

International Translation Day 2025

Indigenous Language Translation: Shaping A Future You Can Trust

September 30th, 2025

7.00 am PDT, 4 pm CEST

Welcome Address (10 min)

- **Ms Jeannette Stewart**, Founder, Translation Commons, (USA)
 - Welcome Address (2 min)
- **Mr Guilherme Canela de Souza Godoi**, Director for Division for Digital Inclusion and Policies and Digital Transformation, UNESCO, (France)
 - Welcome Address (4 min)
- **Ms Allison Rodriguez**, President, International Federation of Translators, (Australia) ◦ Welcome Address (4 min)

7.10 am PDT, 4.10 pm CEST (40 min)

Theme 1: "The Enduring Trust in Human Voices: Ensuring Accuracy and Cultural Integrity within Indigenous Communities"

Moderator: **Dr Jandhyala Prabhakar Rao**, Former Professor of Linguistics, University of Hyderabad (India)

- **Dr Alan Melby**, Chair, International Federation of Translators Standards Committee (USA)
 - Why Labels on Translation Output Matter (10 min)
- **Dr William Tjhi**, AI Singapore (Singapore)
 - SEA-LION: Advancing AI for Southeast Asia's Linguistic Diversity
- **Dr Valts Ernštreits**, Senior Researcher and Director, University of Latvia Livonian Institute (Latvia)
 - Speakers of Indigenous Language as a Resource and Beneficiaries
- Q&A (10 min)

7.50 am PDT, 4.50 pm CEST (40 min)

Theme 2: "Navigating the Future: The Evolving Roles of Indigenous Language Professionals"

Moderator: **Dr Rambhatla Siva Prasad**, Former Honorary Professor, CDLTR, and Professor of Anthropology, University of Hyderabad (India)

- **Dr Thomas Mullaney**, Director, Silicon (USA)
 - Low-Level, High Impact: Infrastructure for Real Translation Futures
- **Ms Belu Ticona**, Computer Science PhD student, George Mason University (USA)
 - Towards Language Technologies developed by Indigenous Peoples
- **Mr Christian Dawson**, Executive Director, Internet Infrastructure Coalition (USA)
 - Linguistic Equity in the Age of AI: CODI's Strategy for Digital Inclusion
- Q&A (10 min)

8.30 am PDT, 5.30 pm CEST (80 min)

Theme 3: "Ethical Pathways in the Digital Age: AI and the Future of Indigenous Language Translation"

Moderator: **Prof Hanem El-Farahaty**, Professor of Linguistics, Translation and Interpreting, University of Leeds (UK)

- **Mr Chinomso Mishaël Chukwuma**, Founder, MizSpace Technology Ltd (Nigeria) ◦ Revitalizing Indigenous Languages with AI: Building the Igbo Chatbot for the Next Generation
- **Ms Fesaitu Solomone**, CEO, The Centre for Pacific Languages (New Zealand) ◦ Guardians of Ancestral Knowledge: Pacific AI and Journey to Digital Sovereignty • **Dr Ali Mehdi**, Senior Director, Heritage Lab (Canada), and **Dr Natasha MacDonald**, Vice President, Heritage Lab (Canada)
 - Beyond Extraction: Building Community-Owned AI for Indigenous Language Sovereignty
- **Dr. Ross Krekoski**, Masters in Indigenous Languages Lead, University nuxelhot'ine thaa?ehots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills On Unceded Lands in Treaty Six Territory (Canada) and **Ms Tina Wellman**, Instructor, University nuxelhot'ine thaa?ehots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills On Unceded Lands in Treaty Six Territory (Canada)
 - Using a realistic text to speech model for voiceovers of English-to-Cree translated books
- **Dr Jean Maillard**, Researcher, Meta Fundamental AI Research Lab (USA)
 - Open Source AI for a Linguistically Diverse World
- **Mr André Palaguine**, CEO, NATIONS Translation Group (Canada)
 - Why Imperfections Matter; The Human Touch in the AI Era
- **Dr Faruk Mardan**, Lecturer in Translation and Interpreting, University of Leeds (UK)
 - Why indigenous language translation matters, and how can AI help?
- Q&A (10 min)

9.50 am PDT, 6.50 pm CEST (10 min)

Closing Address

Mr Tex Texin, Board Member, Translation Commons, (USA)