

IN DIALOGUE WITH THE WORLD

**Meeting of the PEN International Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee
Johannesburg, South Africa, 10-11 March 2016**

**University of the Witwatersrand
Professional Development Hub (PDH), Gate 6,
92 Empire Road, Corner Jan Smuts Ave,
Braamfontein, Johannesburg**

Literary translation is an art of passion. Promoting values of openness, acting for peace and freedom and against injustice, intolerance and censorship, translation invites a dialogue with the world.

Quebec Declaration on Literary Translation, 2015

DAY ONE

Thursday, 10 March 2016

Promoting and publishing African literature in African languages

In December 1911, Franz Kafka asked himself in two pages of his diary what are the characteristics of “small” literatures. He concluded that they exist in reduced places, where everybody knows everybody and that is why any question can be instantly converted into a big, public issue. Today, what are the conditions of publishing and translating in the languages that can be included in Kafka’s description of small, endangered and yet strong and vigorous literary communities? Why do we write, translate and publish in languages that are not part of dominant cultures?

09:30 – 10:00 OPENING OF THE TLRC MEETING

- PEN Africa Network representative welcomes the Committee members
- Chair of TLRC Simona Škrabec and Executive Director of PEN International Carles Torner open the meeting of the TLRC
- Introduction of the Empty Chair, Idris Said Aba Arre from Eritrea

10:00 – 11:30 FIRST SESSION

The importance of mother tongue education

- Chair: Kingston Lapukeni (PEN Malawi)
- Carole Bloch (South Africa PEN) presents the initiatives to promote and support the development of children’s literature in Africa.
- Discussion

11:30 – 11:45 Tea/Coffee break

11:45 – 13:00 SECOND SESSION

Promoting creative writing, critical thinking and African stories

- Chair: Zeinab Koumanthio Diallo (PEN Guinee)
- Presentations by PEN Malawi; PEN Zambia; PEN Sierra Leone; PEN Ghana, PEN Afrikaans about PEN's School Club Programme and other projects.
- Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 THIRD SESSION

Challenges to 'minority' language publishing

- Chair: Carles Torner (PEN International)
- Simona Škrabec (Chair TLRC) presents the research project and summary of findings of *Developing the minority language creative industry in Kenya, Haiti, Serbia and Nigeria* (PEN International with support of UNESCO's Fund for Cultural Diversity).
- Abdoulaye Fode Ndione, (PEN Senegal) presents the African Language Publishing in Francophone West Africa and its challenges and opportunities.
- Discussion led by Tade Ipadeola (PEN Nigeria) and Professor Chris Wanjala (PEN Kenya)

15:30 – 16:00 Tea/Coffee break

16:30 - 17:30 FORTH SESSION

Brainstorming on ways to strengthen minority language publishing

- Chair: Simona Škrabec
- Discussion

17:30 CLOSE OF DAY ONE

EVENING

Thursday, 10 March 2016

19:00 – 20:30 FREE THE WORD EVENT at the Orbit Jazz club

Towards a World Literature? Translation, identity and the nation

South Africa's Poet Laureate, Professor Keorapetse Kgositse, and Professor Chris Wanjala, literary critic, PEN Kenya in conversation with Simona Škrabec, chair of PEN International's Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee.

(Please see attached flyer for more details)

DAY TWO

Friday, 11 March 2016
Africa in Dialogue with the World

PEN International's Quebec declaration on Literary Translation points out that "the physical safety and freedom of expression must be guaranteed at all times". The sufferings of war and armed conflicts are difficult, almost impossible to be felt by people who live in peaceful circumstances. What can literature do to raise aware of the cost of armed conflicts and what can it do to help promote dialogue in times of conflict? How decisive is the role of the translator in making the voices of those who are being suppressed or silenced heard by the outside world?

09:30 – 10:00 Introduction of the Empty Chair, Ilham Tohti from China's Uyгур minority

10:00 – 11:15 FIFTH SESSION
Africa in Dialogue with the World

- Chair: Ismaila Traore (PEN Mali)
- Louis Jolicoeur (PEN Quebec) presents the Quebec Declaration on Literary Translation
- Discussion

11:15 – 11:30 Tea/Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 SIXTH SESSION
Translating the War

- Chair: Laura Mintegi (Basque PEN)
- Aicha Diarra (PEN Mali) presents on promoting dialogue, understanding and social cohesion – the role of writing and literature – in post conflict Mali.
- Dessale Berekhet (PEN Eritrea) presents on the role of the translator in making the voices of those who are being suppressed or silenced heard by the outside world
- Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 15:30 SEVENTH SESSION
Projects and plans

- Chair: Simona Škrabec
- Centres: Presentation of activities during the past year
- Discussion of the Global Programme for the forthcoming months
- Any new initiatives or projects

15:30 – 16:30 FINAL SESSION

- New members of the TLRC and any other business

16:30 CLOSE OF MEETING