

Newsletter
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Committed to the development of the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide

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www.wasli.org

WASLI News

Dear WASLI Members:

It is our pleasure to offer you this newsletter, and sincere thanks to Angela Murray from New Zealand and her team around the world that have put this together. Your Board of Directors has enjoyed a very busy 2013 as you will see from the regional representative updates. We welcome our newest regional representative Anna Vost, who will be sharing the work in the Australasia and Oceania region. This is a wonderful model of support and we appreciate Anna's willingness to step up. We also thank Sheena Walters for her significant contributions to date.

WASLI Welcomes Jordi Ferre as the new translations coordinator. A big thank you to Rafael Treviño for his work over the last 7 years

Here are some of our accomplishments over the past few months:

Our new website is up and running – thanks to Susan Emerson for leading this work. We look forward to your feedback – visit www.wasli.org

WASLI 2015 co-chairs Selman Hoti and Michelle Ashley have been working hard to recruit the committee chairs from several countries to organize the next WASLI conference. If your organization or community of interpreters would like to participate in supporting the conference, and/or supporting delegates to attend the conference, please contact Susan Emerson, WASLI Treasurer, for further sponsorship information.

Our collaboration with WFD continues on three task groups and we are pleased with the progress being made by all of those volunteer committees on matters of communication with Deaf people during times of natural disasters, hiring standards for international sign (IS) interpreters working at United Nations events, and accreditation of IS interpreters for United Nations work.

Over the past few months I have attended two major events. The first was the Second Conference of Latino America Interpreters. The conference was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with over 300 delegates. It was a pleasure to participate in the conference and to learn of the great work happening in the region. Thanks to Jose Brevia, WASLI Vice President, and Jose Ednilson Junior, Latin America Representative, for their hard work in supporting the conference. We also held a WASLI board meeting while in Brazil with 5 board members in attendance.

I have just returned from the 2nd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf in Sydney, Australia. There were over 640 delegates from 67 countries. It was an incredible opportunity to demonstrate WASLI's collaboration with WFD and to participate in the many events. Colin Allen and I gave a presentation to the Ordinary Members of the WFD on WASLI-WFD collaboration. WASLI was well represented at the conference, with several of our Board members attending to promote WASLI and to participate in meetings with several country delegates on interpreting matters.

As a result of our participation, we have received many requests for samples of the WFD-WASLI agreement, along with other country samples, which is positive. We also held a WASLI board meeting during the week, with 5 board members and our Latin America representative participating via Skype. We were joined by Dr. Robert Adam, the WFD Expert on Sign Language. He was very helpful in our discussions of sign language preservation and the role of interpreters in supporting the national signed language of a country.

This month, November, the World Federation of Deaf Blind Congress met in the Philippines. We asked Carla Anderson, a Deaf delegate from Australia who is attending the conference, to represent WASLI and sign the newly created WASLI-WFDB Memorandum of Understanding. WASLI will also be represented at an Arab countries conference in Qatar and at the Macedonia Association of the Deaf 65th Anniversary.

One of the major challenges facing WASLI now is collaboration between interpreters and Deaf associations. Both WASLI and WFD receive messages of concern from interpreters and deaf people in several countries regarding setting up an associations where there appears to be little or no collaboration and respect. Our clear message from both organizations is to encourage people to work closely together to foster mutual respect and trust, and to create collaborative projects. Setting up an interpreter association may be a desired goal, but it cannot occur at the expense of developing and/or maintaining an effective relationship with the Deaf community.

To each of you, thank you for your on-going support of WASLI, and to our shared profession.

Warm regards,

Debra Russell
WASLI President

Regional Updates

Australasia & Oceania:

Sheena Walters and Anna Vost have decided to share the role as WASLI Australasia and Oceania representative commencing 1 July 2013. Sheena will continue her work with the WASLI translation team and liaise with WFD Oceania with their research projects and strategic planning. Anna will coordinate WASLI Oceania regional meetings, liaise with ASLIA and SLIANZ, and manage email communications. This will allow both Sheena and Anna to dedicate sufficient time to interpreters in the Australasia & Oceania region.

In October, WASLI Oceania Australasia representatives attending the World Federation of the Deaf met in Sydney. We had representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and even WASLI's President Deb Russell from Canada. Representatives gave us updates on future training opportunities for interpreters and teachers of the Deaf in the Solomon Islands and Fiji. We also decided on a new, simpler strategic plan for our future.

North America:

In Mexico, things are underway to organise the First North America Sign Language Interpreters Conference to be held at Mexico City, Mexico in July 2014. It is with great hope that a national federation of professional sign language interpreters may be created.

Asia:

We decided not to hold the Sign Language Interpreters' Meeting in Asia this year, which has been held every year in parallel with WFD A/P Representatives Meeting. At the WFD Conference in Sydney, it was agreed that the next WFD A/P Meeting will be held from August 24 to 28, 2014, in Macau. We are planning to hold the Interpreters' Meeting alongside that.



Australian, Fijian and New Zealand representatives with Deb Russell

WASLI Conference, Turkey 2015

The World Association of Sign Language Interpreters is pleased to announce that the 2015 WASLI Conference Organising Committee has been appointed.

The Conference Chairs (Michelle Ashley and Selman Hoti) were overwhelmed by responses to an Expression of Interest call earlier this year, with applications submitted from all over the world. The makeup of the committee truly reflects the global community that WASLI serves to work with and for.

The committee is formed as follows:

Liz Mendoza, Tracy Norris, Igor Bondarenkio, Michael Pidwebeski, Gregg Howe, Rachel McKee, Desanka Zizic, Cassia Sofiato, Isabelle Heyerick, Suzanne Ehrlich, Jack Callon, Zane Hema, Brandon Arthur, Okan Kubus, Shauna Jehle, Delys Magill, Susan Emerson and Debra Russell.

There are still some portfolios that require input. If you wish to be a part of this exciting international event, please contact wasli.turkeychair@gmail.com

We are also pleased to announce four new sponsors for the WASLI 2015 Conference: Australian Sign Language Interpreter's Association (ASLIA), Echo Interpreting, students from George Brown College and Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (AVLIC). If you would like to know more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact the treasurer.wasli@gmail.com. And don't forget to join our Facebook event "WASLI Conference 2015".

European Deafblind Union Rally in Germany

The European Deafblind Union (EDbU) Team wishes to inform you about the success of the first demonstration in the world by the Deafblind community in Berlin Germany.

On the 4th of October, in the centre of Berlin, more than 200 Deafblind people participated in the march for the rights of the Deafblind in Germany. From the beginning of the march to its end, the attention of public and media was directed towards the demonstrators, who held symbolic iron balls as representations of the prison of loneliness.

The march, as well as the speeches held in front of the German Parliament (Deutcher Bundestag), made a strong impact, and hopefully will result in agreement between the German Government and the Deafblind community. The European Deafblind Union supported the demonstrations with words of support from EDbU president, Sanja Tarczay.

The strong statement made by the Deafblind in Berlin opens the way for a brighter future for the 2500 to 6000 Deafblind people who live in Germany. The organisers and participants should feel proud for undertaking this great step in gaining recognition for Deafblind in Germany.



Open Process- Extending the Invitation

Patrick Galasso, CI/CT, QMHI & Alise Kermisch, NAD IV

ASL interpreters working in the field over the past years have noticed a quiet evolution occurring in the profession – a small change long overdue and one promising to take our work to a new level of professionalism. With spoken language interpreting situations the best interpreting happens into one's native language. In interpreting situations at hospitals, in lock-up facilities, and in schools the Spanish interpreter and Russian interpreter speak English with an accent. In the United States the majority of interpreters for the Deaf, using ASL, are late language learners. The gradual increase in use of Certified Deaf Interpreters and Deaf Interpreters (CDI/DI) allows Deaf consumers to receive interpretation from a natural first language user.



Open Process- with tri-lingual interpreter

Mobility International USA (MIUSA), in Eugene, Oregon, hosts delegates and speakers from around the world for intensive training on disability, human rights, and advocacy. The training is held multiple times annually, both in Eugene and overseas. Their programs often consist of Deaf delegates. In the summer of 2012 MIUSA hosted an international exchange of 26 women leaders, 6 of whom were Deaf or Hard of Hearing. To meet the unique language needs of the delegation an interpreting team was assembled: an ASL-CDI team (2 pairs); 2 trilingual interpreters (Spanish, ASL, English); Spanish interpreters; and Arabic interpreters. The Spanish and Arabic interpreters were native speakers; the ASL team had one native ASL user and multiple late language learners.

Working with such a diverse group of interpreters was inspiring and challenged all members to re-evaluate their interpreting practice and process. The variety of language demands required a radically different approach to interpreting than the standard model typically used in the USA.

We adopted the *open process model* of interpreting. *Open process* interpreting utilizes all members of the interpreting team, including the Deaf consumers, as active participants in the communication process. For this event, the interpreting channel was multi-layered: one CDI

actively interpreting with an ASL hearing interpreter. The other CDI monitored the working CDI for message equivalency while checking for understanding with the deaf participants, and provided clarifications to the Deaf consumers as needed. The other ASL interpreter supported the working ASL interpreter, monitored the CDI message for accuracy, and voiced questions as needed.



Seng meet with USAID

Communication among the team was vital. Daily check-ins, flexibility, and constantly reorganizing were essential. Everyone was responsible for contributing their observations of what was effective and what was not. Interpreters are rarely blessed with the opportunity for professional growth like this.

The success of this *open process* was seen in the level of participation by the Deaf delegates from Kenya, Myanmar, Chile and Jordan to fully engage in the discussions and activities. Using the *Open Process Model* of Interpreting, the Deaf delegates were empowered to seek clarification and expansion of difficult new concepts and check for understanding as much or as little as they chose.

1. For more information on Deaf Interpreters please see: www.diinstitute.org.
2. For information on Mobility USA Exchange Programs please see: www.miusa.org.
3. For information on Trilingual Interpreting please see: www.manoamano-unidos.org.
4. For the original full 'open process' document use this link: [Open Process](#)
5. For a signed translation of Open Process: [Click here](#)

The term "open process" was brought to the authors' attention by Molly Wilson USA.

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Above: Team Pakistan



Open Process with Pakistan



Open Process- many levels

Japanese Sign Language Interpreting and the National Research Association for Sign Language Interpretation (NRASLI)

Etsuko Umemoto
WASLI Asian Representative
Manager of the International Division of NRASLI

In 1968 Japan began national discussions on the issues of securing information for deaf people and the necessity of sign language interpretation. The 1st National Meeting of Japanese Sign Language (JSL) Interpretation was held as an annex to the 17th National Congress of the Deaf Japanese in Fukushima.

In 1974, the National Research Association for Sign Language Interpretation (NRASLI) was established. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in sign language and sign language interpreting. Currently, we have 47 affiliate chapters all over Japan and members are about 11,000.

History of the Winter Workshop

As a result of the increasing number of participants and issues to discuss, it became difficult to develop the discussions of the previous year. From 1985 onwards, NRASLI held national meetings twice a year: a Summer Session and a Winter Workshop.

The Winter Workshop would use a discussion style and would be held independently from the lecture style Summer School

As the Winter Workshop discussions were based on the previous year, it was important for all participants to have common background information of the last discussion. A rule was established for each prefecture (region) to submit reports about its activities. The chairman of each Winter Workshop was assigned to the board members of NRASLI. The co-researcher was assigned to the members of the Japanese Federation of the Deaf (JFD), who was the co-operator of movement. Participants would share this knowledge with their affiliate chapters to build upon or develop new activities from the experience of the workshops. At the next year's workshop, participants would discuss what they learned and the new activities they have been able to implement.

Winter Workshop 2013

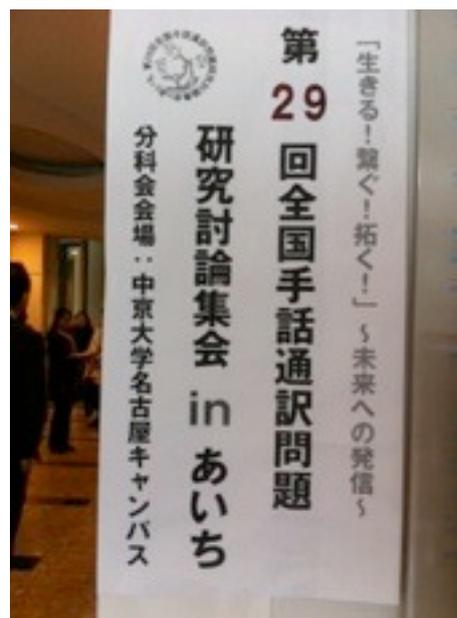
The 29th Winter Workshop was held at Chukyo University in Nagoya city on the 23 and 24 February 2013. We had 987 deaf and hearing participants from every prefecture of Japan and 100 volunteers each day supported the event. We had 13 session meetings with different themes. We listened to research presentations and discussed the themes.

Here are some of those themes:

Interpretation services and its role

This was a presentation was about how to coordinate services and support newly registered interpreters. Besides on the job training and field reports, they reported that mutual supervision was essential among interpreters.

We discussed 24/7 and emergency service and agreed on the necessity of SLI's to be employed in government offices. JFD has been working on establishing the standards of SLI service provision and new guidelines. This may lead to filling the gaps in regions but we always have to consider the situation of each region.



Sign language

There were 2 reports on this theme. One was a DVD presentation that introduced a deaf teacher and his personal history in relation to local place-name signs. Another was a story about how to collect local signs and publish them. Some communities have reported the process of making DVDs or books of their own local signs. Also we learned new expressions from the book "New Sign Language 2013" which was published by JFD.

Sign language learning circles

In Japan, there are many groups learning to communicate with local deaf people. These groups are called "sign language circles". Circles provide people with the opportunity to learn sign language. The circles are for family members of deaf persons, teachers from schools for the deaf and also any hearing people interested in learning JSL. Four presentations of their activities were given.

One presentation was of the history of the sign language circles. Learning about the sign language circles was an eye-opener for those who wanted to develop their sign language skills but didn't know where to start. They came to realise that to learn sign language is to understand deaf people's lives. Also we shared information about how to manage a circle.

Another report was about an emergency drill especially for deaf people. When they carried out the drill with the support of firehouse they encountered communication problems. We discussed what the role of circle members would be in the case of an emergency.

In the venue, there were counters for selling books and DVDs published by JFD or NRASLI where many participants could get updated information.

Over the 2 days we had a total of 32 different presentations of practical reports and challenges. The two days were full information sharing and learning from each other.



An International Workshop on
the Standardising of the Sign Language Interpreting Profession in West Africa
The Association of Sign Language Interpreters of Nigeria (ASLIN)

Samuel Oluwadare, National Secretary, ASLIN

From the 24th- 28th June 2013, the Association of Sign Language Interpreters of Nigeria (ASLIN) held a workshop on standardizing the sign language interpreting profession in West Africa. The workshop started in the morning with an opening ceremony, having a good number of people in attendance.

As part of the activities marking the opening ceremony, different people and organizations presented speeches of welcome and goodwill messages. These speeches were marked with sincere support to the success and progress of ASLIN and commitment to be of help in their nearest future. Amongst presenters of such were: Mrs. Rashidat Okoduwa, ably representing the Board of Trustees of ASLIN; Representative of the Hon. Minister of Women Affairs, Representative of the Swedish Ambassador to Nigeria, National President of National Association of the Deaf (NNAD) Alh. Sulaiman Dagbo, Chairman, Special Adviser of Adamawa State Government on Matters concerning persons with Disabilities, Rep of VSO, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Social Development (Deaf Sport Association).

Evidently, the presentations tailored toward a common aim (i.e. securing a level ground) suitable for the interpreters in Nigeria and West Africa. The workshop allowed people to discuss international best practices with counterparts of other professions abroad and at home. This programme will give members of the Association necessary training and needed insight to continue on course to provide interpreting services to the Deaf and other clients both at home and abroad.

Another notable point was made that the interpreting profession should be professionally standardized in West Africa by collaborating with the Deaf community. Mutual agreement should exist, giving no room for conflict or disunity; rather the two parties must cultivate a cordial relationship that will foster a better future.

Other highlights of the meeting were centered on having a workable code of professional conduct to guide the Association that is equally accepted by the members. This code of conduct must be comprehensive for those who follow it and equivalent to similar codes of conduct elsewhere in the world.

The Association hopes to grow bigger and become very reputable institution with both academic workshops and conferences. We hope to carry out research work and put forward theories of interpreting and interpreters. With our guidelines and principles set we aim to present interpreting as a variable and noble profession to anyone seeking a job in this field.





Left: Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between WASLI and the World Federation of Deafblind in the Philippines. Ms Carla Anderson, a Deaf delegate from Australia (with thumbs up) is representing WASLI.

Right: Deb Russell with Nepalese delegates at the WFD Conference in Sydney, Australia



IMPORTANT

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