INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY 2013

Beyond Linguistic Barriers – A United World

The enormous diversity of languages and dialects in the world creates barriers to communication on a daily basis, affecting all areas of life. Human migration and globalization highlight the need for seamless communication across cultures. Professional translators, terminologists and interpreters have an essential role in this regard. Sometimes working under difficult circumstances, for example in fluctuating market conditions or in conflict zones, they nevertheless consistently work to overcome language barriers and bring people closer together.

TTIs (translators, terminologists and interpreters) work at all levels of society. Not only do interpreters help politicians negotiate complicated treaties and agreements to avoid international conflicts and wars, but they also help parents obtain the necessary treatment for a sick child in an emergency room. Translators ensure that machinery can be used safely around the world through professionally-translated technical manuals, and that software is localized so that we can all use it in our primary language. Thanks to translators, we can all enjoy the great literary masterpieces. Terminologists are becoming ever more essential in today’s society, as they support the work of translators and interpreters. The work of terminologists in standardizing language in different domains also enables experts to communicate more easily.

International Translation Day (ITD), celebrated annually on 30 September, is an opportunity to showcase the profession and increase awareness of this vital work. FIT encourages all to mark this occasion in a special way, using this year’s theme of Beyond Linguistic Barriers – A United World. A poster reflecting the theme is available here.