

**The Panamanian Association of Translators and Interpreters (APTI) holds its Third International Congress on Translation and Interpretation, "When Cultures Meet Languages"**

This year, The Panamanian Association of Translators and Interpreters (APTI) celebrates its 35th anniversary. To commemorate our anniversary, we have prepared several educational activities, the most prominent of which was our Third International Congress, held on March 29 and 30 in Panama City, Panama. The theme of the Congress was "When Cultures Meet Languages", in acknowledgement of the United Nations General Assembly proclamation declaring 2019 to be the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

There was no better way to open our program of activities than with this outstanding event, bringing academics and professionals from around the world together to exchange knowledge and skills.

For the first time in our history, presentations at the Congress were accompanied by sign language interpreters from the National Association for the Promotion of Interpretation Services for the Deaf in Panama.

Mrs. Suzet Gonzalez de Helleisz, president of APTI, offered remarks to convene the Congress.

The welcome address was made by Mr. Kevin Quirk, president of the International Federation of Translators (FIT). In his talk, Mr. Quirk asked for a minute of silence in memory of FIT past president, Mrs. Marion Boers, and of 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.

Mr. Frans De Laet was the keynote speaker. His speech, "From Filene and Finlay to live automatic interpreting: On to new perspectives in the symbiosis between artificial intelligence and humans", was well received by the audience.

Because indigenous language was the main focus of the Congress, we presented a panel entitled "The situation of indigenous languages: three cases (Panama, Peru, Africa)." The panelists were Mrs. Elizabeth Quintero from Panama, the honorable Mario Lopez Chavarri, ambassador of Peru in Panama, and (Chief) Gloria Williams Taylor, from Bahamas and a chief

in the Igbo tribe in Nigeria. The panel was moderated by Mrs. Emma Gomez, a representative of the Panamanian Academy of Language. All members of the panel stressed the need to preserve and revitalize indigenous languages around the world.

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

The Congress saw the participation of 38 speakers (28 international and 10 national), with 42 papers on different topics of interest for both translators and interpreters. In conjunction with the Congress, the governing council of FIT met here in Panama, for the first time in our country and in the Central American region, to hold its Annual Meeting. We had the privilege, as well, of the presence of Mr. Andrew Evans, FIT honorary advisor, as an observer at the Council meetings and special guest at our Congress.

Jørgen Christian Wind Nielsen, a skilled photographer in Denmark, attended as a speaker and photographer of the event. His photos can be found at:

Panamá Congreso 2019 (Panama-Congress 2019)

[https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPGA\\_8ABIr5Bf8v2-IT9WBwnHMYF2kOim8vDLn58hICR5428KdpbTVpRu0GcfPnXA?key=VH1Dd3RrbXN3bkVMNkpmWXd6el9PVGROWVlKOGh3](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPGA_8ABIr5Bf8v2-IT9WBwnHMYF2kOim8vDLn58hICR5428KdpbTVpRu0GcfPnXA?key=VH1Dd3RrbXN3bkVMNkpmWXd6el9PVGROWVlKOGh3)

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