



# WASLI Newsletter

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

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### WASLI VISITS SINGAPORE

Zane Hema (Editor)



### Singapore Association for the Deaf

Population: 4,483,900 (2006)

Deaf People:

Singapore's Deaf, as defined by the Singapore Association for the Deaf's (SADeaf) Constitution, includes those with hearing disabilities and who are hard of hearing. The SADeaf has 5,450 registered members as at 31 March 2006. The exact number of people in Singapore who are deaf (whether partially or profoundly) is however not known. The SADeaf estimates that there may be some 98,000 elderly people who suffer from varying degrees of hearing loss. In addition, based on the statistics that six out of every 1,000 born in Singapore have a degree of hearing loss, almost 20,000 Singaporeans may have hearing loss (based on Singapore's population in 2005).

[http://www.corporate.mediacorp.sg/press\\_release/pr\\_1164968038.htm](http://www.corporate.mediacorp.sg/press_release/pr_1164968038.htm)

On 5 March 2007, I had the pleasure of making a visit to the Singapore Association of the Deaf to meet with members of the Deaf community and sign language interpreters. The evening before I had the pleasure of meeting and dining with 2 sign language interpreters Claudine Chan and Daniel Tung.



Singapore is an island city-state located at the tip of the Malay Peninsula. The name has its' origin in Sanskrit and is derived from the Malay words 'singa' (lion) and 'pura' (city).

#### SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

The Association was established in 1955 (then known as the Singapore Deaf and Dumb Association) renamed to the Singapore Association of the Deaf in 1959. 1963 saw the Singapore School of the Deaf established.

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In the late '60s, as Singapore focused on developing into an industrial nation, the Executive Council saw opportunities for economic independence for deaf youths. With help from the Vocational Industrial Training Board (now known as the Institute of Technical Education), the Association drafted plans to train skilled workers. The Vocational School for the Handicapped was established with funds raised by SADeaf.

1976 - The Total Communication philosophy was adopted. Total Communication is using signs, speech, gestures, speech reading, amplification, finger spelling, and/or other modes of communication to provide linguistic input to deaf children.

1978 - The Signing Exact English system adopted as the mode of communication and instruction in our affiliated schools. Signing Exact English II is a system developed in the USA to help teach deaf children the English language.

In 2005 the SADeaf broke the world record for having the greatest number of people (over 2300) signing a song simultaneously.

### INTERPRETING PROVISION

(Information taken from the SADeaf Annual Report 2004/5)

SADeaf employs one full time staff interpreter, Claudine Chan. As from 2007 there will be a second interpreter. A high percentage of the interpreting work is done by volunteers.

In the year 2004/5 a total of 2049 man-hours was spent on interpreting, 747 man-hours provided by the staff interpreters and 1302 man-hours provided by volunteer interpreters. A total team of 10 volunteers were recruited in March 2005 so that total number of volunteer interpreter as at 31 March 2005 stood at 42.

### INTERPRETER ASSOCIATION

There is no Interpreter Association in Singapore and the Singapore Association of the Deaf provide the majority of interpreter services.

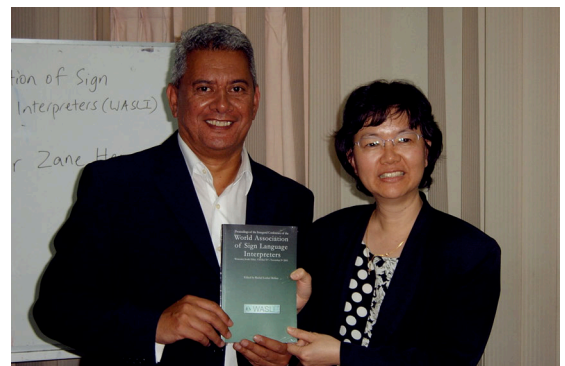
### INTERPRETER TRAINING

The Interpreter Service of SADeaf provides interpreter training and plans to develop their training programme further.

### WASLI PRESENTATION

My presentation talked about WASLI focussing on how and why the organisation was established and looking at the work that has happened since the Inaugural Conference in 2005 in South Africa. I spoke of WASLI's commitment to support the work of interpreters and to assist in the further development of training and any other area they needed advice and information. I was able to present a copy of the WASLI 2005 Conference Proceedings to the SADeaf Chief Executive Ms Judy Lim.

Thanks to all the wonderful people that attended the evening to Ms Judy Lim, Ms Claudine Chan and Mr Daniel Tung for the kind hospitality during my visit.



**WASLI NEWS** SASLI SCOTLAND TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS

**SASLI will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of supporting interpreting professionals with an exciting conference on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2007.**

Themed 'Interpreting – 25 Years of Evolution', the conference will be held at the Apex International Hotel in Edinburgh. It promises to be an action-packed, memorable event for all who attend.

"You will not want to miss this unique opportunity to hear both national and international speakers present," says Helga McGilp, the SASLI Director. "Now is the perfect time for us to celebrate 25 years and look to the future."

SASLI members and members of the Deaf community are invited to submit proposals for papers to be presented at the conference on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

The Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters (SASLI) will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of supporting interpreting professionals on 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in Edinburgh.

SASLI members and stake holders are invited to submit proposals for papers to be presented at the conference on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Themes include:

- Quality assurance and issues in the provision of sign language interpreting services
- Consumer perspectives on sign language interpreting
- Evolving ethics within the sign language interpreting profession
- Perspectives from other language professions
- Supply and demand of sign language interpreting
- Technology and its impact on the field of sign language interpreting
- Who is responsible for quality in interpreting?
- Engaging with the Deaf community
- Quality in interpreting
- Setting quality standards
- Expectations and challenges from interpreters and the Deaf community
- Historical perspectives of the sign language profession
- Deaf perspectives (past, present and future)
- International perspectives
- The interpreting profession in Britain and abroad
- Implementing changes for improvement
- The role of agencies in the interpreting profession
- Training and educational opportunities in sign language interpreting
- Training the Trainers
- Development of Deaf Interpreters
- Development of Communication Support Workers

Presentations will be 75 minutes long, including 15 minutes question and answer time. Abstracts (200 words maximum) should be submitted to:

Helga McGilp, Director, SASLI, Donaldson's College, West Coates, Edinburgh  
EH12 5JJ  
Telephone/Text: 0131 347 5601, Fax: 0131 347 5628  
E-mail: [helgamcgilp@gmail.com](mailto:helgamcgilp@gmail.com)

## NEWS CLIPS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND ASLI

The Association of Sign Language Interpreters for England, Wales and Northern Ireland held its Annual General Meeting 14 April 2007. The new National Chair is Dr Christopher Stone, Vice Chair: Karen Newby, Secretary: David Wolfenden, Treasurer: Mark Schofield and Membership Secretary: Mike Ballinger. In 2008, ASLI will celebrate 21 years.

[www.asli.org.uk](http://www.asli.org.uk)

### EUROPE EFSLI

The European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters conference theme this year is 'Setting Quality Standards' and will take place in Zurich 14-16 September 2007. The Host organisation this year is the;

'berufsvereinigung der debardensprächdolmetscherInnen der deutschen schweiz' ('bgd') [www.bgd.ch](http://www.bgd.ch)

### NEW ZEALAND SLIANZ

The Sign Language Interpreter Association of New Zealand conference this year will take place 9-10 June in Auckland. The theme is 'Collaboration through Communication Avenues to the Future' and the keynote speaker is Dr Rachel McKee.

[www.slianz.org.nz](http://www.slianz.org.nz)

### USA RID

The RID National Conference 'All for One and One for All' takes places 3-8 August 2007 in San Francisco.

[www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)

### NEXT EDITION

In the next edition we report on life for 2 interpreters, one who we believe lives and works in the southernmost part of the world and the other who lives in the northernmost part of the world. Who are these interpreters, where do they live and what is life like working in such extreme places as a sign language interpreter?

### The WASLI Executive Board

[secretary@wasli.org](mailto: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)