



2008 - International Year of Languages
2008 - Année internationale des langues
2008 - Año Internacional de los Idiomas
2008 - Международный год языков
2008 - السنة الدولية للغات
国际语言年 - 2008 年

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LANGUAGES List of the projects by December 2008¹

Main awareness-raising initiatives throughout the International Year of Languages 2008

21 February: (*UNESCO, Paris*) Official Launching of the Year with a Conference on standard-setting instruments promoting multilingualism.

5-7 March: (*Johannesburg, South-Africa*) and April 22-24th (*Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*) Conferences of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) on « The role of trans-border languages and of lesser-used languages in Africa ».

28 May: (*UNESCO, Paris*) Conference of ACALAN on « African Languages as a factor of integration ».

9 June: (*Paris, France*) Launch of the Chirac Foundation and its Programme for the Protection of Endangered Languages.

13-15 June: (*Eisenstadt, Austria*) International Conference « Multilingualism in every-day life ».

1-3 July: (*Bangkok, Thailand*) 2nd International Conference on « Language Development, Language Revitalization and Multilingual Education in Ethnolinguistic Communities ».

2-4 July: (*Yakutsk, Russian Federation*) International Conference « Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace ».

27-28 August: (*Tokyo, Japan*) UNU-UNESCO Conference « Multilingualism and Globalization ».

7 October: (*UNESCO, Paris*) Executive Board Thematic Debate on « Protecting indigenous and endangered languages and the role of languages in promoting EFA in the context of sustainable development ».

9-10 October: (*Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain*) International Conference « Challenges of Minority Languages at the Globalization Age ».

4 November: (*UN Association of Spain, Lleida*) International Year of Languages Seminar.

27-28 November: (*Helsinki, Finland*) International Conference on minority languages.

16 December: (*UN Headquarters, New York*) UNESCO-UNDPI « Linguistic Diversity, Globalization and Development ».

¹ This list has been drafted for information purposes. The projects herein have been organized by diverse bodies, under their responsibility, in the framework or on the occasion of the International year of Languages. They have not been necessarily organized by UNESCO or under its auspices.

EDUCATION

(1) International

The international conference « **Multilingual Education: Challenges, Perspectives, Opportunities** », brought together some of the best known international experts in theory and practice of Multilingual Education (MLE) to share their views and to interact with experts and practitioners in India as well as other South Asian countries. Held in New Delhi February 5th – February 8th 2008, representatives from JNU, UNICEF, Save the Children Fund, NCERT (MHRD), CIIL, SIL, and UNESCO participated to this constructive dialogue.

From February 5th to August 8th 2008, the e-courses « **Being multilingual for Diversity 2008 (e-courses)** » were freely offered by UNESCO (Wajahat Nassar) to educate young people about the international year of languages, its aims and the endangered languages. The course focused on helping young people create documents such as essays, short stories and reports in English related to the year. Young people were asked about what their cultures and languages meant to them and how the language supported their cultural heritage.

From March 29th to July 29th 2008, Ann Mihailova, in partnership with the Nacional Universidad de Dal and the Ukrainian charity organization Soziume, put together under one document serial informative texts on Spanish culture, economy and education (Spain and Latin America). Titled «**España y America Latina más cerca**», it was addressed to different academic institutes of Ukraine, Argentina, Spain, Panama, Mexico and Chile.

The International Conference « **7th Conference on Languages & International Business Communication** », held by Sprachen-Beruf in Berlin April 21st – 23rd 2008, chose experts to inform participants via practical workshops, up-to-the minute presentations and comprehensive plenary sessions about the benefits of foreign languages and intercultural communication skills for achieving success in business. In addition, an accompanying exhibition allowed both providers and users to come together in discussions, exchange ideas, and find relevant solutions for their individual requirements.

Organized by the Associação de Professores de Expressão e Comunicação Visual (APECV), and in collaboration with the Instituto Politécnico de Beja: Escola Superior de Educação de Beja, the Universidade de Évora: Centro de Investigação em Educação e Psicologia (CIEP) and the Universidade de Huelva, the « **Congreso Ibero Americano de Educacion Artística** » invited a group of specialist to think about pedagogical and educational matters within artistic contexts. This congress was held in Portugal May 22nd -24th 2008 and aimed basically participants from Portugal, Spain, Brazil and other countries from South America.

The symposium « **Les langues au cœur de la dynamique professionnelle : spécificités aux frontières** », organised by the Conseil Général de la Moselle, was held May 21st 2008 at the communication centre SMART in Moselle (East of France). In partnership with the Sarre Ministry of Education, the Inspection Académique de la Moselle and the CEB Akademie, various participants from France, Italy, Germany, Spain and Czech Republic were invited to exchange on business intercultural communication.

The INEX Summer University of Costa Rica together with academic and commercial partner institutions such as the Universidad Latino Americana de Ciencia y Tecnología (ULACIT), AIESEC, Ecosocial Forum Europe, and some Costa Rican government agencies, provided a comprehensive learning adventure, with business visits, academic courses, business projects and Spanish language training in order to better communicate within the Latin American environment. The « **2008 Program: INEX Summer University Costa Rica, with focus on Sustainable Development** » has been held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from June 29th 2008 to July 26th 2008.

On the 11th of July 2008, the international conference « **Preservation of Mother Languages in Diaspora Communities - The Impact of Legislature** » has been held in New-York by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) in observance of the International Year of Languages focusing on the preservation of mother languages in diaspora communities. It brought together more than 300 participants, including representatives of member states, UN officials, academicians, NGO representatives, community leaders, as well as youth ages 14-24, on how national and international legislature impact the preservation of mother languages, using the Armenian and the Lebanese diasporas as examples.

Held in Northallerton (England) August 31st – September 1st and organized by the North Yorkshire County Council, the activity « **Tandem Plus Learning** » took place in collaboration with the Belfast Metropolitan College (North Ireland), the EOI Toledo (Spain), the Berufliche Fortbildungszentren der Bayerischen Wirtschaft (Germany), the Centre de Formation Professionnelle et de Promotion Agricole (France), the Wicklow Further Education Centre (Ireland) and the Drummond Community High School (Scotland). It aimed at develop a learning/e-learning partnership and facilitate contact between language learners of the target languages by means of computer-based activities and exchange visits.

Under the leadership of two national centres in the U.S., CARLA (Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition, University of Minnesota) and CAL (Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, D.C.), the International Conference « **Immersion Education: Pathways to Bilingualism and Beyond** », held in Minneapolis October 16th-18th 2008, brought lecturists from the U.S., Canada, and Hong Kong and participants from around the world together to engage in meaningful dialogue and professional exchange across languages, levels, learner audiences, program models and sociopolitical contexts.

« **Multilingualism and Language Self-access in European Higher Education Area** », a set of conferences on reflection and study on the development of the Multilingualism in European Universities programmes, was organized by the Valencia University and held in Valencia (Spain) October 23rd-24th. These linguistic services had a crucial role in the application and development of projects such as the Nancy Declaration with the aim of increasing the number of universities interested in the language learning process, the range of languages offered and learnt as well as improving the academic resources.

From October 29th to 31st, the bi-annual conference « **Languages & The Media** » dedicated to the subject of language transfer in a changing media landscape (Video, DVD, digital TV and cinema) was held in Berlin by the ICWE. Bringing together a highly international audience, the conference was accompanied by an exhibition where vendors and manufacturers of language services and technology products presented their activities to participants.

The « **Expolingua Berlin - International Fair for Languages and Cultures** » was held in Berlin November 14th-16th and gathered more than 150 exhibitors from over twenty countries to present products and services related to foreign-language education. Organized by Expolingua, They included language schools, language travel, agents, exchange organisers, embassies, cultural institutes, tourism offices, publishers, and language-learning software providers.

The « **Expolingua Praha International Fair for Languages, Education and Cultures** » gathered in Prague November 7th-8th exhibitors from countries around the world to present their products and services in international education, further education, study abroad and work experience opportunities. The fair, organized by Expolingua, was targeted towards visitors who were interested in learning or teaching a foreign language, studying or working abroad.

The Department of Linguistics of the University of Philippines conducted the « **10th Philippine Linguistics Congress** » on December 10-12, 2008 at the UP Balay Kalinaw Conference Hall, University of Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. The conference aimed to focus on the most current advances in the study of Philippine languages and in the application of linguistic theory to anthropology, sociology, psychology, language planning, translation and language education in the Philippines.

Since December 2007, « **Myngle.com : learn any language online** » has been bringing together language teachers and students from all over the world enabling live lessons or conversational practice over the Internet. Myngle offered online a solution that provided the possibility of teaching or receiving live one-on-one classes from the comfort of home for practically any language and level from any type of teacher. Myngle offered a toolkit for synchronous learning, which consists of VoIP (Skype) plus own integrated whiteboard, payment systems (Paypal), feedback and a community environment.

Since November 24th 2008, the didactically produced e-learning software program « **Capturator's E-courses** » aims at the promotion of languages including English as a foreign language, Spanish, Italian, French, German, Arabic and Chinese through the four 'skills' of each language (listening, writing, reading, speaking). Through this new type of tool developed by the company Capturator (Italy) users from the United States, Italy, Canada, Spain, France and Mexico have the possibility of accessing any updates that are done, without having to download a new version of the product - everything can be accessed online.

(2) Regional

The project «**Promoting Inclusive Education through Policy Support for Multilingual Education**», held in Thailand from September 2006 to July 2008, aimed to help Member States make their education systems more inclusive and improve educational quality, by promoting mother tongue-based multilingual education (MLE). It involved components of awareness raising, capacity building and institutional development, gradually increasing responsibilities for national institutions. Organized by multiple partners such as SEAMEO (South East Asia Ministry of Education Organization), UNICEF, SIL International, and relevant divisions within Ministry of Education, Universities, NGOs and national Research Universities, this toolkit of arguments for using MLE was addressed to Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal, Lao PDR, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Indonesia.

Coordinated by the Çukurova University of Adana, Turkey, a series of lullabies in their original European languages, with their translations and background, were made available from October 27th 2006 to September 27th 2008 for families, schools and children from all Europe countries. This project « **Languages from the Cradle (The Lullabies of Europe)** » believed that lullabies in multiple languages were a perfect way to introduce new languages into a family setting. The main partners were the Kindersite Project (UK), the Mosaic Art and Sound (UK), the Synthesis Center for Research and Education (Cyprus), the Alexander Technological Educational Institute (Greece), the Regional In-Service Teaching Centre Arges (Romania), the University of West Bohemia (Czech Republic) and the Videnscenter for Integration (Denmark).

From January 7th to April 18th 2008, the U.S. Department of Defense Schools in South Korea, in order to promote language learning, respect for other cultures, and unity through diversity, held cultural activities, language workshops, and language competitions for students in Secondary Schools. There were over 200 participants in this day long event titled: « **Korea District Foreign Language Festival and Competition** ». The main partners were the Osan American High School, the Osan Air Force Base and military community and the Jinwee High School.

The symposium « **Plurilingüismo y la importancia de la enseñanza de idiomas extranjeros** », held at the Goethe Institute of Uruguay February 1st - 19th 2008, brought together Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay to discuss multilingual and multicultural interactions and educational reform in Uruguay. This activity could count on the support of the France-Germany Fund and on the French Alliance of Montevideo.

To help UNESCO through its efforts for the 2008 International Year of languages, Wajahat Nassar (Pakistan) introduced, from July 9th to August 8th 2008, a capacity-building e-project, which was provided free to those selected. This three-week project entitled « **Understanding cultures through languages 2008** » asked young people about what their cultures and languages meant to them and how the language supported their cultural heritage. Discussion on diversity and about the international year of languages, its aims and the endangered languages were also conducted.

Published in Germany August 28th 2008 in collaboration with Iran, Tajikistan and Afganistan, the book « **Away-e Eshgh (The Call of the Love)** » includes 220 titles among Djalal Aldin Rumi Molana's best works on the occasion of the 800 anniversary of this great Middle East Philosopher and poet. Each piece contains 7 verses and focuses on a specific social and/or ethic theme.

(3) National

From November 1st 2007 to June 30th 2008, the translation and publication of the UNESCO publication “**Advocacy Kit for Promoting Multilingual Education: Including the Excluded**”, with the collaboration of the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, aimed Capacity-building in multilinguism in Cambodia.

Taking the opportunity of the International Mother Language Day and the International Year of Languages, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Education Unit of UNESCO Office Phnom Penh jointly organized, for the first time in Cambodia, a half-day event to celebrate the linguistic and culture diversity, as well as advocate mother-tongue based bilingual/multilingual education. The main purpose of « **Celebration of International Mother Language Day and IYL in Cambodia**», held in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) from March 19th to June 19th, was to promote multilingualism, linguistic and cultural diversity.

In order to raise awareness on linguistic and cultural diversity, advocate the importance of multilingual education, and carry on the joint efforts undertaken in the past two years, the UNESCO Office Beijing, together with national counterparts such as the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and the Beijing Language and Culture University, organized a one-day seminar to celebrate the International Mother Language Day and the 2008 International Year of Language on 11 April 2008 in Beijing. The theme of this year's « **International Year of Languages & the Ninth International Mother Language Day in China** » was “Promote Cultural Diversity and Prepare for the Olympic Games” and brought together 92 participants from embassies, international organizations, universities, research institutes and NGOs.

The « **Curso Avanzado de Escritores en Lenguas Autóctonas** », an initiative from the Instituto Lingüístico de Verano, took place May 11th – May 23rd 2008 in Oaxaca, Mexico. This two week language course aimed at promote a better use of the different native languages of Mexico by offering to the participants a formation in advanced writing abilities and content providing in their mother language.

Held in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) June 18th, the « **National Workshop on Multi-Lingual Education in Non-Formal Education** » activity was a follow-up to the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) and Education Sector Support Programmes (ESSP) of the Mid-Term Review Forum held in March 2008. The Cambodian Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Phnom Penh UNESCO office, organized a workshop on Multi-Lingual Education (MLE). The objective was to raise

awareness about the roles of MLE/bilingual education. A total of approximate 70 participants attended the workshop.

FN-magasinet (UN Magazine in English) is UNA Norway's magazine for its 800 member schools (UN schools) throughout the country. To celebrate the International year of Languages, UNA Norway added the IYL logo to the UN calendar at the back of the issue of the September 13th FN-magasinet edition together with logos for other UN years in 2008.

(4) Local

Inspired by a similar event at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Languages School, « **International Languages Day at Thornhill Primary School** » was held April 2nd in London by the Thornhill Primary School to celebrate the rich diversity of culture and languages spoken and learnt in school. The objectives were to raise awareness of the value and importance of languages and to create a sense of fun and achievement in learning. It was also hoped to support bilingual pupils by encouraging them to feel comfortable and confident in using their home languages in school and sharing their expertise with others.

From April 8th to August 12th 2008, within the project « **Learning Languages for Betterment** » five main activities have been held in Hatton (Sri Lanka) by M. R. Vijayanandan in order to achieve the objective of « Languages matter » of UNESCO : awareness raising programmes for school children on learning local and English languages, awareness raising programmes for school teachers on learning local and English languages, empowering the children as changing agents in social mobilization, professional guidance on educational and career choices for children, and art competitions for school children on “Languages matter”.

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) celebrated the International Year of Languages (IYL) with a year-long program of activities (starting April 11th 2008). The celebration included film screenings, public lectures, and a series of open forums about multilingualism. The kick-off of UTSA's celebration took place on 11 April 2008, with a free screening of the film 'In Languages We Live—Voices of the World.' All activities were open to the greater South Texas community. The celebration was coordinated by the inter-departmental IYL Working Group, which included faculty members from the departments of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies; English, Classics, and Philosophy; Modern Languages and Literatures; and Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching.

The « **Seminar on Bangla Language and IMLD Monument** » was held in Toronto June 2nd to highlight the importance of teaching and continuity of Bangla language in 10 different public schools. Under the supervision of the IMLD Monument Implementation Committee of Canada, and with the collaboration of the Albert Campbell District Library and the Dhaka University Forum, the seminar began with a presentation entitled “In the galaxy of languages, every word is star” as well as with a presentation of four Bangla text books.

ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

(1) International

The Musée des Confluences (France) proposed, May 24th – 31st 2008, a new annual free rendezvous for all publics to give the native people representatives a voice: « **Paroles d'autochtones** ». In partnership with the Haut Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme des Nations Unies, Survival International and the Théâtre des Asphodèles, various events in cultural and public spaces, interventions in academic sector, and thematic shows took place for the occasion.

Mainly addressed to the people of West Sahara, France, Morocco, and Spain, the survey «**The Legacy of Colonial Language Politics in the Actual Linguistic Situation of the Western Sahara**», led and

published May 27th 2008 by the University of Bremen (Germany) in partnership with the École de Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales of France, aimed at studying the historical and actual consequences of the colonial language politics of France and Spain for the West Saharian and nomad populations, and the actual expansion or deterioration of Spanish and French in the region.

The Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL) exists to support, enable and assist the documentation, protection and promotion of endangered languages. From September 24th -27th 2008, the FEL, in collaboration with the Mercator European Research Center for Multilingualism and Language Learning and the Fryske Akademy, organised its Twelfth Conference « **Endangered Languages and Language Learning** » in the Netherlands. The conference was organised and sponsored in the framework of the jubilee program KNAW 200 and took place in the conference centre of the Fryske Akademy, It Aljemint. The United Nations' Year of the Languages has been celebrated this year.

Held at the Bangor University Business Management Conference Centre (North Wales, United Kingdom) August 22nd-23rd 2008 by the World Language Documentation Centre (WLDC), the multidisciplinary conference « **Global Understanding in Multilingual, Multimodal and Multimedia Contexts** » celebrated the International Year of Languages. The GUM3C conference attempted to bridge the communication gap between academia and industry.

(2) Regional

Directed from January 7th to October 7th 2008 by the Rhône-Alpes region (France), the survey « **Pratiques linguistiques en Rhône-Alpes (occitan, francoprovençal) et politiques linguistiques** », in collaboration with multiple partners (ICAR, Institut Pierre Gardette, Centre de dialectologie (Université Grenoble 3), DDL, CREA et INRP) dressed a precise outline of sociolinguistic practices in native languages in the region. The final report gave some important clues on how the Rhône-Alpes region could lead an efficient preservation of languages policy.

Addressed to the populations of Iran, Iraq, and Kurdistan, the project « **A Comprehensive study of Hawrami Kurdish** » was organised February 5th 2008 by the English Language and Literature Group of the National Institute of Education in Singapore to investigate the features of the contemporary Hawrami. The historical grounds of the language, the past and on going linguistic policies concerned, the grammar of Hawrami, and the application of the Wave Theory to the spread of this language were studied.

Under the leadership of the Voronezh State Pedagogical University of Russia, the « **Language Festival** » held in Voronezh April 4th 2008 was addressed to people of Russia, Germany and France. The festival aimed at informing them about endangered languages on the territory of Russia and Europe, and at encouraging linguists, geographers and historians to carry out research on endangered languages.

(3) National

From January 1st to June 30th 2008, the information dictionary system “**Connecting (Mansian and Russian) Cultures**” was an initiative of the ICOS UNESCO IFAP (Russia) and allowed Russians to translate in Russian language texts from the northern dialect Mansi. The main partners were the Software-Industry Co., the Institute for Education Development, the Yugra State University, the Information Resources Committee of the Governor's Administration of the Khanty-Mansiysk and the Autonomous Region of Yugra.

The program « **International Mother Language Day** » of the Purdue University (West Lafayette, Indiana, USA) celebrated the International Mother Language Day on February 21st 2008. The emphasis was on endangered languages and the program consisted of performances in regional languages by various Purdue students and a screening of the acclaimed documentary « In Language we live ».

In the framework of the International Year of languages and the Mother Tongue Day, UNESCO Quito Field Office, the CLT Unit and UNESCOM (group of communication) organized a discussion board with Ecuadorian and Colombian recognized journalists, writers, poets, culture and linguistics specialists, who analyzed the importance of the mother tongues in minority cultures and scientific development. Around 80 people participated in this event titled « **¡Viva, la Lengua Viva! Long live the Mother Tongue!** » which took place in the Cultural Centre Benjamin Carrion in Quito (Ecuador) on February 21st 2008.

The UNESCO Brasilia Office (Brazil), in partnership with the Instituto de Investigação e Desenvolvimento em Política Lingüística (IPOL), coordinated from April 1st to September 30th 2008 a major survey (« **Survey on linguistic diversity in Brazil** ») of the current state of linguistic diversity and ongoing connected activities in Brazil, emphasizing the links between intangible heritage, including endangered languages, and cultural diversity.

July 21st – 27th 2008, all New Zealanders celebrated the « **Maori language week: te wiki o te reo** ». This awareness-raising event was organized by the Maori Language Commission, in collaboration with the New Zealand Human Rights Commission, the New Zealand Ministry of Education, and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, and aimed at promoting the use of Maori language in everyday life. The theme was "te reo i te kainga" - Maori language in the home.

Organized by the Armân Community from Romania, the 5th edition of the « **Armân Cultural Days** », held August 29th – 31st 2008 in Bucharest (Romania), emphasized the Armân spirituality, culture and traditions that come to complete the European spirit of the union in diversity. This year, this awareness-rising cultural event was focused on three different theatre representations in Armân language and one plastic art exhibition.

(4) Local

The Japanese Funds-in-Trust cooperation project « **Writing a Runyankore Rukiga – English dictionary for the preservation of the languages in Uganda** » conducted by the UNESCO Nairobi Office, started in February 2005 to produce a dictionary which could compare Runyankore Rukiga language in Uganda to English. The project was implemented by a team of linguists from the Institute of Languages of the University of Makerere (Kampala) and was completed August 25th 2008. The project aimed at contributing towards safeguarding this language and at enhancing the linguistic diversity of Uganda.

From September 4th 2006 to March 28th 2008, the project « **Standardization of Documentation and Revitalization of GBETE and BEMBELE languages** » was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, to develop orthographies and writing systems for selected endangered indigenous languages in the country, using the locally-developed and time-tested BASAL method. The project was coordinated by the Intangible Heritage Section of UNESCO, with the collaboration of the Centre NACALCO de linguistique appliquée of Yaoundé.

The Hanoi Office of UNESCO, in close collaboration with the Association of Vietnamese Folklorists, the Vietnam Academy for Social Sciences and the National University for Social and Human Sciences, coordinated the project « **Safeguarding the endangered language of the Khang ethnic minority** » from September 9th 2006 to March 28th 2008. The programme aimed at safeguarding the endangered language of the Khang ethnic minority living in Than Thuoc commune, in Vietnam.

Researching, revitalizing and preservation of the Khang language were carried out to ensure that this language still exists and acts as a living communicational instrument in all daily activities among the members of community.

Imagined in 2000 by Klaus-Werner Kahl and published in Germany September 4th 2008, the dictionary « **Wörterbuch des Münsterländer Platt** » fixed clear and simple rules for the orthography of the Low German language and use them consistently for all words. In the autumn 2008 in addition there will be published an encyclopedia using pictures to describe terms in the Low German language.

The primary aim of the project « **Revitalization of a disappearing Southern Khoesan Language, N|u of the Khomani Community** », held in Namibia from October 2nd 2006 to March 28th 2008 by the Intangible Heritage Section of UNESCO (in collaboration of the Department of Linguistics of the University of Namibia), was to progressively teach the grammar and sound system to the youth of the community, since this language is only spoken by 8 old members of the community.

Organized by the Intangible Heritage Section of UNESCO, the Education Ministry of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and the Institute of the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the purpose of the project « **Safeguarding the Yukagir language and oral traditions** » held from March 28th to September 22nd in Russia was to safeguard the endangered language and culture of the Yukagirs, an ethnic group of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) of the Russian Federation. The objectives of the project were to promote and pass Yukagir oral traditions to younger generations, and to digitalize the language and cultural materials for the preservation and intergenerational transmission of language and culture.

Organized by the Deline Land Corporation on June 18th 2008, the « **Dene Language Plan** », in collaboration of the University of Toronto and the University of Manitoba, was held in Deline, Northwest Territories, Canada. It was designed to help maintain a distinct cultural identity for Dene people, with a focus on understanding, appreciating and passing on traditional skills, ceremonies, values, history and laws as well as communicating and sharing knowledge in the traditional language.

From May 1st 2007 to March 28th 2008, the UNESCO office of Jurema Machado (Brazil), in close cooperation with the Intangible Heritage Section and the Linguistics Division of the Museu Goeldi, proposed the project « **Language Documentation in Three Indigenous Communities in Brazil** » to both conduct language documentation, but also to acquaint the native groups of Paresi, Djeoromitxi and Ka'apor with modern documentation methods and train them so that they can continue the work.

Since September 2008, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtit (Inuit Language Authority), through the project « **Inuit Language Protection** », expands the knowledge and expertise available in Canada regarding the Inuit Language through development of standardized terminology and expressions in the Inuit Language, conclusion of standards or competency levels of Inuit Language use or correctness and the establishment of an award program to recognize achievements in the protection of Inuit Language. The Government of Nunavut (Canada) will be modifying the education program so that by July 1, 2009 Inuit Language instruction will be available for Kindergarten to Grade 3 and by July 1, 2019, the same will apply to all additional primary and secondary grades.

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND TRANSLATION

(1) International

From November 15th 2007 to March 30th 2008, the database « **The Treasury of the Azerbaijani Language** », coordinated by the Azerbaijan University of Languages, with the collaboration of the

Writers' Union of Azerbaijan, the National Centre for Translation and the UNESCO Clearing House for Literary Translation (Index Translationum), Paris, carried out an inventory of literary works translated into Azerbaijani, with special attention to literature for the youth. It was also created to set-up a database of full-texts of Azerbaijani writings and translations.

Brought together in different public manifestations from February 2nd to June 23rd 2008 under the theme «**Les intellectuels et artistes pour le plurilinguisme et la diversité culturelle**», intellectuals and artists from European and non-European countries were invited to talk about linguistic pluralism and cultural diversity and to promote a commune consciousness-raising. These meetings have been organized at the Maison de l'UNESCO (Paris) by the Observatoire européen du plurilinguisme, in collaboration with the Romanian delegation for UNESCO.

By inviting poets of various origins to come read in their native language (French, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Chinese, Arabic, Indonesian) at the same event February 6th -7th 2008 in Montréal (Canada), Élizabeth Robert, in collaboration with the League of Canadian Poets, the Canada Arts Council and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, has been able to create, with «**Noches de poesía - Montréal**» a network and platform of new friendships and understanding for cultural differences.

From March 1st to October 31st, the «**Festival de Théâtre Vénézuélien à Paris/FESTHEVE 2008**», organized in Venezuela by the *Le Ciel d'email* association, proposed to the French public the discovery of a foreign language through theatre plays in their mother tongue: Venezuelan Spanish.

The research project «**Multicultural Road Movie**» has been led by the Brazilian professor Hernani Heffner who wished to explore the development of the 'Road movie' and highlight some of the many films that had been made within the genre, showing the road's images made by the cinema around the world. The research was published with the collaboration of the Casaquatro Comunicação and the Culture Ministry of Brazil in Spanish, English and Portuguese and was distributed for public libraries in Brazil, Spain, UEA, UK and Argentina from March 3rd to May 30th 2008.

On June 13th – 14th 2008, the international conference «**Translation and Intercultural Dialogue**» held in Évora (Portugal) by the University of Évora, the University of Malaga and the University of Cordoba offered researches and analysis on translation, multilingualism and multicultural dialogue, as well as shared experiences from students and teachers of foreign languages and translation studies.

Organized by the Permanent Representatives of Tajikistan, Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations and co-sponsored by UNESCO, a commemoration ceremony on the 1150th anniversary of the birth of the poet **Abu Abdullah Jafar ibn Mohammad Rudaki**, the artist considered to have laid the foundations of Persian classical literature, and an inspiration to international efforts to combat extremism was held June 26th 2008 at UN Headquarters in New York.

The «**XVIII FIT World Congress**», a leading event in the global translation community, is held every three years, and in 2008 it occurred in Asia for the first time, in Shanghai on August 4th – 7th. The Congress, made possible by the participation of Translators Association of China, the SIL International and UNESCO, offered a rich program from which everyone benefited. In addition, the Congress provided rich social programs and diversified travel arrangements to show participants the best of the Chinese culture and civilization.

(2) Regional

The Bengali Community of Italy published on February 24th 2008 the document «**Special Souvenir on International Mother Language day**» in Bengali language on the occasion of the International Mother Language day and to mark the history of martyred of language movement in 1952. The main

features of the document were published both in Bengali and in Italian for a better understanding of the various immigrant & community residing in Italy as well as the Italian.

The Society for Technical Communication (STC) France Chapter, a registered professional non-profit association, was hosting the conference « **Communicating Europe** » on March 14th 2008 in Paris, France. In collaboration with the enterprises Docware, Acrolinx, Ovidius and AuthorIT, an exciting and varied programme was offered, prestigious international speakers addressed to the participants trends, tools and techniques and shared their secrets for successful communication in Europe.

The seminar « **Cultural and Language Pluralism in the Republic of Bashkortostan** » held March 26th 2008 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris was a major event in the program of «Days of Bashkortostan in UNESCO». It examined the success story of language policies in the Bashkiria region. The discussion aimed at finding ways of preserving cultural diversity, maintaining multilingualism, saving endangered languages and building peace in the minds of men. It was made possible by the collaboration of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Bashkortostan, the National Commission of the Russian Federation and the Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation for UNESCO.

In November 2007, the Indo Bangla Cultural Initiative (IBCI), with the Independent University of Bangladesh, organized an « India Bangladesh Festival of Books and Writers » in Dhaka with the support of the High Commission of India. As a continuation of this dialogue, the Indo Bangla Cultural Initiative initiated an Indo Bangla Translation Project with the aim of translating Bangladeshi writings into English and regional writings of India into Bangla. This project of developing network titled « **Anubad - A Translation Project** » ended April 30th 2008.

Based on new modalities of dialogue, comparison and communication, the Network of European Active Citizens (NEAC), a non profit association of Italy, organized September 18th - 25th 2008 a Youth meeting in Djakovo (Croatia), which was attended by over 70 students coming from ten different countries. Titled « **Cross-border Cooperation** », this event aimed at increasing the level of knowledge about the achievements of the EU in the past 50 years and at promoting EU young citizen's networking and its participation in the debate on Europe.

In the framework of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and at the initiative of the European Commission, the « **Diversidad** » project was thought up by the European Music Office (EMO), the association Diversités and Music Information Centre Austria (MICA) to provide a platform for the actors in European urban cultures to get to know one another, to share, to create and to found a lasting bridge of exchanges. It was held June 23rd – 25th 2008 in Brussels (Belgium).

From July 31st to August 31st 2008, different French plays dealing with cultural and language exchange were presented in London by the **Echange Theatre**, in association with the French Embassy in London and the French SACD, a writer's society in Paris. They aimed at producing unique works implying cultural exchange, multilingualism and translations.

The conference « **Regional development in the Alps-Adriatic area in a global perspective** » was part of the Austrian and international activities to mark the EU Year of Intercultural Dialogue and the UNESCO Year of Languages. Organized by the Alpen-Adria University of Klagenfurt and the Austrian Commission for UNESCO October 8th – 10th 2008 in Wien (Austria), the conference offered a particular content approach, a special geographic perspective (Alps-Adriatic area) and a form of organisation with regard for sustainability.

To mark 2008 Year of languages, the Working Group on Multicultural Library Service presented on October 21st its seminar: « **Language and Cultural Identity** ». The purpose of this seminar, held in Sydney (Australia) in collaboration with the Public Libraries of New South Wales, was to highlight the role of public libraries, multicultural librarians and Working Group on Multicultural Library

Services in particular, in providing ESL, community languages resources and language learning resources and programs.

The « **6th Asian Youth Forum International Youth Summit** » was organized by the AYF in Tokyo, Japan, from October 28th to November 5th. In collaboration with the Pan Asian Conference, around 70-100 university and college students from the Asian region joined the week-long cultural exchange program abroad. Workshops and activities focused on the principles of the organization: youth development and leadership training, cross-cultural awareness and understanding, language communication and multilingualism and responsiveness to social issues and problems.

(3) National

On the occasion of the International Mother Language Day and the launching of the International Year of Languages, the Austrian UNESCO Commission and the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture of Austria hosted in Vienna on February 21st an opening event, « **Sprache bauen welt** », celebrating language diversity. Discussions, readings and music performances lively showed different approaches to multilingualism.

On May 22nd 2008, the forum « **Engaging with Languages Education in the 21st Century** » was held in Brisbane (Australia), to celebrate the UN International Year of Languages. In partnership with the Monash University, the University of Melbourne, the ACSSO, AFMLTA, the Griffith University, the University of Queensland and the Alliance Française de Brisbane, the forum helped to stimulate discussion and debate on languages education in the media.

The symposium « **Why "International Year of Languages"? Language Diversity and Culture of Dialogue** » took place October 12th in Tokyo (Japan) to raise awareness on intercultural dialogue and translation. It was organized by the Japan Esperanto-Institute, in collaboration with UNESCO, the Wakayama International Exchange Association and the Intercultural Research Center (Kobe University).

(4) Local

Conducted by the Moscow Youth Esperanto Club «EK MASI», the «**Third Moscow International Festival of Languages**» was an open non-commercial cultural event, which took place on the 26th of October in Moscow. The Festival was made possible by the collaboration of the Institute of Foreign Languages of the Moscow State Pedagogical University and represented 50 different languages, ancient and modern, rare and popular in half-an-hour presentations.

CYBERESPACE

(1) International

The Second Scientific International Conference « **Multilingual education as the basis for preservation of language heritage and cultural diversity of humanity** » was held on 12-13 May in Vladikavkaz (Republic of North Ossetia – Alania, Russian Federation). Organized by the North-Ossetian State Pedagogical Institute, its main goal was to acquaint scientists and cultural activists with UNESCO programs and projects in the field of language and cultural legacy preservation.

(2) Regional

Specially devoted to the Maghreb Heritage, the CD Rom Tome II « **Majaliss** », made available June 21st 2008, allowed Maghreb countries to facilitate access to public content with the recourse of ICT. Made possible by the Rabat UNESCO Office and ISESCO, and with the collaboration of the Morocco Ministry of Education, the CD Rom aimed at preserving the Arabic literate heritage and contented more than 50 literate pieces broken down into 4 different themes and 18 sub-themes, and some soundtracks addressed to the blinds.

(3) Local

Keeping in view that the information could become more accessible if available in the local language, the Kerala State IT mission, under the leadership of the Government of Kerala (India) and with the collaboration of the Society for Promotion of Alternate Computing and Employment (SPACE) of Akshaya, started a campaign to promote Malayalam Computing. The « **Malayalam Computing Campaign** », held from February 21st to March 31st 2008 in Trivandrum, included an awareness dimension as well as a capacity building initiative. Campaign has been carried out through Akshaya telecenter network and schools. Training programs for public were also organised.

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

To unite the people, to bring immigrants (Africans) families and friends together so as to promote integration, friendship, solidarity and unity in the language of their own, to attract the attention of the immigrant and wider public to African arts and culture through music/dance spoken words and other art forms, to contribute to the mental and physical well being of the people, to promote peace and understanding amongst various people, families and government and to emphasize the importance of arts and cultures within the sphere of politics, economics and social development, the second edition of the « **Unity Festival** » was held by Alcala de Henares Municipality (Madrid) from January 25th to August 6th 2008.

In the framework of the African Week organized at UNESCO headquarters (Paris) from May 26th to May 30th, the conference « **Les langues africaines, facteur d'intégration** » took place on May 28th, under the auspices of the Permanent delegation of Kenya for UNESCO and the Group of State members of Africa. This event welcomed the Senegalese linguist and historian Pathé Diagne and Ayo Bamgbose from the African Languages Department of the Ibadan University (Nigeria).

Organized by the Druid films producers, and in collaboration with the TV studio RTVojvodina, Magic Box Multimedia and Studio Matrix, the project « **Folk tales and legends from Vojvodina** », which took place in Vojvodina (Serbia) on September 15th-16th 2008, chose minority institutions and representatives, whose mission was to gather and preserve folk poetic works, to make ten different folk tales, one for each nationality, and to realize them by ten different directors of different ageaffinity-vision and working technique.

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENCE

(1) International

The international conference « **Inaugural Indigenous Language Revitalization and Teaching Conference, Mangatu – Gisborne** » held September 27th 2008 in Hamilton, New-Zealand, examined issues of Language revitalization and teaching through show casing Indigenous communities using the Te Ataarangi methodology. The key note speakers were Professor Bernard Spolsky (Israel), Associate Professor Naomi Losch (Hawai'i) and Dr Katerina Te Heikoko Mataira (New Zealand). The conference was organized by Te Runanga o Te Ataarangi association and was an opportunity to attend a Language revitalization symposium based on the development of digital media as tools for language learning.

(2) National

The research, thesis writing, oral defense, bookbinding and publishing in book form of the project «**Pagsasatubuanan : Modernistang Poetikang Bikolnon**», a literary essay written in the Bikol-Naga Language about Bikolnon poetics from the Bicol region of the Philippines, was achieved from June 2nd to September 2nd 2008 by Jose Jason L. Chancoco, from the Ateneo de Naga University (the Philippines), Department of Literature and Language Studies.

The « **Diplomado en lingüística descriptiva y empatía cultural** » was a 160 hour certificate course offered July 7th – August 1st 2008 in Mexico at the State University of San Luis Potosí in collaboration with the Summer Institute of Linguistics. 20 staff and 61 students participated in the course with more than 15 distinct minority languages represented. The diploma meant to offer introductory descriptive linguistic techniques and cultural appreciation to the educator, student, bilingual school teacher or mother tongue speaker of a minority language.

LITERATE ENVIRONMENTS

(1) International

« **Between** », an international graphic arts event organized by Simone Angelica Wolf, took place in Palermo (Italy) from May 12-16, 2008. It aimed at gathering major designers and studios from every corner of the world to discuss various topics, all more or less linked to design. It also offered a cross-sectional view of other disciplines and did so by calling upon specialists in various fields (art, cinema, music, architecture, design, photography...), to offer their thoughts and share their knowledge.

(2) Regional

On July 26th – 27th 2008, the Auteurs Associés de la Savoie et de l'Arc Alpin organized at Mont-Cenis (a mystique and symbolic reference place, between Paris and Rome) a get together of French and Italian authors writing in their mother tongue, but also some authors writing in Occitan, Franco Provençal and other regional dialects. The « **10ièmes Rencontres Européennes du Livre et des Langues au Mont-Cenis** » aimed at raising awareness and at dynamising minority languages.

HANDICAP

(1) International

The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC), was celebrating its second **International AAC Awareness Month** in October 2008 in North Carolina (USA). The theme this year was AAC and Literacy. ISAAC, in partnership with its Chapters of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Suomi-Finland, France, German-speaking Countries, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, and of United States of America, invited people to use AAC (of all languages, ages and skill levels) to write a short story, poem, or essay. The stories, which featured AAC, were placed on the Internet in one big collection.

(2) National

In July 2007, the Facultad de Humanidades y Artes de Rosario (Santa Fe, Argentina) started a two-phase project of capacity building, « **Blindness, an obstacle that can be translated into sociocultural opportunities** », to insure that blind and sighted participants experience equal access to educative, expressive and job opportunities. The first phase consisted in giving an elementary English course, the second, in carrying out an English-Spanish translation workshop for young/adult blind and sighted people at the Rosario's Blind and Amblyopic People Unity Movement. The project ended October 1st, 2008.

OTHERS

(1) International

The international event entitled « **Social and Educational Impact of Language Assessment** », covered, in Cambridge (UK) on April 10th -12th 2008, subjects touching directly on the debate concerning the use of language tests in the context of migration and citizenship. Organized by the Cambridge University (ALTE) and with the participation of delegates from over 55 countries, this conference of awareness-rising explored a number of strands, including the development and assessment of language competence for study and work-related purposes.

Organized by the World Language Documentation Centre (WLDC) of Wales (UK), a major multidisciplinary conference celebrated 2008 as the International Year of Languages. This event of capacity building, titled « **Global Understanding in Multilingual, Multimodal and Multimedia Contexts** » was held at the Bangor University Business Management Conference Centre, in North Wales, August 22nd – 23rd 2008.

(2) Regional

To celebrate the International Mother Language Day, the bilingual conference « **La langue maternelle: un concept pluriel en évolution** » gave an outline of the main issues related to mother languages and its consequences on diverse domains such as language learning of use of languages in the business world. Organized by the European Commission – DG Traduction, the conference was held in Brussels (Belgium) March 3rd 2008.

(3) National

In order to implement the meaning of high quality and grammatically correct Latvian language translations, a two-month study (from January to March 2008) titled « **Language Use and the Quality of Latvian Language Translations** » was conducted by the translation centre Skrivane Latvia and the State Language Agency in Riga (Latvia).

On November 18th 2008, a national conference was organized by the New-Zealand Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Maori Language Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage of New-Zeland, the Victoria University, AKTESOL, ACE, the Manukau Institute of Technology and the New Zealand Association of Language Teachers. The conference « **Diary of Events** » was a Research and Analysis project held in Wellington (New-Zealand) to promote multilingualism.