FIT signs MoU with International Authors Forum

Literary translation and associations of literary translators occupy a unique position in FIT’s history. FIT’s early relationship with UNESCO was based on its commitment to celebrating cultural diversity, and as stated in its founding documents, in 1953, FIT seeks to defend translators’ moral and material rights. Literary Translators face changes and challenges that are aligned with those faced by authors in the digital environment. In this light, developing cooperation with the International Authors’ Forum (IAF) is as logical as it is necessary.

In recognition of their similarities and the strength derived from diversity, and as a sign of a commitment to positive cooperation between the two International Organisations, FIT and IAF have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU will build ongoing collaboration around a joint commitment to highlight, protect and strengthen the role of translators as authors of derivative works.

Like FIT, the International Authors Forum collaborates with UNESCO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on cultural and copyright matters, and campaigns at both national and international levels. Each organisation works to ensure authors’ rights are protected. IAF represents over 700,000 authors worldwide and campaigns for their interests providing national authors’ organisations with an international platform to exchange information, develop positions and provide support in matters concerning authors’ rights.

John Degen, Chair of IAF stated “The art of translation is integral to the growth and support of a global literature. The International Authors Forum recognizes the value of professional translators, and we are dedicated to working closely with the International Federation of Translators on our collective concerns.”
The MoU with our colleagues at IAF further affirms our mission as the united voice of professional associations of Translators, Interpreters and Terminologists around the world. This Memorandum of Understanding marks an ongoing trajectory of international cooperation as FIT continues to build ongoing relationships with other international organisations who share common goals and interests.