



Paris, 22 January 2024

FIT COUNCIL IN KUALA LUMPUR

FIT as a driver of regional connection



FIT Council and Observers

Translators, interpreters and terminologists continue to play a key role in helping build crucial connections across the Asia-Pacific region, according to the Federation of International Translators (FIT) Council who met last week in Kuala Lumpur thanks to gracious hosts, the Malaysian Translators Association (MTA/Persatuan Penterjemah Malaysia).

The Council's second in-person meeting of their 2022-2025 mandate was the perfect opportunity to welcome new member Hasuria Che Omar (President of MTA), network with Malaysian colleagues, and strengthen the profession's profile in the region.

Along with a review of plans for the year ahead, and a resolution to continue its popular webinar series throughout 2024, proceedings included reports from four Regional Centres and 18 Standing Committees, and various governance and administrative matters.

More relaxed conversations took place at the Welcome Dinner, where MTA representatives, local Language and Literature Agency (Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, DBP) Director-General Dr Hazami Jahari, representatives from Singapore and FIT Council members were able to share experiences.

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Dr Jahari and FIT President, Alison Rodriguez, discussed the need to support indigenous language use through learning and promotion, and the importance of accessibility and government recognition.

The inherent value of multilingualism was also naturally high on the agenda, with Asia being one of the world's most multilingual regions, exemplified by the host city's many languages and cultures – proudly on display as FIT Council members were treated to a tour of Kuala Lumpur.

Launch of FIT Asia Regional Centre

Local hosts MTA also generously helped launch the newly established FIT Asia, the FIT's fifth Regional Centre, established to further the vision of the Asia Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF) and raise the international profile of translation as a profession.



An amazing fusion of ceremony, culture, and solemn occasion, the launch of FIT Asia was the ideal celebration of greater representation in the region. Like all Regional Centres, FIT Asia will bring members closer to the federation; a gateway to build stronger reciprocal relationships with, and between, all regional members.



FIT Member, Himpunan Penerjemah Indonesia (the Association of Indonesian Translators, HPI) travelled to join the launch and members in Asia who could not attend in person took part virtually via live feed to hear speeches and enjoy cultural events.

Showcasing one of FIT's most geographical and linguistically diverse regions, the new Regional Centre will enhance the professionalism and cohesion of the region's members.

FIT greatly appreciates the chance to meet and speak with its members, and hear their concerns and experiences. The FIT-MTA International Forum 2024 organised by MTA, was the perfect opportunity to do both. With the theme of the 'Role of FIT in Today's Translation Practice', the Forum was moderated by Mohamed Zain Sulaiman, Head of Foreign Languages and Translation at UKM (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, The National University of Malaysia) and included presentations by FIT President and Vice-Presidents, followed by a lively audience Question and Answer session.

The FIT President spoke of the Federation's strategic priorities: Visibility, Community and the Future of the Profession. Accordingly, it was gratifying to see so many young professionals and graduate students mixing with their more experienced peers and contributing to the event. When new ideas and enthusiasm connect with practical knowledge and wisdom, the entire profession benefits.



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