



WASLI Newsletter

WASLI is committed to the advancement of sign language interpreting world wide

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

EUROPE – EFSLI IN PRAGUE

EFSLI CONFERENCE 2006 PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Chamber of Sign Language Interpreters (CKTZJ) hosted the 2006 EFSLI Annual General Meeting and Conference 15-17 September 2006. The theme of the conference was 'Innovative Practice in Team Interpreting'.

Having the conference in the Czech Republic was significant because it is very expensive for our colleagues to be able to attend interpreter conferences outside their country. Also the Czech Republic is geographically located in Central Europe which meant that it was easier for some of the Eastern European countries to attend because it was not so far.

In total there were 133 participants from the following countries; Sweden, Moldova, Poland, Finland, Kosovo, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Romania, Slovakia, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Scotland, England, Austria, Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, US, Australia and of course Czech Republic.

The AGM saw the election of a new President Maya de Wit (Netherlands) and saw the farewell of outgoing President Marco Nardi (Italy). The remaining Board members are Linda Thompson (Scotland), Karin Arquisch (Switzerland), Kit Horlacher (Denmark), Nigel Cleaver (England) and Zane Hema (England). To see pictures from the AGM visit <http://www.cktjz.com/index.php?page=gal&show=102> (More photo galleries to follow)

Since 2004 EFSLI has supported interpreters to attend the EFSLI conference through their SPECIAL ATTENDANCE FUND. The fund operates by donations made by interpreter associations and individuals some of who hold fundraising activities. In 2004 the fund allowed 2 interpreters from Latvia to attend the conference in Finland. In 2005, 2 interpreters from Serbia were sponsored to attend the conference in Denmark.

The success of this work continued in 2006 where the fund assisted 2 interpreters from Kosovo, one from Romania and one from Moldova to come to Prague.

A range of papers was given at the conference sharing ideas and experiences in team working. One interesting point was regarding terminology and where in some countries a 'team' is seen as 2 or more interpreters working together whereas in others it is seen as 3 or more. The hosts are preparing the Conference Proceedings and as soon as this is available EFSLI will advise WASLI.

Report by Zane Hema

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REPORT ON THE TRAINING TO RWANDA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF (RNAD) 17TH TO 20TH OCTOBER 2006



INTRODUCTION:

Rwanda is a small country located in East Africa southwest of Uganda. The country suffered a major set back as a result of the genocide where millions of people were massacred. Rwanda is slowly recovering from this.

There are 2 major languages spoken in Rwanda (Kinyarwanda and French). Rwanda does not have a national Sign Language for the Deaf so most Deaf people use the lip reading method for communication (French and Kinyarwanda).

The Rwanda National Association of the Deaf (RNAD) is the national umbrella association bringing together all the Deaf people in Rwanda with aim of advocating for their Human Rights. The Association was founded in the mid 1990s but due to mismanagement, misunderstanding of roles together with conflicts within the membership, the association collapsed in the early 2000.

Training for RNAD members was organised and funded by VSO-Rwanda from the 17th to 20th October 2006. Joseph Mbulamwana, Noah Ahereza, (Deaf Trainers) and Awoii Patrick Michael (Sign Language Interpreter) from the Ugandan National Association of the Deaf provided the training.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING:

RNAD members shall understand the following:

The purpose and principles of an association and its management

The roles of a management committee and the roles of the executive officers

RNAD members understand how conflict within an association occurs and have basic tools/skills how to resolve the conflicts.

There is a common understanding on the need to develop Rwandan Sign Language

EXPECTED END RESULTS:

RNAD Management Committee elected

A provisional action plan is drawn for the research into Rwandan Sign Language

A Language Committee is elected who will in the coming months decide on agreed signs to be adopted and included in Rwandan Sign Language

PARTICIPANTS:

40 Deaf members were invited from the Rwanda Deaf community. Another 40 participants were also invited from the Press, Authorities (Government, Local Leaders, etc), and the Civil Society to attend an awareness raising programme scheduled for the last day. The disability team from VSO-Rwanda were present throughout the programmes.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Executive Committee/Management Committee of RNAD elected

A provisional action plan for Rwanda Sign Language research drawn

Advertisement for positions in the Sign Language committee sent to members to apply

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge VSO-Rwanda who organised and funded the training fully, Amanda Crookes the Disability Programme Manager (VSO-Rwanda) and her entire group who made the training a success. Lastly to all the participants who attended the training.

Report by Awoii Patrick Michael (Sign Language Interpreter & General Secretary UNASLI)

INTRANEWS

We are pleased to inform you that a new section has been added to Intranews on sign language. Issues of interest or concern to sign language research, training and interpretation have been covered by Intranews since our launch in 2004, but by creating a specific section, websites dedicated to sign language can syndicate news specific to deaf culture in general, and signing in particular.



Intranews is read by some 30,000 linguists each month in international institutions, university departments, professional associations, translation services and companies, as well as by salaried and freelance interpreters and translators in more than 90 countries.

With 24 breaking-news reports issued every working day, Intranews archives now contain some 16,500 press reports published in more than 70 countries, enabling linguists to research and follow up on issues and events of interest or concern, with a direct link to the source site and article.

The official news service for the Intranet the global network of professional interpreters and translators, Intranews has been syndicated by organisations such as the International Federation of Translators (FIT), GALA, UEPO, as well as by Interpreters' and Translators' Associations such as ASLIA, ATELP, etc.

Syndication of the Intranews bulletin on your website, with automated updates daily, is free of charge, providing a dynamic, extremely useful service for your members and visitors alike.

Message from Malcolm Duff, Chief Editor, Intranews
Visit their site at: www.intranews.net

NEXT EDITION: More news and information from WASLI

The next edition features a report from the WASLI President on her visit to the Deaf Balkans Forum (Dec 2006) together with news clips from around the world.

If you would like to submit news of interest for sign language interpreters around the world then please send them to the editor at secretary@wasli.org

The WASLI Executive Board

secretary@wasli.org

WASLI BOARD

Officers: Liz Scott Gibson (President); Philemon Akach (Vice President); Zane Hema (Secretary)

Regional Representatives: Emiko Ichikawa (Asia); Jemina Napier (Australasia & Oceania); Marco Nardi (Europe); Deb Russell (North America); Anna Komarova (Transcaucasia & Central Asia); South America – to be advised; Africa – to be advised

Co-optees: Bill Moody (US); Arun Rao (India); Francois Deysel (South Africa); Daniel Burch (US); Nigel Cleaver (England); Ito Tadashi (Japan); Carol Lee Aquiline (Former WASLI Working Group); Knud Sondergaard (WFD)