected, but adapting it to digital advancements creates added complexity. In Iran, copyright expires 30 years after the author's death, which differs from the international standard.

The impact of economic problems and sanctions on copyright and translations in Iran

Limited access to foreign works and the high cost of copyrighting pose major challenges for Iranian translators. Economic problems in Iran make copyright prohibitive, which can affect translation quality. Striking a balance between respecting rights and economic viability is essential for maintaining high quality standards. International sanctions also affect the accessibility of foreign works, making it even more difficult to work with international publishing houses.



Photo Credit: Pixabay

Overcoming barriers to obtaining rights to foreign publications

The complexity of Iran's laws and economic challenges mean that strong relationships with foreign copyright holders are crucial. Strategic negotiation and collaboration with specialist lawyers are fundamental to ensuring that translations are done within the law.

Strategies for respecting copyright in translated works

Finding more accessible copyrighted works and negotiating fair deals with foreign publishers are key strategies for overcoming economic barriers and respecting copyright.

The importance of ethical translation practices

Maintaining professional ethics is essential if the profession is to retain a good reputation. This means avoiding plagiarism and ensuring the integrity of the translations.

Navigating copyright issues in Iran's book market

A combination of a thorough understanding of Iranian copyright law and close collaboration with local publishing houses is crucial for overcoming copyright challenges in Iran.

International cooperation

Working closely with international publishing houses can bring benefits, including support obtaining copyright clearance and better access to foreign works. This approach opens up translation opportunities and helps enrich Iran's literary landscape.

Conclusion

Respecting copyright in Iran requires a proactive approach that combines legal knowledge, business skills and ethical practices. The profession can play a crucial role in introducing foreign works to the Iranian market legally, despite economic challenges and the specificities of copyright law. Collaborating with local and international publishing houses and upholding ethical principles help promote both respect for copyright and translation quality in Iran.

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