

# **Workshop on Linguistic Diversity**

## **IGF, Athens, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 – 13:30 to 19:00**

### **Organized by:**

- **École Nationale Supérieure des Techniques Avancées (ENSTA)**
- **European Languages Internet Conference (EUROLINC)**
- **Native Language Internet Consortium (NLIC)**

### **Partners:**

- **Académie des Langues (ACALAN)**
- **World Network for Linguistic Diversity (WNLD)**

## **1- Why a workshop on Linguistic Diversity**

Linguistic diversity in the internet has been ignored till the 1st WSIS Summit in 2003. The topic is still in an early phase of problem inventory. Many a country and institution has undertaken an effort of linguistic diversification in the net. These efforts correspond to specific needs within their environment. In this starting up phase it is important to share experiences, strategies, and resources.

The use of native languages in internet has been overlooked up until the WSIS prepcom meetings, which created the first opportunity for non english speaking countries to express their needs and frustrations. When a bare 10% of human beings can read or write english, it is of utmost importance to develop conditions allowing all mankind to use internet in their own language. Mother tongue is an intrinsic element of biodiversity. The full potential of the internet will never be exploited if people have to use languages and alphabets which are not their mother tongue. This is specially critical for developing countries.

## **2- Why at the IGF.**

The IGF is a meeting place favouring these exchanges. The language diversity of the delegates, their experience, and the United Nations framework act as positive factors in fostering fruitful exchanges.

Paragraph 53 of the Tunis Agenda is a commitment to multilingualism, and diversity (including languages) is one of the four main themes chosen for the first IGF meeting.

## **3- Objectives.**

- Exchange experiences
- Compare strategies in relation with local environments in each country
- Formulate synthesis on critical needs, scenarios, recommendations

**4- Format.**

- One half day
- Presentations and discussions
- Plenary for conclusions and recommendations

**5- Programme summary.**

- National strategies for the promotion of native language and contents (text, voice, image).
- User expectations, services development, access languages.
- Interoperability between different linguistic systems, semantic translation, content description tools.

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## Advance programme – 1<sup>st</sup> November

13:30 **Keynote**

**Adama Samassékou** (Mali), chairman ACALAN and WNLD

13:50 **Theme 1**

**National strategies for promoting native languages**

**Moderator: Cláudio Menezes** (Brazil), UNESCO

**Debaters:**

**Atique-e-Rabbani** (Bangladesh), TCL

**Ayman El-Sherbiny** (Egypt), United Nations ESCWA

**Feng Wang** (China), CNNIC

**Joseph Sarr** (Sénégal), Conseil régional de Dakar

**Kangsik Cheon** (South Korea), NLIC

**Solomon Atnafu** (Ethiopia), University of Addis Ababa

15:15 **Pause**

15:40 **Theme 2**

**User expectations, services development, access languages**

**Moderator: Nii Quaynor** (Ghana), AFRINIC

**Debaters:**

**Abdullah Al-Darrab** (Saudi Arabia), ICT Commission

**Adel Gaaloul** (Tunisia), ATI

**Chantal Lebrument** (France), EUROLINC

**Hideki Kokaji** (Japan), JWORD

**Imad Al-Sabouni** (Syria), Ministry of Communications  
& Technology

**Koan Cho** (South Korea), Digital Names

**Koray Kocagöncü** (Turkey), NLIC

17:00 **Pause**

17:20 **Theme 3**

**Interoperability, semantic translation, content description**

**Moderator: Viola Krebs** (Switzerland), WNLD

**Debaters:**

**Francis Muguet** (France), ENSTA

**Gautam Sengupta** (India), University of Hyderabad

**Naomi Shitemi** (Kenya), Moi University

**Richard Ishida** (...), W3C

**Shigeaki Kodama** (Japan), Nagaoka University of Technology

3 October 2006

18:30 **Synthesis**

19:00 **Close**