

# THE DIGEST

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Losing someone who was dear to us is often the trigger for a process of in-depth reflection about life, both private and professional . . .

My friend Andrea passed away on January 25th . A gifted linguist who had been a member of the AIIC family since 1987, she was the epitome of the professional conference interpreter. Calm, organised, always thoroughly prepared, dedicated and a great team player to boot, she at the same time remained humble and modest, happy to stay out of the limelight. Yet for all that, she did not go unnoticed.

This coming week in a conference at the International Maritime Organisation, where Andrea was a regular, the Secretary General will be paying tribute to her and calling a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

A working lifetime spent behind the scenes, a voice through a headset, yet through her understated professionalism she gained the respect of so many- the perfect ambassador for our profession and for the AIIC values she personified.

Thank you, Andrea, and thank you to all the other Andreas out there who, on a daily basis, embody the values and principles that AIIC has fought for and defended over the years. In times of AI-generated insecurity and concern, it's comforting to know that the human touch is still valued.

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# EXCO: 72 HOURS IN BANGKOK

As your elected representatives between Assemblies, one of our obligations is to hold 2 formal meetings a year to ensure that AIIIC is running as it should be and for us take major decisions. This year, we met for 3 intensive days of reports, budgets and debates on the future of the Association at the new office in Bangkok.

The issues requiring our attention are always far greater than the time we have together, so we spend weeks beforehand preparing. There's a lot of material for ExCo members to study, and we try to get any decisions which can be taken remotely out of the way before we land. Then we hit the ground running . . .

No matter how much preparation we put in, the unexpected will happen. Even after 2 years (or 6 for some of us), there are new, uncharted issues to deal with, and others which are ambiguous and take time for us to agree on. A few hours in and we were playing catch-up, trying to get back on schedule, but somehow we got through everything before we had to be back at the airport.

Here are just a few of the things we had to deal with during our meeting:

## ● Basic Texts Review

You might remember that ExCo was tasked with overhauling the Basic Texts at the last Assembly. The texts are now in the hands of AIIIC's lawyers in France who plan to deliver drafts for ExCo and BTG to review within the next few months.

## ● Finances

We approved the 2024 budget covering the requests for the projects planned by the groups and regions for the coming year. We were also able to set the base dues at CHF 595, a reduction from the CHF610 adopted by the Assembly.

## ● Restructuring

Big changes are always going to make some people unhappy (and ExCo unpopular), but they are necessary for AIIIC to evolve and remain relevant. At the Assembly we promised to streamline the groups and we are doing just that, reducing the cost for the Association and giving more members the chance to get involved and share their expert knowledge and their passion. We have given the existing groups a month to wind down their activities, then we'll be ready to introduce members to the new structure.

## ● Written Consultations

The 2023 Written Consultation may not have been the greatest success of the year, but we do believe they are the future for AIIC and the only way to give you the more engaging, dynamic assemblies you are asking for. Get thinking about the amendments you'd like to propose as another written consultation will be coming up ahead of the 2025 Assembly to clear the floor for some serious debate on the Basic Texts in Lima.

## ● CACL

We were thrilled that the Committee on Admissions and Language Classifications were able to time their first meeting of the year to coincide with ExCo's and join us in Bangkok. We held a very constructive session together before they got down to the business of reviewing applications, and agreed that the application process needs modernising in the coming year.

## ● AIIC AWARDS

In Brussels, we presented the first AIIC Awards. We decided that recognition for the regions with the highest percentage increase of new members and pre-candidates will continue annually, while the Special Recognition Award for a member who isn't on a committee but is quietly making a difference to AIIC, will be every 3 years.

Our final pre-Assembly meeting will be in Rome in June when we'll meet with the AB, CACL, and hopefully some of you as well.



# MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

This is the last year of the triennium, and we are gearing up to the 2025 Assembly. AIIIC committees, groups and delegations are preparing for it by organising meetings to inform their members of the important issues facing them and the ways in which we can deal with them and make sure AIIIC helps shape our future.

Many of these planned meetings are going to be physical in 2024, which is good because we are finally interacting personally with each other much more than in the past 3 years but it is also a financial challenge for your Treasurer who has to find the best ways to cover the extra cost.

By now you will have received your Invoices for the 2024 dues, and you will have noticed that not only are the dues lower than the level decided by the Geneva Assembly (CHF 610), but they are also lower than last year (CHF 605)! We have made an exceptional effort to make this CHF 595 level possible, and when I say we, I mean every single entity who spends AIIIC money. And I wish to thank you all!

However, in order to make this tricky balancing exercise actually work, we now need you, all you AIIIC members, to pay your dues as soon as possible. So this is my plea!



*ExCo members meeting in Bangkok*

*(left to right) Martin Barrère, Haris Ghinos, Sylvia Kadenyi Amisi, Micky Friedman (Treasurer), Jenny Fearnside-Bitsios (President), Claude-Alain Battiaz (Executive Secretary), Francisco (Paco) Garcia Hurtado, Chiaming (Damien) Fan*

# THE AIIC INTERVIEW

Professional development is one of the fundamental pillars of AIIC. Inside the Association, the AIIC Training and Professional Development group (ATPD) are responsible for helping the Association meet its training aims. This month, we talk to the group's coordinator to learn more about training inside AIIC.

***ATPD is perhaps AIIC's most active group. Tell us a bit about the work you do.***

Interpreter training can mean initial training, professional development, and training of trainers. We obviously don't do the first, though we are sometimes involved in outreach to prospective interpreters and we are responsible for the AIIC Schools Directory. But mostly we work to provide professional development workshops for spoken and signed language conference interpreters and training opportunities for interpreter trainers.

What we do falls broadly into 5 different categories of training:

- **Interpreting skills** like consecutive note-taking refresher courses
- **Language skills**, which could be adding a retour or a C language
- **Knowledge-based courses** on topics like politics or culture
- **Soft skills** that aren't directly related to interpreting like bookkeeping or stress management
- **Training of Trainers**

***That's a lot of different topics! How do you decide what workshops to offer and which trainers to use?***



It's a mixed approach. Of course, we will try to offer what we think people want to learn about. For that, we keep our ear to the ground to see what topics are hot amongst our spoken and signed language interpreter colleagues and students (all ATPD members are also interpreter trainers). Sometimes the ideas for training come from ExCo and we are happy to help them implement their vision. We are also planning to send out a survey to members to hear what topics they'd like to learn about, so AIIC members should watch their inboxes for that.

*ATPD Co-ordinator, Michelle Hof, speaking with members of the Secretariat during the ATPD in-person meeting*

Before the pandemic, skills workshops were in great demand. Then under Covid-19, everyone wanted training in distance interpreting. Now, interest has shifted to artificial intelligence, so that will definitely be part of this year's programme.

But it's not just a case of following the trends. We also try to offer training on matters that may be important for the profession but not quite as high-profile as the hot-button topics of the day. Our recent Training of Trainers workshops show this - here, we have shown how trainers can make the most of digital tools, showcased interprofessional training as a trailblazing new approach to classroom dynamics, explored the synergies between sign language, community and conference interpreter training methods, and most recently looked at how vicarious trauma can be addressed in the interpreting classroom.

When it comes to the trainers, we are fortunate to be able to work with some of the biggest names in the interpreter training community. Sometimes we will identify a topic and then seek out the voices that need to be heard on that topic. Other times a trainer will come to us with a proposal that fits well with our training aims. We used to keep a list of trainers but it was a static tool that didn't reflect the realities of our constantly moving training landscape, so this year we are thinking that instead we may try to organise networking events where trainers can get to know each other.

***In-person events really came back in 2023. How do you decide which regions to offer training in?***

This is driven partly by us and partly by the regions themselves. ATPD has six members and four corresponding members from around the world (we don't represent our AIIIC regions but rather an entire continental zone) and we try to ensure good geographical representation in the group. Each of us is responsible for running at least one training event a year on our respective continents or online. We often also team up to prepare training events together - for instance, in 2023 our ATPD members based in Ottawa and Rome worked closely together on a number of events, and this year our colleagues in Dakar and Rio de Janeiro will be putting their heads together to plan some training. This means that you may find an ATPD-run event pretty much anywhere!

Some AIIIC regions have their own training group or dedicated training officer. These regions might plan events just for their members, or they might work together with ATPD to host a workshop that is open to all interpreters. If you add to the ATPD-run events and regional initiatives all the outreach events organised by AIIIC's other groups and committees, it all adds up to quite a vibrant professional development landscape.

ATPD's door is always open for regions and groups who have ideas for training. Recent joint initiatives saw ATPD working side-by-side with PRIMS, the Sign Language Network, members of AICC who are active within ISO, AICC Africa and others. Sometimes, we can also create training opportunities on the sidelines of other events, like industry conferences, which is often a great opportunity to raise awareness of AICC among non-members.



*AICC President Jenny Fearnside dropped in on ATPD members Gillian Misener, Anna Niang, Denise de Vasconcelos Araujo, Tze-wei Chen and Michelle Hof during their annual meeting in Rome*

### ***Can you give us a preview of what you are planning for this year?***

We just had our annual meeting and will be ready to launch the first training events for 2024 very soon. At the end of February ATPD will provide technical support for a Sign Language Network online event, March will see an online course in stress management, in April we will offer a workshop on combining interpreting practice, pedagogy and research, and in May we hope to mark Africa Day with a webinar on geopolitics in the region. But we have a lot more in the pipeline all the way to the Lima Assembly in January 2025, where we hope to run some sideline events. For the latest information on ATPD events you can check out the [AICC Events page](#) or - even better - sign up for one of our mailing lists via the AICC members' portal to get training announcements directly in your inbox.



***You mentioned the Schools Directory before. Why does AIIIC have this when the members are already professional interpreters?***

Formal training continues to be important for spoken and signed language conference interpreters and AIIIC is often asked to recommend training programmes. We obviously can't do that, but we can maintain a list of schools that meet AIIIC's basic best practice criteria for training.

The directory is almost as old as AIIIC. It was set up in 1957 by the now defunct Schools Committee to keep a list of courses that meet certain criteria. We are in the process of creating a more modern version of the directory with AIIIC's IT provider that will allow prospective students of spoken or signed language interpreter training to explore the programmes on offer around the world and compare different institutions. We're optimistically hoping that it will be ready to roll out over the course of 2024. Any school that would like to be notified directly when the new directory is launched should drop us a line at [training-group@aiic.org](mailto:training-group@aiic.org) and we will gladly put you on the list of interested institutions.

***Thanks Michelle!***

***Members can contact ATPD with questions or suggestions at [training-group@aiic.org](mailto:training-group@aiic.org) or find upcoming workshops listed on the Events page.***

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## **2024 DIRECTORY**

The 2024 directory of AIIIC members is now available to download as a pdf in your portal.

# THE ROME SEMINAR

On the last weekend of January, ATPD held its Rome Seminar - a weekend of further training for interpreter trainers that has been an annual event for the last 20 years.

This year Dr. Carmen Delgado Luchner, who trains humanitarian and community interpreters in Switzerland and Dr. Justine Ndongo Keller, former Chief Interpreter at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), were invited to discuss vicarious trauma in a workshop organised by ATPD members Stefano Marrone (AIIC Italia) and Gillian Misener (AIIC Canada).

While some participants had firsthand experience of vicarious trauma, most had come to Rome to learn more about what it was and how they could apply it in their classrooms.

It was a topic with wide-reaching appeal, bringing together interpreters from 16 different countries (some of them currently exposed to traumatising professional situations), including staffers and freelancers, spoken and sign language interpreters, conference and community interpreters. Some had interpreted in tribunals, some had worked through conflicts, while others work regularly with minorities in other settings.



## Vicarious trauma and interpreters

Vicarious trauma, or secondary trauma, is more commonly linked to caring professions, aid organisations and others who work directly with victims, than it is to interpreters.

This 2-day workshop looked at the many ways interpreters can be affected by what they see, hear, internalise and give voice to, and how trainers can help prepare students for this aspect of the job. Carmen and Justine stressed that although interpreters should be aware of the symptoms of trauma and have coping tools at hand, even the best tools do not make interpreters immune to vicarious trauma, as there's no predicting how or when somebody may experience VT or retraumatisation as a result of their work.

Interpreters often don't know what they will hear and have to say when they accept an assignment. While those working with asylum seekers might be more prepared, days in institutions can also include harrowing testimonies. Despite the potential risk to all interpreters, the discussion on vicarious trauma within the profession is only beginning. Trainers and participants shared their experiences from working at tribunals and with asylum seekers, discussing the vital role of the interpreter and their professional obligations, neutrality and whether employers should provide more information about the nature of the meetings to be interpreted.



*Participants and trainers at The Rome Seminar, 2024*

*Front row (left to right), organisers Gillian Misener and Stefano Marrone, trainers Justine Ndongo Keller and Carmen Delgado Luchner and ATPD co-ordinator Michelle Hof*

## Neutrality

Interpreters at Nuremberg sat each day with judges, lawyers, victims, and defendants, giving voice to each of them and changing the speed and scale of international justice. Many were straight out of school and relied on the camaraderie of the break room to leave behind what they had heard; others were never the same again.

Ours is a profession that prides itself on its neutrality and on interpreting all sides equally, yet this can lead to trauma being ignored. Participants agreed that it's natural to empathise with the suffering of the victim, and to feel anger or repulsion towards the perpetrator. Some spoke of wanting to take a shower after having to say certain things. They were asked to consider what happens when you see similarities with your own culture and upbringing in a perpetrator and how that might lead to a higher risk of VT.

## The ethics of compassion

While everyone agreed that empathy and compassion are natural, they were asked to consider whether it's ethical for interpreters to show compassion at work.

An interpreter who shows emotion through their body language or words during an assignment breaches neutrality and can change the outcome in the room. Discussions on Saturday morning included whether interpreters should stop proceedings they are unprepared for and if it's ever ok to switch to the 3rd person to be able to keep going.

Participants found the interaction and the opportunity to share experiences with colleagues to be extremely useful and came away with practical ideas that they will be able to apply in their classrooms. And such was the success of the weekend that ATPD plans to repeat it online in 2024. Join the ATPD mailing list and know when the dates for this, and all 2024 workshops are announced. Log into your portal, click 'edit profile' and scroll down to pick the mailing lists you want to join.

## What participants say about 2024 Rome Seminar...

*"Thanks to ATPD for organising the workshop on Vicarious Trauma (VT). After more than 15 years in the profession, I wasn't aware of how someone's life can be so deeply affected by VT. At the beginning of my career I interpreted very sensitive material and lived for a long time in denial of what VT can do. It's only now that I am realising how deeply affected I was by it. . . Today I am more aware of its effects and I would urge all my colleagues to do the same and prevent whatever situation they may be in from becoming worse. I call on AIIC to continue opening its doors wide and keep on the great mission we all benefited from in Rome."*

*"The trainer was extremely knowledgeable, open and insightful, the group was fantastic. I learned a lot both from the trainers and from the other attending colleagues."*

# AI TRAINING IN BRAZIL

In December, AIIIC Training (ATPD) organized a series of CPD and ToT events with interpreter and interpreter trainer, Josh Goldsmith.

On December 9-10 and 14-15, AIIIC Training organised two 2-day workshops in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, respectively. Colleagues spent two days together practicing and testing all sorts of tools/resources related to two topics: How to use technology to prepare for interpreting assignments and AI-Powered interpreting.

On December 16-17, we had a Training of Trainers about Training interpreters in a digital world. Participants came from different cities: Recife, São Paulo, Florianópolis, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Quito and Buenos Aires.

Accessibility was provided for the courses in Rio, which allowed for a wonderful exchange between Sign Language and spoken language interpreters and interpreter trainers.



# 39<sup>th</sup> Assembly

*8-11 January 2025, Lima*



**aiic**

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE  
DES INTERPRÈTES DE CONFÉRENCE  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS

**#AIIC39**

# THE AB STEERING COMMITTEE MEET IN BANGKOK

Every January, the Advisory Board (AB) Steering Committee (StC) meets the members of the Executive Committee to discuss the upcoming June meeting – held with the rest of the AB – as well as ongoing projects, goals achieved, and plans for the future. The 2024 January meeting was organised by ExCo in Bangkok, a lively metropolis in AIIIC's Asia Pacific Region. Home to the Secretariat's second office, it was opened with the goal of better supporting all AIIIC members around the world. With that in mind, the StC, shortly after landing in the city from Europe and Peru, paid a visit to the new office and was delighted to meet Nutthaya Somyoonsab, the new member of staff at the Secretariat, and learn more about the city, the Region, and some of her tasks. An informal yet informative moment, and the insights gained will feed into the AB work during the year, both online and offline.



*From left to right: Camille Mercier-Sanders (France), Hedwig Spitzer (SAM - Peru), Claude-Alain Battiaz (Executive Secretary), Nutthaya Somyoonsab (AIIIC Secretariat), Katerina Apostolaki (Greece and Cyprus), Jennifer Taylor (CdP), Benjamin Thornton Barclay (Portugal)*

The next two days were spent debating priorities within the AB. These included preparing for the 2025 Assembly (e.g. a template for streamlining the submission of resolutions and amendments is in the works, to be disseminated among AIIIC members), debating different approaches with ExCo in pursuit of the Association's common goals, and finding ways to improve communication within and outside the Association. A packed agenda, whose results we aim to bring into fruition over the course of the year. The agenda did also include a moment of respite from the mind maps, spreadsheets, and documents to meet some members from the Region over an informal drink with ExCo and the members of CACL.

Watch this space or speak with your AB representative if you wish to find out more! After a busy but rewarding working weekend, the next step would have been to return home. Instead...



## THE AB IN BALI

... most of the StC travelled to Bali for two-and-a-half days revolving around AI, where it was joined by 3 AB members. As always, the PRIMS meeting was bursting with nuggets of information on the latest trending topic in town, and the panel of AI experts, technology

insiders, and fellow colleagues did not disappoint. The AB also met more colleagues from the Region, and it was swept off its feet by the masterclass in hospitality it witnessed – our Indonesian colleagues found the perfect venue, the entire Asia-Pacific Bureau epitomised the saying 'hostess with the mostess', and insights from colleagues spanning countries as different as Australia and Malaysia were shared under one roof. Plenty of food for thought which the StC and the rest of the AB members will tap into for the work that lies ahead!



*From left to right: Camille Mercier-Sanders (France), Katerina Apostolaki (Greece and Cyprus), Hedwig Spitzer (SAM - Peru), Leo Hailong Liu (Asia-Pacific/VEGA), Tony Rosado (USA), Federica Mamini (PRIMS), Benjamin Thornton Barclay (Portugal)*

# ITALY

With the advent of AI, showcasing interpreters as vectors of culture is crucial. This aligns with fostering a multilingual culture rather than solely relying on global English. Following the successful footsteps of the 1st LaLinguaMadre Event in 2022, this 2nd edition, under the High Patronage of the President of the Republic of Italy, aims to unite various professionals within a country in support of their Mother Tongue—a language through which they can freely express themselves, incorporating nuances, humour, and the emotions of the moment. This dynamic expression allows for a reflection of the creative process.

Many livelihoods depend entirely on professionals adept at using their mother tongue. This event, designed by AIIIC Italy, enables a deeper understanding of how language, especially our mother tongue, influences our thinking, actions, and creative abilities. Also, building synergies with other sectors may lay the groundwork for future actions in terms of copyright protection, as we build on the work of other professionals regarding copyright and the use of professional output to train Large Language Models - screenwriters, authors, journalists.

This year AIIIC Greece and Cyprus will join forces with AIIIC Italy in a programme featuring Petros Markaris, author of international acclaim, as the two regions bridge the distance of the Adriatic to join forces and showcase the remarkable resilience of these ancient languages. He will also converse with the actor who portrays his hero, detective Kostas Charitos in the new series to be screened in Italy in March.

The thought-provoking and evocative journey that the event will lead us on will include Jhumpa Lahiri, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist, Michele Gazzola, one of the foremost experts in the field of language economics in Europe and globally, Sabino Cassese, one of Italy's most authoritative constitutionalists and Nicola Canestrini, a criminal lawyer who recently spoke out in favour of speaking one's mother tongue in the PRIMS campaign. We will hear the views of various professionals, including a constitutionalist, translator, economist, historian, theoretical physicist, rector and an actor. With the help of interpreters, their message will be conveyed in Italian, English, Greek and Italian Sign Language.

The registration details will be provided shortly, once this year's LaLinguaMadre website goes live. You will be able to watch through livestreaming, but those of you who can carve some time from your schedule to attend in person and rub shoulders with innovative thinkers will have to reserve one of the limited seats at the Senate's Sala Capitolare in Rome. See you on February 21st at 2.30 pm CET!



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# ITALY'S FIRST SIGN LANGUAGE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME

Starting in April 2024, a new post-graduate diploma for national sign language interpreters will start at the University of Siena, Italy: [Multilingual Sign Language Translation & Interpreting Studies \(MITS\)](#).

The programme is 18 months (3 semesters) and is organised by the University of Siena and Mason Perkins Deafness Fund Onlus, and the course director is AIIC member Dr. Maya de Wit. Professors, trainers, and guest lecturers from across Europe will teach the different modules on-site in Siena and Arezzo, as well as online.

The aim of the programme is to train signed language interpreters (deaf and hearing) to work in intercultural settings with multiple signed and spoken languages.

Next to interpreting and translating between International Sign, English, Italian Sign Language (LIS) and Italian, the modules will also include topics such as signing communities, humanitarian interpreting, EU law and institutional law, interpreting for the private market and institutions, technologies for interpreters and translators, academics for practisearchers, and reflective and professional practices.

The deadline for application to the programme is 28th February 2024.

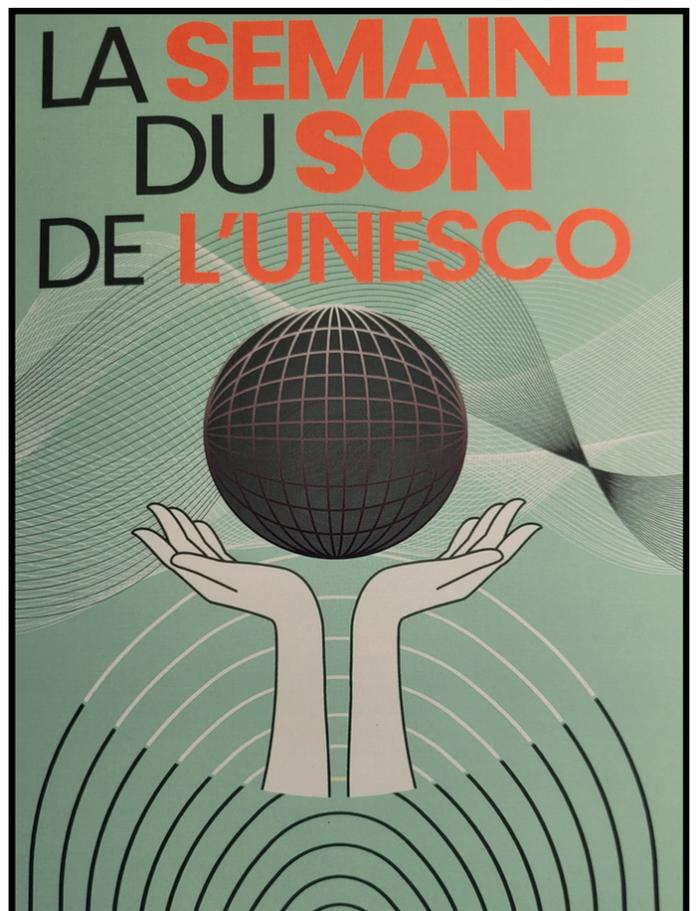
# FRANCE

In January, AIC France interpreters were in the booth in Bali alongside colleagues from AIC Belgium, making the conversation on the recently created AIC AI task force bilingual in English and French.

AIC France interpreters were also working pro bono in Paris on the occasion of the UNESCO Week of Sound, where the impacts of compressed sound on our hearing were discussed with the participation of Andrea Caniato for the THC. Our main listener was Dr Shelly Chadha, head of prevention of deafness and hearing loss at the WHO, the event being held primarily in French.

AIC France's Regional Secretary also met with the DDC, who were holding their meeting in Paris and who organised an information session with interpreting students at ESIT.

The Bureau is working on the key take-away messages of the AIC-SFT survey on interpreting practices in France and a presentation of the results is planned for the first week of February. The webinar will be open to all, more information on the events page very soon!



# BRAZIL

AiIC Brazil sponsors a few members each year to go to the PRIMS meeting and report back to the rest of the region. This year, it was the turn of Luisa Lamas and Mónica Baña to represent us, along with PRIMS Standing Committee member Livia Cais in Bali. Members in Brazil will be able to hear their report on 7th February at the upcoming Fale com o Bureau (Talk to the Bureau).



*Mónica Baña, Jenny Fearnside, Luisa Lamas and Livia Cais*

AiIC Brazil will be teaming up with the Committee on Admissions and Language Classifications (CACL) later this month. Any interpreters interested in becoming an AiIC member or pre-candidate are welcome to join the meeting, which will be in Portuguese with interpretation, thanks to the generosity of our members.

Share [the registration link](#) with your colleagues!

Já pensou em se associar à AiIC?

*Fique ligado!*

26 dia	02 mês	18h30 hora
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Webinário CACL

Venha saber mais sobre o processo de candidatura

Evento gratuito - link em breve

CACL - Committee on Admissions and Language Classification

aiic  
Brasil

# READ BEFORE YOU SPONSOR

CACL (the Committee on Admissions and Language Classification) held its January 2024 meeting in Bangkok from 6-8 January 2024 (with one member joining online). The Committee was happy to see evidence of improved applications as a result of efforts by applicants, sponsors, and webinars online and onsite organized by CACL, VEGA and regional bureaus last year, reaching about 400 participants. We also thank the Secretariat for their effective support.

## Upcoming dates:

### 26th February

Online informational session for potential applicants

### 31st May

Deadline for application submission.



## Reminder to sponsors

CACL greatly appreciates colleagues' enthusiasm to introduce new colleagues to AIIC. However, there are a few points potential sponsors should bear in mind:

- Please avoid basing sponsorship on training sessions such as mock conferences and training sessions. Signatures from those events are invalid.
- Sponsor signatures based on recorded interpreting will be rejected. Please listen to live interpreting performance.
- Please avoid sponsoring a pair of languages when that pair is not your official pair. You can find the language pair information in your profile on [www.aiic.org](http://www.aiic.org).
- New members should refrain from sponsoring until they have reached 5 years of seniority.

# PRIMS IN BALI

The recent "AI and the Impact on the Interpreting Profession" event in Bali has left us with profound insights into the transformative power of artificial intelligence.

As we navigate this new frontier, it is evident that our role as language professionals is evolving into being the guardians of language and communication.

As Seth Godin said in his [keynote speech](#) for AIIIC PRIMS, interpreting means that vernacular matters, being able to bring goodwill, humour and emotional connection to the table is the reason why interpreters will be chosen over Automated Spoken Translation Tools.



Main takeaways:

**Preserving the Nuances:** in the world of interpretation, AI has undoubtedly opened doors to efficiency and speed. However, the nuanced beauty of language, the subtleties that convey cultural richness, and the artistry inherent in expression can never be replaced by algorithms. We, as language professionals, stand as the guardians of these intricacies, ensuring that the soul of communication remains intact. As interpreters, we are not merely conveying words from one language to another; we are artists sculpting meaning and emotion. In an AI-driven landscape, our role extends beyond language preservation; we are curators of creativity. The cultural tapestry we weave through our interpretations adds a human touch that algorithms can never emulate.

Check out [Guardians of Language](#) written by one of our speakers about the PRIMS event in Bali

**Change the narrative and urge AI developers to use the proper terminology:** Automated Spoken Translation Tools are not and will not be a replacement to human interpreters. The service provided is very different. While tech companies tend to standardise languages thereby threatening cultural diversity, conference interpreters guarantee multilingualism and preserve language variety.

**Protect our profession and cooperate with the MICE industry:** In the fast-paced world of international conferences and events, the synergy between AICC and professional conference organisers (PCOs) is an indispensable collaboration that goes beyond mere logistics. Collaborating with PCOs allows conference interpreters to showcase their unique value proposition to clients. Furthermore, educating clients about the limitations of AI in the context of conference interpreting is crucial. While AI may excel in certain tasks, it lacks the intuition, cultural understanding, and adaptability that human interpreters bring to the table. By fostering an awareness of these distinctions, conference interpreters and PCOs can collectively contribute to a more informed decision-making process, helping clients understand the long-term benefits of investing in human expertise. By working together, these professionals can ensure that the human element remains at the forefront of international conferences, enhancing communication and fostering understanding while preserving their intellectual property.

**Navigating the Future:** In this era of rapid technological advancements, the biggest threat is turning a blind eye. Conference interpreters should stay informed and familiarise themselves with new AI applications in order to lead the way and help clients make conscious decisions.



# EVENT CALENDAR

- 1 February      Publication of candidate list / Challenge period opens  
2024 invoices sent out
- 6 February      [Webinaire de présentation des résultats de l'enquête statistique SFT-AIIC France](#)  
Location: online
- 21 February    [LaLinguaMadre](#)  
*AIIC Italia's second celebration of their mother tongue*  
Location: Rome / Online
- 24 February    [Training Interpreters in Languages of Lesser Diffusion](#)  
*Organised by AIIC LIC and SYDISE*  
Location: Online
- 26 February    [How to join AIIC](#)  
*CACL and AIIC Brazil*  
Location: Online
- 29 February    [ISO and Sign Language interpreting](#)  
*SLN and the ISO group discuss the new SLI standard*  
Location: Online
- 23 March /  
24 March      [Stress Management: Tools and Strategies](#)  
*Workshop with Chris Guichot de Fortis*  
Location: Online
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## THE DIGEST GOES PUBLIC

You may have noticed The Digest was easier to access this month. It is now available through a public link wherever you are. At the request of the Advisory Board, you'll no longer have to log into your portal to read the latest AIIC news, and you can share it with your non-AIIC colleagues.



A black and white photograph of two baboons sitting on the ground. The baboon on the left is looking towards the right with its hand resting on its chin in a thoughtful pose. The baboon on the right is looking slightly away from the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

# Got a story to share?

Tell colleagues what's happening in your region. Submit suggestions for The Digest to your AB representative.