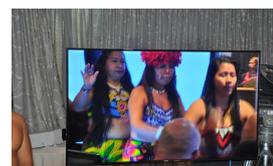


Third International  
Congress on  
Translation and  
Interpretation

MARCH 29 AND 30, 2019



# WHEN CULTURES MEET LANGUAGES



## APTI Third International Congress on Translation and Interpretation

The Panamanian Association of Translators and Interpreters (APTI) had the honour and pleasure of presenting the Third International Congress on Translation and Interpretation, "When cultures meet languages", on March 29 and 30, 2019, in Panama City, supporting the United Nations General Assembly proclamation of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

**FIT Vice President,  
Reina de  
Bettendorf with  
sign language  
interpreter  
introducing APTI  
President**

Mrs. Suzzet Gonzalez de Helleisz, president of APTI, welcomed the participants to the congress, which included sign language interpreters from the National Association for the Promotion of Interpretation Services for the Deaf in Panama.

Mr. Flavio Mendez Altamirano, Ambassador of Panama to UNESCO, was among our distinguished guests. He gave a short talk regarding our profession and the importance of indigenous languages.

The opening speech was given by Mr. Kevin Quirk, President of the International Federation of Translators (FIT). Mr. Quirk asked the gathering to hold a minute of silence in memory of FIT Past President and Honorary Advisor Mrs Marion Boers and Mrs. Etilvia Arjona Chang, APTI's founder and winner in 2005 of the Pierre-François Caillé medal, a symbol of excellence and prestige awarded by FIT. Mrs. Boers and Mrs. Arjona Chang both passed away in 2018.

With indigenous languages as a main focus of the APTI Congress, represented in the panel discussion “The situation of indigenous languages: three cases (Panama, Peru, Africa).” The panelists were Mrs. Elizabeth Quintero from Panama, his Excellency Mario Lopez Chavarri, Ambassador of Peru in Panama, and (Chief) Gloria Williams Taylor, from Bahamas and a chief of the Igbo tribe in Nigeria. The moderator of the panel was Mrs. Emma Gomez, a representative from the Panamanian Academy of Language. The main focus of the panel was the need to preserve and revitalise indigenous languages around the world.

The FIT Education and Professional Development Task Force hosted a round table discussion for representatives of Latin America countries: “Professionalisation of Translators and Interpreters around the World: A Comparative View”.

The event saw the participation of 38 speakers (28 international and 10 national), with more than 40 papers on different topics of interest for both translators and interpreters.

In conjunction with the Congress, the FIT Council held its annual meeting for the first time in Panama and in the Central American region. Present also as observers at the Council meetings and special guests at the congress were Mr Andrew Evans and Mr Frans De Laet, FIT Honorary Advisors.

We would like to express our gratitude to the speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, students, volunteers, participants and members of the organising committee who have come from near and far, for making the congress a memorable event.

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