

Bridging Cultures through Language Interchange

*6th Symposium on Translation, Terminology and Interpretation in
Cuba and Canada*

Havana, December 5 and 6, 2006

In an era when different forms of globalization are the subject of much debate, the coexistence of cultures is already part of the daily reality in many countries. The languages of the various cultures may play a major or minor role on the world stage: some languages are more likely to be translated than others; some have a longstanding tradition of translation into their language and others very little; and still others may only be translated into a major language via a third language. But all of them, to a greater or lesser extent, are bridges to other cultures.

Translation, interpretation and terminology serve as a bridge between cultures and can be adapted to fit any given situation. It is from this perspective that we call on colleagues from around the world to give some thought to important issues such as the type of ties that can be established among cultures with major or minor languages, those that coexist within the same country, those that have recently arrived in a country, and those with different historical and political underpinnings. What are the rights of speakers of indigenous languages to be heard in their mother tongue? How does domestic legislation treat language rights? How does one meet the challenge of multilingualism within a multicultural community? What role do language professionals play in defending their culture? And to what extent do language professionals assume the role of “mediators” in this context? These are only some of the issues that will be discussed at the 6th Symposium, in an effort to maintain our well-established tradition of research into language-related matters.

The *Canadian Translators and Interpreters Council* (CTIC) and the *Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters* (ACTI) invite you to participate in the discussions to be held on December 5 and 6, 2006 at the Capitol in Havana as part of the 6th Symposium on Translation, Terminology and Interpretation in Cuba and Canada.

This meeting is the sixth in a series that both parties have been organizing every two years since 1996, initially within the framework of a cooperation agreement between the *Instituto de Información Científica y Tecnológica* (IDICT) and the *Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes du Québec* (OTTIAQ). Beginning with the fifth edition in 2004, ACTI and CTIC took over the organizational reins, in accordance with a new agreement signed at the 2002 meeting.

All those who work in the language field - professionals, researchers, members of professional associations or other related occupations – and who wish to present a paper at the symposium should forward a summary of no more than 250 words to the organizing committee at the e-mail addresses indicated below before May 31, 2006. The committee will study the proposals and respond to the authors before July 31, 2006. A preliminary program is expected to be ready for distribution in September, with the final program being released a few weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date.

All those interested in attending the symposium should include their names on the pre-registration mailing list upon receiving this correspondence. As more information becomes available (program, precise dates, accommodation, etc.), it will be e-mailed to those whose names appear on the list. The registration fee for the symposium is \$180 CDN, payable by credit card (as of a date to be specified) or in cash at the Havana Capitol the day prior to the opening of the symposium.

Please forward this invitation to your colleagues – translators, terminologists and interpreters – as well as to your professional associations and orders, so that it reaches as many people as possible. As always, the discussions on these subjects that are so dear to our hearts will be more enriching if we have a large number of participants from diverse and representative backgrounds. We look forward to seeing you in Havana in December 2006.

Elisabet Ràfols-Sagués
erafols@atis-sk.ca
Tel.: (306) 652-4289 (in Canada)

Luis Alberto González Moreno
bibliotecaws@infomed.sld.cu