

# FIPLV

## TOWARDS A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE TRIENNIUM

### **1 Introduction**

We are at the beginning of the first period of the current Executive as new officers replace the former. It is again time to reflect, evaluate and plan for the future. Consequently, this text constitutes the draft FIPLV Strategic Plan for 2004-2006, as we anticipate further activity in other areas as the triennium unfolds.

The membership of the new Executive provides a sound platform for continuity and initiative, consolidation and innovation, stability and flexibility.

Eynar Leupold, whose expertise and work is well known, continues as Secretary General. He will continue to furnish the Federation with a wealth of experience in Europe and world-wide, a proven record of excellent scholarship, secretarial and editorial skills, and impeccable credentials.

Tuula Penttilä, having left after the maximum period of three terms as Vice-President, is replaced by Margareta Leoj of LMS (Sweden). Jan Robertson of NZALT (New Zealand) replaces Dieter Herold as Treasurer-General and Cecilia Odé of MAPRYAL/VLLT (The Netherlands) replaces Teresa Siek-Piskozub as FIPLV Editor of Publications. All are highly recognised and valued by their own associations, reveal a wide range of skills beneficial to FIPLV and will expand their international impact in this triennium. I look forward to working with all over the next three years.

### **2 Existing Priorities**

Having stabilised FIPLV finances over the last six years, a challenge will be to consolidate and increase funds - through activities, sponsorship, publications, membership and other means - to provide a substantial financial basis from which to launch and subsidise important activities on behalf of language teachers and students. At the same time as taking this unique international multilingual association further into the twenty-first century, it is incumbent upon us to assume a leadership role in our profession internationally. What have emerged as clear priorities for the immediate future are the retention of multilingualism in education and society, the rejuvenation of the profession, and the role of languages in the global economy. These will permeate several components of this Plan.

The FIPLV Profile details the priorities of FIPLV, which include: regionalisation, Linguapax, Language Rights, tolerance, solidarity, collaboration of teachers of all languages, promotion of all languages internationally, and publications.

## **2.1 Regionalisation**

It is evident that the structure and operations of existing FIPLV Regions require attention, analysis and amelioration in the face of geo-political developments which have taken place after some were established. This is particularly so for Europe, now embraced by the FIPLV Regions for Western Europe, Central Europe and the Nordic-Baltic. Political divisions of the past are no longer a reality, so FIPLV must address this situation in its structure and operations. As for other areas of the globe, the little activity of previous years needs to be replaced by a resurgence of interest, collaboration and formal regionalisation. The major foci would be Africa, North America, Latin America and Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific. It is desirable that at least one FIPLV Region be formed in the next triennium within these vast geographical areas.

## **2.2 Linguistic Pluralism and Multilingual Education**

Following the nomenclature of UNESCO's Advisory Committee for Linguistic Pluralism and Multilingual Education, the former categories of Linguapax, Language Rights and Tolerance are now subsumed under this heading. Linguapax, however, is alive and well as the Linguapax Institute in Barcelona continues the tradition with the organisation of Linguapax World Congresses. Linguapax X, subtitled "Language Diversity, Sustainability and Peace", is to take place in Barcelona on 20-23 May 2004. FIPLV is involved in its organisation and is on the program. FIPLV would expect to continue to be involved in related activities over the next triennium, promoting these priorities of UNESCO, which are our own.

## **2.3 Solidarity**

Some FIPLV member associations will continue to assist (teachers of) others who require support. SUKOL (Finland), LMS (Sweden) and the Danish association have been assisting language teachers for some years in countries on the southern Baltic coastline, and we would expect this to continue. Occasional requests for assistance continue to arrive.

## **2.4 Collaboration of Teachers of Languages**

Wherever possible, FIPLV activities will bring together teachers of all languages taught locally. This has been the focus of conferences and workshops in recent years, in Bratislava (Slovak Republic), Graz (Austria), Prague (Czech Republic), Riga (Latvia) and Sofia (Bulgaria). In cooperation with the Council of Europe and the European Commission - where FIPLV needs to cement closer relationships - this objective will be further achieved in the context of activities for the European Day of Languages, where it is celebrated as well as other similar activities anticipated elsewhere.

## **2.5 Promotion of All Languages Internationally**

The commitment to the teaching of all languages is the essence of FIPLV philosophy and objectives, addressed by all members of the FIPLV Executive, and will continue to be so. This objective clearly has relevance to the continuing work on the future of the profession and the retention of global multilingualism.

## **2.6 Publications**

FIPLV *World News* will appear twice a year from 2004. Its format, content and approach will change and evolve further under the direction of the new Editor of Publications, Cecilia Odé. In the next triennium, FIPLV officers will continue to publish a range of articles reflecting the shared interests of FIPLV members. In addition to this, monographs will appear totally or partly in the name of FIPLV, the first of which is likely to be *Linguistic Diversity in the Pacific*. In the meantime, FIPLV member associations will continue to produce their excellent publications to which FIPLV Executive members would be willing to contribute.

## **3 Advocacy and Representation**

Wherever possible and within budgetary restraints, FIPLV will continue to assist in its representation at key events hosted by member associations and activities hosted by other organisations. Increasingly, we will call upon Honorary FIPLV Counsellors and representatives of FIPLV Regions and member associations to assist in this objective.

### **3.1 Regional Coverage**

Executive members, as follows, would continue to assume responsibility as contact persons for the FIPLV Regions in existence or being formed:

- |                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Central Europe                     | Cecilia Odé               |
| • Latin America                      | Denis Cunningham          |
| • Nordic-Baltic                      | Margareta Leoj            |
| • Southeast Asia & Southwest Pacific | Denis Cunningham          |
| • Western Europe                     | Eynar Leupold/Cecilia Odé |

### **3.2 Representation**

Specific representation in the foreseeable future includes an FIPLV Executive presence at a Symposium on Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Toowoomba (Australia) on 21 April, the International Conference on Language as Identity in Riga (Latvia) on 14-15 May, Linguapax X World Congress in Barcelona (Spain) on 20-23 May, the NZALT National Biennial Conference in Christchurch (New Zealand) on 4-7 July and possibly the International Conference on Law, Language and Linguistic Diversity in Beijing (China) on

15-18 September. At least one member of the FIPLV Executive is expected to give a presentation at all of these events.

### **3.3 FIPLV Website**

Terry Atkinson of ALL (UK) has done a marvellous job on the FIPLV website, which has become multilingual rather than bilingual. Responsibility for the currency of content will be assumed by Margareta Leoj, as we attempt to attract additional sponsors. In the meantime, we would expect to include the website details of all member associations, thus continuing the benefit of hotlinks between FIPLV and member associations.

## **4 Projects**

FIPLV will continue working on projects of international significance.

### **4.1 The Future of the Profession**

The future of the profession has been a strong focus over the last three years - with a discussion paper appearing on the FIPLV website and (plenary) papers being presented and/or published internationally. The thrust of this project will continue and evolve in response to changing international trends.

### **4.2 The Retention of Multilingualism in Education and Society**

This provides the global backdrop - and cause, in some situations - for the above. At the negative end of the continuum appear the notions of language death (Crystal) or language genocide (Skuttnab-Kangas). This is reflected in a reduction of language choice in society, policy and education - in the face of stronger languages and especially the notion of global English - often in the face of a preference for English. There is much work to be done here to assist many members who are teachers of languages other than English. We also benefit considerably from the presence of Cecilia Odé on the FIPLV Executive, as she is an expert on disappearing languages.

### **4.3 Electronic Transfer of Data and Communication**

Now that we have email addresses for all FIPLV member associations, we will use electronic transfer of data and communication exclusively for the distribution of regular mailouts. The phasing out of printed publications remains a longer term objective, as we are not convinced that all members would prefer the Web above the printed text.

## **5 Future Activities**

At the recent meetings of the FIPLV World Assembly and the new FIPLV Executive, considerable discussion was devoted to planning future activities. While the above objectives were endorsed for the next triennium (2004-2006), other activities were also supported:

### **5.1 Relations with UNESCO**

As an NGO with operational relations status with UNESCO, it is imperative that we not only retain but increase activity to assist in achieving UNESCO goals where these impact upon the shared objectives of FIPLV. These are substantial. To this end, current activity in the context of language for peace will continue, while FIPLV is represented on the UNESCO Project on the World's Languages. It is also intended that regular visits to UNESCO continue and that FIPLV increase its representation at UNESCO forums, meetings and other events - either through direct representation or through the delegate of a member association. Annual reports to UNESCO will continue.

### **5.2 Improved Relations with the Council of Europe**

Following FIPLV representation on the Council of Europe's Project, European Year of Languages-2001, we envisage participating in a range of activities on related and other subjects, at the same time as assuming an active role in other related activities in other countries. Means of closer collaboration will also be pursued.

### **5.3 Improved Relations with Member Associations**

Wherever possible, steps will be taken to retain and build upon good relations with current national multilingual and international unilingual member associations. This can be done by combining FIPLV meetings with, and participating in, significant events of member associations, while trying to have at least one FIPLV Executive member delegated to liaise with members and try to participate in significant congresses - as is the intention for the FIPF World Congress.

### **5.4 Membership Promotion**

Following the membership increase in the recent triennium, another key objective is to encourage membership of more national multilingual and international unilingual associations. While the priority remains in addressing the needs of current members to ensure continued involvement with FIPLV, we must also attract increased membership of other associations, not yet members of FIPLV. A notional target is to affiliate three new national multilingual associations and one new international unilingual association during this triennium.

### **5.5 Improved Relations with other International Associations**

Continuing collaboration with other international associations (eg AILA, etc), is also envisaged. There are other diverse organisations, such as the International Federation of Peace Educators, WorldCALL and others, where there is some overlap of philosophy and activity, so we would anticipate further collaboration with these groups. Another objective - if desired by the relevant individuals - is

to facilitate the formation of international unilingual associations for other languages, thus fostering collaboration of teachers across diasporas and/or countries. Languages which come to mind in this context are Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Turkish. There would be others.

### **5.6 Expansion in New Areas**

Another aim over the triennium is to extend the influence of FIPLV to areas where we do not, as yet, have national multilingual members. Following the recent membership of national multilingual associations from Russia (RALMLT), South Africa (SAALT) and Uruguay (FUPL), FIPLV is keen to attract new members from Africa, America, Asia, Central/Eastern Europe and Latin America, among other areas of the globe.

### **5.7 FIPLV World Congresses**

The XXIIIrd FIPLV World Congress (ie FIPLV 2006) is to be held in Canada, hosted by CASLT, our member association in Canada. Following the decision on the date and venue, publicity will be forthcoming in future weeks.

## **6 Communication and Cooperation**

It is a challenging agenda, identifying priorities recognised by members of the FIPLV World Assembly, while addressing initiatives expressed by member associations.

To further these objectives, we need your support, ideas and collaboration. We are willing to assist, so invite your suggestions and input. In so doing, you can assist us in taking FIPLV forward, underwriting and enhancing the teaching of languages worldwide.

*Denis Cunningham*  
*President FIPLV*