

LANGUAGE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE JULY 2018 BOARD MEETING

Members: Chair: Janestic Twikirize; Co-chair: David McNabb, Junko Wake, Prof. Ma, Hernando Muñoz Sanchez

According to the MOPP, the task of the language committee is to highlight the importance of inclusiveness by language and remind and encourage the IASSW of its policy at all levels of the IASSW. IASSW have five official languages: English, French, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese (simplified).

Apart from requests by the board members in need of language services, the committee identified key documents to translate into the official languages and since 2017, we have managed to translate most of the material on the website including the following:

- Global Agenda
- Statement on human dignity
- IASSW By-Laws (approved in GA-2016)
- Membership benefits
- **Translated 2017/2018**
- IASSW history and profile
- IASSW-A brief history
- Mission & Vision
- Membership benefits
- How to sign up for membership
- Financial and membership information
- IASSW- International Projects Call for proposals and Cover Page
- Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. IASSW Statement on Theme 3: Promoting environmental and community sustainability
- Call for nominations and other election materials for the 2018 elections

Ongoing work

- At the time of writing this report, the statement on ethical principles has been translated into all official languages. Whilst proofread documents have been returned for Spanish, French and Chinese versions, the Japanese version is expected before end of June. The Spanish proofreading was done by two volunteers and highlighted the intricacies involved in getting consensus in translation as it pointed to issues of feminine and masculine use of language in professional/discipline specific documents.
- World Census survey: This is a very short 2-page document and so far it has been translated for free by the Japanese Association. We've reached out to other volunteers to offer the translation.

Since 2016, we have continued to employ the services of a translation company in India, CMM, with strict proofreading of all translated documents by volunteers either through board members or regional associations. No significant discrepancies have so far been experienced. Previously, the total dependency on volunteers had not proven easy, which is why a commercial firm had been opted for. Whilst board members and other volunteers had expressed readiness to proofread already translated documents, we note and appreciate the fact that they are most times busy and sometimes find it cumbersome

or delay to return the translated documents. We are also learning that for very discipline-specific documents, it is more reasonable to work directly with the National/regional associations for translation rather than with a commercial company which may not pay attention to the discipline –specific concepts. This is the step the committee intends to adopt moving forward.

Financial Assessment

Our budget for 2017 was \$3601 and we spent \$ 1837 which is under 50%. If the board agrees to the reorganization of the website to make it more user friendly, we anticipate utilizing all the budgeted funds for the current year (i.e. \$3750).

Whilst it can be noted that IASSW has endeavored to be as inclusive as possible via language, there are a few pending issues to pay attention to:

1. Organization of material on the website is not language friendly. If we can borrow a leaf from other multi-lingual websites, we need to reorganize the website to make navigation in different languages possible. Currently, there are many translated documents on the website but they are not easy to find. The language committee requests that the board looks into this issue as a matter of urgency.
2. There are calls to translate the key messages such as the welcome video in other languages over and above the 5 official languages if we want to attract further interest and membership in the organization e.g. Russian has been singled out. The language is, if the translation will stop at the welcome message and not be sustained for those members, how helpful would that be?
3. We again call upon board members to recommend volunteers who can support the work of translation and proofreading translated material so that we build a pool of volunteers rather than coming back to a single person all the time.
4. Place a call on the website for IASSW members to volunteer as translators in order to create a pool of volunteers for ease of work.

Finally, I wish to state that this is my last report as Chair of the language committee as I will not be part of the board after this meeting. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to serve as a board member and for all the learning and networking I have been exposed to during my tenure. I will continue to serve the organization faithfully in other capacities. All the best for a great future of our association.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Janestic Twikirize