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AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND



Area:	267,710 sq km
Population:	4,213,418 (July 2009 est.)
Capital:	Wellington
Official Languages:	Te Reo Māori, New Zealand Sign Language, English
GDP:	\$28,000 (2008 est.)
Exports:	Dairy products, meat, wood and wood products, fish, machinery
(Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/nz.html)	

NEW ZEALAND: SLIANZ CONFERENCE REPORT

Lynnley Pitcher (SLIANZ Treasurer)

Early in July, SLIANZ (Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand) held its 2009 Annual Conference in Wellington, New Zealand. There was a record attendance on the Saturday, with 82 people registering. The weekend started with a moving powhiri (welcome) delivered in Te Reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL), followed by a panel discussion regarding the lack of trilingual interpreters (Te Reo Māori, NZSL, and English) and issues of access for Māori Deaf. This was facilitated by Dr Rachel McKee and the panellists were: Karen Pointon, Patrick Thompson, Stephanie Awheto, Tania Simon, and Te Ripowai Higgins.



International keynote presenters Dr Christopher Stone, Robert Adam and Jeff McWhinney (all from England) made the conference a resounding success with topics ranging from Deaf Interpreters in the community (Chris and Robert), Register and Discourse Structure (Chris) and a comparison of international approaches to providing Video Relay Services (Jeff). Della Goswell (Australia) got everyone thinking about role shifting and how often it's used (or not used as the case may be). Our local presenters this year were Daniel Hanks, Lynx, David Loving-Molloy, and Dr Marcus Henning.

When the conference was being planned, we decided we wanted to support a project to assist interpreters and the Deaf community in the Solomon Islands. We wanted to raise funds to send a Deaf/hearing team from Fiji to the Solomon Islands, to share their experience of developing the interpreting profession. SLIANZ members and other conference delegates donated a wide range of skills (not only interpreting services but also things like knitting, babysitting, and garden makeovers!) which were to be auctioned off at our "Skills Auction" on Saturday evening. This event was so successful that we were able to raise \$3,585 which we hope will be enough money to cover the entire project. There were only about 50 people at this event, and the huge amount of money raised shows SLIANZ members are very generous; we are very proud of their commitment to WASLI projects in our region. A lot of fun was had by all and our Australian counterparts felt it was such a great idea that they took it back to their conference and had fine success with the idea over the Tasman as well.





Wellington, New Zealand

Our 2010 conference will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, July 3-4, 2010

For more information see www.slianz.org.nz

Or find us and join our group on Facebook! "Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand (SLIANZ)"

SIGN LANGUAGE COURSE IN KYRGYZSTAN

Bishkek opens new classes for sign language instruction

Sign language courses have become available in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Tatiana Khan, director of the Hear with the Heart public centre announced, says the news agency 24.kg. The course will begin with basic vocabulary and administrators hope to open a school for sign language interpreters in the future.

(Source: <http://www.worldwithouthearing.com/Archives>)

WFD NEWSLETTERS

Do you want to read news from the World Federation of the Deaf? Go to this link <http://www.wfdeaf.org/news.aspx> and you can download newsletters in pdf.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities “Ratification and Strategies for Implementation”

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 10-12 Nov 2009

Rehabilitation International – Regional Conference

Under the patronage of HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, Wife of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai

For more information see <http://www.ridubai.com/nv/eng/index.php>

Meeting of Asia / Pacific sign language interpreters 2009

Meetings of sign language interpreters in the Asia / Pacific region have been held in Macau in 2006 and in Nepal in 2008, with the cooperation and support of the WFD Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific (RS-A/P). The third meeting of sign language interpreters in the Asia / Pacific region will be held in Gyeongju, the Republic of Korea, alongside the WFD RS-A/P meeting, which will be held November 25-27, 2009.

The Japanese associations (National Research Association for Sign Language Interpretation and Japanese Association of Sign Language Interpreters) have announced that they are able to sponsor some expenses for several delegates to attend the meeting. Other countries are currently seeking funding in order to send representatives to the meeting.

If you have questions or if you would like more information, please email Emiko Ichikawa (Japan), the WASLI Asia Regional Representative. Her email address is asia@wasli.org

For more information about Gyeongju, see <http://www.gyeongju.go.kr/eng/main/index.asp>

IMPORTANT

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To advise a change of email address, please contact secretary@wasli.org

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