This conference was organised by the International Association of Terminology (TERMIA) with the participation of l'Agence Linguistique Européenne. It was attended by about 110 people from all over the world.

The conference proceedings fell into three broad categories, representing the different perspectives of the developing
countries (technology importers), the developing countries (technology exporters) and intermediaries such as the United Nations and TERMA itself. Aspects of computerised terminology, especially term banks, were also discussed and demonstrations were given of three term banks (Eurodictautom, TERMIUM and TERMING) and, briefly, the Systran machine translation system.

Perspective of the developing (importing) countries

Although not a developing country in terms of technological advancement, Canada holds a unique position in the domain of terminology due to the recent establishment of English and French as the country's two official languages. Terminology work in Canada is carried out by four main bodies: the Terminology Commission of the Office de la Langue Française in Quebec, the Translation Bureau of the Secretary of State of the Canadian Government in Ottawa and the Groupe Interdisciplinaire de Recherche Scientifique et Appliquée en Terminologie (GISTERM) at the Université Laval in Quebec, which is also the home of TERMA.

Although much of the terminology work done in Canada relates to the adaptation of the existing French language, the Canadians also use the practical experience gained from these activities to form a theoretical basis for terminology research and teaching which can be applied to other world languages and cultures.

Canada has two fully operational term banks: TERMIUM, the bank of the Secretary of State of Canada and TERMINOQ, Quebec's term bank which is based at the Office de la Langue Française. Both these banks, reflecting the specific needs of Canada, contain only English and French entries. TERMIUM containing some 750,000 records and TERMINOQ 900,000.

Several Arab countries were represented and their interest in terminology has arisen, like Canada's, from necessity. The current need is for the arabisation of terms produced by the new technologies being imported into the Arab countries from the developed world. The transfer of terminology takes place largely from English and French into Arabic. As with francisation in Canada, Arabic speakers are
anxious to preserve the correct
collection and style of their language
when creating new terms and adapting from
English or French.

Perspective of the developed (exporting)
countries

Jacques Goetschalckx of the European
Commission introduced the main issues with
a call for more effort on the part of
technology exporters to make the products
more accessible to the purchasing
countries. Thus he encouraged more
extensive translation of technical material
into the languages of the purchasing
countries; he put the emphasis on
specialist/linguist cooperation to ensure
more reliable terminologies.

Siemens are very active in terminology with
their terminology database, TEAM. They
have also set up projects to help with the
development of technical terminologies in
minority/developing languages. This seemed
to answer Brazil's plea for greater
sensitivity to a country's needs when
technology, and therefore, terminology
transfer takes place. Companies such as
Siemens make a substantial contribution to
terminological development over and above
their commercial concerns; as developers of
the new technologies to which terms must be
assigned, their terminologists are closer
to the source of new terminologies and with
the right training can apply rules of
nomenclature to the terminology before
technology transfer takes place.

Perspective of the intermediaries

The following were represented: the United
Nations, Intoterm, Termia, European
Commissions and Parliaments in Brussels and
Luxembourg and GIROTERM.

The United Nations are working on technical
vocabularies with equivalents in all six
languages used by the UN, namely English,
Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French and
Russian. Having the advantage of
objectivity, they are in a position to help
developing countries to create technical
terms in their national languages.

An informative paper was given by Wolfgang
Nesburt of Intoterm, with the emphasis on
terminology training. Intoterm is an
information centre and the host of Termnet,
the network for international cooperation.
on terminology, and sees itself very much as a service-based organisation. Their training programmes rest on the strong theoretical basis developed by Professor Wüster and on the wealth of documentation stored in their terminology library in Vienna. Their aim, like that of the United Nations, is to provide a bridge between the countries now developing vocabularies along with the importation of technology and the developed countries looking for a more extensive distribution of their products.

Conclusion

The conference brought to light an inclination towards cooperation on all sides to avoid duplication of effort and to give those less experienced in the relatively new discipline of terminology an opportunity to benefit from the experience of others. This applies equally to individuals, organisations and countries.