



WASLI

World Association of
Sign Language Interpreters

Annual Report 2020-21

Achievements

WASLI Korea 2023

Lucy and Anthony with KASLI's support have investigated venues and liaised with KAD for our General Meeting and Conference.

ISO Expert Group

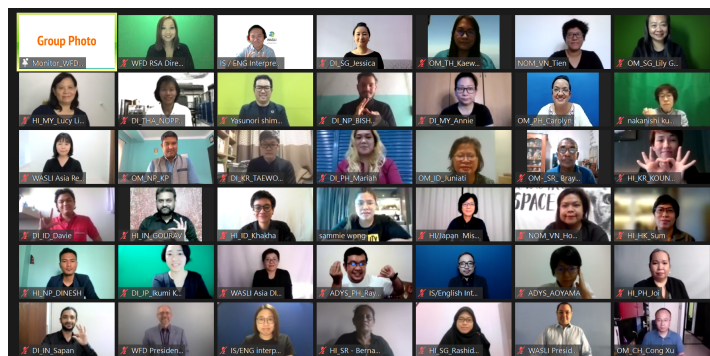
We have approached some experts to form the initial ISO-EG with new applications being received. Samuel Chew is our interim chair and has begun to attend ISO meetings for TC37.

ISAAB - WFD-WASLI

The WFD and WASLI have agreed a new policy which includes options for candidates to be pre-accredited, accredited for one direction or both and with additional languages. We have appointed a new ISAAB Chair and applications will open in September 2021.

WASLI 2021 [online]

We have a mid-point conference between our General Meeting. We are interested to see whether this is popular and if this is something that we could do again in the future.



WFD-WASLI Asia

WASLI was delighted to be able to support the cooperation of Deaf Associations and Interpreter representatives within the Asia region. Both the Presidents of the WFD and WASLI, joined the WFD Regional Secretariat Asia and the WASLI Regional Representative (RR) and Regional Deaf Interpreter Advisor (R-DIA) to discuss interpreting and collaboration in the region. This also enabled us to gather some demographic information from the representatives present to ascertain an idea of the number of deaf people, the numbers of interpreters overall, and the number of deaf interpreters working within the countries represented.

WASLI North America

The North America RR was able to engage effectively with the Mexican Government. The National Council for Standardisation and Certification of Labor Skills invited WASLI's participation whilst developing their standards of competence for the certification of sign language interpreters.

We proposed that the Deaf leaders of Deaf communities should participate, in line with the WFD-WASLI MOU. This enables Deaf experiences and opinions to be reflected in the standard acknowledging the concerns of Deaf communities in relation to the development and provision of interpretation services.

Activities of the Board

President - Christopher Stone

During the second year of service, we have of course continued to live through the Covid-19 pandemic. Fortunately, we have been able to stay in touch and maintain our governance structure via our online communication channels: daily WhatsApp messages, and monthly Zoom meetings. This has supported the ongoing consolidation of WASLI. Below I outline our activities in line with the strategic plan that was devised in the WASLI board away weekend 2019.



The WASLI Strategic Plan 2019-23



We have over the last two years tried to ensure that the work we engage in is sustainable. Some changes in the way we operate have meant that we have had to reimplement previous work in sustainable ways. This had included recruiting a Chair for the IS accreditation advisory board, establishing an International Standards Organisation Expert Group, and managing commitments we make in line with the current capacity of the volunteer board.

Communication

We now have a WASLI Twitter group that can manage Twitter as well as an Executive Board (EB) member who manages Facebook.

We have been discussing a re-design of our website, as we have received feedback that this is something that our members would like us to improve. The goal would be to make navigation easier and

potentially to develop a member-only area to access specific resources. This is currently being analysed in an internal Members Resources working group.

We are also now ensuring that we have a quarterly newsletter highlighting activities of the EB, the Regional Representatives (RR) and the newly appointed Regional Deaf Interpreter Advisors (R-DIA). Our newsletter is also a place to spotlight achievements of our members and interpreters globally – please do contact our Secretary, [Isabelle Heyerick](#) if you wish to contribute to the newsletter.

As President I have represented WASLI at a variety of events this year communicating our goals and our work. This includes:



- The Slovenia Deaf Association ‘Deaf Zoom’ webinar series with our Deaf Interpreter Advisor (DIA) Arūnas Bražinskas
- An ethics webinar for the Irish Sign Language interpreters newly formed registration body
- Presenting at the CIUTI conference 2020 addressing the use of AI and their application to signed language interpreting
- Presenting at the Nordic seminar for sign language interpreters

- Co-chairing a WFD 70th anniversary webinar
- Discussing collaboration and cooperation at the Asia region’s joint event between the WFD’s Regional Secretariat Asia and WASLI’s Asia region

All of these events provide an opportunity to provide a brief history of WASLI and to ensure greater awareness of our goals.

We continue to field emails on a weekly basis. These maybe questions for us to answer, requests for support, or invitations to engage in collaborative work. We hope that having a more user friendly website will reduce some email traffic, making this task more manageable for the voluntary board.

Capacity building

Our Regional Representatives (RR) regularly engage with the regions (please see their reports below). In some regions we see a move towards regional offices being established, this would then enable us to have some regional funding to support this work. This is something that we are mindful of in terms of whether or not there are implications that require changes to our articles.

We have piloted the creation of a leadership training program. We will be delivering this training to colleagues from Africa in July 2021 and hope that this will support the global interpreting community going forwards.

We have also supported Heriot-Watt university in a project building IS interpreter capacity financed by the European Union’s interpreter directorate SCIC. This has recruited interpreters from around the world who may have the potential to work for the EU, European Commission and European Parliament. This should also have the potential to support IS interpreting in other arenas and grow the list of accredited IS interpreters.

We hope to further explore the idea of having a repository of resources from our national members that can be shared. This would form part of the support we can provide to interpreters and interpreter associations be they newly formed, or in the process of forming. The UK's Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ASLI UK) has been supporting this effort working alongside the Vice-President, Susan Emerson (please [see Susan's report](#) below).

Several of our regions have used the WASLI Zoom account (with interpretation functionality) to host their regional meetings. This is another positive way in which we can support the work capacity of our RR.

Financial Stability

As members will be aware we voted to establish our legal seat in Geneva, Switzerland and this was achieved in July 2019. Since Michèle Berger has become our Swiss Board member, we have continued to consolidate our Geneva office base (please [see Michèle's report](#) below). We have filed taxes, and now have been able to open a Swiss bank account after navigating a number of Swiss administrative hurdles.

We continue to look at fundraising and income stream possibilities led by our Treasurer Nigel Howard. We are delighted to report that we have received some support from GoReact for lower income country membership and for our online conference (please [see Nigel's report](#) below).

If you are interested in supporting WASLI to increase its income, please do contact Nigel. And as always, please do consider making a donation to WASLI (wasli.org/donation).

Collaboration

WFD

We continue to work closely with WFD in line with our MOU. We were honoured to be invited to their 70th anniversary webinar series. This highlighted the need for collaboration between Deaf associations, Interpreters associations, and other stakeholders to ensure appropriate interpreter training, service provision, and legal entitlements. We were well represented by leaders, community activists, researchers, and interpreter educators.



We are currently reviewing our MOU and continue to collaborate on the ISAAB. Also we both attended the joint Asia Region's event on collaboration and cooperation between National Deaf Associations and Interpreter associations.

RedT

WASLI continues to a part of the RedT consortium supporting letters written to governments for the rights of interpreters in war zones, including rights for interpreters who have worked with armed forces to settle in countries whose armies local interpreters have supported. Open letters have been sent to

the Australian government, the Canadian Immigration Minister, the US Secretary of State, and the NATO Secretary General. We have received a positive response from the NATO Secretary General.

IS accreditation advisory board

We have appointed Heidi Green as the Chair of the IS accreditation advisory board (ISAAB). [Heidi's report](#) can be found below.

International Standards Organisation

We have convened an International Standards Organisation Expert Group (ISO-EG) with Samuel Chew as the interim Chair. [Samuel's report](#) can be found below and we still seek experts to engage in several of the sub-committee working groups.

Affiliation

The Executive Board is responsible for approving 'National Members'. However, we have seen applications for organisations that might not have national status (in the sense of a UN independent/member state) but rather represent a particular region. Currently, WASLI aims to support both 'national' and 'regional' interpreter associations. Furthermore, we also support 'provisional' entities aiming towards establishing a 'national' association.

To address this issue, raised by our Latin America and the Caribbean region at our GA 2019 we are considering changing our 'National Members' category into a 'Voting Members' category. This would potentially require a change to our articles which currently only allows National Members to vote.



This year we have been able to recruit Regional Deaf Interpreter Advisors (R-DIA) thanks to our DIA Arūnas Bražinskas (please see [Arūnas' report](#) below). This should not only provide better capacity within the regions but also ensure that deaf interpreters feel engaged and continue to contribute to the work of WASLI.

We are hoping that our engagement with regions will engender a greater sense of affiliation to WASLI. We have had EB representatives at several regional events (please see reports below) and we hope our communication also furthers membership and engagement with WASLI. Please do consider individual membership as well as asking your interpreter associations to join WASLI.

Board Management

WASLI continues to have meetings online in a three-month rotation with month one being Executive Board (elected officers only), month two being both Executive business and Regional updates (full board), and month three Regional Business (lead by Regional Representatives). This structure appears to work well with meetings occurring on the third Thursday of the month.

Some regions are more active than others with most attending at least some of the meetings. Most regions provide reports and some regions are extremely active. We may need to review the regions that we have at the next General Assembly (GA) in Jeju, South Korea to ensure that we best represent the active and dormant regions.

The future remains somewhat uncertain but with a clear hope that we will be able to physically meet in Jeju, South Korea, 2023. Jeju has no visa requirements and so we are hoping that this will allow for a truly global presence of interpreters, their associations and other interested parties. Last year we appointed Lucy Lim and Anthony Chong as our co-convenors and their report on the conference organisation can be found below.

Concluding remarks

This has been a second year of consolidation with positive steps forward in WASLI's sustainability. We are looking forward to the online conference July as a further way of connecting with our stakeholders and providing a halfway steppingstone to our General Assembly and quadrennial face-to-face conference in South Korea in 2023.

Vice-President - Susan Emerson

Ahead of the last financial year the Board had set many goals, many of which were hindered by the global pandemic. However, we have managed to achieve many tasks we set out to do, despite Covid-19. I have enjoyed supporting the President, Christopher, and the board in my role as Vice-President. Over the next two years a lot of my energy will be focussed on being the Board liaison between for the WASLI Conference Organising Committee.



The Board has engaged in regular ongoing communication across multiple platforms including social media, and across multiple portfolios. Aside from the monthly Executive Board meetings are Regional Representative meetings, the WASLI South Korea Organising Committee, one on one meetings with the President, and with the Deaf Interpreter Advisor. One of my main goals since being appointed for this current term was to redevelop the WASLI website to make it more user friendly and accessible – this activity is in the planning stages.

There have been a number of WASLI “Get Together’s” hosted by different regions which I have been pleased to have been a part of its coordination. The get togethers typically involve a presentation from the WASLI Board, Q+A between regional members and the Board, a Regional meeting and a guest presenter. Each event has been successful and attracted great attendance.

Another main activity the Board is planning is an online repository of professional development resources for members. We will work closely with ASLI (UK) to build our library as they have an amazing suite of resources and we thank them for their generosity. We invite other associations to support this endeavour and would welcome additional resources, especially in languages other than English. This will be an excellent membership benefit once it launches.

Most recently I was involved in organising the WASLI Online Conference held in July 2021, specifically, co-ordinating the access. We were pleased to provide mentoring opportunities for those aspiring their IS accreditation.

Treasurer - Nigel Howard

WASLI is in the midst of centralising its affairs into Switzerland in order to be more streamlined and efficient. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to both, Michele Berger and Patrick Galasso, for their tremendous support with the transition.



Goals that were set:

- Complete monthly financial statements from 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020
- Complete the year-end balance sheet
- Finalise Swiss Tax Exemption
- Open and create accounts at the Post Finance Bank in Geneva. These were set up for:



- General WASLI Account
- Conference 2023 Account
- ISAAB Account

- Close HSBC accounts the United Kingdom by transferring funds into Post Finance in Geneva, Switzerland. This is expected to be complete by mid-July.
- Transition from United Kingdom PayPal to Swiss PayPal (which will be directly connected to our bank). This is expected to be completed by the end of July.
- On-going meetings with the WASLI Korea 2023 Conference Committee
 - Reviewing budgets
 - Establishing a sub account in Post Finance as needed

Additional activities

- Purchased Zoom account for Executive Board meetings. Opened Zoom account for Regional Representatives to use for regional meetings, workshops, presentations and training. This week, our Zoom account has been upgraded temporarily for events such as the upcoming conference on the 10 and 11th of July.
- Liaised with GoReact to provide sponsorship for the International Sign interpreters for the up-coming conference. WASLI expresses sincere appreciation for their support!

Upcoming activities

- Clarify the payment process with Individual Membership, as members are not currently receiving acknowledgement of payment. It is hoped that after the transition to Swiss PayPal, this will be resolved.
- Source alternate forms of electronic payment for countries that do not have PayPal. If you have any suggestions for this, please do let me know.
- Establish a Fund-Raising Committee in the fall of 2021 for the WASLI World Conference 2023.

In closing, it has certainly been a difficult, unique, trying, and challenging year globally with us all feeling the impact of COVID-19. I offer my sincerest sympathies to those of you who have been infected. Thank you to the interpreters, for trying your best to provide interpretation services in medical settings safely, and to ensure accessibility. Be safe and be healthy. Let's hope that from July 2021 and onwards things will get better, for each and every one of you around the world. Let us soon hug again!

Fundraising, sponsorship and donations

WASLI Korea 2023

If you have relevant expertise and want to be part of the committee, please do contact me. We are seeking different sources of funds and sponsorship for the WASLI World 2023 Conference in Jeju, South Korea. We are also seeking financial support to provide participants with the opportunity to attend and share the learning with their respective countries.

Donations

If you and/or any organisation, company or association wish to make a donation to WASLI, please do so using the following link:

<https://wasli.org/donation>

Your donation really does make a difference to our association in furthering and enhancing the profession of interpreters around the world. Now that we have Tax Exemption and physical presence in Geneva, Switzerland, it should be easier to seek donations.

Secretary - Isabelle Heyerick

Goals that were set:

- Handle Executive Board items
- Handle set-up of working expert groups: provide WASLI e-mail address and access for all
- Collect and co-edit Annual Report
- Handle use of Zoom by Regional Representatives for WASLI regional activities
- follow-up on all e-mails directed to WASLI: e-mails that come in through the website; e-mails for other board members and regional representatives; membership request e-mails
- plan monthly meetings for the Board: agreeing a date, booking an online meeting, putting together the agenda, invite the regional reps
- report on monthly meetings of the Board: writing the minutes and sharing them with all board members
- Follow-up on the Newsletter
- Send out Mail Chimp campaigns
- Representation of WASLI



Additional activities

- Manage WASLI Twitter account, in collaboration with the team

- Follow-up on formalising Deaf Interpreter Regional Representatives: induction documents, setting up e-mail addresses and providing access
- Follow-up on membership questions and request in collaboration with membership coordinator and treasurer
- Review research support requests
- Manage updates of information and news on WASLI website in collaboration with the webmaster
- Support organisation of the WASLI 2021 July Conference
- Fundraising for WASLI

Activities report

1. **E-mail communication:** the secretary checks and responds to WASLI e-mails at least once a week.
2. **Organise meetings:** during the July 2020 - 2021 period, the Executive Board met four times in 2020 (September, October, November, and December) and six times in 2021 (January, February, April, March, May and June). For all these meetings, the secretary provided the agenda and invited everyone to the online meeting.
3. **Follow-up on meetings:** for the meetings in which I was present (excused from two meetings), I took the meeting minutes and shared these via e-mail and in a Dropbox folder with all board members.
4. **Newsletter:** together with the WASLI president, I am responsible for editing the Newsletter. During the July 2020 - 2021 period two Newsletters were published (January and April). I am responsible for dissemination using the website, Mail Chimp, Twitter, and Facebook. I also contributed to the WASLI Newsletters.
5. **Mail Chimp Campaigns:** the following Mail Chimp campaigns were sent out:
 - WASLI Newsletter 2021 #1
 - Survey Results: Remote Sign Language Interpreting In Times Of COVID-19
 - announcement 2nd HKB University International Conference on Interpreting
 - request to participate in Survey on multilingual interpreting settings - please participate
 - WASLI Newsletter 2021 #2
 - announcement 26 May Online Conference International Sign Interpreting
 - WASLI 2021 online conference - Call for Presenters
 - request to participate in COVID-19 survey #4
 - Call for Interpreters for WASLI conference July 2021
6. **Research support:** Occasionally WASLI receives request to support research by e.g., requesting members/ interpreters to participate in surveys etc. To this end WASLI has a research approval procedure see <https://wasli.org/special-interest/research-references>. At the moment all requests are submitted and reviewed by the secretary. During the period July 2020 - 2021 I reviewed 7 research applications. 4 were approved, 3 were not followed up by the applicant. Upon approval, I assist the researcher with the requested WASLI support (dissemination of survey, call for participants , etc.).
7. **Representation of WASLI:** I represented WASLI at the AGM of the Professional Flemish Sign Language Association (member) and at the Regional Meeting for WASLI Oceania .

8. **Twitter account:** Since March 2021 I have been tasked with managing the WASLI Twitter account. The aim is to tweet about WASLI business and signed languages and/or interpreting related matters. In April 2021 Annika also joined the Twitter team. She will be tweeting Fun Facts Friday in order to showcase our website and the information it has, and also to highlight new members that join.

9. **Fundraising:** In May 2021 a CPD workshop was organised in Flanders (Belgium) as a fundraiser for WASLI. As the secretary of WASLI and VP of Tenotu vzw, I invited Honorary WASLI President Debra Russell to provide an online workshop. All proceedings were donated to WASLI.

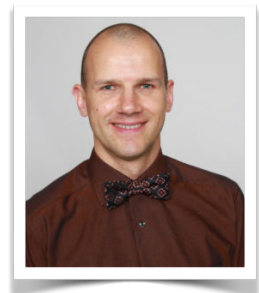
Calling all interested parties:

This is my second and thus last term as WASLI secretary. If you are interested to run for this position come our AGM 2023 and have some questions regarding the work of the secretary, please get in touch. Happy to discuss!

Deaf Interpreter Advisor - Arūnas Bražinska

Goals that were set

- Establishing clear communication with the Regional Deaf Interpreter Advisors (R-DIA)
- Attending monthly Executive Board meetings online
- Photography and videos for social media
- Establishing an IS translation group for WASLI texts and documents
- Translating the Newsletter and other documents



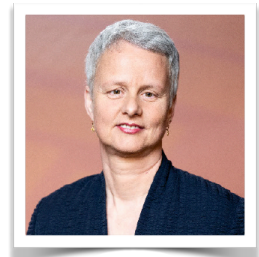
Additional activities

- Manage WASLI's Facebook and Instagram presence
- Serve on the ISAAB as WASLI's board liaison

Swiss Board Member - Michèle Berger

Goals that were set:

- Set up a Swiss bank account with PostFinance
- Transfer WASLI money from HSBC bank to the new Swiss account
- Set up a Swiss PayPal account, linked to the new bank account
- Clean up old financial business



- Collaboration with WASLI treasurer
- Deal with the tax issues related to our legal seat in Geneva Switzerland
- Collaborate with IDA in Geneva
- Look into the function of a WASLI local manager in Geneva
- Attending monthly board meetings online

Additional activities

- Collaborate with other board members around Social media networking
- Help prepare for the WASLI July 2021 online conference

Honorary President - Debra Russell

Some highlights of my year of service:

- Continued work with WASLI to increase its presence and participation in ISO.
- Participation in an orientation meeting with the WASLI Expert Group, and continuation of recruiting WASLI reps.
- Preparation WASLI's Annual Liaison Report for June 2021 ISO Annual Conference.
- Providing several presentations over the year including:
 - the African Regional Forum,
 - the Eastern European and Transcaucasia On-Line Regional Conference,
 - the founding meeting of the Malaysian Interpreter Association
 - to Belgian interpreters as part of their fundraising for WASLI.
- I am committed to co-teaching with Dr Christopher Stone this July and August, when WASLI pilots its leadership modules with a small group of interpreters from the African continent.
- I continue to share WASLI's social media posts to my network.



Thank you to the current board for their dedicated service during this pandemic that has presented many challenges for interpreters and Deaf communities alike. I appreciate the leadership and efforts that are resulting in our Switzerland legal seat processes being solidified and I look forward to participating in the WASLI on-line conference in July.

Activities of the Regional Representatives

Africa Region - Obed Mambwe

Africa continues to battle with a lack of resources to develop interpreter training and establish NASLIs, both financially and technically. The Covid19 pandemic has hit African interpreters hard due to the digital divide: a lack of good gadgets and internet connectivity for remote video interpreting. The African Federation of Sign Language Interpreters (AFSLI) is very active in organising videoconference meetings and other interactions with interpreters on the continent to share knowledge and ideas on how to develop the profession during the pandemic. AFSLI usually invites SLI professionals from other regions like Europe and North America to share their expertise, thanks to AFSLI president, Timothy Tinat.



Additional activities

- Last month, the African interpreter and Deaf communities were mourning the death of Jack Owiti who was considered one of African giants in the introduction and development of professional SLI and training, and establishment of NASLI in Kenya and Africa as a whole. WASLI interacted with Jack so well as eulogized by our Honorary President, Debra Russell.
- A good number of African countries are keeping their NASLI active by engaging with local interpreters, Deaf communities and beyond their borders. Countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, to mention but a few.

Upcoming activities

- The Association of Sign Language Interpreters of Nigeria (ASLIN) will be holding a National conference of interpreters in July 2021 which will also be available virtually.
- Zambia has established the Federation of Sign Language Interpreters and Translators of Zambia (FSLITZ) and is currently undergoing training to develop a national ITP curriculum. FSLITZ will have an SLI Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in October 2021, to be conducted by Lisa Weems and Dr Anthony Aramburo, both from the USA.
- We plan to create a WhatsApp group of NASLIs and/or country interpreter leaders to communicate and give/receive feedback better. Getting feedback or responses from African interpreters is a big challenge.
- Leadership training will be delivered by WASLI to African interpreter leaders via AFSLI in July and August 2021.

Arab Region - Dr Samreen Sameer

In the Arab region, I am pleased to present my report on the activities of the Arab Organization of Sign Language Interpreters "SELA", which works in coordination and cooperation with the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters "WASLI".

We seek in our region to establish an organised work plan, and we were able to achieve most of the goals we set for the year 2019-2021 through



building partnerships with deaf organisations and interpreters, and encouraging deaf interpreters to join "SELA." Although some programs faltered due to the Corona pandemic, we managed to achieve a lot

Communication

- Continuing to develop the accounts of the Arab Organization for Sign Language Interpreters "SELA" on all social media and publishing all the activities of interpreters and deaf people on its pages to promote them.
- Publishing several awareness videos about the dangers of Corona and how to prevent transmission, translated into Arabic (regional Sign).
- The publication of several health awareness videos translated into Arabic referencing some skin diseases prevalent in the Arab region, presented by an interpreter who is also a pharmacist.
- The number of followers of the Facebook page reached 12,000.
- The number of Instagram followers reached 1240.
- The number of Twitter followers reached 610.
- We have accounts on Telegram and YouTube to publish all ads and videos.



All the above accounts aim to reach all interpreters and deaf people by investing in all programs and applications, and we will work to develop these accounts through a media team of members.

Collaboration

A - Federations and Institutions of the Deaf.

- The Arab Federation of Organisations Working in the Field of Deaf Care
- Regional Representative of the World Federation of the Deaf in the Arab Region
- Jordanian Federation of the Deaf.
- Palestinian Federation of the Deaf
- Algerian Federation of the Deaf
- Sudanese National Federation of the Deaf
- Federation of Deaf Associations in Egypt
- Many deaf clubs and societies in the Arab region.

B - Interpreters' Associations and Institutions

- Tunisian Association of Sign Language Interpreters.
- The Jordanian Association of Sign Language Interpreters.
- The Egyptian Foundation for the Rights of the Deaf and Sign Language Interpreters.
- The National Committee for Sign Language Interpreters in Palestine.
- The Association of Sign Language Interpreters in Iraq.
- The Maghreb Association of Sign Language Interpreters, which includes five countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania).

- The Omani Committee for Sign Language Interpreters.

We are encouraging interpreters in all Arab countries to start establishing national associations for sign language interpreters, and we also seek to communicate with the Saudi Association of Sign Language Interpreters to build partnership and cooperation with them. Several initiatives have also emerged to establish entities for interpreters, most of which are ongoing.

C - Arab and International bodies:

- All competent international bodies (associations, institutions, organisations) working in the field of translation from and into sign language.
- Arab League Organization of Education, Culture and Science.
- The Arab League (we addressed them to join them as an observer and their response came with an apology for the lack of a certificate of origin and physical headquarters, bearing in mind that we work through cyberspace and have achieved great successes, and we have our internal system that was adopted and approved by sign language interpreters in the Arab region, and we work under the umbrella of the Arab Federation of Organisations Working in the care of the deaf).

Additional activities

- Organising a regional conference entitled "Challenges Facing the Deaf in the Light of the Corona Pandemic" bearing the slogan (With awareness we challenge). It was organised in cooperation with TAMKEEN, the Jordanian deaf association. More than a hundred deaf participants and their workers in various disciplines participated for a period of two days.
- Organising an Arab conference entitled "Good Education for Decent Work." The conference was organised in cooperation with the Egyptian Foundation for the Rights of the Deaf and Sign Language Interpreters, and the Specific Federation of Deaf Associations in Egypt, with the participation and cooperation of the International Association of Sign Language Interpreters "WASLI" and the Arab Organization of Sign Language Interpreters. "SELA", more than 120 participants participated in the conference.
- Organising a cultural symposium entitled "Field Experiments in Education of the Deaf", in which some experts in deaf education in the Arab region spoke.
- Organising a training workshop for scholars in the Tawasoul Association in the Kingdom of Morocco from Tangiers entitled "Together to develop the capabilities of the worlds in the field of sign translation" supervised by the Arab Organization of Sign Language Interpreters "SELA".
- Organising a training course on international sign communication in cooperation between the Arab Organization of Sign Language Interpreters and the International Association of Sign Language Interpreters "WASLI". The training was supervised by two deaf sign language interpreters, namely, Mr. Magdy Yaghi, representative of Arab deaf interpreters at WASLI, and Mr. Samer Jamal, member of the Arab organisation "SELA".
- Translating and publishing the Code of Professional Conduct for Sign Language Interpreters in the Arab Region for the information of interpreters, deaf people and other interested parties.
- Translating the amended bylaws as approved by the General Assembly of the Arab organisation "SELA" to be reviewed by interpreters and deaf people in the Arab region.

- Forming a committee to accredit the membership of sign language interpreters in the Arab organisation "SELA" according to special rules and regulations.
- Participation in several awareness campaigns targeting deaf people, people with disabilities and their families, and the translation of content into Arabic signs.
- Organising frequent meetings with leaders of the deaf in the Arab region.
- The establishment of the Maghreb Association of Sign Language Interpreters, which includes five countries, and is not a substitute for the national associations that we seek to form.

Upcoming activities

- Organising a series of courses, seminars and workshops targeting sign language interpreters in the Arab region.

Aspirations

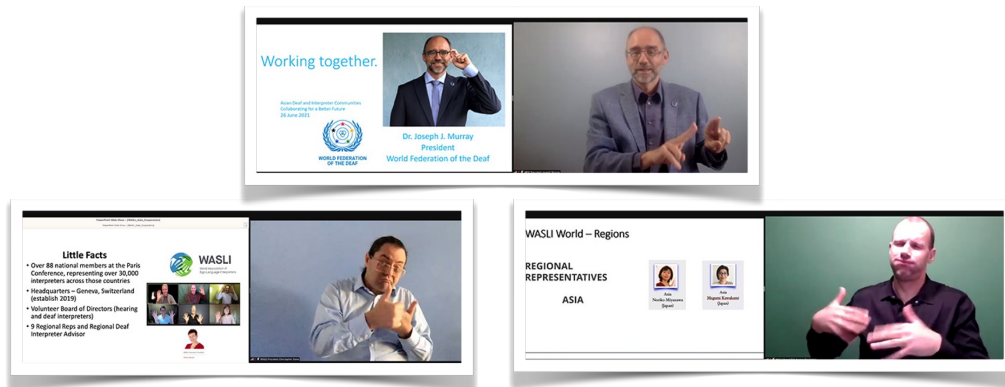
- Obtaining recognition from the League of Arab States for the Arab Organization for Sign Language Interpreters "SELA".
- Establishing a bank account in the name of "SELA" to enable us to conduct activities and programs for the development of Arab interpreters.
- Establishing national entities and institutions for interpreters in the Arab region.
- We hope to organise the international conference that we announced in Jordan, which was postponed due to the Corona pandemic.
- We hope to reach the Arabic sign language interpreters to the highest level of professionalism.

Asia Region - Noriko Miyazama

Goals that were set

- Strengthening communication networks among Asian countries
 - Email contact with 31 people in 19 countries and territories (Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, North Korea, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam)
 - We held the WFD RSA & WASLI Asia EVENT (online) on June 26, 2021, 5pm-8pm (JST).
 - Participants: 60 people from 13 countries and territories, WFD OM/ hearing interpreters/ deaf interpreters (China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam)
 - Special Guest Lecture:
 - WFD President, Dr. Joseph Murray, "Why do we work together?"
 - WASLI President, Dr. Christopher Stone, "Collaboration between Deaf and Interpreter Community"





- WASLI Deaf Interpreter Adviser, Mr. Arunas Brazinskas, “Collaboration in Lithuania”
- Goal: Promote collaboration between Deaf and Interpreter Communities in the Asian region
- Although we could not hold a face-to-face meeting as usual, it was beneficial that 13 countries could participate and exchange information online.
- We held the two meetings of the organising committee for WASLI Jeju 2023.
- Supporting the establishment of interpreters' associations and an increase of WASLI membership
- An association of sign language interpreters was established in Indonesia.
- Malaysia is preparing for registration for WASLI National membership
- Sharing know-how on interpreter training (introduction of curriculum, etc.)
- Discussions with Indonesia about support for the training of interpreter leaders
- Survey and organisation of the code of ethics of interpreters in each country
- Ongoing training and workshops for international sign interpreters
- Ongoing provision of accessible information via Facebook
- An informal Facebook group has been established where registered members can exchange information

Upcoming activities

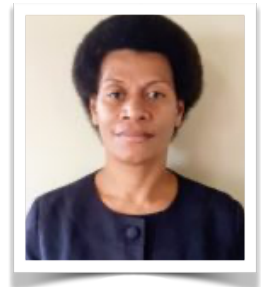
- - Strengthening the communication network amongst Asian countries
 - Establishing a system that allows us to communicate with representatives of all countries/regions.
 - Working with the Deaf Interpreter Adviser to strengthen the Asian network.
 - Holding the Meeting of Sign Language Interpreters in Asia online.
 - Support the establishment of interpreters' associations and expansion of WASLI membership
 - Encouraging the establishment of interpreters' associations.
 - Explaining to Asian countries about WASLI national/organisation/individual members and encouraging them to join.
 - Sharing know-how on interpreter training (introduction of curriculum, etc.)
 - Collecting and sharing interpreter training curriculums.

- Examining a curriculum for teacher training and providing information to Asian countries.
- Surveying where a code of ethics exists for interpreters and providing information to Asian countries. I will arrange a session on ethics at the Meeting of Sign Language Interpreters in Asia.
- Training and workshop for international sign interpreters
 - I will cooperate in the operation of the International Sign Interpreters Training in Asia hosted by the WFD RSA.
 - I will consider the possibility of online training courses.
- Providing information accessible to anyone
 - Consider developing an official website for WASLI Asia.
 - Sending out information in English and international sign.

Australasia and Oceania - Joneti Rokotuibau

Goals that were set

- Maintained contact with countries within the region:
 - Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia, Fiji (SLIAF), Samoa (SASLI), Papua New Guinea (PNGSLIA), Kiribati, Solomon Islands,
 - Regular contact with
 - Talele Auva'a Taulagi the president of SASLI and Sophia Auro Leota a SASLI member
 - Roselyn Joseph the President of PNGSLIA
 - interpreters, Juana Totene and Terengantaak Iotebwa, and the Deaf Association President Iotebwa Toaua
 - Stella Damutalau, Anna Sasa, and with the President of Solomon Islands Association of the Deaf
- Organise a working group consisting of SLIAF members, WFD Oceania President and the Fiji Association of the Deaf representative to establish interpreter training



Balkans - Desanka Zizic

No report submitted

Europe -

New representative required

Latin America and the Caribbean - Marcel Garcia

Our region of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is made up of 15 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Haiti, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela.

We continue to maintain contact and provide advice to some Central American countries that have yet to join us, they are:



Honduras: They are still in the process of forming the association, but we have participated in academic activities in the support of interpreters.

Guatemala: They are recently constituted as an association and in preparation to join WASLI.

El Salvador: They are in the process of creating their association of interpreters. However, some long standing interpreters have participated in activities of the WASLI LAC RRSS.

Goals that were set

- Collaboration agreements have been signed between associations of the deaf and interpreters.
- In the week of the Deaf Person, each countries' association had virtual activities with the deaf associations. There were also activities for the day of translators and interpreters.
- Discussion, design, regulations and approval for the choice of the deaf consultant in the region. By majority vote, Mr. Christian Ramírez, from Costa Rica, was chosen.
- The Latin American and Caribbean region has Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, where information of interest to the region is published and questions and concerns are answered.
- The Latin American and Caribbean region has Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, where information of interest to the region is published and questions and concerns are answered.
- Translations of some WASLI reports from English to Spanish have been provided on a voluntary basis.

Additional activities

- Seminars on:
 - Interpretation in legal contexts
 - Interpreter ethics
 - Health context interpretation
 - Advice for the creation of codes of ethics
 - International sign.
 - Interpreter's occupational health.
- There were three training webinars with the entire Latin American and Caribbean region on December 5, 12 and 19, 2020 each lasting 2 hour. There were over 300 interpreters in attendance both deaf and hearing. The topics were: associative movements, public policies and human rights of interpreters, Ethics of the interpreter. The webinars were interpreted in

international sign and Brazilian sign (LIBRAS), several of the International Sign interpreters were deaf.

North America - Eduardo Daniel Maya Ortega

Work in the North America region was difficult to consolidate due to the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID 19) pandemic, which interfered with national organisations. It meant that we were unable to plan and carry out activities during 2020 - 2021.

In Mexico, as the host country for the Regional Representative of WASLI North America, collaborative work was possible with the association Interpreters and Translators of Sign Language in the Mexican Republic AC (AIT-LS) and the National Union of Deaf Mexico, AC (UNSM), organisations affiliated with WASLI and WFD respectively.



Additional activities

The work carried out in Mexico with the participation of the representative of North America is as follows.



- Virtual working meetings with national associations and their state associations in order to encourage collaborative work between interpreters and the deaf.
- Due to the closure of educational facilities in the country, the Federal Minister of Education invited the WASLI representation to propose affirmative actions related to interpretation services when launching the "learn at home" program. This program was developed by the federal government to start

distance education due to confinement by SARS-CoV-2 (COVID 19).

- The Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Power of the Federation (TEPJF, the highest federal authority in electoral courts) organised together with the AIT-LS and the UNSM the V Virtual Legal Forum of Sign Language Interpreters, the two associations AIT-LS and UNSM presented conferences explaining to the community of interpreters gathered there from different states of the Mexican Republic, the collaborative work between deaf and hearing people.
- The Federal Minister of Adult Education invited the WASLI representatives to propose affirmative actions related to the education of deaf people, the WASLI representative gave the invitation to the UNSM for them to speak and give their opinion related to education of deaf adults. This program was developed by the federal government to initiate distance education for deaf adults due to confinement by SARS-CoV-2 (COVID 19).



- The National Council for Standardisation and Certification of Labor Skills invited the WASLI representation to participate in the development of the standard of competence for the certification of sign language interpreters. The WASLI representation proposed that the deaf leaders of the deaf communities participate with their experience and opinions to have a document that reflects the concerns of the deaf community related to interpretation services.
- The WASLI representation provided comments related to the situation of interpreters in Mexico for work being submitted by Dr. Campbell McDermid to a Routledge Handbook on Sign Language Translation and Interpreting.

Transcaucasia and Central Asia - Katya Golovanova

This year has predominantly remained online, though some events started to occur offline. However, we strongly believe that online webinars are a best possible alternative to live events and probably should be pursued further on regardless of the pandemic, as they enable many people who may have not come to a live event to participate.



Goals that were set

- Regional online meetings
 - We have already had three regional online meetings, with two of them relating to knowledge sharing (simultaneous and consecutive techniques, interpreting in museums) and one for a working group. There was a great turn out with an average of 60 people attending each webinar.



- Moving forward we may want to consider receiving recognition for the interpreter webinars from the local deaf societies so that our certificates could gain more value in terms of interpreter qualifications.

- Tatiana (EECAC deaf representative) has been working hard to bring together (and actually build from scratch) our regional deaf interpreter community

- Now we have two telegram channels : one for delivering written information and the other for signed information. It would be good to have more news items or materials to share with the community.

Additional activities

- Uzbekistan: we arranged online interpreting training with them -however the plans for this are not finalised. We also discussed the issues surrounding SL interpreters in vocational training - professional colleges, etc.
- A Bulgarian Deaf group (also belonging to the Balkan region) asked us to help them to influence interpreter training. This request came via WFD, and we have been in touch with them. The problem is that despite the legislative act for Bulgarian sign language all interpreters are taught signed Bulgarian, this mode of communication is employed at schools for the deaf and there are no deaf sign language teachers of BgSL! We have had lots of communication with with stakeholders and hope to encourage positive change.

- A letter of support for Georgian Sign Language was sent to the Georgian Union of the Deaf including the appeal to the WFD and EUD (this involved long negotiations beforehand)
- A letter of support and explanation was sent to Ukraine regarding the employment of deaf teachers of UkSL.

Upcoming activities

- We are also planning to hold more seminars as they are well-attended by the interpreting community and seem to give access to information that was previously inaccessible due to language barriers.

Activities of Committees and Groups

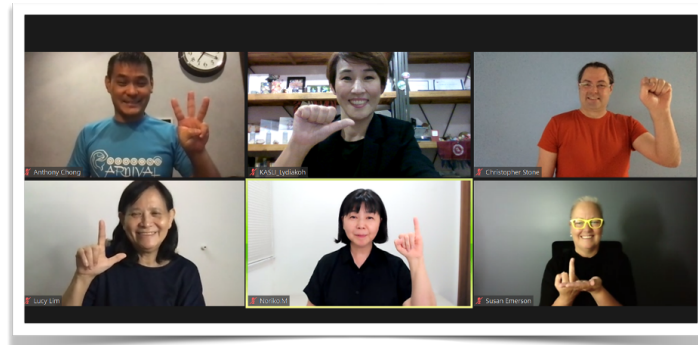
WASLI 2023 Conference Conveners - Lucy Lim and Anthony Chong

We have made significant progress in spite of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic affecting most countries. We are so delighted to announce the following WASLI 2023 conference details:

“Shaping our World for a Better Tomorrow”

5th - 9th July 2023

on the beautiful island of Jeju, Korea



Depending on your country, Jeju has *No Visa requirements* for attendees. We are working on the conference fee - we can assure you that it's going to be a "friendly and modest registration fee" as we want to attract as many participants as possible from around the globe. We will provide more details on the venue and accommodation in the next update.

We are indeed grateful that a total of 22 interpreters and individuals (deaf and hearing) have come forward to support this event as Chair/ Committee Members in 5 of our Sub Committees. However, we still welcome your contributions, suggestions and welcome volunteers who can help make the conference a success. Drop us a line at wasli2023@gmail.com .

Meanwhile Stay Safe, Stay Healthy and Stay Signing! We pray that the Covid-19 pandemic will be over soon so that we can all gather for this conference. We hope to see you all in person, of course!

ISO Expert Group - Interim Chair Samuel Chew

At the beginning of this year, WASLI members from academia and those with appropriate experience were called to serve in the ISO Expert Group (ISO-EG) to ensure relevant recommendations and contributions with respect to sign language interpretation/translation are considered during ISO's development of the International Standards documents.

Our Honorary President, Dr Debra Russell, spearheaded the involvement of WASLI with formal admittance in June 2020 to Technical Committee 37 (TC37) The ISO-EG consists of:

- Prof Anna-Lena Nilsson (Europe),
- Bonnie Heath (North America),
- Dr Jose Ednilson Gomes de Souza Junior (Latin America),
- Natasha Parkins-Maliko (Africa), and
- Samuel Chew (Asia).

There are a total of 5 subcommittees (SC) that seek input from the WASLI Expert Committee, namely:

SC 1 - Principles and methods,

SC 2 - Terminology workflow and language coding,

SC 3 - Standardisation of the specification, design and interoperability of terminology resources,

SC 4 - Language resource management and

SC 5 - Translation, interpreting and related technology



Currently in TC37 / SC5 we have appointed Bonnie Heath as the WASLI representative to ISO/TC 37/SC 5/WG 2 the working group developing the ISO standard for community interpreting (ISO/AWI 13611). We are in the process of appointing Betsy Winston as the WASLI representative to TC 37/SC 5/WG 4 the working group developing the ISO standard for Interpreting and translation teaching and training programs ISO/AWI 6253.

Members wishing to know more about WASLI's involvement in ISO or members who are interested in serving in the expert committees, please do not hesitate to contact Samuel ISO.EG.wasli@gmail.com or for more information visit www.wasli.org

ISAAB Chair - Heidi Green

This year the ISAAB has a large task ahead to ensure the accreditation processes is re-established and upheld. The ISAAB has been busy supporting IS interpreters through the process of renewing their accreditation.

We will also be introducing a pre-accreditation category to help aspiring IS interpreters get the training and experience they need to serve our Deaf communities globally. We look forward to those hoping to become accredited IS interpreters reaching their goal, and making the accreditation process more accessible by gradually adding more language combinations starting this year.



Goals that were set:

- Establish 2021 agenda and plans for ISAAB
- Collect and record professional development activities from IS interpreters
- Help IS interpreters renew their accreditation

Additional activities

- Send IS accreditation ID cards
- Meet with ISAAB board members and IS interpreters

Upcoming activities

- Schedule IS interpreter accreditation exams
- Oversee making the accreditation exams accessible in other languages
- Coordinate with accreditation assessors and send exam results



WASLI

World Association of
Sign Language Interpreters