

# WASLI Newsletter 2009-03



*WASLI is committed to developing the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide*

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## **NEW INTERPRETER ASSOCIATION: SOUTHERN AFRICA SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION (SASLIA)**

Report prepared by Betty Wisiki (SASLIA Secretary)

The third meeting of Sign Language Interpreters from Southern Africa was held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Nine member countries were present at this meeting and these were Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi. The idea of forming the association was conceived during the meeting of deaf people and sign language interpreters from the eleven countries of

Southern Africa that was held in August, 2008 in Johannesburg. The second meeting was held in November 2008 in Johannesburg whereby only sign language interpreters attended. During these two meetings members agreed the need to come up with the regional body of sign language interpreters that would act as an umbrella body of all national associations of sign language interpreters in the region.

## **Agenda of the meeting**

- To come up with a name of the association
- To establish a regional body of sign language interpreters
- To elect a steering committee for the regional body
- To strategise on how the work of the regional body will happen

The meeting started in the afternoon of Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February and finished on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, 2009. During the meeting members from the nine countries and OSISA representatives Professor Miti (Language rights fellow) and Ms. Nomthandazo Shoba (Assistant programmes manager) were present and they discussed the aim and objectives of the association. On the 19<sup>th</sup> the members elected the steering committee to champion the activities of the association and the constitution which will then be given to the consultant for finalisation. The committee will also be responsible to work with other sign language interpreter associations and donors on planning of future activities.

## **Aim**

The aim of SASLIA is to promote the interest and welfare of Sign Language Interpreters and the recognition of the profession in the member countries.

## **Objectives**

- To ensure efficient sign language interpreting service delivery to both deaf and hearing communities.
- To encourage and promote scientific and pedagogical initiatives that improves standards of sign language interpreting.
- To provide support to national assessment of sign language interpreting.
- To be a support network for interpreter trainers, trainees, beneficiaries and providers of interpreting services.
- To encourage the sharing of knowledge and experience among the member countries.
- To liaise with the relevant stakeholders.
- To standardise and regulate sign language interpreting in the member countries.

## **Composition of the steering committee**

Mr. Mbongwa Dube (Chairperson) – Swaziland

Ms. Betty Wisiki (Secretary) – Malawi

Ms. Ester Tembe (Vice-secretary) – Mozambique

Ms. Mamello Lesoetsa (Vice-secretary) – Lesotho

## Terms of reference of the committee

- To work on the draft constitution and give the document to the consultant for finalisation
- To communicate and liaise with the other members of the association on matters affecting the association
- To find means on how to work with other stakeholders that matter in the operations of the association
- To plan, coordinate and organise a general assembly of the association where many interpreter associations will participate.
- Any other tasks that may be required from time to time



# UGANDA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS (UNASLI)

## REPORT ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY (4-5 July 2008)

Awoii Patrick Micheal (UNASLI General Secretary)

UNASLI has been in existence since 2004. UNASLI's vision is: "A society where professional interpretation services is a means to contribute to the development process".

The recently concluded General Assembly had the following strategic objectives:

1. **To develop a five year strategic plan for UNASLI**

UNASLI's work will focus mainly on three key areas: organisational development, capacity building and influence and advocacy. Capacity building of UNASLI will be achieved by establishing secretariat, structures, policies, and other working documents. This will enable the leadership and membership of the association to become effective and self-sustaining able to carry out their work. UNASLI will work with partners to influence policy makers and implementers and government programmes to include the right to provide access to interpretation services at all levels in society.

**2. To identify possible ways which UNASLI can support the implementation of the PWDs ACT 2006 and other relevant legal provisions**

The meeting looked at different legislations in order to identify sign language interpretation provisions with the aim to advocate for better services, terms of conditions and better pay. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has completed the drafting of Regulations for the Persons with Disability Act 2006; the meeting also had an opportunity to identify gaps and respond to the sign language interpretation provisions.

UNASLI's task in the coming five years will focus on identifying other relevant legislations and policies that have been adopted so as to develop strategies for the mainstreaming of interpretation services in Uganda. The legislative frame work targeted mainly is the Persons with Disability Act 2006, other legislations include:

- Disability inclusive provisions in other pieces of legislations
- Affirmative action on tertiary and higher institution of learning
- PWDs representation on other statutory bodies like district land board, district service commissions, tender boards etc

**3. To elect new office bearers**

The election conducted was free and fair. All members were elected by the General Assembly and supervised by neutral presiding officer. Voting was by secret ballot under the principle of one man, one vote. The outcome of the election was that new executive members were brought on board, these include:

- Okello Sam (Chairman)
- Agwang Hope (Vice Chairman)
- Awoii Patrick (Secretary)
- Opori Jonan (Treasurer)

- Katumba Nancy (Women Representative)

**Regional representatives:**

- Kyazze Edward Ssanyu (Central Region)
- Eric Sam (Northern Region)
- Katumwebaze Dorcus (Western Region)
- Ojirot Sarah (Eastern Region)
- Not elected: West Nile Region
- Ahereza Noah (UNAD Representative – Sign Language Officer)

**Contact UNASLI:**

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E-mail: [unasliterp@yahoo.com](mailto:unasliterp@yahoo.com)

## **UPCOMING LATIN AMERICA CONFERENCES**

### **FIRST CONFERENCE OF LATIN AMERICA SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS / 1 ENCUENTRO LATINOAMERICANO DE INTÉRPRETES DE LENGUA DE SEÑAS**

Bogota, Colombia

7-10 July 2009

Website: ANISCOL [www.aniscol.org](http://www.aniscol.org)

### **6<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF OF LATIN AMERICA / 6<sup>TH</sup> ENCUENTRO LATINOAMERICANO DE SORDOS**

7-10 July 2009

FENASCOL [www.fenascol.org.co](http://www.fenascol.org.co)

# 4TH WORLD CONGRESS ON MENTAL HEALTH AND DEAFNESS, AUSTRALIA 2009

## ‘A Life to be Lived’

27-30 October 2009

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Australia

Earlybird Registrations and Call for Papers are now open!

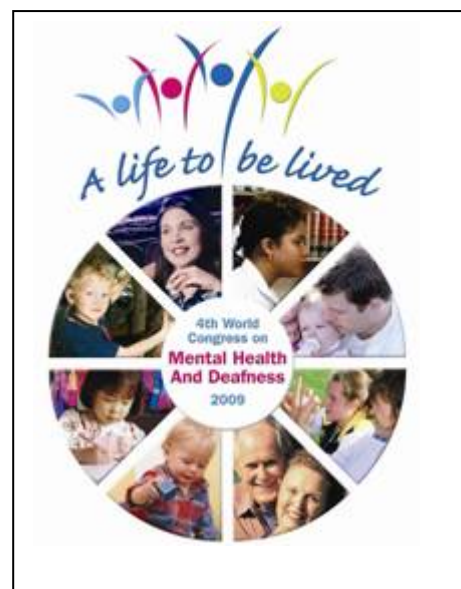
Visit [www.mhd2009.org](http://www.mhd2009.org) to register now. Don't miss out!

Please refer this link to your friends and contacts who are interested in the issues of Mental Health and Deafness.

To contact us for further information, trade displays, or to become a sponsor email: [info@mhd2009.org](mailto:info@mhd2009.org)

Quick links: Register <http://mhd2009.org/product>

Submit an abstract/paper [http://mhd2009.org/call\\_for\\_papers](http://mhd2009.org/call_for_papers)



## SLIANZ CONFERENCE 2009, NEW ZEALAND



**Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand**

**Fri 3rd - Sun 5th July 2009**

**“Interpreting in Specialist Settings”**

**Powhiri and panel discussion**

We are excited to begin the 2009 conference with a powhiri (a traditional Maori welcome ceremony) and kapu ti (afternoon tea) on Friday. A panel discussion on Maori Deaf people and sign language interpreters will take place from 4-6 pm. The panel will include representatives of the Maori Deaf community and trilingual (Te Reo Maori / English / NZSL) interpreters.

### **Keynote Presenters:**

Dr. Christopher Stone and Robert Adam (UK) – *Deaf / hearing interpreter teams*  
Jeff McWhinney (UK) – *Global Issues re. Video relay / remote interpreting*

A draft programme and presenters' biographies will be available from our website

([www.slianz.org.nz](http://www.slianz.org.nz)) soon. Topics will include:

- *Interpreting in court settings*
- *Role shift and beyond*
- *Quality of life and access to interpreters*
- *Training updates*
- *Signs used in religious settings*

**Conference languages:** New Zealand Sign language / English (interpreters provided for all sessions)



*Wellington, New Zealand*

### **Conference dinner / skills auction**

On Saturday evening we will also host a conference dinner and Skills Auction. Auction proceeds will be set aside for WASLI work in our region.

Registration discounts will be given to members of professional interpreting organisations (proof of membership required).

For a registration form, please email [conference@slianz.org.nz](mailto:conference@slianz.org.nz)

## **WORLD OUTGAMES 2009: CALL FOR INTERPRETERS**

<http://www.copenhagen2009.org/>

We are very happy that many of you are interested to come to Copenhagen.

The Sign Language Interpreter service will be in 4 groups:

1. Deaf International Signs Interpreters
2. Hearing Feeders
3. Hearing International Signs Interpreters
4. Hearing Danish Sign Language Interpreters

The structure is:

- This is voluntary work

- You will get free board during your stay in Copenhagen (and meal on the days you are working)
- You will be part of two days of workshop (22nd July - 23rd July)
- You will cover your transportation to Denmark yourself.
- As a volunteer it is demanded that you will work more than 24 hours during this week, but it is our (my and Charlotte - the organisers) goal that you will work about 25 hours (inclusive of preparation).

For further information contact: Bo Hårdell [bo@haardell.dk](mailto:bo@haardell.dk)

## BECOME AN INDIVIDUAL WASLI MEMBER!

Become a WASLI member and support WASLI in its commitment to develop the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide

For more information: <http://www.wasli.org/Membership.htm>

### IMPORTANT

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To advise a change of email address, please contact [secretary@wasli.org](mailto:secretary@wasli.org)

### WASLI EXECUTIVE BOARD

*Officers: Liz Scott Gibson (President); Zane Hema (Secretary); Daniel Burch (Treasurer)*

*Regional Representatives: Emiko Ichikawa (Asia); George Major (Australasia & Oceania); Philemon Akach (Africa); Seman Hoti (Balkans); Marco Nardi (Europe); José Luis Brieva Padilla (Latino America); Deb Russell (North America); Anna Komarova (Transcaucasia & Central Asia)*