

Report of the Secretary General

(1 January – 30 April 2010)

1 Introduction

This report will retain previous categories, differentiating between those activities which are procedural and those which are operational. It will also be shorter, covering a period of only four 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 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 and the UAE 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 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 FIPLV International Award

Recipients of the 2008 Award and most for 2009 have had their presentations. The criteria and call for nominations were prepared for the FIPLV International Award of 2010, for which the deadline is 31 May.

2.4 Linguapax

Under new management, 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. Recipients of the 2010 Linguapax Award are Miquel Siguan and Robert Phillipson. I have drafted a component of the Linguapax History, on which I am working.

2.5 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

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 three of these documents so, presumably, will take over this task.

3.1.1 Website

I undertook a serious overview of the website and, after consultation and input from Paolo, conveyed these recommendations to the webmaster. Paolo did the same.

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 and World Council
- international unilingual associations (FIPF, IDV, ILEI and LATEUM)
- national multilingual associations (especially AFMLTA, ALL, ANILS, APLV, KMF, LMS (Norway), LMS (Sweden), LTAL, MANYE, 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, Anna Maria Majlőf (and other officers of UNESCO) on 11-12 January
- 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

- Terry has taken over liaison with the European Commission

3.2.3 Council of Europe

- Terry represents FIPLV with the Council of Europe, 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 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 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 2010-2012** 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: 2007 - 2668 & 2072; 2008 - 2388 & 1435; 2009 - 2167 & 1155. In 2010 (to 30 April), 537 have been received and 317 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 Graz. Unconfirmed and confirmed minutes were prepared and distributed. The agendas for the ExCo and World Council meetings to take place in Reykjavik on 19-20 June 2010 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 not represented FIPLV formally at conferences or other events since the last report. In addition to representation at conferences, there are the essential responses to requests for presentations and papers. Since 1 January 2010, there have been the following:

- workshop paper for the NBR Seminar in Reykjavik
- component of the Linguapax History
- a paper to be included in a QUEST Romania CD-ROM publication
- review of David Ingram's *Fostering Positive Cross-Cultural Attitudes through Language Teaching*

I have received invitations to present at the LATEUM Biennial Conference in 2011 and to teach in Novosibirsk in their summer program.

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 four months have included:

- Graz (Austria): Waldek Martyniuk, Susanna Slivensky (ECML)
- Grenoble (France): Jean-Yves PetitGirard (APLV)
- Melbourne (Australia): Friederike Klippel (Uni of Munich); Jackie Love (MLTAV); Marcel Noest (MLTAQ); Bernadette Brouwers (ACER); Tony Kolb (Mater Christi)
- Munich (Germany): Leonora Fröhlich-Ward
- Paris (France): Dario Pagel (FIPF); Jean-Luc Pinard (APLV)
- Vienna (Austria): Andrea Burziwal

6 Publications

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

- Hungarian translation of FIPLV documents in *Modern Nyelvoctatás XIV. Évfolyam 4. Szám*

- Linguistic Supremacy and Sustainability: The Example of Hungarian. Plenary paper to the MANYE National Conference, Budapest (Hungary), 3-5 April 2008. Published and translated as Nyelvi felsőbbrendűség és fenntarthatóság – a Magyar nyelv példája, *Modern Nyelvtudomány XIV. Évfolyam 4. Szám*, 3-15.
- A Solution to the Challenge of Multilingualism: Creating Multilingual Schools. In *Proceedings of the International Conference: Towards a Better Language Education (29-30 June 2009)*, (Vilnius: Public Service Language Centre), CD-ROM.

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
- “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 the Linguapax history in the Linguapax Report

There has been sufficient interest and offers of papers to proceed with the volume of *Hermeneia* in Romania, so I am liaising with potential contributors and Petru in Iasi.

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 2010