

Newsletter
Issue 1
2011

**SPECIAL
CONFERENCE
EDITION!**



Committed to the development of the profession of sign language interpreters worldwide

WASLI Conference, 14-16 July 2011, Durban, South Africa

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Welcome to the first WASLI newsletter of 2011—a new layout for an exciting new year! We are thrilled that this year WASLI is returning to South Africa, the country where WASLI came into being in 2005, and to be hosting our conference in the beautiful coastal city of Durban. In celebration (and as a reminder to those who are yet to register) we have dedicated the first newsletter issue of 2011 to the upcoming conference.

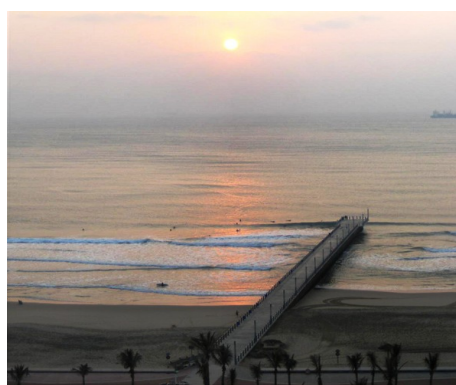
[WASLI 2011](#) is planned around three days of learning, sharing, networking, renewing old friendships and making new ones, and having fun. Durban is the political capital of KwaZulu-Natal, a province rich in history, dramatic landscapes and some of South Africa's best wildlife parks. Some of those coming to WASLI 2011 will also be going to the [WFD Congress](#) which begins in



Durban on 18 July 2011. Our conference hotel is about 4km from the Congress venue or 8 minutes by taxi.

We hope you enjoy this special conference edition newsletter as we look forward to the 3rd WASLI conference, and reminisce with photos from the 2nd conference in Segovia, as well as quotes from previous conference delegates.

Please read on for important information about the WASLI conference and sponsorship programme.



Picture of the Durban beachfront
courtesy of Colin Allen

WASLI is an important association for all interpreters and people who work with interpreters. The WASLI conference is about sharing our experiences and making more friends around the world... I have been and the experience was great. Come and share the experience of WASLI 2011 in South Africa!!

**Juan Druetta, Argentina
WASLI Vice President**

WASLI 2011 Conference Programme



The conference programme will be an exciting blend of presentations and posters, offered by interpreters, educators and researchers from around the world, including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, United Kingdom, and the USA . Confirmations have been received now and the final programme is being prepared; it will be available on our website very soon. Check the conference website regularly for updates on topics and be sure to register for the conference now in order to get the best prices!

“International conferences provide us with a rare and humbling opportunity to broaden our perspectives beyond our own backyards.

We have much to learn from our associates from around the world and even more to gain by travelling abroad and experiencing the social, political and cultural realities of others”.

Penny Schincariol, Canada

WASLI is a MUST attend event for all interpreters ... I have attended both conferences (South Africa and Spain) and I can say that I have come away feeling very inspired! I love the fact that I am surrounded by so many professional interpreters who have so much experience from all over the world – when else do we have this opportunity? I look forward to seeing many of you in 2011!

**Susan Emerson,
Australia**

Registration now open!

To register for your place at WASLI 09.30 and the final day (16th) finishes 2011 click [here](#) or go to www.wasli.org with the conference gala dinner. We then follow the links to registration.

Standard registration is open until March 30th, 2011, and after this date there are late registration fees. We have a variety of registration options and everyone is welcome at a WASLI conference – interpreters, Deaf people, students, teachers, supporters of the Deaf community, etc.

The venue for the conference is the modern [Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel](#), right on the beach at 63 Snell Parade, Durban 4001. We have initially reserved single and shared twin accommodation for 250 persons, with the possibility to add more.

Because people will be arriving at different times from different places, we have prepared a variety of accommodation packages which you can choose from when you register.

You will see from the programme page that the first morning (14th) will start at 09.30 and the final day (16th) finishes with the conference gala dinner. We have therefore provided several different accommodation packages to accommodate different arrival and departure dates.

The accommodation packages include breakfast. The conference fee includes lunch, the Welcome Cocktail Reception (16th) and the Gala Dinner (17th).



**Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel,
Durban, South Africa**

Conference Keynote Presenter: Colin Allen

We are pleased to announce Colin Allen as the conference keynote presenter and sign language interpreters in those countries.

Colin Allen has a wealth of experience working in the international Deaf sector. Between September 2000 and May 2007, Colin was employed by the Finnish Association of the Deaf and had postings in Albania, Cambodia and Kosovo. Colin has conducted survey projects in Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Turkey in collaboration with national Deaf associations



Colin Allen

The WASLI conference in Spain was an amazing experience. It was amazing to have seen Deaf interpreters and feeders in action on a high level. It was very inspiring especially to have watched Vichet, a Cambodian interpreter and friend whom I accompanied, have her world suddenly open up with possibilities. She now knows what to dream for. It reminded me of the time I first saw a Deaf interpreter work at WFD in Brisbane.

Stephanie Linder,
Australia

Being part of the WASLI conference has been an inspiring time in my career and an honour and privilege to serve our members as part of the interpreting team. WASLI provides a worldwide network of interpreters with similar challenges and successes as well as incredible differences in demographics. I would highly recommend attending WASLI if you have the opportunity, to participate and meet dedicated individuals to the interpreting profession. It's one of the best conferences ever and South Africa rocks with its music and culture. Definitely not to be missed.

Ava Hawkins, Canada

In 2007 Colin started as an International Project Co-ordinator for the Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People conducting regional survey work of Deaf people and sign language interpreters in six regions (93 countries) with the World Federation of the Deaf. He has presented conference papers in human rights and interpreter access around the world including at the University of Tokyo, International Deaf Day in Paris, and SINOSZ International Conference "Human Rights. Yes!" in Budapest.

Colin brought to his role in international Deaf community and interpreter development many years experience as a practising relay interpreter (being one of the first people in Australia to perform the role of a relay interpreter in a professional context) and skilled advocate in the promotion of interpreting services both in Australia and internationally. As President of Deaf Australia (National) for nine years, he was instrumental in the establishment of the partnership between Deaf Australia and the Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association (National).

In 2003 Colin was elected a board member of the World Federation of the Deaf. After nine years working with Deaf people and sign language interpreters in developing countries, he is now Director of Services at the Deaf Society of New South Wales in his home city of Sydney, Australia.

Attending the WASLI Conference emphasised to me just how huge this world of ours is! I heard reports from interpreter leaders representing each country at the WASLI General Membership Meeting in 2007. It was fascinating to me how interpreters all over the world are searching for answers to provide training to interpreters and quality interpreting services to Deaf communities worldwide.

Cheryl Moose, USA
President, Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf



Attending the WASLI conference in Segovia in 2007 is an experience I still refer to. Being able to network and discuss current issues with a global collection of colleagues was truly amazing.

Delys Magill, New Zealand

Colin Allen's keynote abstract:

Think Globally, Act Locally

One of the challenges facing sign language interpreters around the world is how to draw together global developments and local action to make the most use of both in their own contexts. This paper will outline some of the global developments affecting sign language interpreting before discussing case studies that illustrate which factors lead to successful local action for both sign language interpreters and Deaf communities.

One recent international milestone is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Access to information and interpreting in all spheres of life is now enshrined in global policy, which provides the best guide for people seeking to improve the quality of professional interpreting services and satisfy the needs of Deaf communities in local contexts. The growing body of research into sign languages and Deaf communities is another key international development. This paper will outline the implications of the UNCRPD for interpreters and their local associations and governments, and how research critically informs the recognition of sign languages.

The World Federation of the Deaf recognises that potentially as many as 90% of the world's Deaf children and adults in developing countries have never been to school. The empowerment of Deaf communities is a key concern for interpreters worldwide. This paper will present three case studies of projects that illustrate the positive effects of collaboration between interpreters and Deaf people. The factors for success are research, ongoing training, advocacy, shared responsibility and above all collaboration.

Unity is the key to success

Unity between global development and local action

Unity between sign language interpreters and Deaf communities



SALE!!!

Proceedings from the 2005 AND 2007 Conferences

Each reduced to £15.00 (GBP15.00) with FREE postage to anywhere in the world.

If you don't have these two publications on your bookshelf, then this is your big opportunity to buy at a bargain price. You can only get this price by going to this link: <http://www.wasli.net/wasli-special-offers-p132.aspx>

Do you already own a copy? Then how about purchasing another copy to donate to an interpreter in a developing country? (Make the payment and send a separate email to publications@wasli.org saying you want to donate the copy.)

Sale prices are ONLY available for a limited time.

Double savings: If you are buying from outside the UK you will make a double saving from the sale price and the devalued British currency.

If you need more information on each book, go to <http://www.wasli.org/buy-from-wasli-p60.aspx>.

You can use PayPal or a credit card to make your purchase.

Who should buy these?

- Interpreters!!
- Students who aspire to belong to the profession
- Teachers of signed language interpreting
- Libraries at institutions that have signed language interpreting courses

Opening the WASLI conference



Markku Jokinen

Image from www.wfdeaf.org

Markku Jokinen, president of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), has accepted our invitation to open the WASLI Conference. "I would be very happy and pleased to do this, indeed, it would be a great honour for me to address the delegates taking part in your association's conference", he said in his acceptance letter.

WASLI 2011 General Membership Meeting

The WASLI 2011 General Meeting will take place on Thursday 14th July, 2011 at 9.30am. It will be in the Great Ilanga Room, Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel, 63 Snell Parade, Durban 4001, South Africa. Everyone is welcome to attend, although please note that ONLY NATIONAL members are eligible to vote. Please see the WASLI website for information about the meeting agenda.

The WASLI 2007 conference in Segovia was my first international conference on sign language interpreting and I remember that I was fascinated by all those different sign languages from around the world. But what I found most exciting were the deaf interpreters on stage. I didn't realise at first that the interpreter from Argentina was deaf, because he managed so perfectly to keep eye contact with the auditorium. I'm really looking forward to WASLI 2011 in South Africa and seeing so many colleagues again! So please come and join us!

Elke Schaumberger, Austria

Important request for sponsorship

We are looking for your assistance in fundraising for some months. We are looking for your assistance in raising sponsorship funding for our colleagues from developing countries to come to our conference in Durban, South Africa in July 2011.

What we are about

The World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) was established in 2003 with the objective of developing the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide. While there are some well established national associations whose members have had formal training and work to agreed standards and codes, interpreters in most countries in the world lack this foundation to their work.

The UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which includes rights for Deaf people, also recognises the role of sign language interpreters in advancing the position of Deaf people in society. Deaf communities and sign language interpreting as a profession often develop in parallel.

Fundraising ourselves

Our two previous conferences have attracted a lot of interest from interpreters in developing countries; interpreters and related organisations raised sufficient funds to sponsor 16 and 22 delegates respectively from developing countries and we anticipate a similar generous response for 2011. We are aware that some associations (e.g. in New Zealand, Australia, Canada) have been successfully



However, we are looking to significantly increase the number of colleagues to whom we can offer sponsorship and are looking beyond our own profession to raise money. That is why we are making our approach to you.

The opportunity

We estimate the cost of travel and conference (including accommodation) to average out at GBP2,000/USD3,000 each. Assisting any delegate will also indirectly benefit other interpreters and advance the cause of Deaf people in their countries. Individuals, organisations and corporate donors are encouraged to provide a rare opportunity for colleagues who have a desperate thirst for knowledge. If you were able to sponsor at least one of these individuals, it may be possible for us to arrange person to person links for you to use in your own publicity. Donations will be acknowledged on our conference web-pages and conference programme book.

“Assisting any delegate will also indirectly benefit other interpreters and advance the cause of Deaf people in their countries”



I appreciated so much what I learnt about the sign language interpreters' situation in different parts of the world. This aspect was important because it was a motivation for me to come back home and to encourage the authorities to think and act toward a wise strategy to develop the interpreting services. I learned about us, as interpreters, being facilitators in the communication process. I recognised the strong need of setting quality standards and about this I learned a lot from the others examples of good practice and experiences. I had the chance to share my experience with many people - concepts such as team work, professionalism, motivation, respect, enthusiasm, learning from others experiences, real-life communication, quality and responsibility.

Oana Farcas, Romania

Sponsored delegate at WASLI 2007 in Spain

Important request for sponsorship, cont.

Determination

Some of the practical difficulties for people from developing countries to travel to conferences would not be tolerated by many of us. For example, Selman, a delegate from Kosova, had to make two two-day journeys to the nearest Spanish embassy to get his visa to travel to our last conference (2007) in Segovia. Peaceway, an interpreter from Zimbabwe (where he interprets the news on television) travelled day and night for three days on a coach from Harare to Worcester (Western Cape, South Africa) to reach our previous conference (2005).

I first started out as a volunteer for a disability organisation and met a group of Deaf people. That was where I learnt Cambodian Sign Language then I become a teacher of the Deaf in 2002 for three years before I become an interpreter.

Participating in the WASLI conference was important for me because it was my opportunity to gain and share experiences with other interpreters, to learn about interpreting services, issues and what is available in other countries.

Also, to develop my knowledge about interpreting work and to share with my team of interpreters.

Som Vichet, Cambodia

Sponsored delegate at WASLI 2007

These two examples show the determination of sign language interpreters from developing countries to travel to a place where they have the opportunity to network and learn from their colleagues. Neither of these interpreters are able to earn a full-time living from interpreting and have to undertake other work to survive – a typical situation in developing countries.

About WASLI as an organisation

We are an organisation made possible by the electronic age, run entirely by professional interpreters around the world in their “spare” time; we have no office and no staff.

Because of the time taken to ensure passports, visas and travel arrangements are in place, we are seeking to conclude fundraising by 31 January 2011. However, we will be happy to accept donations for this purpose until mid-June at the latest. After that, it is too difficult to conclude all the necessary communications in time; visa and travel arrangements can be very complex for those coming from eligible countries.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and hope we can look forward to your support. Please remember that your donation benefits not only one interpreter but has wide ranging benefits for colleagues and the Deaf community in the interpreter’s home country.



In my discussions with representatives from other countries I was able to form a cooperation agreement between our associations to work in the areas of experience sharing, and facilitating training opportunities for our members.

Yissakor Beyene, Ethiopia

Sponsored delegate at WASLI 2007

How to make a donation

A donation can be made by bank transfer to WASLI A/c 40-14-09 11395602 (HSBC, Whiteladies branch, Bristol). [Donations from outside the UK will need these codes - IBAN: GB80MIDL40140911395602 BIC: MIDLGB2115H] or by going to the WASLI website where you can make a donation by credit card or PayPal.

As one of the coordinators of WASLI 2007 I remember what a huge effort it was to prepare, but the reward was more than worth it. Seeing sign language interpreters from all over the world working together to develop the profession we love... and thinking that every four years this experience can be repeated or, even better, improved... made the whole process quite unforgettable.

Saúl Villameriel, Spain

I attended the WASLI conference in Spain and was really astounded by what a fantastic experience it was. I don't think I have ever attended a friendlier conference-- and I've attended a lot! I met interpreters from Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, New Zealand... and everyone was excited to talk, to share what they knew, to learn, and to connect. Really, it was a profound and wonderful experience.

Karen Malcolm, Canada

WASLI Sponsorship Programme 2011 Update

At the time this report was written (early December 2010) we have 19 individuals from 14 countries seeking sponsorship:

Ghana (2), Burkina Faso (1), Palestine (1), Pakistan (1), Tanzania (3), Ukraine (2), Ethiopia (1), Cameroon (1), Philippines (1), India (1), Kosovo (2), Gambia (1), Uganda (1), Thailand (1)

Currently we have a sponsor, *Saint John Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Inc.* who have asked this donation to go and support a deaf interpreter from Ukraine. The total amount of their support is £1226.00.

Delegates attending the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT) conference held in San Antonio, Texas from Oct 27 - 30, 2010 have also generously donated funds towards the sponsorship program.

These donations are generous, but we need more as the number of interpreters from developing countries seeking the sponsorship is far bigger than the sponsors.

Thank you!

Selman Hoti

WASLI 2011 Sponsorship Programme

IMPORTANT

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters. The Editor, together with the WASLI Executive Board and external contributors, produce the WASLI newsletter. WASLI will work to ensure the authenticity of any information provided. We reserve the right to edit all submissions that are published. WASLI accepts no liability for the accuracy of the contents or any opinions expressed. Readers are invited to reproduce information provided the source is quoted. Readers should contact secretary@wasli.org for permission to use WASLI official photographs, or to advise of a change of email address.

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