

THE CIAP BULLETIN INTERPRETASIA

Number 18 ♦ September 2010

EDITORIAL

It has now been 20 years since CIAP was set up to offer a professional consultancy service to organizers of multilingual meetings requiring interpretation in the Asia-Pacific region. Twenty years already in what seems like a blink of an eye!

As you will see in this issue of *Interpretasia*, CIAP has at the same time participated in the shaping of modern Asia. The Non-Aligned Movement started in Asia, and brought together newly decolonized countries in a movement that did not wish to align itself with the parties to the Cold War. CIAP has recruited for a number of NAM meetings and is proud to have been involved in its Asian history.

UNESCO launched the Education for All Program in Jomtien, Thailand, and CIAP associates were part of the team of interpreters then. The latest development for CIAP was the recent NGO meeting in Dhaka, where civil society and government institutions reaffirmed education as a way of moving forward towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

As part of the Asian conference community, we are always available to clients to provide advice and use our experience and know-how to recruit the interpreters with the most appropriate languages for each multilingual meeting. You can find out how in our lead article.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

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CIAP and the NAM

by Socorro Browning

Many conference interpreters' professional careers have somehow been linked to the history of the Non Aligned Movement, and CIAP associates are no exception, including myself. I have had the privilege of interpreting at four NAM Summits, starting in Colombo in August 1976, New Delhi in March 1983, Jakarta in September 1992 and Kuala Lumpur in February 2003.

The roots of the NAM can be traced to Asia, where an Afro Asian Conference called by the governments of Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia and Pakistan was held from 18 to 24 April 1955 in Bandung, Indonesia. Some say that the conference was the brainchild of Nehru, but it was Sukarno who



brought together 600 participants from 25 countries, including Nasser from Egypt, Prince Sihanouk from Cambodia, Ngo Kinh Diem from Vietnam and Zhou En Lai from China.



Interpreters at a cultural event during the NAM conference in Manila, May 2010

The Bandung Conference, which has been dubbed the 'Afro-Asian Yalta', discussed the end of colonialism and non-alignment with the two major power blocs. The final communiqué, which was based on UN declarations, reaffirmed the right of peoples to self determination, equality between

races, faiths and nations and the need for economic and cultural cooperation.

The Movement as it is known today was officially born in 1961 in Belgrade at the initiative of the Yugoslav leader Tito, in an attempt to bring together countries that were not aligned to either of the two sides of the Cold War.

Since the formal end of colonialism and the Cold War, the movement has been forced to re-define itself and reinvent its purpose in the current world system. A major question has been whether the ideologies that inspired its foundation, principally national independence, territorial integrity, and the struggle against colonialism and imperialism, can be applied to contemporary issues.

In keeping with this quest, the Non-Aligned Movement has collaborated with other organisations of the developing world, primarily with the Group of 77, forming a number of joint committees and releasing statements and documents representing the shared

views of both groups. The movement accepts the universality of human rights and social justice, but fiercely resists cultural homogenisation. In line with its views on sovereignty, the organisation appeals for the protection of cultural diversity, and tolerance of the religious, socio-cultural and historical particularities that define human rights in a specific region.

It was precisely within this spirit that a two day NAM Summit on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development was organised in March 2010 in Manila. It was the first time that the Non-Aligned Movement attempted to harness the great potential of interfaith dialogue and cooperation to advance universal concerns for durable and lasting peace and sustainable development. In her keynote speech, President Arroyo of the Philippines pointed out that issues such as the financial crisis, climate change, nuclear non-proliferation and other pressing global concerns can be addressed through "international solidarity that can be effectively developed through dialogue

amongst peoples, civilizations and religions." She added that the meeting had given 118 NAM member countries an opportunity to focus on the role interfaith dialogue and cooperation can play "in averting and ending conflicts that are bringing death and destruction to countries around the world."

Fittingly, it was CIAP, the network of consultant interpreters that originated in Asia-Pacific that was entrusted with organising the team of interpreters for this meeting, the last in a series of NAM meetings for which CIAP has recruited interpreters. These include: the NAM Ministerial Meeting on Debt Issues, Jakarta, in August 1994, the NAM Ministers of Agriculture Meeting, Bali, in October 1994, 40 years after Bandung, in Bandung in April 1995, the NAM Summit, Kuala Lumpur, in February 2003, the NAM Ministerial Meeting, Putrajaya, in May 2006. ■



Socorro Browning is a consultant interpreter based in Nice, France, and one of the founding members of CIAP. She lived in Asia for many years and returns often.

Recruiting a team of interpreters

by Jean-Pierre Allain

If you're going to hold an international conference with several languages, you'll need a team of professional interpreters to assure fluid communication. Putting together this team is more complex than it seems. A consultant interpreter is a specialist in analyzing needs and finding the right mix of interpreters and technical personnel for your meeting. Let's take a look at some of the common terms and elements that come into play.

Bilingual meetings: In Asia, most conferences use English plus one Asian language. In this setting,

interpreters will work in a bilingual booth interpreting from and into both languages. For English and Chinese, when Chinese is spoken the interpreters translate into English, and when English is spoken the same interpreters translate into Chinese.

Multilingual interpretation: What happens when the meeting needs English, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, French and Russian? Few interpreters master all these languages and a relay system will be used. To go from Chinese to Russian, for example, one interpreter will translate from Chinese to

English, and another will *relay* from the English version to express the ideas in Russian.

Language combinations: Professional conference interpreters classify their languages into 'active' and 'passive', following the system adopted by the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC). An *active language* is a native language or one spoken just as well. A *passive language* is one the interpreter has learned, understands perfectly, and translates into one of his active tongues.

Interpreters do not translate words; they convey the speaker's message in another language.

Many often mistakenly believe that anybody who speaks two or

more languages can interpret between them. The result is usually disastrous. A few isolated words may come out but the message doesn't - communication disappears. That is because language is only the tool interpreters use. Training, background knowledge and experience enable them to grasp a speaker's message and instantly express it in another language.

The United Nations has rules on how many interpreters are needed for a meeting, as well as on working hours, remuneration, travel, DSA, insurance and so on. The main difference with the private market is that in the UN system interpreters work no more than two 3-hour sessions per day. UN rates may seem lower than fees on the private market, but they are tax-free and tied to time restrictions.

fied interpreters and offers them an *option* - a provisional offer of work for the dates in question. By accepting an option the interpreters grant the consultant interpreter the right of first refusal. If any one of them receives another offer before the option is confirmed, s/he will immediately inform the consultant interpreter. And only if the consultant interpreter cannot confirm the original assignment, will they be free to accept the new offer.

Once the consultant interpreter has a client's confirmation, *firm offers* will be sent to the interpreters. Should any of them no longer be available, the consultant interpreter will have to find other interpreters with the same qualifications.

Costing interpretation: A client needs to know the cost of interpretation before confirming. The consultant interpreter submits an

- ❖ Estimate of air or train fares for all interpreters
- ❖ Terminal expenses or ground allowance - a lump sum to cover train/taxi/bus costs between home/hotel and airports.
- ❖ Consultant interpreter coordinating fee.

Many conference organisers call for bids for interpretation and other services from several *professional conference organisers (PCO)* or other intermediaries who often turn to a consultant interpreter to get a costing of interpretation services. The consultant interpreter may thus be asked to provide a quotation to several PCOs for the same meeting.

Once a quotation has been accepted, the consultant interpreter has to make travel arrangements with interpreters and respond to the many questions they have. It takes the consultant interpreter about one workday per interpreter recruited to settle all the details. If a conference requires more than one team of interpreters, the workload increases.

More tasks follow: collection and distribution of documents to interpreters, collecting airfare and other receipts for costs incurred by interpreters, preparing and presenting accounts, invoicing, collecting payment and, finally, paying the interpreters.

Experience and know-how are essential when seeking the right interpreters with the most appropriate combinations and melding them into a team that provides seamless interpretation into all languages. ■

Jean-Pierre Allain is based in Penang and has an office in Bangkok. Former President of AIIIC and Chairman of the AIIIC Technical and Health Committee, he continues to be active in various bodies of the Association.



JP Allain and T Carbone in booth at FDI Congress, Singapore 2009

In the private market, interpreters adapt to clients' needs. They usually interpret up to 6 hours per day, but often accept slight overruns without extra charge. Beyond that, they either agree on a higher fee or charge overtime. The UN hires extra interpreters to cover extra sessions.

Recruiting interpreters: When asked to compose a team, a consultant interpreter contacts quali-

initial quotation containing the following elements:

- ❖ workday fee/interpreter/day
- ❖ travel day fee/interpreter/day - for each day or part thereof needed to get to the venue and back
- ❖ Daily subsistence allowance or DSA/interpreter/day - to cover hotel, meals, local transport and incidentals (called per diem in the UN system)

Dhaka: a future Asian conference venue

by Laurence Bastit and Socorro Browning

In 1990, representatives from 155 countries and 150 organizations pledged to achieve universal literacy by the year 2000 at the UNESCO World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien, Thailand. The government of Bangladesh responded positively to the bold new direction enshrined in the Jomtien Declaration by making primary education compulsory.

By the year 2000, regrettably, many countries found that their objectives were far from met. Efforts were renewed at landmark meetings in Dakar, Amman and more recently in Dhaka, where prominent NGOs came together to complement governments' efforts to eradicate illiteracy by 2005. CIAP was particularly pleased to recruit the team of interpreters for the March 2010 meeting in Dhaka at the request of the Campaign for Popular Education, an NGO in Bangladesh, as CIAP associates had worked at the UNESCO conference in Jomtien in 1990!

Our Dhaka assignment was extremely interesting, professionally and because of the amazing direct contact we had with the warm, helpful, cultured and active people of Bangladesh. The brief glimpse we got of life in Dhaka was both charming and enriching: the hustle and bustle of life on the river was the highlight, and there are historical and contemporary architectural landmarks worth visiting, as well as an array of exquisite crafts reflecting centuries of ancestral traditions. Bangladeshi cuisine is also a delight.

The entire team of interpreters felt rewarded ...its services were not only needed but appreciated. Dhaka as a conference venue presents a win-win situation for the country and for delegates.



Laurence Bastit and the Minister of Culture of Bangladesh

Four ministers attended the conference, highlighting their interest in education. Her Excellency Dr Dipu Moni, the Minister of External Affairs of Bangladesh, expressed her concern about the sad international image of her country but reassured all present of her determination to take appropriate steps towards a quality leap forward.

The enthusiasm, high morale and dedication of the participants were contagious. The entire team of interpreters felt rewarded by working at a meeting where its services were not only needed but appreciated.

Dhaka as a conference venue presents a win-win situation for the country and for delegates, who can take advantage of exotic sights and travel, experiencing culture and authenticity. These enchanted trav-

ellers could become Bangladesh's best friends and ambassadors!

The working spirit was inspiring despite some difficult technical conditions. The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel has meeting rooms with built-in simultaneous interpretation booths and welcomes international conferences year-round. CIAP has demonstrated that even in so-called developing or least developed countries, good quality, cost-effective interpretation can be provided for the benefit of delegates and the host country. There is no doubt that Bangladesh deserves to be on the world map of conference and tourism destinations. ■



Laurence Bastit is a consultant interpreter based in Bangkok, Thailand. She lived for many years in India where she still is involved in supporting and promoting the traditional musical arts of India.



Team of Interpreters at the World Economic Forum, Ho Chi Minh City, June 2010

SOME INTERPRETATION TEAMS ORGANISED BY CIAP IN 2010

Niigata	Oct	APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security
Nagoya	Oct	Ministerial Meeting on Forest Conservation and Climate Change
Muju	Oct	Codex Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance 4th Session
Nagoya	Oct	Ministerial Meeting of Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity
Kobe	Sep	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group Meeting
Seoul	Jul	Reflection Group on the Strengthening of the Human Rights Council
Abuja	Jun	Ministers of Education Meeting on Education for All
Siem Reap	Jun	International Budget Partnership Annual Partners' Meeting
Fukui	Jun	APEC Energy Ministers Meeting
Hong Kong	Jun	Social Work and Social Development Conference
Ho Chi Mihn	Jun	The World Economic Forum on East Asia
Beijing	May	Pan-American Surety Association Conference
Hanoi	Apr	Ministerial Conference on Animal and Pandemic Influenza
Dhaka	Mar	Ministerial Meeting on Education for All
Manila	Mar	Ministerial Meeting of the NAM on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace



Lynette Shi interpreting during the WEF Summit on East Asia held in Ho Chi Mihn City, June 2010

Visit our website! www.ciap.net

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WHAT IS AIIC?

Founded in 1953, AIIC (Association Internationale des Interprètes de Conférence - International Association of Conference Interpreters) is the only worldwide association of professional conference interpreters. AIIC has over 2,800 members in 90 countries and is recognised by the United Nations, the World Bank, NATO, the European Union and many business organisations as the only representative of professional interpreters and the authoritative voice on matters of conference interpretation.

AIIC sets professional standards and its recommended working conditions are accepted worldwide. Together with the International Organisation for Standardisation, AIIC's Technical and Health Committee has drawn up standards ISO 2603 for built-in booths and equipment for simultaneous interpretation and ISO 4043 for mobile booths for use in conference rooms without built-in facilities.



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES INTERPRÈTES DE CONFÉRENCE
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WHAT IS CIAP?

Conference Interpreters Asia Pacific (CIAP) is a network of consultant interpreters, all members of AIIC, who live and work in the Asia-Pacific region. Established in 1990, CIAP provides teams of conference interpreters for simultaneous and consecutive interpretation at meetings of all sizes.

Its members advise conference organisers on language requirements, choice of conference venues, technical requirements and even seating arrangements, and recruit teams of interpreters suited to the needs of a conference. CIAP also provides written translations of conference documents.

CIAP associates can provide simultaneous interpretation teams for English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and other languages.



CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS ASIA PACIFIC

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There are CIAP Associates in several cities in Asia-Pacific. For the consultant interpreter nearest to you, please see the list of names and contact numbers provided in this issue.
Web: www.ciap.net