

Highlights of Malaysian Translators Association

The Malaysian Translators Association (MTA) began the new year of 2024 by hosting three important international programmes that had taken place in Kuala Lumpur from 18-21 January 2024. As a regular member of the International Federation of Translators (FIT), MTA is honored to be the host for FIT executive committee and council meetings, the official launch of FIT Asia and the FIT-MTA International Forum. This is the second time MTA hosted the meetings, with the first time being held in Penang in August 2013. This time around, during the four days, two meetings were held: the FIT executive committee meeting, followed by the council meeting. Two important events were also held in conjunction with these meetings, namely the official launch of FIT Asia and the FIT-MTA International Forum.

The FIT Executive Committee & Council Meetings

The meetings kicked off on 18 January 2024 for FIT Executive Committee, followed by 2 days of FIT council meetings (19-20 January 2024). 17 council members from New Zealand, Austria, Cuba, Argentina, South Africa, Ireland, China, Belgium, Norway, Russia, Canada, Slovenia and Malaysia herself, and the meeting Secretariat, gathered in Kuala Lumpur for the meetings and events culminating with the FIT-MTA International Forum on 21 January 2024.

Delegates from the Translators Association of China (TAC) attended the meetings as observers, together with two observers from the host association. Two FIT advisors were also invited to attend the meetings.





The Official Launch of FIT Asia (Asia Regional Centre)

The official launch of the FIT Asia was held on the evening of 20 January 2024 at the Grand Millennium Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. This new establishment is built on the solid foundation of Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF) with the APTIF Joint Committee leading the creation of FIT Asia as the fifth regional centre, joining FIT Europe, FIT North America, FIT Latin America, and the newly established FIT Africa (2023). The objectives of FIT Asia are strictly professional, cultural and academic, and they align with the provisions of FIT's Bylaws and Rules of Procedure. It also aims to cater to the needs of professional associations within the Asian region.

The historic and long-awaited formation of a regional centre in Asia will foster collaboration among professional associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists in the region, on diverse areas such as skills and training, sustainable practice and future development, while enhancing the profile of the profession both regionally and internationally. Besides the presence of Indra Listyo, President of the Indonesian Translators Association (Himpunan Penerjemah Indonesia, HPI), the event also shared pre-recorded congratulatory messages by representatives of other FIT associations and APTIF members who could not be present at the launch.





FIT-MTA International Forum

Another important event held in conjunction with the meetings was the FIT-MTA International Forum, which was successfully held on 21 January, 2024 at Swiss-Garden Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The forum presented a line-up of international panelists who have significant roles in FIT and translation associations of the countries they represent. During the presentation, the President of FIT, Alison Rodriguez shared some pertinent information on the role of FIT in translation practice today, and the significant contribution of AI to current practices of the translation, interpreting and terminology. Two other panel speakers, Professor Eleanor Cornelius, Vice President of FIT and Vice Chair of FIT Africa, and Alejandra Jorge Vice President and former Chair of FIT Latin America presented information on the latest development of translation and interpreting industry in South African and Latin American regions respectively. The forum had a positive interactive Q&A session with a good number of participants posing questions and sharing their personal experiences in the field. The moderator of the Forum was Associate Professor Dr Mohamed Zain Sulaiman from National University of Malaysia, who is also an MTA council member.

(By Malaysian Translators Association)



HPI Hosts Presentation Event for National Certification Test Certificates

The Association of Indonesian Translators (HPI) proudly organised a momentous event on 13 January, 2024, featuring a talk show on the HPI-administered National Certification Test. Dr Sugeng Hariyanto and Dr Emma Sitohang Nababan representing the HPI Competency and Certification Committee and Prof. Rahayu Surtiarti Hidayat representing the HPI Advisory and Compliance Board were the speakers at the event.

The event held in Jakarta was opened by the President of HPI, Indra Listyo, and attended by representatives of the Language Development and Fostering Agency, members of the HPI Executive Board, the HPI Competency and Certification Committee, and the HPI Advisory and Compliance Board, as well as approximately 100 participants eager to uphold professional standards in translation and interpreting.

The talk show was succeeded by the awarding of National Certification Test Certificates for Translators and Translation Editors, accompanied by the signing of the Statement of Compliance with HPI's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. The occasion saw the presentation of National Certification Test Certificates to qualified legal and general translators and translation editors who passed rigorous translation and translation editing examinations in their respective language pairs and

categories. Among the language pairs included in the examinations were English–Indonesian, Mandarin–Indonesian, French–Indonesian, German–Indonesian, Arabic–Indonesian, Japanese–Indonesian, Russian–Indonesian, and Korean–Indonesian, catering to diverse linguistic needs in the Indonesian translation and interpreting landscape.

Participants were honored to receive their certificates from the Competency and Certification Committee, signifying their official recognition as certified translators and translation editors by HPI. This recognition validates their proficiency and competency in translation and translation editing, demonstrating their adherence to the standards established by HPI.

In addition to receiving their certificates, all HPI-certified translators, interpreters, and translation editors solemnly signed the Statement of Compliance with HPI's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. This act affirms their commitment to ethical conduct and responsible practices in translation, interpreting, and translation editing. By adhering to these guidelines, translators and interpreters pledge to uphold integrity, maintain confidentiality, and strive for continuous professional development.

The certificate presentation event and signing ceremony signify a significant milestone in HPI's journey towards promoting excellence and integrity in Indonesia's translation and interpreting profession.



HPI Commemorates 50th Anniversary with Landmark Event in Jakarta

The Association of Indonesian Translators (HPI) celebrated a significant milestone with a momentous event in Jakarta, marking the organisation's 50th anniversary and reaffirming its commitment to promoting the translation and interpreting professions. Held on 10 February, 2024, the event brought together distinguished guests, esteemed members, and stakeholders to honor HPI's legacy and chart a path for the future.

The commemorative event, held under the theme "Celebrating 50 Years of HPI", featured a series of engaging activities and discussions centred around key initiatives and achievements. HPI hosted a thought-provoking discussion on the recognition of the Indonesian language as an official language of the UNESCO General Conference. Serving as the presenters were Dr Iwa Lukmana, M.A. of the Language Development and Fostering Agency, Rachmat S.S. Soemadipradja, S.H., LL.M, a legal practitioner and HPI-Certified Translator, and Conakry Marsono Yamtomo, S.S., formerly working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Secretariat, and the Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia. Participants explored the potential positive impact of this recognition on translators and interpreters in Indonesia, emphasizing the importance of professional opportunities.

As a reaffirmation of their commitment to professional integrity and ethical standards, attendees who hold HPI National Certification Test certificates had the opportunity to sign the Statement of Compliance with HPI's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. By pledging to uphold these guiding principles, translators and interpreters demonstrate their commitment to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and quality in their practice.



In a symbolic gesture of unity and pride, HPI unveiled its official anthem, celebrating the organisation's values. The anthem serves as a unifying call for its members, encapsulating the spirit of integrity, collaboration, and excellence that characterizes HPI's community.

The event was formally opened by the President of HPI, Indra Listyo, highlighting the organisation's achievements over the past five decades and its vision for the future. During this event, Hendarto Setiadi and Djoko Rahardi Notowidigdo (Eddie), both former Presidents of HPI and now members of the Advisory and Compliance Board, also recounted their experiences leading the organisation during their respective terms in office. Participants also had the opportunity to interact with one another, exchanging valuable insights and perspectives on current industry trends and best practices.

"We are immensely proud to commemorate this historic milestone in HPI's journey," remarked President Indra Listyo. "For 50 years, HPI has been at the forefront of promoting and advancing the role of translators and interpreters in Indonesia."

The event drew a diverse audience of over 100 participants, including translators, interpreters, linguists, educators, language service providers, and representatives from government and language professional associations. Through lively discussions and networking opportunities, attendees celebrated HPI's contributions to the translation and interpreting professions and explored avenues for collaboration and mutual enrichment. The event provided a platform for networking and knowledge exchange among industry professionals, fostering a sense of camaraderie and solidarity within the translation and interpreting community in Indonesia and beyond.



In Conversation with Prof Anthony, Distinguished Professor of Translation and Intercultural Studies at SUSS

On 30 January 2024, students and faculty from the Translation and Malay programmes at Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) engaged in a dynamic exchange with Prof. Anthony Pym, Distinguished Professor of Translation and Intercultural Studies at Rovira i Virgili University in Spain and Professor of Translation Studies at the University of Melbourne. The former President of the European Society for Translation Studies brought laughter and wisdom to the conversation.



In the era of translation automation, Prof. Pym urged a rethinking of the public image of translators. He encouraged the participants to integrate GenAI and machine translation into their daily work and studies. The roundtable discussion was alive with experience and challenges shared by students and faculty in teaching, language services and public communication. Prof. Pym generously offered insights and advice.

With a remarkable portfolio of 28 books and more than 200 articles in translation and intercultural communication, Prof. Pym humbly concluded, "I'm sure I learned more than anyone else."

2024 Translation & Interpreting Industry Night 2: Navigating Cultural Frontiers with Localisation Expertise



Date

25 March 2024, Monday

Time

7pm-8:30pm, SGT

Zoom Meeting ID

976 5788 3127

Passcode

123456

Synopsis

In this second session of Industry Night Series, Ms. Sankeshwari Deo, a seasoned localisation industry expert with over 15 years of experience, will take centre stage to share her journey in localisation. She will delve into her vast experiences, shedding light on different areas in localisation including translation, review, programme management, project management, cultural consultation, transcreation, and localisation engineering, among others.

Of particular interest is her specialisation in linguistic quality, which promises valuable insights for students and professionals aspiring to enter the localisation industry. Attendees will gain an overview of the language service industry, along with information on industry resources, career advancement, job prospects, and more. The interactive session will provide a platform for questions and discussions. Sankeshwari's expertise will ensure that audience queries are met with informative responses. By the end of the session, attendees will be equipped with essential industry knowledge and motivated to further their learning and embark on a journey in this dynamic industry.

Biodata

Sankeshwari Deo is a localisation expert with over 15 years of experience in the localisation industry, on both the client and vendor sides. She has worked closely with cross-functional teams to fit linguistic requirements in end-to-end localization processes. Sankeshwari's passions and key strengths lie in building on existing processes and workflows to create efficient, bespoke solutions. She has excelled at various roles throughout her journey within the localisation industry, working at companies like Lionbridge, Cisco, Tag Worldwide, SDL, and most recently at Autodesk. Sankeshwari holds a Master's degree in Economics and is also invested in building localisation communities and knowledge-sharing apart from mentoring young professionals within the APAC region.

For the past four years, Sankeshwari has served as a LocLunch Ambassador. Over the years, she has held roles including Chapter Manager for Singapore and is currently Geo Manager for APAC at Women in Localization. Sankeshwari has presented at localisation conferences

(By Singapore University of Social Sciences)

Activities of Iraqi Translators Association

The Third Spanish-Arabic Translation Conference

On 10 February 2024, Iraqi Translators Association (ITA) organised the Third Spanish-Arabic Translation Conference under the title of Addressing Linguistic and Cultural Challenges and Differences in Spanish-Arabic Translation & Vice Versa. Professors of Spanish language departments in Iraq participated in the conference in addition to Spanish translators from Iraq. The Conference addressed the problems and challenges faced by Spanish-Arabic-Spanish translators and means of overcoming them. The conference was moderated by Dr Qassim Al-Asadi, President of ITA who participated in a workpaper titled The Role of Translation in Promoting Tolerance in Spain.



As part of ITA's scientific activities, a group of professors and students of the Russian Language Department met on 9 January 2024 at the College of Languages, University of Baghdad to discuss the association's scientific and cultural programs. The event aimed at increasing the translation and cultural status in Iraq, as well as developing the scientific, linguistic, and translation skills of the students.



On 20 January 2024, ITA organised a scientific symposium titled Morphological Redundancy and its Pragmatic Meaning in English and Arabic: A Contrastive Perspective by Professor Mahdi Al-Ghazali.

On 27 January 2024, ITA organised a lecture titled Translation and Dialectal Text: Palm Trees and Neighbours as a Model, in which Zainab Abdul Latif, a member of the general assembly, lectured.



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