LANGUAGE RIGHTS, INCLUSION

and the

PREVENTION OF ETHNIC CONFLICTS

IALL XIII - Call for Papers
13th International Conference on Linguistic Law
13-17 December 2012, Village Horizon Resort, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Observatoire international des droits linguistiques

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF LINGUISTIC LAW
ACADÉMIE INTERNATIONALE DE DROIT LINGUISTIQUE

CENTRE UNESCO DE CATALUNYA
UNESCOCAT
Organització de les Nacions Unides per a l'Educació la Ciència i la Cultura

LINGUA PAX

The Premise

Most of the world's conflicts since the end of the Second World War have been internal, often involving groups seeking independence, autonomy, or the defence of their rights. Language demands are frequently at the fore in many of these conflicts.

While language differences in themselves are not a cause of conflict, this conference proposes to explore whether the denial of language rights such as discrimination on the ground of language and the exclusion or disadvantage caused by State authorities through language preferences create rallying causes and lead to violent conflict. It will further explore how States have addressed these demands in a reasonable and proportionate way to ensure the successful social inclusion of minorities and indigenous peoples through the recognition of language rights which tackle the underlying socio-economic disadvantages that can flare around inappropriate language preferences.

The Conference and its Organisation

The Thirteenth International Conference on Law and Language of the International Academy of Linguistic Law is a collaborative effort involving researchers from the Faculties of Law and Mass Communications at Chiang Mai University (Thailand), the International Observatory of Language Rights in Moncton (Canada), and UNESCOCAT in Barcelona (Spain). This conference is part of a series of biannual events organised through the International Academy of Linguistic Law since 1984 when it was founded as an international multidisciplinary organisation bringing together jurists, linguists, social scientists and all those worldwide interested in world linguistic diversity, as well as the relationship between law and language.

The General Scientific Committee of the Conference is formed by Professors Fernand de Varennes, Kanya Hirunwattanapong, and Witoon Sinsirichaveng, as well as by Professors Claudine Brohy, Denise Daoust, Angéline Martel, André Braën, Joseph-G. Turi and José Woehrling (IALL-Scientific Committee).

The total price for participants in the conference will be $500 (Canadian dollars – CAD) for registration before 30 April 2012 and $600 CAD after this date. The price includes luxury accommodation for 4 nights, meals except a few evening meals, and the conference registration fee. Transportation from and to Chiang Mai airport is also included. Participants wishing accommodation for their partners or family members who are not registered for the conference will have to pay an extra charge. The price for students and participants from Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America will be $350 CAD until 30 April, or $400 after this date. For Thai students and participants not requiring accommodation, the registration fee will be $70.

The working languages of the conference will be French, English and Thai.

Conference Themes and First Call for Papers

Proposals for papers must be sent to Dr Fernand de Varennes, the Conference Convenor, at fdevarennes@gmail.com, with copy to the International Academy on Language and Law at academy.inter@sympatico.ca by 1 March 2012 and include the following information:

1. Paper title
2. Name and contact information of author(s) (email, phone and affiliation)
3. A short biographical note (approximately 50 words)
4. Abstract of the proposed paper (200-300 words)

The conference will be divided in blocs addressing language rights, social inclusion and ethnic conflicts. Though not limited to language conflict situations in Asia, presentations which deal specifically with this theme will be especially welcome. Selected papers will fall within one or more of the conference themes in order to be included in the official programme.

Theme 1: Language and Conflicts in Asia. This theme will focus in 2012 on the language dimensions of conflicts in Tibet, Xinjiang, Southern Thailand, and Sri Lanka, though not exclusively.

Theme 2: Language and Conflicts around the World

Theme 3: The Relationship between State Language Preferences and Causes of Violent Conflict

Theme 4: Language Diversity, Liberalism and Democracy

Theme 5: Language Rights and Autonomy as Conflict Prevention

Theme 6: Social Inclusion and Language Rights

Papers may be submitted in French, English or Thai.

The Conference Venue

Chiang Mai is Thailand's second largest city some 700 km north of Bangkok in the northern hills of the country. It is easily accessible by local flights shuttling between the two throughout the day. There are about 30 flights a day from Bangkok, with flying time of just over one hour. Weather-wise, December is one of Chiang Mai's driest months, with pleasant average temperature around 25 degrees centigrade.

While Thailand is often thought of as being mono-ethnic, it has in fact a great deal of linguistic and ethnic diversity, especially in the mountains of the north for which Chiang Mai is a gateway.

The venue for the duration of the conference will be the Horizon Village and Resort (http://www.horizonvillage.net/), 10km from the centre of Chiang Mai. Set in a botanical garden and very family friendly, the entire resort is booked exclusively for this conference, though the number of participants able to be accommodated here is limited to about 130. Early booking is recommended to guarantee accommodation at the conference venue itself.

There will be optional city, cultural and nature tours available during the conference (extra costs involved), including every night a free shuttle to Chiang Mai's famous Night Market. The conference venue itself has a number of leisure facilities available, including a museum, a macrobiotic cooking studio, botanical garden and organic farm as well as a small zoo, an outdoor salt swimming pool, Thai massage and meditation, fitness centre and pedal boats and bicycles for participants and guests.

French and Thai versions of this circular are available on request