



WASLI is committed to the development of the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide

WASLI Activities Report 2007-2011

WASLI is committed to the development of the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide and works in a number of ways to achieve this:

- a) encouraging the establishment of national associations of sign language interpreters in countries that do not yet have them
- b) being a support network for existing national associations of sign language interpreters
- c) sharing information and being a reference on interpreting issues
- d) supporting the work of sign language interpreters working at international events such as conferences, sporting events and other gatherings
- e) working in partnership with Deaf and DeafBlind Associations on sign language interpreting issues
- f) liaising with spoken language interpreter organisations and other organisations who have common interests

The WASLI Executive Board is pleased to bring you this report its activities 2007-2011. The Executive Board has 4 Officers and 8 Regional Representatives and each member submitted a report that details their work and what developments have taken place. In 2007 the Executive Board met in Segovia, Spain and then met face to face to discuss important issues and provide progress reports and updates on the work being done. In 2008 we met in London, UK, in 2009, Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2010 in Brisbane, Australia and in 2011 we will again meet in Durban, South Africa.

Although WASLI is still in its infancy you will see a lot of work has been done and much has been achieved. But there is much more work that needs to be done.

In 2011 there will be a new team to lead the Association and to take on the challenge of continuing the work already done as WASLI moves into a new phase of development. We wish them all the very best and will be available to offer support when it is needed.

WASLI Executive Board
2007-2011

OFFICERS REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Liz Scott Gibson (Scotland)

REPRESENTATION

- Lecture to participants in the 25th Anniversary conference of the Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters, Edinburgh, Scotland, in October 2007
- Meeting with interpreters in Tanzania in 2008
- Meetings with interpreters/Deaf people in Albania & Kosovo in 2008
- Contributed to the preliminary work on the questions relating to signed language interpreting in the WFD/SDR/SHIA Global Education Pre-planning project on the Human Rights of Deaf People and reviewed first drafts of Regional Reports arising from the project.
- Participated in the Seminar on the Global Education Preplanning Project on Human Rights of Deaf people in Finland (August 2008)
- Meetings with Deaf representatives from Chile, the Philippines, Kenya & Nigeria in Finland in August 2008 to discuss issues of contention between interpreters/Deaf associations
- In September 2008, presentations made to the 4th National Interpreter Trainers Workshop in Darwin, Australia, and the Annual Conference of the Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association
- Workshop presented in Cambodia in September 2008
- Lecture on the work of WASLI given to the 2nd International Forum of Deaf People in Fez, Morocco in October 2008
- Letter in support of sign language interpreters in Chile following the earthquake in March 2010
- In May 2010, lecture given to the Japanese Association of Sign Language Interpreters on their 20th Anniversary in Tokyo, and to NRASLI (the National Research Association on Sign Language Interpretation) in Kyoto
- Information about WASLI given as part of training seminar for Saudi Sign Language Interpreters in May 2010, and presentations/discussion with those in the Deaf Women's' Cultural Centre of Riyadh and the Saudi Federation of Deaf Sports. Interviewed by 'Al-Labeab Bel Ishara' a new TV programme for Deaf and hearing people.
- Information about WASLI given as part of training seminar for Greek Sign Language Interpreters (June 2010)
- Accompanied WFD President Markku Jokinen to the DPRK (July 2010)
- Presentation made at the EUD conference on the legal aspects of the implementation of sign language legislation in Europe, held at the European Parliament on November 19th 2010.

ARTICLES

- Foreword to Gallaudet University Press publication on 'International Perspectives on Sign Language Interpreter Education' (pub. 2009)
- Article in support of fundraising by the Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association (March 2009)
- Article for the Newsletter of the Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association (April 2009)

ORGANISATIONAL

- Initial liaison with legal advisers in Brussels, Belgium regarding registration as an international non governmental organisation
- Correspondence between the UN Office in Geneva regarding the provision of sign language interpreting services (October 2008)
- Response to the draft proposal on the Law on the Use of Croatian Sign Language as it applies to interpreting (January 2009)
- WASLI Statement on the Unification of Sign Languages in the Arab Region prepared and disseminated (May 2009)
- Letters of greetings sent to the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters conference (September 2007), Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand for their Annual Conference (July 2008), to the Swedish Sign Language Interpreters Association (STTF) on the occasion of their 40th Anniversary (March 2009), to the 1st Conference of Latin America Sign Language Interpreters (July 2009), to the Australian Sign Language Interpreters Conference (September 2007/2009), to AFILS (the French Association of Sign Language Interpreters on the occasion of their 30th Anniversary (October 2009), to Albanian Conference on Sign Language Interpreting (December 2009), the Nordic Seminar of Sign Language Interpreters (April 2010), to the Philippine Association of Interpreters for Deaf Empowerment on the occasion of their 2nd 'Golden Hands Awards' for interpreters (May 2010), to graduating students from London based Signamic (March 2011)
- Letters sent to the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled to support their initiative in establishing sign language courses to lead to eventual training of sign language interpreters in the DPRK (March 2011)
- Supporting reference given to SLIANZ for funding proposal to enable attendance at WASLI Conference in South Africa (February 2011)
- Supporting references given to a funding application by the Irish based MediSigns (February 2010) and Justisigns Projects (February 2011), looking at the development of appropriate resources and training for interpreters working in the medical and legal domains
- Discussion on joint working with WFD President Markku Jokinen and support to WFD in relation to interpreting queries received by them from

- external bodies e.g. WHO & other issues (e.g. definition of 'professional' sign language interpreter)
- Correspondence with WASLI Secretary/Newsletter editor
 - Correspondence with Treasurer
 - Board meetings attended in London (2008), Buenos Aires (2009). Unable to attend Board meeting in Brisbane in 2010 but contributed in writing
 - Supporting where possible the organisation of the 2011 WASLI conference in Durban, South Africa/liaison with Bruno Druchen, Executive Director of DeafSA
 - Responding as appropriate to email queries

FUTURE PLANS

- To support the incoming President of WASLI and to continue to support the development of the organisation in whatever way I can.



Liz Scott Gibson
President WASLI
president@wasli.org

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Juan Druetta (Argentina)

This report will be available in video format shortly.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Daniel Burch (USA)

Unfortunately we do not have a report from Daniel and the Executive Board are working to compile a report ready for the WASLI General Membership 2011 Meeting

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Zane Hema (England)

INTRODUCTION

Since 2007 the post of WASLI Secretary has been a very busy one. In addition to my secretarial duties I have spent quite a lot of coordinating other aspects of the WASLI Work Programme with various people – see below.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board have met face-to-face once each year as follows:

2008 – London, UK

2009 – Buenos Aires, Argentina

2010 – Brisbane, Australia

The 2011 Executive Board meeting will take place in Durban, South Africa 12/13 July 2011. The Board meetings take place over 2 days and as WASLI Secretary my duties are to prepare the agenda, collate reports, take minutes and finalise these with the Board. Following the meetings I follow up to take action on the decisions made and action points agreed.

WORK PROGRAMME

The WASLI Work Programme 2007-2011 details the work load of the WASLI Executive Board and is the focus of our discussions and the work we do. It is my duty as WASLI Secretary to continually update this and follow up on decisions made and action points agreed as above.

CORRESPONDENCE

The amount of correspondence that WASLI receives has grown year on year. As WASLI Secretary I used to respond to most correspondence unless it was specifically for another Board member. In 2009, the Board discussed the matter and made the decision to share the responding of correspondence amongst the rest of the Board members. Regional representatives now respond to emails and correspondence from their regions whilst the Officers continue with theirs.

WORKING WITH WEBMASTER

Since 2007 WASLI has a different website but David Wolfenden has continued to be our Webmaster. I liaised with David during the change and continue to liaise with him. The current website is a Contents Management System where nominated individuals are able to manage and affect changes to the site. David has worked with Jack Callon who is now also able to make changes to the site.

WORKING WITH MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Since 2007 we have had 3 membership Secretaries, Nigel Cleaver, Karl Llorca and now Robin Demko. I have liaised with each during the handover and

provided support as necessary. The work of the membership department has settled down.

WORKING WITH TRANSLATIONS DEPARTMENT

Since 2007 there has been an increasing need for documents to be available in other languages. Rafael Treviño from the US agreed to be Coordinator of the WASLI Translations Department and I have liaised with him as he took on this role. His work has been invaluable.

WORKING WITH NEWSLETTER EDITOR

George Major is the WASLI Newsletter Editor and I support her in the editing of the newsletter and with distribution.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2011

I have been working preparing for the General Membership meeting in the call for proposals, call for nominations for elections and producing the necessary documents to ensure this runs smoothly.

WASLI 2011 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

One of the difficulties about WASLI 2011 is that there is no Sign Language Interpreter Association in South Africa to assist in the preparation of conference.

Therefore the conference has had to be organised by WASLI. The committee consists of me, the President, Deb Russell and Jack Callon. It is this committee which has been able to assemble the Scientific Committee and Call for Papers for the Conference Programme, source a venue and negotiate a contract for registration and at the same time communicate this via the website, FACEBOOK and the WASLI newsletter and email updates.

WORKING WITH THE COMMITTEE FOR WASLI 2011 SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

Selman Hoti coordinates this committee. The other members are Deb Russell, José Luis Brieva and me. The committee has worked hard to put together the guidance and documentation which can now be viewed on the website. Over 20 applications for sponsorship from around the world have been received. The committee is working hard to get sponsorship so that we can have as many people attend as is possible.

WASLI REPRESENTATION

I have been very privileged in my position as WASLI Secretary to be asked to represent WASLI to give a presentation/lecture or to run workshops.

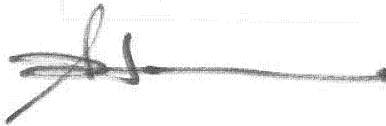
Highlights over the past 4 years include:

Presiding over the official opening of MyASLI, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2007
SASLI 25 Years Celebrations – Edinburgh, Scotland 2007

Gran Canaria, Canary Islands 2007/2008
Uddevalla, Sweden 2008
Training Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland, New Zealand 2008/2010
Training SAD – Singapore 2008
Nordic Seminar, Turku, Finland – April 2010
WASLI Panel - ASLIA Conference, Brisbane, Australia 2010
Lectures Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand 2011

THANK YOU

I would like to say a big thank you to all those members of the WASLI Executive Board for the hard work that has helped WASLI to achieve what it has so far. Particular thanks to the President and Vice President, to Deb Russell, to Jack Callon, to David Wolfenden, to Robin Demko, to Rafael Trevino and to George Major.



Zane HEMA
WASLI Secretary
secretary@wasli.org

REGIONAL REPORTS

WASLI has 8 regions (Africa, Asia, Australasia & Oceania, Balkans, Europe, Latino America, North America and Transcaucasia & Central Asia). Following are the reports received by the Regional Representatives.

Appendix C of the Governing Document details which countries are in which regions. (Link: http://www.wasli.org/files/downloads/123_appendices_english.pdf)

AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE

Name: Jack Owiti
Country: Kenya
Term of Office ends: July 2011

STATISTICS

This region has 53 countries
17 of these have an Interpreter Association

COUNTRIES WITH AN INTERPRETER ASSOCIATION

Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Burundi, Mozambique, Lesotho, Gambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), Madagascar, Rwanda, South Africa (SASLIA has since ceased operating)

COUNTRIES IN CONTACT WITH WASLI

I have contact with/supporting: Angola, Eritrea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Morocco, Somaliland, Togo, Egypt, Benin, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Chad, South Africa, and Cameroon

Since WASLI 2007 there has been quite a lot of activity in the region. The growth rate of newly established or newly established Interpreter Associations is tremendous and encouraging. It is possible that there are associations in other countries that are not known to me at this time.

One priority for me is to work with the WASLI membership secretary to encourage WASLI membership.

Regional Representative Activities 2010 – 2011

Most of the correspondence I deal with is from individuals seeking information about sign language; interpreter training and study materials; and seeking financial support.

There is great need in the region for mentoring, training and support and a number of countries do have established interpreter training programmes.

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Congress 2011 is coming to Africa! WASLI 2011 is also happening in South Africa and lot's of information has been sent to our contacts from the Secretary's office and we are grateful to that office for the continued timely correspondence.

Regional activities and events for the rest of 2011

Ethiopia: A BA in Deaf studies and culture is now open to Deaf and hearing scholars and enthusiasts; the coordinator is in touch with the Interpreter Association and the region on developments there.

Uganda: The training programme at Kyambogo University is still open and Samuel Lutalo and Prossy Suubi are the contacts there.

South Africa: The training program at Free State University is open though we do not have contact persons or current status. These training programmes would be beneficial to the rest of the region, need to find ways of multiplying the numbers of trainees, especially master trainers to work with the rest of the

regional focal points to provide the much needed training and learning materials production in the region.

The regional representative has been contacted by ZASLI – Zanzibar to conduct a series of trainings to strengthen the newly formed association. This training will happen between May – July 2011.

Kenya: The Kenyan government has adopted a new constitution that has recognized Kenyan Sign Language (KSL) and the ministry of education has approved the curriculum for interpreter training for colleges at diploma level. These two milestones set apart Kenya as one of the torch bearer for the rest of the region. There is need to work with the interpreters to implement the curriculum and share knowledge with the already existing training programs.

Jack Owiti
Temporary Regional Representative Africa
africa2@wasli.org

ASIA REPRESENTATIVE

Name: Emiko ICHIKAWA
Country: Japan
Term of Office ends: July 2011

I would like to report my activities and works as WASLI Asian Representative from 2007 to 2011. Most of the countries in Asia have no national association of sign language interpreters. Therefore, we have very few networks in the area. So, I set networking with interpreters in Asian countries, awareness of the need of national association of interpreters and support for its establishment, as my main activities of this term.

STATISTICS

This region has 38 countries
8 of these have an Interpreter Association

COUNTRIES WITH AN INTERPRETER ASSOCIATION

Japan, Malaysia, India (2), Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Nepal, Indonesia

COUNTRIES IN CONTACT WITH WASLI

Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan, Israel, Kuwait, North Korea, Oman, Jordan, Palestine, Saudi, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, China, Syria, Singapore, Maldives

I can contact directly with interpreters in 9 countries and 2 dependencies (India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau) and have contact with other countries through their National Association of the Deaf.

Activity Report 2007 - 2011

As indicated above, I have been networking with various countries and supporting establishment of national associations through this period. It is difficult for sign language interpreters in the region to meet but we take the opportunity to do so during the WFD Regional Secretariat-Asia/Pacific (WFD RS-A/P) Representatives Meeting. This is held somewhere in Asia in the years when there is no WFD Congress.

I decided to ask the WFD RS-A/P for support and guidance, because many Deaf delegates came along with interpreters to the meeting and we are not capable of holding an interpreters' meeting separately yet. Then, we got the full support of the WFD RS-A/P and were able to have a meeting of sign language interpreters in Asia in parallel with the WFD-A/P meeting.

1st Meeting of SLIs in Asia (2007)

- December 4, 2007, 13:00 – 17:00, in Macau
- Present: 8 countries and 2 areas
China, Japan (NRASLI and JASLI), Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau
- Delegates gave country reports which included training programs for interpreters and interpretation systems in each country and had Qs & As session on the reports to get more understanding of information. And we agreed to have the Asian meeting regularly since then and confirmed contact email addresses of each country.

2nd Meeting of SLIs in Asia (2008)

- December 11, 2008, 10:00 – 15:00, in Nepal
- Present: 4 countries and 1 area
Japan (NRASLI), Nepal, New Zealand, Singapore, Macau
- Due to the turmoil in Thailand, some countries were not able to come to the meeting, so we had fewer participants. But, we had many Nepalese interpreters as observers and gave a significant impact on them. As we had a small number of participants, we just focused on the networking in Asia and exchanged our views. We agreed that NRASLI (Japan) would serve as the secretariat for the moment, and that each participant would encourage colleagues in neighbouring countries to join the Asian network offering information to their own networks and organizations and/or individuals with whom they could contact.

In addition, Nepal and Singapore stated that it was very difficult for them to establish a national association, and requested to ease the eligibility requirement of WASLI National Membership that they had to be a national

association of interpreters and to allow interpreter groups belong to the NADs to become National Members. We agreed to ask WASLI for the ease since there are many other countries under the same political situation in Asia.

3rd Meeting of SLIs in Asia (2009)

- From 13:00 on December 25 to 12:00 on December 26, 2009, in South Korea
- Present: 6 countries and 3 areas
Indonesia, Japan (NRASLI and JASLI), Nepal, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan
- From this meeting, the Meeting of SLIs became recognized as a part of the official program of WFD RS-A/P Representatives Meeting. Beforehand, we conducted a questionnaire about the number of interpreters, domestic systems such as position in the society, training programs and certification systems (if they have, its process as well) in each country. We exchanged information based on the result of the questionnaire and talked about how effective a national association of sign language interpreters works. Thailand reported their achievements after the establishment of the national association. On the other hand, Indonesia stated it was hard for them to grasp the whole situation in the country as they have a huge number of islands, and they didn't know what to do now in the situation that only a few interpreters were working as volunteer. I was painfully aware of the difficulty to establish associations in Asia region.

4th Meeting of SLIs in Asia (2010)

- From 13:00 on November 26 to 12:00 on November 27, 2010, in the Philippines
- Present: 6 countries and 2 areas
Indonesia, Japan (NRASLI and JASLI), Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, South Korea, Hong Kong, Macau
- Same as the previous one in South Korea, this meeting was a part of the official program of WFD A/P Meeting. Furthermore, from this time, the registration fee for 2 interpreter delegates from each country was changed to the same amount as Deaf delegates (the fee for observers had been applied till then), so it became easier for interpreters to attend. On the second day, we did a workshop in response to requests at the 3rd meeting. On the first day, just as last year, we had country reports based on the questionnaire about interpreters in each country and on changes between the last meeting and this one. Indonesia stated they had believed in the past that they should work as volunteer at public institutions, but they tried to charge fee and then, the fee for interpretation service was officially recognized for the first time. She also said that she could get forward by attending these meetings. Nepal reported they would set up a preparatory committee for the establishment of a national association soon. Delegates from the Philippines said they would have a talk toward the consolidation of the 2 associations during the meeting. We confirmed each country had

advanced step by step.

On the second day, Japan gave a NRASLI/JASLI joint presentation titled “Human Rights of Deaf People and Sign Language Interpreters” and then, we discussed the importance of interpretation practice based on respects of the independence of the Deaf citing various specific examples. While we have different cultural backgrounds, we shared common perceptions that our clients are the Deaf who has independent personality, right to self-determination and human rights, and that interpreters/associations must bear in mind that the Deaf should always take centre stage.

Issues and achievements we faced at the meetings in Asia

- It seems very difficult to set up even a voluntary national association in some countries due to politics. Not a few countries prohibit organising a gathering. However, organisations of disabled people are accepted by the government in most of those countries. So, it is important to organize interpreters within the NAD and encourage them to join WASLI.
- Many countries face financial difficulties, so interpreters have trouble funding to attend meetings in Asia or around the world. Japanese 2 associations have been supporting the expenses for rooms and the registration fee of US\$300 for 1 delegate per country (a recommendation letter from NAD is required) upon request (the fee became US\$50 from the 4th meeting, but we still supported US\$300 to support other expenses). Japanese support is limited because it is funded by 2 associations in Japan. If the number of countries that attend the meeting and/or request the support increases, we have no choice other than to reduce the support for each country. We must resolve this issue in order to increase attending countries.
- In Nepal, a preparatory committee toward the establishment of a national association was set up and launched its activities.
- Attending countries/interpreters recognized the significance of WASLI and agreed to get together toward WASLI in some way and to strengthen the network in Asia as a means of achieving that.

Activities Plan 2011 - 2015

2012: to organise and operate the 5th Meeting of SLIs in Asia

2013: to organise and operate the 6th Meeting of SLIs in Asia

2014: to organise and operate the 7th Meeting of SLIs in Asia

2015: to implement various support actions to increase the number of Asian countries attending the 4th WASLI Conference

- To continue to hold and improve the meeting of SLIs in Asia
- To broaden and consolidate the Asian network in order to exchange information and support regularly
- Based on the above, to support each country to establish a national association of sign language interpreters

Emiko Ichikawa
Regional Representative Asia
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AUSTRALASIA & OCEANIA REPRESENTATIVE

Name: George MAJOR
Country: Australia
Term of Office ends: July 2011

STATISTICS

This region has 14 countries
2 of these have an Interpreter Association

COUNTRIES WITH AN INTERPRETER ASSOCIATION

Australia (ASLIA) and New Zealand (SLIANZ)

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Number of National Associations at the end of WASLI 2007: 2
Number of National Associations at the start of WASLI 2011: 2

ACTIVITIES 2007 - 2011

REGIONAL NETWORK

Australia and New Zealand (with the two national associations in our region) and Fiji (with an interpreter's committee) regularly keep in contact. However, we do not have contact with interpreters (nor know if there are people working as interpreters) and deaf communities in the majority of countries in our region. Since July 2007, we have made contact with colleagues in the Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Papua New Guinea. Contact with interpreters and deaf communities in our region is slow as many countries have few resources and do not have access to internet/telephone or travel opportunities. Making new contacts relies mainly on individual interpreters and deaf people making contact through travel or personal networks.

SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL EVENTS AND POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2007, fundraising for WASLI-related work in our region has been lead by associations as well as individual interpreters in Australia and New Zealand. We have found that interpreters are extremely supportive of development work in our region, and when give generously when asked to. Money raised has been used to bring interpreters from developing countries to conferences in Australia (through the 'Creating Opportunities Fund', [click here for more information](#)) and New Zealand, and for development work in our region.

In 2010, a deaf/interpreter team (Serevi Rokotuibau and Joneti Rokotuibau) from Fiji was able to travel to the Solomon Islands for one week, to teach deaf culture and interpreting. This project had a huge impact on the deaf community and interpreters in the Solomon Islands, and represents strong collaboration in our region. The project was initiated by a New Zealand interpreter (Angela Murray), funding was provided by New Zealand interpreters, and the team from Fiji volunteered their time and expertise for the project. Australia, for their part have, in the past, conducted training courses in Fiji, and more recently have provided opportunities for interpreters from Fiji to attend ASLIA conferences. I believe that our region is very good at this kind of collaboration and I sincerely hope that we will work towards more similar projects in the future. Joneti and Angela will present about their experiences in the Solomon Islands at the WASLI conference in July 2011.

Recently, some parts of our region have been hit hard by natural disaster, particularly the earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the floods in Queensland, Australia. Many people have died, and thousands of people were left homeless and without food, water, and other basic necessities. Deaf communities and organisations, as well as interpreters, have lobbied hard to get access to information in Auslan and NZSL. In both cases, they were successful in getting interpreters on television for regular press conferences, which has been a huge achievement. In past events, deaf people have missed out on crucial post-disaster information. Following on from this success, interpreters and the deaf community in Fiji have successfully lobbied their government to provide interpreters on television in the event of a disaster. Interpreters in Fiji are now asking their colleagues in Australia and New Zealand for procedural advice, so that they can be prepared.

In 2010, ASLIA hosted the WASLI Board meeting in Brisbane, Australia. It was disappointing (from my perspective as representative) that prior to this it was very difficult to get information and negotiate arrangements with the WASLI Board. In the end, only three Board members were able to attend in person, although we were able to conduct a successful Board meeting with the use of technology (SKYPE), and also attend the ASLIA conference. The other two attendees – Zane Hema and Juan Druetta – conducted professional development workshops in New Zealand, and Juan also conducted workshops in Australia. We are grateful to Zane and Juan for volunteering their time and expertise. We had hoped to conduct workshops in Fiji also, but unfortunately this had to be cancelled at the last minute because the trainer was unable to attend the Board meeting. I am grateful to ASLIA for hosting the Board meeting and making sure everything went smoothly for us in Brisbane, and to Susan Emerson who did volunteer IS interpreting for the SKYPE portions of our meeting.

SOME DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED

Although fundraising has been extremely successful, we need to prioritise where to spend the money, and that can be difficult. There are so many interpreters in our region who do not have access to basic training and resources. Fiji, although in a position to lead development work in the Solomon Islands, still need the support of Australia and New Zealand to provide more training and workshops. I think that in the future we need to consider applying for grants – still encouraging, but not fully relying on, the generosity of individual interpreters in our region.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2011 – 2015

What will be the main focus of the person who holds this role?

The next regional representative will be an interpreter from Australia. She or he will continue to encourage fundraising, and the useful/targeted spending of this money. Priority will be training opportunities, so that we can continue to share existing expertise and enable interpreters from developing countries to a) access crucial training opportunities and b) share their expertise in turn with others. The representative will continue to develop the existing ties between Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Papua New Guinea, whilst also trying to make further contacts in our region. We also hope to organise a regional conference at some point in the next representative's term.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as representative for the Australasia/Oceania region on the WASLI Executive Board. I would like to express my gratitude to all the interpreters and associations in my region for their support over the last four years, and in particular SLIANZ for their financial support which assisted me in attending WASLI Executive Board meetings.

George Major
Regional Representative Australasia & Oceania
austoceania@wasli.org

BALKANS REPRESENTATIVE

Name: Selman HOTI
Country: Kosovo
Term of Office ends: July 2011

STATISTICS

This region has 10 countries and 1 dependency (Kosovo)
3 of these have an Interpreter Association as does Kosovo

COUNTRIES WITH AN INTERPRETER ASSOCIATION

Romania, Greece, Serbia and Kosovo

ACTIVITIES 2007 - 2011

Significant developments in the region:

Kosovo: The Kosovar Association of Sign Language Interpreters (KASLI) is established in 2008 and is legally recognised by the state in early June 2009.

Albania: The establishment of a working group in Albania with the aim of the developing the Code of Ethics for sign language interpreters and the statutes for the further sign language interpreters in Albania.

Also ANAD (Albanian National Association of the Deaf) on December 2010 has organised an interpreting conference. ANAD recently has been recognised by the government as the professional centre for training of sign language interpreters and now they are working on developing the curricula for training of sign language interpreters.

Serbia; There was the establishment of the National Association of Sign Language Interpreters in Serbia. In December 2009 the first sign language interpreter service in capital of Serbia, Belgrade was established. This is the pilot project of the Deaf Association in Belgrade and supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2011 – 2015

The main focus of the person who holds this role should to establish a communication network as an important tool for sharing of information and liaising with WASLI.

Organising a regional conference for sign language interpreters

Encourage National Associations of Sign Language Interpreters to become NATIONAL members and to encourage individuals to become Sponsoring Individual members.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to acknowledge the KAD (Kosovar Association of the Deaf) for their support on facilitating my work as the Balkan Region representative at WASLI Board. They have provided me all facilities such as; computer, space, papers etc.

Selman Hoti
Regional Representative Balkans
balkans@wasli.org

EUROPE

Name: Marco Nardi
Country: England/Italy
Term of Office ends: July 2011

STATISTICS

This region has 33 countries and 7 dependencies

COUNTRIES WITH AN INTERPRETER ASSOCIATION

Belgium (2), Malta, France, Slovakia, Italy (2), Switzerland (2), Germany, Czech Republic, Estonia, Spain, Denmark, Hungary, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Slovenia, Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales & Northern Ireland,

There are a number of “countries” like Andorra, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Monaco, San Marino and Vatican City that are small enough to be served (with regards to sign language interpreting) by neighbouring countries.

We are in communication with Interpreters in Cyprus, Latvia and Lithuania.

The region has a support network since 1993 which is the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (*efsli*). Every year *efsli* holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference. For more information please refer to the website: www.efsli.org

ACTIVITIES 2007 - 2011

I attended:

- the *efsli* 2007 AGM and Conference in Zurich (Switzerland), “Setting Quality Interpreting Standards”
- SASLI (Scotland) celebration of 25 Years (2007) - “Sharing the Silver”
- ASLI (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) AGM/Conference and 21 Years celebrations in London (United Kingdom)
- the Public Service Interpreters of Sweden conference in Uddevalla, June 2008 with WASLI Secretary, Zane Hema.
- the *efsli* 2008 AGM and Conference in Voorschoten, Netherlands. The theme was “Third Language Interpreting”, On this occasion the *efsli* President and I, as WASLI Regional Representative has signed the Protocol of Collaboration between WASLI and *efsli*.
- the *efsli* 2009 AGM and Conference in Tallinn, Estonia. The theme was “Sound mind in sound hands”.
- the ASLI 2009 AGM in Birmingham (UK).

- the *efsli* 2010 AGM and Conference in Glasgow, Scotland "SYNERGY - Moving Forward Together".
- the 10th anniversary celebrations of the national sign language interpreter association CKTZJ in Prague (Czech Republic) in place of the WASLI Secretary who was unable to attend.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2 papers at the third Congress "Interpreting the Future" in Barcelona (Spain). The first was a WASLI presentation, which I delivered in International Sign and the second was, "Interpreting in Europe" presented in Spanish.
- a paper about WASLI (in collaboration with WASLI vice-president Mr Juan Carlos Druetta) in Bogota (Colombia) July 2009 at the 6th Meeting of Latin-Americans Deaf People and the 1st Meeting of Latin-Americans Interpreters. Particular thanks go to Mr Jose Luis Brieva, the WASLI Latino American Regional Representative

NETWORKING

- 2009 in Riyadh (Saudi) whilst on assignment.
- 2009 with colleagues in Poland to support them in their work

Liaised with the Executive Board to support the EuroSign Interpreting Project

Selling of WASLI publications at events attended

Promotion of WASLI membership at events attended

Securing a *Protocol of Collaboration* between WASLI and *efsli*

Assisted WASLI in the development of Joint Agreements between Associations of Sign Language Interpreters and National Associations of the Deaf

Participating in Executive Board discussions via e-group

Translating emails and other information (Italian and Spanish)

I have responded to numerous messages requesting information about availability of Interpreters in Europe with particular language combination, training institution in specific countries, information about membership, training, International Signs, numerous Students enquiries about references and questionnaires.

Been a member of the WASLI/WFD Task Group

Liaising with *efsli* and AIIC (International Association of Conference Interpreters)

- Created with other Board members internal Policies and disclaimers.
- Drafted a Document "How to book and work with Sign language Interpreters, this document is now available in its draft form as yet the WFD has to validate it.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES TILL THE END OF TERM:

- Coordinating the election of the next European Regional Representative.
- Any other task required by the work programme and by the Board.

I have been fortunate enough to participate at the development of WASLI since the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) congress in Brisbane (Australia) in 1999. I attended the RID Symposium in Washington (USA) in 2002 and I was invited to contribute to the WASLI working group in 2003. I was also fortunate to attend the WFD Congress in Montreal (Canada) where WASLI was officially launched.

It has been a pleasure and an honour to be the WASLI European Representative for the last two terms (2005 – 2007 and 2007 – 2011). I would like to thank, at this point, the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (*efsli*), for their support during all these years and all the colleagues and friends on the Board of WASLI and around the world. Thank you to all that have supported me. It has been a wonderful experience of supportive environment and collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,



Marco Nardi
Regional Representative Europe
europa@wasli.org

LATINO AMERICA REPRESENTATIVE

Name: José Luis Brieva
Country: Colombia
Term of Office ends: July 2011

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

This region has 31 countries
12 of these have an Interpreter Association

ACTIVITIES 2007 - 2011

During this period there are some significant changes happened to the Latin American Region such are:

At the beginning of 2007 Latin America we had 5 national associations Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Panamá and Chile, some regional associations in Brazil

and Argentina; for the end of this report we have 12 national in: Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay, Brazil, Panamá, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Cuba and Dominican Republic; that means an increase of 50%

SUPPORT NETWORKS

I want to underline the support I got from two international interpreters organizations: one is the Latin Interpreters Association “Mano a Mano” and the other the “RID” interpreters register for the deaf from USA. With those we share information also with the Latin countries such as the interpreters training in English, the experience of being an observer at the 2009 RID conference and the Mano a Mano conference done on 2009 in Philadelphia (USA).

REGIONAL EVENTS

Thanks to the WASLI Executive Board and FENASCOL (National Federation of the Deaf) support, ANISCOL (National Association of Colombian interpreters) with the direction and organisation of the WASLI representative from Latin America José Luis Brieva Padilla, was developed the 1st Latin American meeting in Bogota, Colombia in 2009 with the participation of more than 20 Latin American countries, and special guest from Spain and USA. WASLI was represented by the vice president Juan Druetta and the European representative Marco Nardi.

The outcomes were the experience interchange, the motivation for the Latin American interpreters and the following:

- The Bogota declaration for the interpreters' rights as a documented signed by all the countries delegates and shared with the WFD President
- Brazil was selected to host the II Latin American interpreters meeting on 2013.

Activities done to support the National Association creations:

Since 2007 checking the statutes to create national associations of interpreters was done in Ecuador, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and Peru and to encourage Uruguay to create their one. In Brazil the first National federation of interpreters FEBRAPILS was supported in its formation.

Also we work to look for the recognition of the Cuban interpreters committee to be able to become part of WASLI as well as supporting the interpreters in Chile to change their name from “instructors and interpreters association” because this one does not reflect the common goals with WASLI and they are in the process of responding to this.

I have been in contact with the individuals from associations in Venezuela, Panama and Cuba to strengthening them. I also am in contact with Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Paraguay and Bolivia to encourage them to create an association.

DIFFICULTIES

The main difficulties during the report time are:

- The lack of resources for the regional representative to visit and advise the regional countries, the distances between the countries make the air tickets very expensive ones and the countries cannot pay for that.
- The fact that internet access is limited and not really used by the interpreters in the region that makes dealing with correspondence more time consuming.
- Individual cases as Argentina, even they have a strong municipal association in Mendoza named AMILSA, has been not easy that in the country they become organise.
- There are not professionals or technical training programmes in the majority of the countries.

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- To be able to participate in this experience as WASLI Latin America representative has been an important learning process to know the interpreters problems in the region, help and strengthening them as WASLI, to let them feel they are not alone, now there is an international organisation that represent and hears them.
- To make visible Latin America in Europe and USA was very important for future support
- To increase from 5 national associations to 12.
- Establish the 1st Latin American Interpreters meeting
- The most important one was to know the current WASLI Executive Board to learn from valuable people that make interpretation their life and teach us a lot with their example and strength

SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION

I want to thanks and recognise the support of the following people for the support of the work as Regional Representative on the last 4 years:

- To ANISCOL, (National Association of Colombian interpreters) for all the support, without them I could not do my work.
- To the Ontario interpreters association OASLI, for its support to go to Segovia, Spain.
- To the Mano a Mano, association for the recognition and work in USA for the Latin interpreters.
- To Erick Chinchilla from Costa Rica for his support on the nomination on 2007, as well as to ASOIVE from Venezuela and Isabel Rey from Peru.

- To Margarita Rodríguez, Colombian interpreter who lives in Canada, mi tutor and big support of my work.
- To Rafael Treviño and Ximena Serpa, my support with the translations from English to Spanish and vice versa for the report and other documents.
- To FENASCOL (National Federation of the Deaf) for the support to ANISCOL and to me as regional represent.
- To WASLI and the Executive Board for all the support that allow me to fulfil the goals on those 4 years, specially to ZANE HEMA, JUAN DRUETTA, and DEBRA RUSSELL.

PLAN ACTIVITIES FOR 2011 – 2015

For 2011 – 2015, it is necessary that the elected person take in account the following to be developing:

- To look for the creation of national association of interpreters at: Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, and the Caribbean islands.
- To support the development of the II Latin American interpreters meeting on 2013 in Brazil, contacting FEBRAPILS.
- To help more Latin represents to participate at the WASLI conference on 2015.
- Look for an advice to create training programmes for interpreters in Latin America

CONCLUSION

To have an organisation as WASLI has been a big advance for the recognition of interpreters as professionals. Latin America is very thankful with all the WASLI members and we think that the way we started should not stop; we have to continue working for the professionalisation of sign language interpreting and this way to guarantee to the deaf community, that we work for to have more and better interpreters.

THANKS TO ALL



José Luis Brieva
Regional Representative Latino America
latinoamerica@wasli.org

NORTH AMERICA REPRESENTATIVE

Name: Debra Russell

Country: Canada

Expiration of term: July 2011

The following report summarises my activities during the past 4 years. I was first appointed in South Africa in 2005, and have served since that time. I wish to thank the Board of Directors for the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf for their on-going support and encouragement for the work of our region. I also wish to thank the many colleagues from Mexico, who have endeavoured to form a national federation in their country and have collaborated with me over the years. It will be a pleasure to support Nigel Howard, the incoming WASLI North American Representative, and I wish him every success in the role.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- North American region; 3 countries: Canada, Mexico and the United States of America
- There were two National Associations at the end of WASLI 2007
- Mexico reports they are in the process of trying to establish a national federation

ACTIVITIES 2007 - 2011

- Membership Drive: each year since 2007 we have placed an emphasis on recruiting individual memberships from the North American region, and to this end, we have been successful in acquiring over 50 individual supporting members from the region.
- Membership Coordinator: Robin Demko from Canada has assumed the duties of the membership coordinator, and has provided stability to this portfolio. This support was provided from the Western Canadian Centre for Deaf Studies at the University of Alberta and we thank them for their support.
- Agreements with National Associations and Deaf organizations: Liaised with national association regarding the creation of working agreements between national interpreter associations and national Deaf organisations. I was present for the signing of agreements between the National Association of the Deaf and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf at the RID national conference in 2009. As well I participated in the signing

ceremonies between AVLIC, Canadian Association of the Deaf and the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf, during the AVLIC conference in 2010.

- WASLI Research Approval Process: assisted WASLI in creating forms and streamlining processes to be used by researchers who wish to recruit participants via WASLI contacts.
- Board Meetings: attended board meetings of WASLI in London, England, and Buenos Aires, Argentina over the past term. The University of Alberta funded my travel. I was unable to attend the meeting in Australia in August 2010.
- National Conferences & Meetings: Attended RID in 2007 (San Francisco) and 2009 (Philadelphia); AVLIC in 2008 (St. John's NL) and 2010 (Ottawa, ON). While at the RID events, we hosted regional meetings, with attendance from Mexican delegates and held a WASLI Open House in Philadelphia. While at AVLIC, meetings were held between WASLI, RID, and AVLIC representatives. We also held three telephone conferences over the term as well.
- Support for other WASLI regions: Provided workshops as part of WASLI's on-going commitment to training. This meant travel to both Albania and Colombia. My thanks to Selman Hoti and José Luis Brieva for their invitations and support to make these events successful.
- Mexican Federation: offered support and information to Mexican interpreters as they endeavoured to address regional and national issues. Provided information on testing processes and certification processes used in North America. WASLI continues to support the efforts of our colleagues in forming an association, and we encourage all parties, including the Deaf associations and the multiple groups of interpreters to come together to find ways to move forward on forming an association.
- WASLI 2011 Sponsorship Programme: We passed the envelope at the AVLIC 2010 conference and some \$400.00 was donated to WASLI for the sponsorship programme. We also did this at the Conference of Interpreter Trainers conference in San Antonio, TX in Oct 2010 and raised some \$800.00. Thanks to all at AVLIC and CIT who contributed. In addition, several individual Canadian interpreters donated funds to support WASLI 2011 and their contributions are gratefully acknowledged. Finally, recruited a Canadian sponsor for a Ukrainian delegate to attend WASLI 2011, and our thanks to the Saint John Deaf and Hard of Hearing Society for their generosity.

- WASLI 2011 Conference Planning: the majority of my WASLI time over the past year has been used with helping to plan the Conference in South Africa. Many thanks are due to Jack Callon who has been donating countless hours to the planning and administration of the conference. Specific tasks I completed: Recruited the Scientific Committee Co-Chair and worked with them to implement all phases of their work resulting in the programme for the conference; acted as the liaison to the hotel; Work with Rafael Treviño on the concept of spoken language interpretation to be provided while at the conference; recruited donations to the sponsorship program; helped to edit website material.
- Conference of Interpreter Trainers: worked collaboratively with the Board of this organisation. CIT generously offered a \$500 travel bursary and free registration for one delegate from our Mexican community. Unfortunately, Mexico was not able to identify and send a representative to the conference.
- Task Group on Interpreter Training and Education: We have participation from 15 countries and it remains a pleasure to chair this committee, to see the range of perspectives among the participants and what engages their interest and what seems to not engage them. Communication has been challenging across this diverse group given time zones, access to technology, work commitments and access to materials. I wish to thank each and every one of the contributors to this process.
 - We accomplished the following:
 - Created a guiding statement for interpreter educators working in interpreter education in international contexts
 - Created a small database of materials recommended for interpreter education
 - Drafted a model of education based on a survey of the literature and best practices (to be presented at WASLI).
- General Communication: Over past four years I have responded to some 1800 emails including WASLI board communication and inquiries from North American interpreters interested in WASLI. Submitted reports to RID and AVLIC for publication in their newsletters. Have also sent these same updates to our Mexican colleague for translation and consideration in their newsletters.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2011 – 2015

- Support Nigel Howard as the next WASLI North American representative, ensuring a smooth transition as he pursues:
 - Working with the Deaf and Interpreter Communities in Mexico to see how a national federation might be formed
 - Addressing fundraising for WASLI from our region

Respectfully submitted
Deb Russell
Regional Representative North America
northamerica@wasli.org

TRANSCAUCASIA & CENTRAL ASIA REPRESENTATIVE

Name: Anna Komarova
Country: Russia
Expiration of term: July 2011

Unfortunately we do not have a report from Anna but the WASLI Executive Board are working to have a report to present at the WASLI General Membership meeting 2011.

Any enquiries to: WASLI Secretary, Zane Hema at secretary@wasli.org