

2007/8 Activity Report of the Dynamic Coalition for Linguistic Diversity

The present document aims to provide a brief overview with regards to activities carried out by and in relation to the Dynamic Coalition for Linguistic Diversity of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

As outlined by [UNESCO](#), languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance to people and the planet. Yet, it is estimated that, due to globalization, one third of all the world's languages will disappear throughout this century. This is evidenced as statistics indicate that 96% of the 6,000 languages spoken in the world are used by just 4% of the world's population; less than a fourth of them are used in schools and cyberspace, for the most part in a sporadic fashion, and less than one hundred languages are present in the digital world. The main issue is not so much multilingualism in cyberspace, but rather issues related to Internet Governance, scripts and encoding. When languages fade, so does the world's rich tapestry of cultural diversity, opportunities, traditions, memory, unique modes of thinking and expression.

Meetings between Rio and now

Following the Rio Internet Governance Forum, a number of meetings took place related to linguistic diversity in cyberspace and the topics of Internet Governance. For a full list, see http://www.icvnews.org/wiki/index.php/World_Network_for_Linguistic_Diversity. Please find below a brief outline of some key moments:

- 11-13 December 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: A number of Dynamic Coalition members were present at **GK3** (<http://www.gkpeventsonthefuture.org/GK3/compiled/p704.htm>). Several organizations involved in linguistic diversity in cyberspace were present and showed their projects at the exhibition.
- 11-12 January 2008, Hyderabad, India: **Workshop on Asian language resource structure**, <http://www.wikicfp.com/cfp/servlet/event.showcfp?eventid=9>.
- **2008 is the International Year of Languages (IYL)** <http://www.un.org/events/iyl/index.shtml>. The year was launched at UNESCO on 21st February 2008, at the occasion of the yearly Mother Language Day Celebrations (http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=27387&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=-279.html). A number of Dynamic Coalition Members were present at this event, including the African Academy of Languages, *Association YSB Sängö*, ICVolunteers, Language Observatory Project, Linguamón, SIL and *Union Latine*. On 20th February, took place the 3rd General Assembly of Maaya, the World Network for Linguistic Diversity.
- 5-7 May 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam: The **International Workshop on Spoken Languages Technologies for Under-resourced languages (SLTU)** at the Hanoi University of Technology.
- 1-3 July 2008, Bangkok, Thailand: **Second International Conference on Language Development, Language Revitalization and Multilingual Education in Ethnic Minority Communities**, http://www.seameo.org/_ld2008/.

- 27-28 August 2008, Tokyo, Japan, **Languages and Globalization: What is at stake?** Building Shared Knowledge With Our Languages in a Globalizing World, Maaya, UNESCO/UNU Conference Tokyo, http://www.unu.edu/globalization/day_01.html , http://www.unu.edu/globalization/2008/files/UNU-UNESCO_Sammasekou.pdf

Upcoming events between now and Hyderabad or at IGF in India

- October 2008, Bamako, Mali: **Languages and culture, society in mutation, diversity of language and speech for human dignity**, organized by ACALAN and Maaya.
- 22-23 November 2008, Nagaoka, Japan: **11th International Conference on Humans and Computers**, organized by NUK, <http://kansei.nagaokaut.ac.jp/HC2008/committee.html>
- 3-6 December 2008, Hyderabad, India: **Internet Governance Forum 2008**, meeting of the Dynamic Coalition for Linguistic Diversity.

Events between Hyderabad and the end of the year

- 8-13 December 2008, La Havana, Cuba: **World Congress on Specialized Translation 2008: Languages and Intercultural Dialogue in a Globalizing World**, organized under the auspices of Maaya, Union Latine, El Instituto del Libro, the Department of Culture of the Academy of Sciences and in coordination with the National Association of translators, the translation and interpretation services companies and the Universities from Quebec, <http://dtil.unilat.org/cmte2008/en/presentacion.htm>.

Maaya - World Network for Linguistic Diversity

[Maaya](#) – the Network for Linguistic Diversity – is the main component of the IGF Dynamic Coalition for Linguistic Diversity. Initiated by H.E. Adama Samassékou – President of Geneva Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and currently President of the [African Academy of Languages](#) – the Network was created as one of the results of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Its headquarters is hosted at the ICVolunteers office in Geneva. It plays an active role both with respect to the Dynamic Coalition and other entities within the Coalition.

Among its members are the African Academy of Languages (www.acalan.org), Association YSB Sängö (sango.free.fr), ENSTA (www.ensta.fr), Funredes (www.funredes.org), Global Knowledge Partnership (www.globalknowledge.org), ICVolunteers (www.icvolunteers.org), International Literacy Institute of the University of Pennsylvania (ILI) (www.literacyonline.org/HTMs/ili.htm), Intlnt (www.intlnet.org), Language Observatory (www.language-observatory.org), Linguamón – House of Languages (www.linguamon.cat), Linguasphere Observatory (www.linguasphere.org), Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) (www.francophonie.org), SIL International (www.sil.org), Thai Computational Linguistics Laboratory (www.tcllab.org), Toile Métisse (www.toile-metisse.org), UNESCO (www.unesco.org), Union Internationale des Télécommunications (UIT) (www.itu.int), Union latine - Direction terminologie et industries de la langue (www.unilat.org).

Members who joined in 2008 are:

Agence tunisienne internet (www.ati.tn), EUROLINC (www.eurolinc.eu), Fantsuam Foundation (www.fantsuam.org), Institut des sciences et des nouvelles technologies, MIGRAF (www.migraf.com), National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (www.nu.edu.pk/default.aspx), Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA) (www.opepa.in), REUSSI (www.reussi.org).

For more information, see: www.maaya.org.

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