



Mexico City

February 15th, 2014

Dear Christie Reaume
President
RID

The Mexico City's Sign Language Interpreters Association (AILSDF) and the association 'Sign Language Interpreters and Translators in Mexico' (AIT-LS) host the 1st North American Conference of Sign Language Interpreters 'North America United by Interpretation', which will take place in Mexico City from July 24th to July 26th 2014.

This is the first time that Canada, the United States, and Mexico gather to establish cooperation bonds and exchange experiences in the Sign Language interpreting profession. The event will be supervised by the North American branch of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI), under the coordination of Nigel Howard from Canada.

As a North American event, both AVLIC and RID United States will have a booked attendance and a thorough participation at different points throughout the event. According to Mexico's protocol, AVLIC will be distinguished guests present at the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as at some conferences, whose scheduled plan will be added for its consideration.

Given the economic situation and political setting of Mexico, we are unable to provide neither land nor air transport, reason for which it is recommended that this service be requested in your corresponding local government agency. The AILSDF is arranging accommodation, food, and land transport for two AVLIC representatives during the event. The official languages of the congress will be Spanish, Mexican Sign Language (LSM), English, and American Sign Language (ASL); nonetheless, the AILSDF lacks the resources to hire simultaneous interpreting services of oral languages. This fact resulted in our reaching Dr. David Quinto, President of the Mano a Mano Association, to request its members' support to provide voluntary English-ASL-Spanish interpretation, and thus meeting the communication needs of the four attending linguistic groups. So far, Sordos de Colombia has confirmed its attendance; however, it is also feasible that other non-ASL-speaking deaf community from other countries be present, in which case we will request international Sign Language interpreters to WASLI, RID, and AVLIC accordingly (a tentative diagram of interpretation roles will be added.)

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The conference interpreting training programs in Mexico are emerging; therefore, the presentations on the matter are vital. Apart from the talks, the program will include an orientation workshop on the Art of Interpreting in contrast to word-by-word translation, on the importance of a formal education, and a Sign Language competition.

There will be a private meeting for WASLI, WDF, RID, AVLIC, AIT-LSM, NAD, CAD, and FEMESOR representatives taking place on July 23rd, whose goal is to discuss our action plan at a regional level, the potential agreements in the benefit of the interpreting profession, and the consensus on the venue of the 2nd North American Conference of Sign Language Interpreters.

For further information, questions, suggestions, or comments, the Sign Language interpreter Daniel Maya Ortega will be the liaison officer and contact of the three countries involved. (daniel@ailsdf.org.mx)

We hope to have you support and presence.

Sincerely,

ILS. Daniel Maya Ortega.
Presidente
AIT-LS

ILS. Erika Ordoñez Delgado
Presidente.
AILSDF