

## **Report of the Secretary General**

**(1 May 2007 – 28 February 2008)**

### **1 Introduction**

Given the change of role, this report will witness some change despite retaining previous categories, as one would expect that activities which are procedural would overshadow 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 Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Romania, Thailand, Turkey, the UAE, the USA 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: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Polish and Turkish.

The above is time-consuming and rarely eventuates in an association being formed or joining FIPLV. There has been some success, however, as the national associations in Lithuania and Malaysia have requested membership.

#### **2.2 Regions**

Following the 2006 decision to form the new Region of FIPLV-Europe and merge those of Central and Western Europe, I met again with Marie Fenclova (KMF/CER) to consider ways of collaborating further.

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

To address the decline in multilingualism in different areas of society and education. FIPLV is taking action. We have distributed information on criteria in support of linguistic diversity and prepared submissions for the European Commission and the European Centre for Modern Languages.

#### **2.4 FIPLV History**

This is another task, which has taken longer to complete than originally envisaged. When in Paris in January, I undertook further research in the APLV office. The major focus was to seek documents and publications of the 1930s and 1940s. I also met with some past FIPLV officers, such as Josef Hendrich, who finalised his section of the FIPLV History (1931-1981). I have proof-read a draft of the complete volume after Reinhold Freudenstein took over the major editing of the text.

## **2.5 World Congress**

As previously reported, Irina Khaleeva, President of the Russian Association of Linguists and Modern Language Teachers (RALMLT) and Rector of Moscow State Linguistic University, has offered to host FIPLV 2009 in Moscow on 2-4 July 2009. While Cecilia Odé has negotiated the contract with RALMLT, I expect to accept an invitation to lecture at MSLU, which will enable me to reinforce Cecilia's excellent work.

## **2.6 FIPLV International Award**

All recipients of the 2006 and 2007 Awards (except György Szépe) have had their presentations. I expect to present the final one to György Szépe at the MANYE National Conference in early April. The criteria and call for nominations have been prepared for the FIPLV International Award of 2008. The deadline is 29 February. Two have been received.

## **2.7 Linguapax**

While I have participated in no recent Linguapax events, I fulfilled my obligation as a member of the International Linguapax Advisory Board by providing input to the choice of the recipient of the Linguapax Award of 2008. There have been some conferences organised by the International Linguapax Network, but I have been unable to attend.

## **2.8 UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014**

To be built into the Strategic Plan for 2007-2009, the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014 has been a focus of recent papers and reports.

## **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 Head Office**

While I drafted the contract with the ECML and met with the Executive Director, Adrian Butler, and Susanna Slivensky at an ECML project workshop in Graz, Terry has now assumed FIPLV representation with the ECML

#### **3.1.2 FIPLV Files**

The re-establishment of the FIPLV files continues.

#### **3.1.3 Communication**

Significant correspondence has included items to or with:

- all member associations and FIPLV Regions
- FIPLV Executive with (frequent) memoranda to provide updates on operations
- international unilingual associations (FIPF, IATEFL, IDV, ILEI, LATEUM and MAPRYAL) and those for Hungarian (IATH) and Polish (IATP)
- national multilingual associations (especially AFMLTA, ALL, ANILS, APLV, FNAPLV, GMF, KMF, LALT, LMS (Norway), LMS (Sweden), MANYE, MLTASL, NZALT, PTN, RALMLT, SAALT, STIL and SUKOL)

### **3.2 External Operations**

Major involvement with UNESCO and related organisations as the FIPLV representative includes:

- input to 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
- 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**

- William Aitchison, Berta Cordero and Bodo Richter

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

- Joe Sheils

#### **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 and arranging a meeting with that for Polish
- associations in the USA (ACTFL), Lithuania, Malaysia and Romania re membership of FIPLV
- participants of the conferences which I have attended

#### **3.2.6 Submissions**

Following meetings with both institutions, submissions for funding of projects were drafted for the European Commission and the ECML.

## **4 Procedural Matters**

Apart from the mundane tasks, there was the planning and follow-up of meetings in Paris, Brussels and Riga, as well as work on the FIPLV History, 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 2007-2009** 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; and 2007 - 2668 & 2072. To the end of February 2008, 427 have been received and 321 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 Riga. The definitive copy of the minutes of the 2007 meeting of the Executive (Brussels) and the unconfirmed minutes of the 2007 meeting (Riga) were finalised and circulated. The agenda for the Executive and World Council 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:

- International Polish Conference, Melbourne (Australia), 15 December
- Seventh Annual Conference of QUEST Romania, Constanta (Romania), 30 November-1 December
- World Education Forum Event, Parkville (Australia), 28 August
- LSSA/SAALA/SAALT Joint Annual Conference, Potchefstroom (South Africa), 4-6 July
- International Conference: Languages in Lithuania - Aspirations and Achievements, Vilnius (Lithuania), 18-19 June
- FIPLV NBR International Conference, Riga (Latvia), 15-16 June

In addition to representation at conferences, there are the essential responses to requests for presentations and papers. Since 1 May 2007, there have been:

- "Linguistic Dominance and Decline: A Challenge for an International Federation". Plenary paper at the Seventh Annual Conference of QUEST Romania, Constanta (Romania), 30 November-1 December
- "Converting Policy into Practice: Creating Multilingual Schools" at the SAALT Annual Conference, Potchefstroom (South Africa), 4-6 July
- "The Challenge of Multilingualism: Creating Complementary Classes" at the international conference, Vilnius (Lithuania), 18-19 June

- “A Solution to the Challenge of Multilingualism: Creating Multilingual Schools” at the NBR Conference, Riga (Latvia), 15-16 June

Invitations for future presentations include:

- plenary presentation at MANYE National Conference, Budapest (Hungary), 3-5 April
- guest seminar in Frankfurt (Germany), 15 April
- keynote address at MLTAV Annual Congress, Moorabbin (Australia), 9 May

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 ten months have included:

- Brussels (Belgium): William Aitchison, Berta Cordero & Bodo Richter (EC)
- Bucharest (Romania): Anca Colibaba & Laura Mauresan (QUEST Romania)
- Budapest (Hungary): Judit Hidasi, András Szollosy, Eva Szollosy & György Szépe (HALT); Rita Hegedüs (IATH)
- Constanta (Romania): Anca Colibaba, Laura Mauresan & Ovidiu Ursa (QUEST Romania)
- Frankfurt: Sabine Doff (Frankfurt Uni) & Leonora Fröhlich-Ward
- Graz (Austria): Adrian Butler, Susanna Slivensky, Michael Armstrong & members of the ECML Project on Blogging (ECML)
- Iasi (Romania): Anca Colibaba (QUEST Romania); Petru Bejan (printer)
- Johannesburg (South Africa): Anna Coetzee (SAALT)
- Krakow (Poland): Anna Seretny (IATP)
- Melbourne (Australia): Lia Tedesco & Jane Orton (AFMLTA); Geoff Haw (UNESCO); Michael Clyne; Andrew Ferguson (MLTAV); Joe Lo Bianco; Robert Debski & Wladyslaw Miodunka (IATP); Hasan Sayar (Turkish); and international representatives of the Consulates of Lithuania, Poland, and Turkey
- Munich (Germany): Leonora Fröhlich-Ward
- Paris (France): Noro Andriamiseza, Anna Maria Majlőf, Mauro Rosi, Marie-Ange Théobald (UNESCO); Hélène Ladevie, Pierre Moreau & Jean-Luc Pinard (APLV); Dario Pagel & Sophie Ferrand (FIPF); Joseph Poth & Odile Marc
- Potchefstroom (South Africa): Bertus van Rooy, Johan Viljoen (SAALT), Diane Larsen-Freeman & conference participants
- Prague (Czech Republic): Marie Fenclova (KMF/CER), Josef Hendrich, FIPLV Président d’Honneur; Bohuslav Manek (KMF President)
- Pretoria (South Africa): Johan Viljoen (SAALT)
- Riga (Latvia): Vita Kalnberzina, Olga Ozolina, Diana Rumpite; Peter Ehrhard (FIPF); Olga Medvedeva (PSLC/LATL); Silvija Karklina (PSLC); Ranveig Reggestad (NBR); Johan Viljoen (SAALT);
- Vilnius (Lithuania): Egle Sleinotiene & Olga Medvedeva (PSLC/LATL); Stase Skapiene (Ministry of Education); Anca Colibaba (QUEST Romania); Mario Rinvoluceri

## 6 Publications

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

- *LATEUM 2005: ELT as Sustainable Development: Secondary and Tertiary Education – Conference Proceedings*. Moscow: MSU. (Editor-in-chief)
- The International Promotion of Linguistic Diversity. In D Cunningham (Editor-in-chief), *LATEUM 2005: ELT as Sustainable Development: Secondary and Tertiary Education – Conference Proceedings*, (Moscow: MSU), 10-26.
- “A Solution to the Challenge of Multilingualism – Creating Multilingual Schools”. In *Research Papers of the FIPLV NBR International Conference (Riga, Latvia, 15-16 June 2007)*, CD-ROM.
- The Challenge of Multilingualism: Creating Complementary Classes. In *Proceedings of the International Conference: Languages in Lithuania – Aspirations and Achievements (18-19 June 2007)*, (Vilnius: Public Service Language Centre), 19-31.

Other articles, submitted for publication or in the pipeline, include:

- my preparation of the 1993-2006 period for the FIPLV History
- Tribute to Francisco Gomes de Matos

## 7 Projects

### 7.1 Multilingualism

The fight for multilingualism worldwide has loomed as the priority facing FIPLV and others. Previous work in the area will, one presumes, be focussed within the framework of 2008, The International Year of Languages.

## 8 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**

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