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Communiqué on the workshop on Creation of Terminology in African Languages for use in the domains of Health, Human and People's Rights.

The African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) held a workshop on creation of terminology in African Languages for use in Health, Human and People's Rights on 15 and 16 May 2017, in Lomé, Republic of Togo.



The objective of the workshop is for participants to appropriate principles and techniques of terminology development and how to apply them to provide African languages with new terms in the domain of human rights and health provision.

The workshop brought together experts from the five regions who have been involved in terminology development in Human Rights Law and Medicine as well as heads of National Language Structures or Focal Points from Burkina Faso and Togo, members of ACALAN's Assembly of Academicians including the President, and staff of ACALAN's Secretariat.

During the workshop, the Emeritus President of ACALAN's Assembly of Academicians, Professor Ayo Bamgbose, made the keynote presentation on Creation and Standardisation of Terminology in African Languages, followed by Dr Sewangi's presentation on the Principles of Terminology Creation and Compilation. Other delegates made presentation on terminology creation and compilation in the health and human rights domains; the presentations were followed by discussions.

Recommendations

ACALAN Secretariat

- i. ACALAN should partner with universities to integrate its activities into their curriculum, training and research agendas, especially the Pan-African Master's and PhD Program in African Languages and Applied Linguistics, (PANMAPAL) programme and the Pan-African Centre for Translation and Interpretation, in order to effectively implement them.
- ii. ACALAN should set up a platform and/or network for sharing of information regarding ongoing activities in member states.
- iii. ACALAN should hold a workshop for representatives of National Language Structures of member states of the African Union before the end of the year 2017 to promote the implementation of the Khartoum Declarations and Decisions especially the elaboration of language policies in the context of the Language Plan of Action for Africa and the implementation of key elements of the Language Action Plan.

- iv. For the present objective of its terminology programme, ACALAN should collaborate with donor agencies and organisations working within the health, human rights and legal sector to tap into their funding.
- v. ACALAN should, in collaboration with the National Language Structures, where there exist, develop communication strategies to sensitise members of government of member states of the need to develop terminologies in African languages and advantages of bringing governance to the people in a language they speak so that the governments initiate these programmes and budget for them.
- vi. ACALAN should collaborate, cooperate and consent efforts with the AU structures of Health, political and legal and human rights in exploring the possibility of developing terms for specific domains relating to their activities.
- vii. ACALAN should share experiences and success stories and breakthroughs in terminology development to inspire countries considering investing in such ventures.
- viii. ACALAN should carry out a survey in the AU member states to find out which basic legislative instruments as well as the national anthem, etc. have been translated into African languages.
- ix. ACALAN's Vehicular Cross-border Language Commissions which have the expertise, should handle, translation of key human rights documents with support from ACALAN if possible.
- x. ACALAN and the Pan African University should collaborate and take measures to ensure that interpreters and translators are trained properly and integrate programmes of the Pan African Centre for Translation and Interpretation into the curriculum of the Pan-African University.
- xi. The proposal to start projects on terminology creation and compilation in the health and legal domains should be discussed by the ACALAN Secretariat and the Assembly of Academicians to explore the possibility of assigning this task to Vehicular Cross- border Language Commissions.
- xii. ACALAN should embark on training of trainers' workshops as part of implementing its capacity development programme to generate specialists in terminology creation and compilation, etc. Participants for such capacity building workshop must meet the requirements and specifications to be set out by the ACALAN Secretariat.
- xiii. All AU member states should be encouraged to formulate explicit language policies to promote convivial multilingualism as required by the 2006 Language Plan of Action for Africa. ACALAN to carry out an audit on AU member states to see what has been done in this area.
- xiv. ACALAN should fund translation of key human rights documents into selected vehicular cross-border languages when funds permits. It should subsequently create an inventory of languages in which the national anthem, national pledge and constitution have been translated into.
- xv. ACALAN Secretariat should circulate its Principles and Methods of Terminology Creation and Use in African Languages to all Vehicular Cross-border Language Commissions.
- xvi. ACALAN Secretariat should collect and compile all available documents on language standardisation since it serves as a repository of information for AU member states.

The Secretariat and fundraising strategies

- i. The Secretariat and its working structures, especially, the Vehicular Cross-border Language Commissions should continue to write and submit project proposals to prospective funders and potential donors. The Secretariat should also continue to use its programme budgets as seed money.
- ii. The Secretariat should continue empowering ACALAN's working structures, e.g. Vehicular Cross-border Language Commissions so that they can source funding for sustaining their projects in collaboration with and under the control of ACALAN.
- iii. The Secretariat should take advantage of Aspiration 5 of the AU Agenda 2063 to obtain funding for its projects and programmes since this aspiration includes ACALAN's activities; ACALAN's project proposals should be linked to the AU Aspiration 5.
- iv. A statutory meeting of the Governing Board of ACALAN should be convened this year to work on the initiative of getting the ACALAN budget outside that of the Department of Social

Affairs to avoid competition with the many other sectors of the Department so that the issue is tabled at the June 2018 STC-YCS meeting.

- v. ACALAN should continue to collaborate with donors, agencies and organisations working within the health, human rights and legal sector to tap into their funding.
- vi. ACALAN should continue initiating collaborative projects where collaborating partners inject funding and soliciting international donor funding and financial support.
- vii. ACALAN should continue engagement and dialogue with key stakeholders in order to sustain the implementation of its projects and activities.

Dissemination/ Popularisation of created terms and involvement of relevant stakeholders.

- i. ACALAN should create strategies for disseminating and popularising terms; the procedures should be identified before the terms are created, thus the target end users and types of materials to be used should be identified and tested with end users during the term creation process as a way of piloting the project.
- ii. ACALAN should use the media to popularise and disseminate created terms; as such, the practitioners through their umbrella bodies and other relevant stakeholders should be involved from the onset of the project to create a buy in, ownership and indigenisation of these terms which will make it easier for practitioners to popularise newly created terms.
- iii. ACALAN should establish platforms and ways of ensuring active participation and involvement of all AU member states through their national structures in its activities.
- iv. The ACALAN Secretariat should create and build terminology data banks where different practitioners working on local languages can harvest from.
- v. ACALAN should make created terms available to critical end-users such as religious groups, teachers, writers, translators, editors, interpreters, ICT package developers, traditional leaders and other targeted end users through materials distribution.
- vi. The Secretariat should network with existing AU structures used to disseminate information on other issues.
- vii. ACALAN should publish and disseminate (conventionally and electronically) glossaries and specialised dictionaries.
- viii. The President of ACALAN's Assembly of Academicians, Prof Beban Sammy Chumbow should circulate the Terminology creation strategies from his previous work on the issue.

Other recommendations:

- i. AU member states should be encouraged to translate into the local languages abridged versions of the key human rights instruments.
- ii. Those working in the human rights and health domains are encouraged to work closely with the AU Head of Culture to identify the documents to be translated in the area of human rights and health.
- iii. All participants should revise and submit their final presentations so that they are published in the ACALAN journal.
- iv. Participants and delegates should support the popularisation of the AU policy instruments, including the African Union Agenda 2063, the Charter of the African Cultural Renaissance and the Language Plan of Action for Africa.
- v. As term creation is a collaborative effort there should be cooperation, collaboration and consented efforts among all key stakeholders.
- vi. Higher and tertiary education institutions should be involved in ACALAN's programmes to ensure that their curriculum and research agenda advance ACALAN's mission and agenda.
- vii. Materials should be translated for children in formats that are user-friendly to them through the use and incorporation of pictorial illustrations.
- viii. Materials should be developed and presented in the language best understood by the children ensuring that the materials in whatever language are packaged in simplified and palatable form.
- ix. It is advisable that as much as possible, the deployment of court officials and medical practitioners should have linguistic considerations to ensure that those who understand and

speak the local languages are deployed in areas where they can be of service to avoid too much dependence on interpreters who are fallible.

- x. There should be cross-border collaborations in standardising and harmonising related varieties in an effort to cut on costs of material development.
- xi. AU member states should ensure and require that terms spontaneously created by translators and interpreters are submitted to the appropriate language Planning Committee for standardisation
- xii. Critical information on human and people's rights should be provided in local languages, and practitioners should engage experts in translating human rights documents. To enhance gender awareness issues, information on gender advocacy and activism should be disseminated in languages of the general populace to ensure effective communication and programme implementation.
- xiii. Dictionaries should be compiled covering areas of gender advocacy and activism in order to develop and standardise terms in this area as well as develop tools for translators, interpreters and other practitioners working in this area.
- xiv. Dr Jane Francis Duru of Nigeria (participant at the workshop), should submit a guideline in the form of a write-up of the strands of gender issues so that participants have an appreciation of what is involved in this field of study and be guided accordingly in developing terms in this field of study.
- xv. Project proposals to ACALALAN and Funding agencies should be concrete, promising and convincing and must enlist experts drawn from all relevant fields to ensure credibility of the project and guarantee chances of success.
- xvi. There is need to benchmark new dictionary projects in African languages using existing dictionaries in African languages and current norms and developments in the field of lexicography (or dictionary making).
- xvii. With respect to specific questions raised by the Togolese Focal point, Togo medical practitioners should work closely with the Togo Ewe Language Academy to get some glossaries which have been developed in the health domain.
- xviii. Togo should explore cross border collaborations with countries where Ewe has been developed (Ghana, Benin) to establish an Ewe Cross-Border Language Commission and mutualize the use materials with these countries.
- xix. All terms which are created by translators and interpreters and others should go through the standardisation process to ensure conformity with the essential principles of orthography and term creation. The curriculum of medical students should as much as possible integrates local languages so that students graduate with a working knowledge in local languages other than their mother tongues and the official languages as practised in South Africa and Rwanda.

Outcomes

At the end of the workshop:

- i. The consolidated methodological framework for terminology development which was produced in 2010 was set to be put to use to commence the production of terminologies for health and human rights in African languages with special reference to vehicular cross-border languages. The same methodology can be extended to development of terminology in other domains of socio-economic development.
- ii. A clear methodological outline of the expected databases and dictionaries on the two sectors was completed by the end of the workshop.
- iii. A training of trainers' workshops as part of implementing ACALAN's capacity development programme to generate a pool of specialists in terminology creation and compilation is agreed on to be planned by the ACALAN Secretariat. Participants for this workshop must meet the requirements and specifications to be set out by the ACALAN Secretariat.