

THE DIGEST

GET READY FOR LIMA 2025



It's finally official!

Following the technical visit last weekend, when the Executive Secretary and representatives of ExCo met with the AIIC South America team in Lima, ExCo is happy to announce that the next assembly will be in Peru in January 2025.

If you've never been to an assembly before, the weekend will include elections for the assembly committees (ExCo, CACL, BC, DDC), voting on amendments to the basic texts, networking and plenty of opportunities to socialise with other members and pre-candidates, thanks to the local organising team who are already hard at work!

INTERVIEW

With just over a year left of her presidency, we ask Jenny Fearnside about her experience since the last assembly, the Written Consultation and what members can expect in the coming year.

Hi Jenny! Thanks for agreeing to this interview.

Let's jump right in and start with the Written Consultation. Are you disappointed by the result?

Like any exercise in democracy, the outcome of the Written Consultation was never a foregone conclusion, and I wouldn't say I'm disappointed by either the WritCon itself, or the lack of a quorum. Written Consultations were introduced following a call from members to take steps to lighten our Assemblies, to allow the Association to take decisions between Assemblies, and to allow more of our members to have a direct say. Only about 200 members attend each Assembly, whereas with a Written Consultation, all active members are able to exercise their voting rights directly, from the comfort of their own home.

It is a democratic process that puts all members on an equal footing, and it really couldn't be easier. Over the last few decades, the quorum has only narrowly been reached at a number of Assemblies, so what we're seeing with the Written Consultation is just the continuation of a pattern of non-involvement by members and is clearly something we need to think about.

I am, however, disappointed for the members who did take the time to vote, but whose votes have been nullified because the quorum wasn't reached. There was a vocal group who refused to vote because they don't agree with Written Consultations. It would have been more collegial for them to abstain officially and allow other members' votes to be counted, rather than torpedoing the whole vote and wasting members' dues in the process, but they chose not to. I would love to hear from them to try to better grasp their reasoning.

I'm also disappointed for the retired members who had called for a way to stay in touch with AIIIC, but who will now continue to have no other choice but to keep paying Associate dues or to leave. I'm also disappointed for the regions that are literally dying because the only people who would be able to sign as sponsors are Associate members. There seems to be a misconception that Associate members are basically retired, but this isn't true. Many of them are trainers who no longer work full-time in the booth but are well-placed to introduce young interpreters to AIIIC. Both of these amendments were introduced to address genuine issues of concern to members around the world.

We will never know whether there was a majority in favour of them since the quorum wasn't met so the vote was simply nullified, and will now have to await the next vote with all the additional work, time, effort and expense that it entails before we can even hope to provide our members with responses to their real needs.

Will this be the end of Written Consultations?

Absolutely not! If anything, the exact opposite. We are trying to change and modernise AICC and the flexibility that Written Consultations offer will help us towards that end.

AICC has been stagnating for the longest time. All the changes this ExCo is working for should have happened gradually over time, but they didn't, and some members are finding it difficult to accept so much change at once. But even if they are resisting, the very fact that they recognise that change is happening means that we are clearly achieving something. And that is great, because unless there is change, AICC will continue to atrophy.

I do want to find a way to involve more members in the voting process though. There seem to be 2 groups of non-voters, the ones I mentioned before who want to keep all votes, however small, limited to assemblies. These members actively agitated to prevent us from reaching the quorum which, apart from being short-sighted, also really isn't how democracy should work.

There's also a much larger group of members that we never hear from. We can only presume that they joined AICC to be in the directory, and my message to them is that, as an emanation of the Association, the directory will only exist as long as AICC does and therefore they, too, should have an interest in ensuring that AICC survives.

There's obviously a lot that you want to do, but time is running out as you can't run again as President. Have you managed to do what you wanted to do during your term?

I started with an ambitious programme. After a 4-year term as Vice President, I could already see where AICC needed improving and had a list ready on Day 1, which subsequently became ExCo's Strategic Plan. Several of the projects comprising that plan have now been concluded or are well underway:

- This summer we opened the office in Bangkok, which will help the Secretariat give our members more assistance while contributing to keeping administrative costs in check and making us less Eurocentric.



- We explored moving the Headquarters to Geneva so that we wouldn't constantly have to consult lawyers in two countries. As we couldn't get the absolutely watertight assurance that we'd promised members that this wouldn't affect the agreements, we now know for certain that we will not be moving the legal address from France and that project has been definitively shelved.
- The Foundation couldn't move forward until we knew where AIIC would be based. We're now working on that, but will probably have to leave the completion of it to the next ExCo.
- I am also investing a lot of my time personally in outreach towards the regions and our members. I've been invited to attend many regional meetings and, whenever possible, have gone in person. Listening to the experience members have with AIIC and what they want AIIC to be has shown me that we are on the right track to making the Association more meaningful for them and more relevant for the future. Knowing that we are representing the unheard majority that too often gets drowned out by a handful of much louder voices is probably the greatest satisfaction for me as AIIC President.

What are you going to focus on in your last year in office?

The top priority has to be the reform of the Basic Texts, another of the projects under ExCo's Strategic Plan.

Anyone who has ever consulted them knows that they are confusing to say the least. For decades, we have continued to add details to cover specific situations, with the result that an unacceptable level of cross referencing is required to find what you need.

To be a modern association, we need texts that reflect our reality, that is no longer confined just to Europe. We need simple, accessible rules that cover the basic principles required to govern our Association and to stop adding rules to try to cover in detail every possible eventuality.

I often feel that steering AIIIC is rather like steering an ocean liner. Changing direction is hard and takes a long time and I don't necessarily expect to see results during my presidency. But I do want to think that I have laid the foundations for change further down the line. I recognise that it's challenging for some, especially when we are changing things that have stood for 70 years. But that doesn't mean that they were working, and it's possible for us to be proud of our history while still bringing about positive change. Like with the Written Consultation, we need to manage the fear of change and the misinformation and misconceptions that are so easily spread, and which are keeping us from moving forward.

As President, you have a unique perspective on AIIIC. What, to your mind, would be the single most important change needed within the Association?

The profession as a whole is facing numerous challenges from the outside- AI to mention but one. It is therefore incumbent upon us to ensure that we are strong and united internally in order to address them. ExCo spends a lot of time dealing with squabbles between volunteers and countering attacks on what we do. We deal with a lot of rudeness and people seem to forget when communicating their feelings to us that we are volunteers too.

So, changing the mindset is of the essence, realising that we can only be strong if we provide a united front, not publicly attacking our own Association on social media, for example. We need to learn to be kinder to each other and more respectful. Again, let's take the Written Consultation as an example. This is only the second of its kind and we're still learning how it works and how best to inform members about the process. We know there is still room for improvement, we've openly said so many times, and constructive

criticism could help us better streamline the process for next time. Criticism for criticism's sake isn't useful, however, nor are insults and accusations.

Some members will be thinking about running for President at the 2025 Assembly. Is there anything you wish you had known before you started that you would like to share with them?

I was a very hands-on Vice-President, so I had a good idea of what to expect. It's very hard to understand what ExCo deals with on a daily basis and the level of commitment it requires until you're actually on the inside. Four members of the current ExCo won't qualify to stand again, so the next President may well end up being an outsider who is thrown in at the deep end.

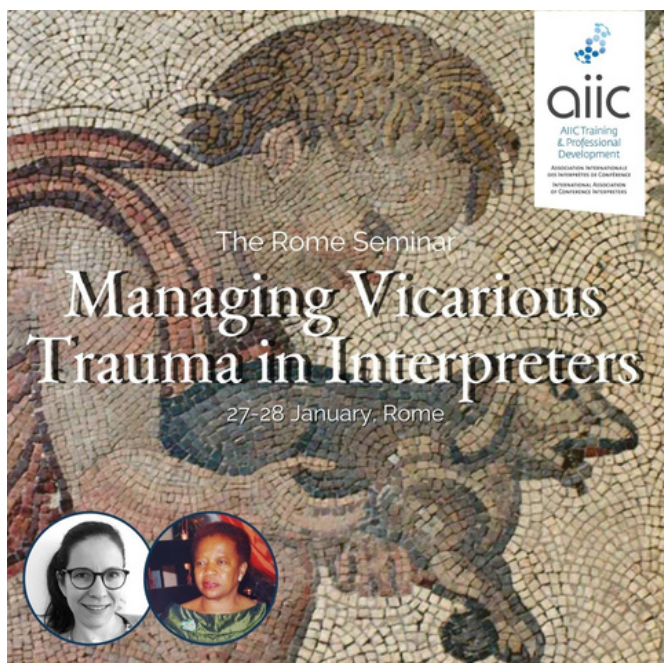
Being AICC President is a full-time, highly demanding, alternatively hugely frustrating and rewarding job that makes for countless sleepless nights. To do it properly, you need to have time to commit to it, as well as the willingness to do so. Either that, or world-class multitasking skills... I spend a minimum of 4-5 hours every single day on AICC business, including at weekends, much of it unplanned and unpredictable.

To anyone thinking of running for President, I'd say get in touch. I'm very happy to take some time, virtually or in-person, to talk about everything that the job involves.



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

ATPD



Join AIIIC Training and Professional Development (ATPD) for our 2024 edition of the flagship Rome Training of Trainers seminars, where we have a very special training experience lined up for you.

In these times of global uncertainty and upheaval, it is more important than ever to ensure our interpreting students are equipped to deal with what they will face on the job. That's why this year, we have invited interpreter trainers with experience in the area of vicarious

trauma to help us understand this phenomenon and show us how we can prepare new interpreters to deal with it.

Financial support for participating trainers

ATPD is offering financial support to up to four interpreter trainers to attend this seminar. The grant covers an economy return airfare (upon presentation of a valid ticket) up to a maximum of CHF 1000. It does not cover the cost of registration.

Applicants for the 2024 support should have their professional address outside Europe and/or have Ukrainian as a working language and should be able to demonstrate that they are practising conference interpreters who regularly teach conference interpreting. For the 2024 support, special consideration will be given to applicants with experience in conflict zones. Attendance at, or organisation of, interpreting-related training events will also be considered in the review of applications. AIIIC members and non-members may apply.

Applications must be submitted to ATPD (training-group@aiic.org) by 15 December 2023. The results of the selection procedure will be announced as soon as possible after this date.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

GERMANY

Breakthrough came with the Nuremberg Trials: The development of simultaneous interpretation from the 1920s until today - a new exhibition starting in Nuremberg.

The Nuremberg Trials brought the breakthrough of simultaneous interpreting, which has been indispensable for international understanding ever since.

Especially for the 70th anniversary of the founding of AIIC (International Association of Conference Interpreters), this photo exhibition has been compiled showing the exciting development of equipment and interpreting situations from 1928 and from the Nuremberg Trials to the latest innovation and to distance interpreting. Despite the impressive technical progress, many challenges have hardly changed since then - as the comparison with the situation at the Special Tribunal for Sierra Leone shows.

SHOW OPENING AND RECEPTION: 17 NOVEMBER 4.30 P.M. – 6.30 P.M.



PLEASE NOTE: Registration is required via email: akademie@cph-nuernberg.de or by telephone on 0911 23 46-145

Location:
[Caritas-Pirckheimer-Haus,](#)
[Königstraße 64, 90402](#)
[Nürnberg](#)

Exhibition period:
17.11.2023 - 18.01.2024

Opening hours:
Monday to Friday, 8 am - 8 pm

NEWS FROM THE SECTORS

PRIMS



On the next page is the draft agenda for the upcoming PRIMS meeting in Bali, January 12-14 2024. Registration is now open [here](#).

Members can now invite - onsite and/or online- a colleague who is not yet an AIC member but interested in attending our event (please see the events marked with the +1 symbol on the agenda).

This will be our first (of many) PRIMS meeting on AI. This is why we have decided to present the topic from different angles: we will hear speakers from the academia and research centres, as well as representatives of the MICE industry who will give us an insight on the current market trends. Legal and ethics experts will provide an overview of the implications of AI for intellectual professions, such as ours. Saturday's meeting will be an interactive debate with high-level speakers to pave the way for the internal Private Market Sector discussion (AIC-only) scheduled on Sunday.

Further details will be provided via the Friends of PRIMS mailing list. Don't forget to sign up, should you want to receive our updates.

AIIC PRIMS MEETING IN BALI INDONESIA

January 12-14



Agenda



aiic

Private Market
Sector

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE
DES INTERPRÈTES DE CONFÉRENCE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS

Friday 12

15:00-17:00 - AI Training

17:00-18:00 - AIIC outreach
informal session with AIIC
President, *Jennifer Fearnside*

 18:30 - Welcome drink

Saturday 13

10:00 - 11:15 - AI and Research

Keynote messages:
Seth Godin - American author
and a former dot-com business
executive

AI expert - Google
AI researcher - Stanford
University Human-Centered
Artificial Intelligence -*tbc (online)*

 11:15-11:45 - Coffee break

11:45-13:00 - AI and the MICE
Industry

Veemal Gungadin - CEO of
Gevme, PCMA & SACEOS Board
Member

AIIC Consultant Interpreters
Group representative
Florence Chua - Managing
Director, APAC at PCMA

 13:00- 14:30 - Lunch break

14:30-15:00 - Interactive debate

15:00-16:00 - AI: legal
and ethical implications

Nicholas Brocklebank - lawyer,
Director of IHL Digitisation &

*Transformation at Global Legal
Solutions Group, Member
of eBay's AI Committee*
Marcelo Finger - Professor
of Computer Science at the
Institute of Mathematics and
Statistics University of Sao Paulo
and London Imperial College
Vittorio Tommasone - Europe
lead counsel for the
AI Applications business unit
in IBM

 16:00- 16:30 - Coffee break

16:30-17:30 - Interactive debate

17:30-18:00 - Conclusions

 19:00 - Beach Party

Sunday 14

9:30-10:30 - Market presentation
of AP Region
Q&A

Jennifer Fearnside - ExCo
update

 10:30-11:00 - Coffee break

11:00-13:00 - AIIC PRIMS
brainstorming on AI - exchange
of views


Tomas Pereira Ginet - *Jaquemet*
AIIC AI Taskforce Coordinator

 13:00- 14:30 - Lunch break

14:30-15:30 - Wrap up

15:30-16:00 - PRIMS updates
and Farewell



 Hybrid event

 Event open to non-AIIC members
invited by AIIC members

 Onsite-only event

PRIMS

Private Market Sector of AIIC

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

VEGA

On Friday 22nd September, the Belgian Mentoring Programme Team organised its kickoff event, to launch this year's edition of the AIIC VEGA Belgium Mentoring Programme.

The aim of this gathering was to allow participants to know each other, and have a first exchange on different topics.

At first, a "speed dating" exercise was organised so that each member could have the chance to meet and talk to everyone at the table. After this first ice breaker, the group was split into two smaller groups to brainstorm about the programme: expectations, ideas, suggestions on how to improve. Many suggested various potential webinars and other activities that could be held throughout the year to make the most of the programme, so as to be both beneficial to mentees and mentors alike.

This first gathering saw a high turnout, with almost 20 participants, and other guests (regional secretary, IBPG - Interpreters in Brussels practice group), all happy to share their experience.



The 2023-2024 Inaugural Edition of the AIIC France Mentoring Programme by Vega Network was launched on 1 October 2023. It aims to help young colleagues and make their first years in the interpreting profession less lonely and daunting.

In line with the Vega Network tradition, and following the success of other AIIC Regions, this programme will match experienced AIIC conference interpreters with AIIC pre-candidates to bolster their careers and help with their professional growth and development.

The inaugural edition will run from mid-October to mid-June next year with the hope of helping address at least some of the challenges that the new interpreters - or those new to the French market - will face.

EVENT CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 3 November | AIIC USA Annual Meeting
Location: Washington D.C. |
| 10 November | <u>AIIC Brazil's 70th Anniversary Celebration</u>
Location: Rio de Janeiro |
| 11-12
November | <u>AIIC Netherlands Legal Symposium</u>
Location: The Hague |
| 17 November | The development of simultaneous interpretation from the 1920s until today (new exhibition)
Location: Nuremberg |
| 18 November | AIIC France Annual Meeting and Mentoring Meeting
Location: Paris |
| 21 November | <u>Black Representativeness in the Brazilian Interpreting Market</u>
Location: Online |
| 09 December | <u>How to use technology to prepare for interpreting assignments</u>
Location: São Paolo |
| 10 December | <u>AI Powered Interpreting</u>
Location: São Paolo |
| 14 December | <u>How to use technology to prepare for interpreting assignments</u>
Location: Rio de Janeiro |
| 15 December | <u>AI Powered Interpreting</u>
Location: Rio de Janeiro |
| 16 December | <u>Training Interpreters in a Digital World</u>
Location: Rio de Janeiro |
| 18 December | <u>Smart Consecutive Interpreting</u>
Location: Online |