



Report of the Secretary General

(1 August 2011 – 30 April 2012)

1 Introduction

This report will retain previous categories, differentiating between those activities which are procedural and those which are operational. It covers a period of nine months.

2 Initiatives

In the pursuit of the advocacy of the Federation and reflecting the aims stated in the FIPLV Statutes, I would like to highlight the following:

2.1 Membership

Retaining and increasing FIPLV membership remains a priority. This has led to strategic meetings with leaders of current and former members while exploring the existence of other national multilingual or international unilingual associations. For this, I have met or corresponded with colleagues in Estonia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Romania to explore the possibility of forming national multilingual associations, negotiating with them where they exist, or both. At the same time, we are working on the potential and/or formation of associations to represent other significant languages of the world, such as Chinese, Polish and Turkish. This is time-consuming and doesn't always eventuate in an association being formed or joining FIPLV.

2.2 FIPLV International Award

Most recipients of the 2009, 2010 and 2011 Award have had their presentations. There remains one recipient of 2008 yet to receive her presentation, but planning is underway. The criteria and call for nominations were prepared for the FIPLV International Award of 2012, for which the deadline is 30 April. None has been received.

2.3 Linguapax

The Linguapax Institute has rejuvenated activities under the Linguapax umbrella. This involves the Linguapax Advisory Board, the International Linguapax Network, further Linguapax World Congresses and the Linguapax Award. The recipient of the 2012 Linguapax Award was Jon Landaburu. The component of the Linguapax History, which I prepared, has been published and is available on-line. The Linguapax Institute is planning an international event for 2013.

2.4 UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014

To be built into the FIPLV Strategic Plan, the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014 continues to be a focus of papers and reports.

3 Operational Matters

My attention to procedural tasks has included the following:

3.1 Internal Operations

I have updated key FIPLV documents – the Statutes, Profile, Rationale and the Mission Statement, where required – annually and will do the same after our meetings. Paolo Balboni has prepared a draft synthesis of three of these documents

3.1.1 FIPLV Files

The re-establishment of the FIPLV files continues.

3.1.2 Communication

Significant correspondence has included items to or with:

- all member associations and FIPLV Regions
- FIPLV Executive and World Council

- international unilingual associations (FIPF, IDV, ILEI and LATEUM)
- national multilingual associations (especially AFMLTA, ANILS, APLV, KMF, LMS (Norway), LMS (Sweden), LTAL, MANYE, NZALT, PTN, SAALT and SUKOL)

3.2 External Operations

Involvement with UNESCO and related organisations as the FIPLV representative included:

- follow-up on 2008, The International Year of Languages and 2010, The International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures
- the distribution of *Education in a Multilingual World*
- collaboration with members of the Linguapax Institute (in Barcelona) and the International Linguapax Network

In the meantime, FIPLV has been granted consultative status by UNESCO, covered by the new directives governing partnership (rather than relational categories). Meetings and significant correspondence have included:

3.2.1 UNESCO

- Executive Board (23 September)
- Marie-Ange Théobald and Anna Maria Majlöv, (and other officers of UNESCO) on 23 September (2011)
- experts in the field of languages internationally, who could and did provide input to mutual projects, conferences and other activities

3.2.2 European Commission/ Council of Europe

- Terry has taken over liaison with the European Commission and the Council of Europe

3.2.3 Other Associations

- TermNet for ongoing collaboration in the context of accords for cooperation

3.2.4 Other

- associations in Malaysia and Romania re membership of FIPLV
- participants of the conferences which I have attended

3.2.5 Submissions

I have prepared no submissions for funding of projects since the last meeting.

4 Procedural Matters

Apart from some mundane tasks, there was the planning and follow-up of meetings in Prague as well as work on publications.

4.1 Communication

Communication among all members of the Executive, World Council and member associations has been frequent. The triannual revision of the **Timeline of FIPLV Activities 2012-2015** and the **Approved List of FIPLV Member Associations** has been undertaken. Both will be updated again after the meetings.

4.2 Correspondence

Regular emails to the FIPLV Executive continue. The volume of email correspondence has begun to stabilise. The following reveals the trend, for example, of only emails received and sent: 2010 - 1780 & 992; 2011 – 1922 & 861. In 2012 (to 30 April), 696 have been received and 361 sent. These figures do not include ‘spam’ or correspondence sent or received in the more traditional ways of post and fax.

4.3 Meetings

Since the last report, we have held the required meetings of the FIPLV Executive and World Council in Prague. Unconfirmed and confirmed minutes were prepared and distributed. The agendas for the Executive, World Council and World Assembly meetings to take place in Helsinki on 6-7 June 2012 were prepared and circulated.

4.4 Tasks

The list was progressively updated and previously completed action deleted. Most tasks allocated to me at previous meetings were carried out.

5 Representation

I have had the honour to represent FIPLV formally at conferences or other events since the last report:

- IATEFL/LAKMA International Conference, Vilnius (Lithuania), 22 September
- Meetings with management and staff of Vilnius University, Vilnius Viduvinė Mokykla, Soros International House, Public Service Language Centre, Vilnius (Lithuania), 20-21 September
- Meeting with Minister of Education, Sciences and Culture, Vilnius (Lithuania), 20 September
- Meeting of MANYE Board members, Budapest (Hungary), 12 September
- Second FIPF Conference for Europe, Prague (Czech Republic), 9-10 September
- Linguapax International Conference, Melbourne (Australia), 18 August 2011

In addition to representation at conferences, there are the essential responses to requests for presentations and papers. Since 1 August 2011, there has been the following:

- seminar with students at the Vilnius University Institute of Foreign Languages, Vilnius (Lithuania), 20 September

Invitations for future events include:

- presentation at LKPA/LTAL International Conference, Vilnius (Lithuania), 4-5 June 2012
- presentation at FIPLV 2012, Helsinki (Finland), 8-9 June 2012
- plenary paper at the LATEUM Biennial Conference in 2013

In the meantime, I have tried to meet with representatives of other associations, Government, and other organisations whenever the opportunity has arisen. Details are contained in previous reports and the list of **Association Representation** (Appendix 1), which is available for perusal. Noteworthy encounters during the last nine months have included:

- Budapest (Hungary): Kinga Klaudy, Peter Medgyes, György Szépe, András Szóllosy (MANYE)
- Grenoble (France): John Evans, Gilles Terrier
- Melbourne (Australia): Miquel Essomba (Linguapax Institute); Margaret Florey (Linguapax/Uni of Melbourne); Jackie Love (MLTAV); Marcel Noest (MLTAQ); Nada Perkovic (Uni Paul-Valéry);
- Munich (Germany): Friederike Klippel (Uni of Munich), Leonora Fröhlich-Ward
- Paris (France): Anna Maria Majlőf, Marie-Ange Théobald (UNESCO)
- Pécs (Hungary): Katakín Eklics (Janus Pannonius Uni)
- Prague (Czech Republic): Marie Vachkova, Marie Fenclová, Bohuslav Manek, Josef Hendrich (KMF); Josef Hendrich, Michel Candelier (FIPLV); Jean-Pierre Cuq, Piewha Chi Lee, Dario Pagel, Jacques Pêcheur, Madeleine Rolle-Boumlic, Janina Zielinska, (FIPF); Jean-Yves PetitGirard (APLV); Olga Ozolina (LALT)
- Vienna (Austria): Andrea Burziwal
- Vilnius (Lithuania): Egle Sleinotienė, Olga Medvedeva (LTAL); Nijole Brazienė (Vilnius Uni); Daiva Malinauskienė (SOROS International House); Egle Petronienė (LAKMA); Gavin Dudeney (IATEFL)

6 Publications

In the last nine months, I am aware of some articles and texts having appeared (apart from reports of conferences):

- “Languages: Challenges and Solutions”. Requested paper for volume to celebrate 50-year career of Svetlana Ter-Minasova, 2008

I was again invited to be on the Scientific Council/Editorial Board of the publications of the LTAL International Conference in Lithuania in 2012. Other articles, submitted for publication or in the pipeline, include:

- “Coping with Change in the Classroom”. Paper provided for Proceedings of LTAL International Conference, 4-5 June 2012, Vilnius (Lithuania)
- Tribute to Francisco Gomes de Matos
- “Linguistic Dominance and Decline: A Challenge for an International Federation”. Plenary presentation at the 7th Annual Conference of QUEST Romania – Constanta (Romania), December 2007
- contribution to *LingAppl Quarterly* (at the Uni of NSW, Sydney)

7 Conclusion

Gratitude is again expressed to fellow members of the FIPLV Executive and World Council, national multilingual and international unilingual member associations for their valuable input, necessary for making a challenging role more feasible. I look forward to continued, outstanding work of members of the Executive and the World Council.

Denis Cunningham
Secretary General, FIPLV

30 April 2012