

THE CIAP BULLETIN INTERPRETASIA

NUMBER 7 ♦ OCTOBER 1999

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

This last issue of the millennium bears out the efforts made by CIAP to set and maintain high standards of service and professionalism at international conferences in the Asia-Pacific region.

Our lead article gives readers a glimpse of the intricacies of language services at a major event, the Olympic Games 2000 in Sydney, where conference interpreters will play a significant role. Two other events confirm the growing importance of Asia-Pacific on the world stage: the APEC Business Summit of 1998 in Kuala Lumpur and the ASEM Summit 2000 in Seoul, both of which have involved the close co-operation of CIAP associates. CIAP is moving with the times, and has recently launched a new Website. You are cordially invited to visit us at: www.ciap.net

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

The Editors

EDITORS:

J-P. Allain
S. Tejpar-Dang

EDITORIAL OFFICE:

Charn Issara Tower 4/F
942/127 Rama IV Road
Bangkok 10500, Thailand
Tel. 662-2678135
Fax. 662-2675164
Email: webmaster@ciap.net
Website: www.ciap.net

SYDNEY 2000 APPROACHES

The Sydney Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (SOCOG) has been working for several years to prepare for the Olympics 2000. SOCOG's Language Services Manager, **Jonathan Pepper**, granted an exclusive interview to **Jean-Pierre Allain**, AIIC Council Member for Asia-Pacific, to discuss the preparations for language services in general and for simultaneous interpretation at the Olympic Games and related events in particular.

J-P. Allain: Preparing and managing the language services of an international event of such magnitude must be a very difficult challenge, particularly in a country where only one language, English, is dominant in the media, among sports associations and in all government departments. How did you go about it?

J. Pepper: As the founder of the modern Olympic movement, Baron Pierre de Coubertin once said, *"the Games are not the property of any one country or race, they belong to the world"*. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the organisers to respect this sentiment in all facets of its preparations.

From the outset, the task we at SOCOG were charged with, appeared somewhat formidable, and it was apparent that in order for us to provide "comprehensive language services" we had to enlist a great deal of assistance.



SOCOG has to be an organisation focused on inclusiveness, and to that end we placed a high priority on developing and maintaining relationships with partner organisations. Naturally, from a language services perspective, we see language professionals - translators and interpreters - as important partners in this project.

J-P. Allain: How easy is it to convey to your partners the need for excellence and competence in languages?

J. Pepper: Often, when you want to formulate a strategic plan, the first task is to educate your own organisation. The rest of SOCOG

(contd. on page 2)



Famous view of Sydney bay with the Opera House in the front and The Rock district on the right.

had to be constantly reminded that we were not putting on a national track-and-field meet or a Pan-Pacific swimming carnival, but an event where 10,500 athletes from 200 countries would be participating.

J-P. Allain: I understand that in Australia it is not easy to convince people of the need to use professional translators and interpreters. What was the reaction to your approach?

J. Pepper: SOCOG staffers who had attended other Olympic Games or world championships came back saying "language was not a problem for me, everyone spoke English." My response to them was "Yes it may have been easy for you, but was communication as easy for athletes from non-English speaking countries?"

At the end of the day, the success of the Sydney 2000 Olympics will be judged by how we handle the detail. From a language services perspective, we will not receive plaudits because we managed to facilitate 95% of language requests. But it will be noted if we do not provide timely and good interpretation for the Internet or TV broadcasts 5% of the time, or if meetings of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) or one of the international sports federations go sour because of inadequate interpretation.

Therefore it was imperative to put together a team of credible professionals with a focus on detail while simultaneously developing a climate whereby my colleagues from outside Language Services would understand and come to terms with our role. I am convinced that our partners in SOCOG now understand the importance of professional language services.

J-P. Allain: So you will get competent professional linguists to service the Games. That's good! What about simultaneous interpretation? How do you plan to manage that aspect?

J. Pepper: The Professional Interpreting Unit is an important part of Language Services. A Chief Interpreter is required to select and recruit the most competent professional interpreters, from as close as possible to Sydney, and to organise all the interpreting teams for the Games. This person naturally must have certain attributes, not the least of which is flexibility and superior interpersonal skills. The successful candidate must first of all be a consummate linguist, but must also have had previous "big event" experience and be a capable manager.

In October 1998 Wilhelm Weber, former Chief Interpreter at the Los Angeles

Olympic Games in 1984, at the FIFA World Cup in 1994 and the Atlanta Games in 1996, was appointed as SOCOG's Chief Interpreter. His previous Olympic experience dates back to Grenoble in 1968. He will need to put together a team of approximately 35 highly skilled and experienced conference interpreters. It is my strong desire to recruit



Members of AIIC from all over the world with traditional dancers at the opening ceremony of the AIIC Interregional Meeting in Sydney, January 1999.

as many such professional interpreters from within Australia and the Asia Pacific Region, but naturally we will also retain other interpreters from outside the region.

J-P. Allain: That's a good choice! I can imagine it was not an easy one. In addition to the conference interpretation that goes on during and around the Games, there usually is also a fair amount of interpretation needed for foreign team leaders, athletes, officials, press people, etc. Who will provide that kind of interpretation service in non-conference settings?

J. Pepper: In order to provide such services we will be recruiting 50 or so local consecutive interpreters accredited by NAATI (National Authority for Accreditation of Translators and Interpreters) at Level 3 or Level 4. This task falls upon our Assistant Chief Interpreter, Manuel Pastor, who will focus on selecting and training these interpreters, as well as providing his services as a professional interpreter for conferences before and during the Games.

This two-team structure will provide unique opportunities and exposure for the local interpreters, while ensuring quality interpretation coverage of a large number of languages during the Games.

J-P. Allain: Will there be other conferences related to the Sydney 2000 Games before or after September 2000 for which you will provide interpretation?

J. Pepper: The role of the Professional Interpreting Unit is to provide simultaneous

interpretation at all the conferences we will be hosting between now and September 2000. Its next task is an IOC Radio and Television Commission Meeting in September. This will be followed a few days later with the Chefs de Mission Meeting. Then in October there will be the International Baseball Association Congress, the World Sports Science Congress and the meeting of the IOC Medical Commission. Next year we will have a further 12 pre-Games conferences.

J-P. Allain: How many meetings will require simultaneous interpretation during the Olympic Games? Aren't athletes there to compete, rather than to discuss?

J. Pepper: Around Games time there will be an average of three conferences per day plus 320 press conferences across 20 venues during the 16-day period of the Games. This is because many of the international sports federations hold their general assemblies and other meetings during the Games, when most of their officials are in attendance. After most competitions there is a press conference held at the venue where the competition took place, to interview the winners. In addition to the interpreters, we have to source all the necessary equipment for these conferences, including 50 booths and 5,000 headsets.

J-P. Allain: Will there be any other language services officially provided by SOCOG? For instance, what happens if a foreign athlete has an accident at a venue or falls sick and does not speak any English?

J. Pepper: The third Language Services area is Venue Operations. This unit is the glue which will bind all of our operations together. It will be managed by Isabelle Draux and will be staffed by some 1,500 volunteer translators who have received basic training in interpreting skills. We call them "language specialist" volunteers. They will have the dual role of providing grass roots conversation facilitation services for the Olympic Family while taking on board all the translation and interpretation requests which emanate from the competition venue.

The response to our call for volunteers has been overwhelming. We have received over 3,000 expressions of interest covering 80 languages. 400 of these are NAATI graduates. We have interviewed 900 volunteers, tested the language skills of 700, and trained 400 in basic interpreting skills.

Our volunteers will have one of the most interesting jobs at the Games. Working in areas such as doping control, media,

ceremonies, medical, accreditation and in the Athletes Village. We will also be staffing a multilingual switchboard which will be located in the village. Then when the Olympic Games draw to a close we will have to do it all over again for the Paralympics.

J-P. Allain: You have a formidable job ahead and I wish you success! Do you think all this work and training will have some lasting effect on the level of awareness of foreign languages and on language services in Australia?

J. Pepper: Through this project we have a unique opportunity to assist in the development of the language professions in both Australia and the region. In association with AUSIT – the Australian Society of Interpreters and Translators – we are preparing a number of

professional development workshops for local NAATI interpreters. These workshops will be conducted by some of our best local interpreters as well as Bill Weber and Manuel Pastor.



Interpreters at the 21st World Ports Conference of IAPH, Kuala Lumpur, May 1999. From L to R: H.H. Lee, S. Nakamura, K. Oguchi, L. Bastit (CIAP associate), K. Chin (PCO), R. Lambert and S.G. Lee.

In Australia we have a strong base of "community interpreting". This is due to Australia's approach to addressing migrant settlement issues. Sydney 2000 will provide the opportunity for some community interpreters to venture outside the realm of courts and tribunals and to participate as professional interpreters. Naturally there will not be work for all interpreters in Australia, because of the official languages used at the Olympic Games, but I believe that for those 50 or so selected the experience will prove invaluable.

The task is significant, but with the support and advice of language professionals I am confident that we will be able to "benchmark" the delivery of language services for an excellent Olympic Games.

We look forward to working with you. □

CONFERENCE VENUES

SEOUL

Preparations for ASEM Going Smoothly

In order to prepare for the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) scheduled to be held in Seoul, Korea in the year 2000, a completely new conference and business complex is being built in the heart of the Kangnam district in Seoul. The area already encompasses an exhibition center, a department store and a deluxe hotel, but new additions were needed to do justice to the importance and scope of ASEM. The following is a description of the facilities that will be available.

The **Convention Hall**, to be used for the opening and closing ceremonies is a unique column-free hall for 6,000 delegates, the largest seating capacity in Korea. It can be divided into two separate halls. It has eight fixed booths for simultaneous interpretation and can be expanded to accommodate 16 booths when necessary. The mobile stage allows for flexible arrangements, according

to the functions.

The **Ballroom** can accommodate up to 1,600 persons and can be divided into five halls. During the ASEM it will be used for the ministerial meetings and senior officials' meetings.



The new COEX Convention Centre in Seoul, Korea, venue for ASEM 2000.

An **Auditorium** with a seating capacity of 1,100 designed like a theater, is ideal for movie premieres, award ceremonies, etc. It can also be used for conferences.

The **VIP Center** consists of an Executive Conference Hall and several medium-sized conference rooms. During the ASEM, it will be used for the summit meetings and as a lounge for Heads of State. It is

equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment; its eight interpretation booths can be divided into a total of sixteen booths.

The **Conference Center** provides a total of 30 meeting rooms for bilateral meetings and medium-sized events. There is simultaneous interpretation equipment available for 4 languages.

The **Press and Business Center** provides the support needed by journalists who will be covering the ASEM. A satellite link-up office will be available as well as five press conference rooms for the numerous press briefings that will take place throughout the conference.

A 630-room **five-star deluxe hotel**, an **office building** and other auxiliary facilities are also being built. Construction is well on schedule and will be ready for the opening.

Interpretation services for the European languages will be provided by the EU and for the Asian languages by the relevant governments.

For this largest and most important conference to be held in Seoul, the government and private sector have joined together to ensure an unequivocal success. □

Jungwha S. Choi

The APEC Business Summit 1998

Business leaders and Heads of State from Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries met in Kuala Lumpur in November 1998 to discuss the current economic situation and business prospects in the framework of greater economic cooperation.

The business meetings were held at the Putra World Trade Centre while Ministers and Heads of State held their meetings at The Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel just outside Kuala Lumpur.

The business meetings, attended by top-level leaders from major companies in the region and beyond, as well as finance and economics ministers, were sponsored by Malaysia Airlines and other major Malaysian corporations, with support from the Ministry of Trade and Industries Malaysia. The organisation of the business event was handled by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) who did a laudable job.

ASLI entrusted CIAP with the simultaneous interpretation for the meeting. This meant composing a team of six interpreters for Japanese, Spanish and Mandarin from and into English. In addition, two Korean interpreters were provided by the official Korean delegation one afternoon for

the special session with President Kim Dae Jung of Korea. CIAP contacted the top quality interpreters needed for good communication, from its extensive list of associates and AIIC members, negotiated the terms of contract with them, then submitted a quote to ASLI. Since none of the interpreters were resident in Kuala Lumpur, the two parties had to agree not only on working conditions, but also on interpreters' travel and accommodation, payment terms, etc. for which ASLI needed to get approval from the sponsors. CIAP provided advice on the technical equipment needed for interpretation and on the timetable of meetings.

There were morning and afternoon plenary sessions with a keynote speaker followed by a panel of top-level officials presenting various topics. Each panel presentation was followed by questions and answers from the floor. As extensively reported in the media, the Chilean Minister of Finance explained how his country had successfully imposed limitations on the free flow of short-term capital several years ago; the Prime Minister of New Zealand talked about the free-market reforms her country had embarked on over the past ten years and their positive results; and the President of

Korea discussed the measures his government was taking to revive his country's stumbling economy.

The lessons learned from this conference could be useful for other meetings. For example, although the simultaneous interpretation was of top quality, the equipment at the conference centre was somewhat outdated. Real working-condition tests should be carried out before the meeting to have time to correct defects. All delegates should have interpretation receivers so that speakers are able to express themselves at ease in their own language and not be forced to speak English only. To facilitate the transmission of documents and instructions from organisers to interpreters and to allow interpreters a direct view of the rostrum, speakers and screen, booths should not be located several floors above the meeting room. In very large halls, it is preferable to install mobile booths at the back or the side of the hall. The sound received by interpreters must be of excellent quality and the technicians who control the equipment must be able to regulate the volume output to interpreters (not the PA system) and they should be located nearby so that interpreters can easily communicate with them. □

Jean-Pierre Allain

From Generation to Generation: Jean Herbert and Janine Yates

"He was very happy when I told him that I wanted to be an interpreter."

Janine Yates

Jean Herbert (1897-1982) was the first Chief Interpreter of the United Nations and formed the first generation interpreters for the UN system. His daughter, Janine Yates, also a conference interpreter, is still an active member of AIIC. She is perfectly bilingual in English and French and has been working for the European Union, the Inter Parliamentary Union, the World Intellectual Property Organization and many other international organizations. The publisher of a Japanese version of Herbert's "Conference Terminology", Yuko Matsuoka (member of AIIC and CIAP) interviewed Janine recently in her charming flat in Geneva.

Janine is a lovely, lively person who carries her father's genes. He was active until he died at the age of 85. Jean Herbert married

four times. He had only two daughters, Janine (Yates) and Yvette (Renoux), from his first marriage to May Amboul, a Scot.

Janine says that the Scottish and the French go very well together because, as history has proved, they share the same intelligence and quick wit. She must be right, because she also married a Scotsman.

At the age of ten, Janine moved from Paris, where she was born, to Geneva, when her father was assigned to the League of Nations. When her parents were divorced, her mother, also perfectly bilingual in English and French, started her career as a translator. It is almost fate that Janine chose the profession of interpretation. When she told her father of her desire to become an interpreter, he advised her to study with Pat Longley at Holborn College in London. After finishing a

one-year intensive course, Janine started her career in 1965.

She says it was a great privilege to have been able to work with her father in the same booth. As a colleague interpreter, Herbert was trusting and patient. He corrected only major mistakes. She admires Herbert as a brilliant interpreter who was particularly good at consecutive interpretation. In fact, Herbert was initially against the idea of simultaneous interpretation for the United Nations. He thought such interpretation would be inaccurate.

But in the interest of speed, the simultaneous system was adopted. Herbert trained a corps of interpreters in New York for three years. He described his first team as bright young people who had just come out of the war.

Herbert had the exceptional gift of grasping the essence of a speech and getting straight to the point. One episode Janine remembers well is his interpretation for a Hindu guru. After a long-winded question by the Vice-Rector of the University of Geneva, Herbert interpreted to the guru, "The professor is asking why." Any professional

interpreter knows that such interpretation would normally not be acceptable. Herbert was a Professor in Oriental Philosophy at the University and a specialist in Hindu philosophy. It was his authority that gave him the liberty to summarize what he knew well.

Herbert was also a great teacher. His approach, according to Janine, was to let students develop their own way of interpreting. It was in his genes to teach, because his father, Fernand Herbert, also a teacher, taught English to French diplomats at the Ecole de Sciences Po (Politiques) in Paris for 50 years. Janine's sister inherited the family tradition of academia and now works as a publisher.

Not many people know that Herbert trained interpreters in Japan. According to "Conference Terminology in English and Japanese" published in April 1999 by Say-zan-sha, he traveled to Japan on a number of occasions visiting shrines and temples around the country. In 1967, at the request of the

Japanese government, Herbert, then 70, gave a three-week interpretation training seminar at the Akasaka Prince Hotel in Tokyo. Eighteen interpreters received intensive training for three hours a day, four days a week.

Herbert was a prolific writer. Janine says he could not make much money by writing and that he invested in writing what he earned by interpreting. He authored, among others: *La Mythologie Hindoue, son Message* (1954), *An Introduction to Asia* (1965 translated from French, first published in 1947), *Shinto, The Fountainhead of Japan* (1967), *Dieux et Sectes Populaires du Japon* (1967), the *Interpreters Handbook* (1952), and *Conference Terminology* (Original version in 6 languages by Elsevier in 1957).

Although Jean Herbert was a man of many talents, he is remembered by interpreters as a pioneer who established professionalism in interpretation. He was President of AIIC (founded in 1953) from 1966 to 1970. He believed that this profession deserves a high social standing commensurate with the importance of its work. His pride in this profession remains vivid not only in Janine but also in many of his students and even in later generations of interpreters who were taught by his students. □

Yuko Matsuoka



J-P. Allain and C. Pouget, members of AIIC and CIAP associates, responding to visitors at the AIIC desk at the 'Meeting Your Choice' exhibition and conference organised by the Hongkong Tourist Association, May 1999.

INTERPRETATION TEAMS ORGANISED BY CIAP RECENTLY

Kuala Lumpur	APEC Business Summit
Toronto	2nd International Wood Processing Conference
Hongkong	French Business Association Conference "Le Monde Chinois"
Bangkok	Quintiles/Roche Symphony Meeting
Bangkok	IBM Networking College 99
Bali	3rd Ramen World Summit
Phuket	Intl. Workshop on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Hongkong	FINA Extraordinary Assembly
Seattle	Microsoft Government Leaders' Conference
Vancouver	Motorola 1999 Global iDEN Operators Forum
Vancouver	Nat. Conf. on Responsibilities for Health and Social Impact Assessment
Manila	25th Congress of the Intl. Confederation of Midwives
Kuala Lumpur	21st World Ports Conference of the IAPH
Regina	FIPA Executive Committee and Commission meetings
Taipei	Intl. Conference on Children's Education by Folklore
Hongkong	21st Intl. Conference on Privacy and Personal Data Protection
Hongkong	IFOMA, Intl. Fishmeal and Oil Manufacturers Association Conference

Visit our website! www.ciap.net

CIAP CONSULTANT INTERPRETERS

BANGKOK

Jean-Pierre ALLAIN

Tel 662-267 8135-41 Fax 662-267 5164

Email: allain@loxinfo.co.th

BEIJING

Jane JIANG Hong

Tel/Fax 8610-6485 7352

Email: jianghong@263.net

DELHI

Laurence BASTIT

Tel/Fax 9111-623 4379 or 649 2886

Email: laura@del3.vsnl.net.in

HONGKONG

Catherine POUGET

Tel 852-2697 5114 Fax 852-2696 3491

Email: pouald@netvigator.com

SEOUL

Jungwha S. CHOI

Tel 822-527 3345 Fax 822-527 3346

Tel 822-430 2956 Fax 822-404 6731

Email: jwshchoi@hotmail.com

Helene HESSKE

Tel 822-764 0827 Fax 822-747 9681

Email: hheske@hotmail.com

SINGAPORE

Grace TING

Tel 65-472 8765 Fax 65-472 8850

Email: loting@singnet.com.sg

SYDNEY

Manuel PASTOR

Tel 612-9960 3549 Fax 612-9960 3878

Email: manuelpastor@bigpond.com

TOKYO

Andrea S. BATEMAN

Tel/Fax 813-3262 8771

Email: a_subx_bateman@hotmail.com

Yuko MATSUOKA

Tel 813-3470 0612 Fax 813-3475 0931

Email: yukmat@gol.com

VANCOUVER

Salma TEJPAR-DANG

Tel 1-604-9256017 Fax 1-604-9256016

Email: stdang@netcom.ca

AIR MAIL ✈
PRINTED MATTER

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 2,500 members in 70 countries and is recognised by the United Nations, the World Bank, Nato, the European Community and many business organisations as the only representative of professional interpreters and the authoritative voice on matters of conference interpreting.

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

ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONALE DES
INTERPRETES DE CONFERENCE

aiic

INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS

AIIC Secretariat, 10 Ave. de Sécheron, 1202 Geneva
Switzerland, Tel 41-22-9081540, Fax 41-22-7324151
Website: www.aiic.net

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. CIAP was established in 1990 to provide conference interpretation services to the growing conference industry in the region.

Its members advise conference organisers on language requirements, choice of conference venues, technical equipment, seating arrangements and so on, and recruit teams of interpreters suited to the needs of a conference.

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

CIAP

CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS ASIA PACIFIC

BANGKOK • BEIJING • DELHI • HONGKONG • SEOUL • SINGAPORE • SYDNEY • TOKYO • VANCOUVER

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.
Website: www.ciap.net