

## **Briefing Note on Hosting IAMLADP 2009**

### **What is IAMLADP ?**

IAMLADP is a UN forum whose overall objective is to enhance the efficiency, quality and cost-effectiveness of conference, language and publishing services throughout the UN system and within participating organizations. The Forum brings together managers and representatives of conference, language and publishing services willing to exchange information, share experiences, develop standards and guidelines, harmonize and coordinate policies and actions, and arrange for exchanges of staff and work.

### **Annual Meeting**

IAMLADP meets annually under the chairmanship of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management. Annual Meetings normally last 3 days and consist of a half-day Executive Session and a plenary session lasting 2 days. The proceedings of each session are reflected in separate reports drafted by the host and reviewed and issued by IAMLADP's Secretariat. Only two non-UN system organizations have so far hosted IAMLADP: the European Commission (2004) and the European Parliament (2008).

### **The Bank's Involvement with IAMLADP**

The Bank was first introduced to IAMLADP in 1997 as an observer. After a 5 year hiatus, the Bank resumed its participation to this Forum in 2004, and became a fully-fledged member. Since then, the Bank actively participates in IAMLADP. In 2007, IAMLADP's Executive Committee offered to the Bank the opportunity to host the Annual Meeting of its technical committee, JIAMCATT, for 2008. JIAMCATT is a forum dedicated to discussions on Computer-Assisted Translation and Terminology. The JIAMCATT meeting organized in Tunis in 2008 has been invariably hailed as a major success, reflecting very positively on the Bank's image. The ADB has now become a member of IAMLADP's Executive Committee since we accepted to host this year's Annual Meeting.

### **The Strategic Importance of Hosting IAMLADP**

IAMLADP is an extremely valuable forum which provides us at CLSU with the opportunity to learn not only from UN system conference and language services managers, but also from our counterparts in other non-UN organizations, some of which have accumulated rich and extensive experience with such common issues as identifying, recruiting, training, managing and retaining qualified professional language and conference service providers. By encouraging the pooling of staff and training resources and sharing effective best practices, IAMLADP has become a unique repository of information and know-how not available anywhere else. It is also an effective tool for sharing management expertise with organizations that have more modest resources or for training and selecting language and conference services providers.

Hosting this meeting will draw increased positive publicity to the Bank, as an institution committed to multilingualism and cultural diversity, a great asset in a multicultural environment like the one in which we operate. CLSU will definitely gain a lot in credibility

as a major player among language services in international organizations. For CLSU, it will be a real coming of age.

Another reason why it is in the Bank's interest to host this meeting is that one of the highlights will be a review of the capacity-building project for African interpreters and translators. A draft concept paper has just been completed. It will be presented to the Coordination Committee on July 2, at the margin of IAMLADP 2009. The final version of the concept paper will be submitted to the ADB President for his appreciation. The Bank is playing the lead role in the conduct of the initiative. With the President's support, the Bank can steer the initiative to completion. It would be a major contribution to regional integration, as well as cultural and educational development in Africa.

The typical IAMLADP Annual Meeting brings together 150 people at Director and Division Manager level. It will be the case in Tunis. To date, some 120 participants have registered to attend the meeting. Besides the UN Under Secretary General in charge of General Assembly and Conference Management, other high profile participants include: Mr. Linnroth, Director General of Translation at the European Commission, Mr. Marco Benedetti, Director General for Interpretation at the European Commission, Ms Olga Cosmidou, Director General for Interpretation at the European Parliament, and Ms Juana Lahousse-Juarez, Director General for Translation at the European Parliament.

IAMLADP's Chairman, Under Secretary of the United Nation for General Assembly and Conferences, Mr. Shaaban M. Shaaban, expects the President to join him in chairing the opening session on June 30 and to deliver the keynote address as Chief Executive of the host organization.