Editorial

Nobody denies nowadays the fact that the Arab world faces ICT knowledge challenges that require reflection upon the position of the Arabic language and its use on the internet. In this regard, statistics show that amongst the billion internet users, there are 535 million users in English versus 445 million users in Chinese, while Arabic ranks seventh with 65 million users; i.e. 8.3% of the total internet users around the globe.

Hence, there is an urgent need to ensure a website in Arabic, providing functional and specialized terminology, for the benefit of the largest possible number of researchers and specialists. This need represents another challenge that the Arabic language has yet to overcome as it seeks to impose itself as a language of technology and solve the problem of incorrect use on the one hand, and the tendency to communicate using dialects mixed up with foreign languages in public places and media on the other.

In this vein and with the goal to promote Arabic, language planning seeks to develop a plan aiming at acquiring a unified Arabic linguistic repertoire, providing an Arabic terminological network and building an up-to-date computed lexicography. All this to weather the flow of sciences and to interact critically with knowledge as regards the various spheres of scientific, social and technical research.

Economic and linguistic developments go hand in hand; therefore, the evolution that is taking place in the Arab development determinants, at the various levels, should be part of the intended linguistic development. Such development requires a scientific and a critical assessment of all the linguistic preferences and their actual use in public utilities, as well as their use in the creative, intellectual and educational fields.

Bureau of Coordination of Arabization (BCA)
Rabat - Morocco

News

1. ARABTERM project participated on October 23-24, 2015, in the Euro Arab Career and Education Fair (KUBRI) held at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Munich, Germany. On this occasion, Mr. Guido Zebisch, the project coordinator, gave a presentation introducing the project and its different development stages.

2. The Bureau of Coordination of Arabization (BCA) and GIZ participated on May 19-21, 2015, in the 7th International Conference on Information Technologies organized in Rabat by the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) in collaboration with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).

3. BCA and GIZ experts partook in TSS’2015 (Terminology Summer School) organized by the International Network for Terminology (TermNet) from June 13 to June 17, 2015, at the Technical University of Cologne.

During the seminars, distinguished experts, engineers and researchers from the most prestigious institutions of terminology management delivered their lectures. Mrs. Lina M. Idrissi, expert at the BCA, also gave a presentation, entitled “A unified terminology for the Arab world”, which highlighted the different missions and achievements of ALECSO and BCA as well as their terminological and lexicographic projects, including ARABTERM.

4. Represented by Mr. Guido Zebisch and Mrs. Lina M. Idrissi, BCA and GIZ participated in the 5th International Forum on Integrating Arab Infrastructures (ASREN) that took place in Casablanca on December 7-8, 2015. In recognition of its efforts, ALECSO was awarded the honorary shield, which was conferred to Mrs. Idrissi during the inaugural session.

New volumes on ARABTERM

ARABTERM has recently uploaded more than 5000 quadrilingual terms within two new volumes: Civil Engineering (3943 entries) and Information Technologies (1369 entries). Therefore, the total number of new entries added during late 2015 and early 2016 exceeds 6100, including 1085 entries dealing with the domain of Solid Waste Management; the project was carried out in collaboration with the Regional Solid Waste Exchange of Information and Expertise Network (Sweep Net).

Zoom

During October 12-14, 2015, BCA organized a scientific symposium in the National library of the Kingdom of Morocco, Rabat, under the theme: “The Specialized Dictionary and its Role in the Development and the Dissemination of Scientific Terminology”. The symposium witnessed the participation of a great deal of lexicographers, experts from Arabic language academies as well as supervisors of terminological banks.

Amongst the most important recommendations of the scientific meeting: Developing an open source participatory platform, accessible to experts and academies via cloud computing; building new partnerships with Arab or international terminological banks; standardizing BCA methodology following ISO criteria; and finally, mapping out a timely and an effective strategy for the marketing of BCA publications.

Quotation

“ARABTERM is considered an unprecedented qualitative leap in the history of the translation movement both locally and globally. It is a beam of hope towards enriching the field of translation in an era where time is money. Also, it is a revolutionary cultural project that opened a new window on new and contemporary updates.”

Dr. Emir El Azab
Linguistics & translation studies lecturer at Qatar University
International arbitrator in translation studies and linguistics
– London & Canada

Call for participation in a new survey

Within the framework of ARABTERM strategy aiming at improving the quality of its content and better meeting its users’ expectations, the project team has developed a new survey that is available via the following link: http://www.arabterm.org/index.php?id=1&L=1. We would really appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the survey. Please note that your answers will be completely confidential.

In collaboration with