

## **Report of the Secretary General**

**(1 July - 31 December 2009)**

### **1 Introduction**

This report will retain previous categories, differentiating between those activities which are procedural and those which are operational.

### **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 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, Romania, the UAE and Vietnam 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 Regions**

Following the 2006 decision to form the new Region of FIPLV-Europe and merge those of Central and Western Europe, I again met with some members of FIPLV-Europe and the Western/Central European Region to consider ways of moving forward.

#### **2.3 Action on the Decline in Languages**

To address the decline in multilingualism in different areas of society and education, FIPLV continues to take action.

#### **2.4 FIPLV International Award**

Most recipients of the 2008 Award have had their presentations. The criteria and call for nominations were prepared for the FIPLV International Award of 2009, for which two nominations were received. One has been presented, while the other is imminent.

#### **2.5 Linguapax**

The Linguapax Advisory Board met on 15-18 September. Under new management, the Linguapax Institute is keen to kick-start activities under the Linguapax umbrella again. This will involve the Linguapax Advisory Board, the International Linguapax Network, further Linguapax World Congresses and the Linguapax Award.

#### **2.6 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.

#### **2.7 Obituaries**

A sad reality of any organisation is that former (and current) officers pass away. I believe this needs to be acknowledged, so have asked for a section on "Obituaries" (or "Celebration of a Life") to be included on the FIPLV website. Fortunately, I have not been made aware of any recent losses.

### **3 Operational Matters**

Withdrawal from some operational activities has returned my attention to procedural tasks, including the following:

#### **3.1 Internal Operations**

I have updated key FIPLV documents - the Statutes, Profile, Rationale and the Mission Statement, where required - and will do the same after our meetings. Terry Lamb has offered to synthesise these documents so, presumably, will take over this task.

##### **3.1.1 Call for Nominations**

In accordance with the process and timeline dictated by the Statutes, the four nominations received led to the unanimous election of all at the meeting of the World Assembly on 1 September.

##### **3.1.2 Head Office**

Terry has now assumed FIPLV representation with the ECML.

##### **3.1.3 FIPLV Files**

The re-establishment of the FIPLV files continues.

##### **3.1.4 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) and those for Hungarian (IATH) and Polish (IATP)
- national multilingual associations (especially AFMLTA, ALL, ANILS, APLV, GMF, KMF, LMS (Norway), LMS (Sweden), LTAL, MANYE, MLTASL, NZALT, PTN, SAALT, STIL 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
- the distribution and translation of *Education in a Multilingual World*
- collaboration with members of the Linguapax Institute (in Barcelona) and the International Linguapax Network

In the meantime, FIPLV continues to pursue the possibility of 'formal relations' status with UNESCO. Meetings and significant correspondence have included:

##### **3.2.1 UNESCO**

- Marie-Ange Théobald, Mauro Rosi, Noro Andriamiseza, Anna Maria Majlöf (and other officers of UNESCO) although attempts to meet in late 2009 were unsuccessful, which is to be rectified at the beginning of 2010
- experts in the field of languages internationally, who could and did provide input to the above projects, conferences and other activities

##### **3.2.2 European Commission**

- Terry and Cecilia have taken over liaison with the European Commission

##### **3.2.3 Council of Europe**

- Cecilia represents FIPLV with the Council of Europe and Terry has had recent meetings, leading to my involvement being superseded. I did, however, spend some time discussing a range of issues with Joe Sheils in Barcelona.

##### **3.2.4 Other Associations**

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

### 3.2.5 Other

- representatives of the Polish and Turkish Governments and teacher associations with a view to forming an international unilingual association for Turkish
- associations in Malaysia and Romania re membership of FIPLV
- participants of the conferences which I have attended

### 3.2.6 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 Helsinki and Graz as well as work on the FIPLV Statutes and other publications.

### 4.1 Communication

Communication among all members of the Executive, World Council and member associations has been considerable and frequent. The triannual revision of the **Timeline of FIPLV Activities 2009-2012** and the **Approved List of FIPLV Member Associations** has been undertaken. Both will be updated again after the meeting.

### 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: 2007 - 2668 & 2072; 2008 - 2388 and 1435. In 2009, 2167 were received and 1155 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, World Council and World Assembly in Graz. Unconfirmed and confirmed minutes of all the 2009 meetings in Helsinki and Graz were prepared and distributed, as were the minutes of the 2006 meeting of the World Assembly in Göteborg. The agenda for the ExCo meeting to take place in Graz on 8 January 2010 was 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 been fortunate to be able to represent FIPLV at several conferences and other events since the last report:

- meeting of Linguapax Advisory Board, Barcelona (Spain), 15-18 September
- meetings with Wladyslaw Miodunka and Robert Debski, Jagellonian University, Krakow (Poland), 9 September
- PTN Annual International Conference, Sosnowiec (Poland), 7-9 September
- Forum/Seminar of Ministry of Education and language teacher associations, Vilnius (Lithuania), 4 September
- meeting of delegates of the Ministry of Education and language teacher associations, Vilnius (Lithuania), 4 September
- meeting of FIPLV Executive and ECML Management, Graz (Austria), 1 September
- FIPLV Executive, World Council and World Assembly meetings, Graz (Austria), 31 August - 1 September

In addition to representation at conferences, there are the essential responses to requests for presentations and papers. Since 1 July 2009, there have been the following:

- plenary address at the PTN Annual International Conference, Sosnowiec (Poland), 7-9 September
- introductory presentation for ICT workshop at PTN Annual International Conference, Sosnowiec (Poland), 7-9 September
- reflections at the Forum/Seminar of Ministry of Education and language teacher associations, Vilnius (Lithuania), 4 September

There are currently no confirmed invitations for future presentations. 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 six months have included:

- Barcelona (Spain): Josep Cru, Miquel Essomba, Alicia Fuentes-Calle, Félix Marti, Joseph Poth et al (Linguapax); Maya David (PBMM); Joe Sheils (COE)
- Berlin (Germany): Andrea Meyer
- Graz (Austria): Waldek Martyniuk, Susanna Slivensky (ECML)
- Krakow (Poland): Robert Debski, Wladyslaw Miodunka (Jagellonian Uni); Anna Seretny (IATP)
- Munich (Germany): Leonora Fröhlich-Ward, Friederike Klippel
- Paris (France): Jean-Luc Pinard (APLV)
- Sosnowiec (Poland): Halina Widla, Mirek Pawlak et al (PTN); Ewa Miczka et al (Uni of Silesia)
- Vienna (Austria): Andrea Burziwal
- Vilnius (Lithuania): Eglė Sleinotienė (LTAL); Audronė Auskelienė, Olga Medvedeva (PSLC); Loretta & Irena (Ministry); Irena Darginavienė, Andra Dargytė (Mykolas Romeris Uni); Danute Rasimavicienė (Vilnius College of Higher Education)

## 6 Publications

In the last six months, I am unaware of any articles and texts having appeared (apart from reports of conferences). However, there has been sufficient interest and offers of papers to proceed with the volume of *Hermenias* in Romania. Other articles, submitted for publication or in the pipeline, include:

- Tribute to Francisco Gomes de Matos
- “Languages: Challenges and Solutions”. Requested paper for volume to celebrate 50-year career of Svetlana Ter-Minasova
- Hungarian translation of my 2008 Budapest paper

## 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**

31 December 2009