The intense development taking place in the world today has been accompanied by the emergence of many new concepts and ideas that have found their way into modern languages, above all in technical and scientific fields, making it necessary to create new terms in the Arabic language. For a range of reasons, perhaps the most important of which is the difference in source languages, these new terms have differed from region to region. The unification of terminology has therefore become essential in order to prepare a linguistic groundwork able to keep up with modern development. It has been over half a century since the establishment of the Bureau of Coordination of Arabization (BCA), which has published 40 unified dictionaries in different fields in Arabic, English, and French. Making use of the opportunities presented by modern technology, and in line with the BCA’s aspirations towards development and modernisation, a partnership agreement in place between the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), represented by the BCA, and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation, represented by the GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit) is the basis for the conception of the joint project. Arabterm is a free, online dictionary in four languages aiming to unify Arabic technical terminology and open the doors to modern languages, like the German language. The cooperation with the BCA guarantees the implementation of customary measures in setting terms and unifying. The project is open to accommodate future volumes in a variety of technical fields, on an on-demand basis.

1. The Arabterm project was present at ACWUA’s “Arab Water Week” conference and exhibition, which was held in Amman, Jordan at the end of January.

2. The Arabterm website will undergo a variety of changes. Enhancements include: a link to Arabterm’s Facebook page on the site, a box displaying the “Term of the Day”, video introducing the project, and a Wiki feature enabling users to modify or add to the content. Also, instead of waiting for the whole volume to be published, users will gain access to each individual section of the volume as soon as it is prepared. This is intended to make the content available for use as soon as possible. The new method will be applied starting from the upcoming volume dedicated to renewable energies.

3. Arabterm was present at the celebrations of the Moroccan National Commission for Education, Culture and Science for Arabic Language Day. Mr Guido Zebisch’s presentation about the project was well-received by the attendees at the event.

In the framework of cooperation between the BCA and the GIZ on the Arabterm project, the BCA’s specialised library has been modernised. The library boasts a valuable collection of over 8,000 printed documents, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and journals which will be digitalised and connected to the Bureau’s website, making it possible for users to access the library’s most important collections through the internet. Furthermore, the library’s premises were also renovated and equipped with modern devices, transforming it from a traditional library to an e-library. The remodelled library is meant to provide the technical possibilities for the team members located in three different countries to communicate virtually, as well as physically in team meetings and workshops uniting, accordingly, the team members from Rabat BCA, Amman GJU, Cairo (translation team).

One of the peculiar terms we had to translate for the automotive engineering volume was the word «Hochzeit». The corresponding term in English is «wedding». In technical terms, this word means: “merging the car’s body with the motor or with the entire drivetrain”. After we had translated the term into Arabic with the corresponding word (which is also understood in the sense of “bride and groom”), I received a comment from someone saying: congratulations!

Dr Tarek Abdel Bary, Head of the Translation Team

The Arabterm Poster is now available. Please contact: info@arabterm.org

The Arabterm project will participate in the 12th conference of Arabization organized by ALECSO (Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization). Representatives from the 22 Arab countries will be present at the event, which will take place from 17-21 November 2013 in Khartoum, Sudan.

Statement made to 2M, the second national television channel in Morocco, H. E. Mr Michael Witter, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Morocco.

“…this truly is a revolutionary project, not least for what it offers to Morocco and all the countries in the MENA region. This project is a good example of the technical cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and Morocco, as well as other countries in North Africa…”