

Report of the Secretary General

(1 January - 30 June 2009)

1 Introduction

This report will witness some change despite retaining previous categories, as one would expect that activities which are procedural would overshadow increasingly 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 Croatia, 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, Japanese, 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. We have distributed information on criteria in support of linguistic diversity and provided advice to UNESCO, the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the European Centre for Modern Languages.

2.4 FIPLV International Award

Most recipients of the 2007 and 2008 Awards have had their presentations. The criteria and call for nominations were prepared for the FIPLV International Award of 2009. Two nominations were received.

2.5 Linguapax

There has been little action on the Linguapax front, although I continue to fulfil my obligation as a member of the Linguapax Advisory Board by providing input to the choice of the recipient of the Linguapax Award. A staffing change at the Linguapax Institute has led to the rejuvenation of this initiative with my having been invited to a meeting of the Linguapax Advisory Board on 15-18 September.

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 recent 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. I recently re-typed the *In Memoriam* by Pierre Moreau for Maurice Antier to have it placed on the website.

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.

3.1.1 Call for Nominations

The call for nominations for offices of the FIPLV Executive and World Council for 2010-2012 were distributed in October. By the deadline of 31 December, two nominations had been received, so a second call was distributed in March for the unfilled positions. The nominations for the four positions were distributed for the elections at the meeting of the FIPLV 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, LALT, 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 (15 January), Mauro Rosi, Noro Andriamiseza, Anna Maria Majlöf (16 January) and other officers of UNESCO
- 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

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 international unilingual associations for Turkish and Polish
- 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 2009-2010** 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: 2006 - 2706 & 2087; 2007 - 2668 & 2072; and 2008 - 2388 and 1435. To 30 June 2009, 1133 were received and 604 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 meeting of the FIPLV Executive in Helsinki. The definitive copy of the minutes of the 2008 meetings of the Executive and World Council (Graz) were finalised and circulated. Unconfirmed minutes of the 2009 Helsinki meeting were prepared and distributed. The agendas for the three meetings to take place in Graz 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 been fortunate to be able to represent FIPLV at several conferences and other events since the last report:

- Expolangues, Paris (France), 15 & 17 January
- meeting with SUKOL delegates, Helsinki (Finland), 20 & 21 January
- meeting of delegates of the Ministry of Education and language teacher associations, Tallinn (Estonia), 22 January
- MLTAV Annual Conference reception, Melbourne (Australia), 15 May

In addition to representation at conferences, there are the essential responses to requests for presentations and papers. Since 1 January 2009, there have been none, because of the cancellation of FIPLV 2009 and the meetings in Moscow. Thus, the following scheduled presentations were also cancelled:

- presentation at Symposium for Prof Dr Friederike Klippel, Munich (Germany), 21-23 May
- major presentation at LTAL Annual Conference, Vilnius (Lithuania), 29-30 June
- plenary presentation at FIPLV 2009, Moscow (Russian Federation), 2-4 July

Invitations for future presentations include:

- address at PTN Annual Conference, Sosnowiec (Poland), 7-9 September

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:

- Helsinki (Finland): Päivi Koivistoinen-Toivonen, Kari Jukarainen, Sanna Tiihonen (SUKOL); Tuula Penttilä, Sirkka Talari (ex-SUKOL)
- Melbourne (Australia): Megan McLaughlin (AFMLTA); Michael Clyne; Andrew Ferguson (MLTAV); Hasan Sayar (Turkish); and international representatives of the Consulates of Poland and Turkey
- Paris (France): Pei-Wha Chi Lee, Dario Pagel, Madeleine Rolle-Boumlic, Janina Zielinska (FIPF); Hélène Ladevie, Jean-Yves PetitGirard, Jean-Luc Pinard (APLV); Albert Raasch (COE)
- Tallinn (Estonia): Jaak Viller et al (Ministry of Education); Ene Peterson, Evelin Müüripeal et al (language teacher associations)

6 Publications

In the last six months, I have become aware of the following articles and texts having appeared (in addition to the major publications detailed above and reports of conferences):

- "A Solution to the Challenge of Multilingualism – Creating Multilingual Schools". In *Towards a Better Language Education. International Conference. 29-30 June 2009*. Vilnius: Lietuvos kalbu pedagogu asociacija. (CD-ROM)
- *Towards a Better Language Education. International Conference. 29-30 June 2009*. Vilnius: Lietuvos kalbu pedagogu asociacija. (CD-ROM) (Member of editorial board).
- "1993-2006". In Freudenstein, R. (ed) 2008. *History of the Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes*, (Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag), 81-119

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

30 June 2009