



MEDIA RELEASE

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Melbourne, 28 November 2005

MINISTER PANDAZOPOULOS ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AUSIT EXCELLENCE AWARDS IN THE TRANSLATING & INTERPRETING INDUSTRY

The Indonesian-English interpreter team, Vanessa Hearman and Liang Joo Leow, has been honoured with an award for "Excellence in Interpreting" for simultaneous interpretation of the Schapelle Corby verdict by the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc. (AUSIT).

The award is one of three awards, two of which are inaugural, announced by the Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. John Pandazopoulos, at the AUSIT Excellence Awards Presentation Gala Dinner at the Carlton Crest Hotel on November 28.

The "Excellence in Translating" award went to David Holm for his book "Killing a Buffalo for the Ancestors".

The Department of Education & Training won an Award for "Outstanding Contribution to the Translating & Interpreting Industry" for their "Guide to Working with Interpreters in Schools" and the Victorian Deaf Society (VicDeaf) was recognised as the Runner-up for their Auslan (Australian Sign Language) Interpreter Professional Development Programme.

EXCELLENCE IN INTERPRETING AWARD FOR VANNESSA HEARMAN & LIANG JOO LEOW

The simultaneous interpreting by Vanessa Hearman, Professional Indonesian Interpreter (NAATI accredited) and Liang Joo Leow, Senior Conference Interpreter (NAATI accredited) of the Corby verdict won an "Excellence in Interpreting" award.

The Corby verdict rendered by three judges at Denpasar District Court, Bali, in May 2005, and the interpretation into English via audio and video link were broadcast live by Channel 7.

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As testament to the quality of the interpretation, the live broadcast won the ratings and other stations used Seven's broadcast. It also made broadcast history in Australia as the first time simultaneous interpreting was performed on live news according to international standards. Channel Seven on the team's performance: "Calm and professional interpreters; incredibly trying circumstances; stand-out performers on the day; sheer unflappability; superb interpretation".

HIGHLY COMMENDED RECOGNITION FOR FOUR INTERPRETERS

Charles Qin, Senior Conference Interpreter, Mandarin (NAATI accredited), was recognised for simultaneous interpreting for the inaugural visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to Australia in 2003. Christoula Nicolaou, Professional Greek Interpreter (NAATI accredited) was recognised for interpreting for the Melbourne Greek Film Festival (MGFF) 2005 while Vera Oujaimi, Professional Arabic Interpreter (NAATI accredited), won a Highly Commended recognition for a series of interpretation assignments for Victoria Police.

EXCELLENCE IN TRANSLATING AWARD FOR DAVID HOLM

David Holm, Professional Chinese to English Translator (NAATI accredited), won an "Excellence in Translating" award for his book "Killing a Buffalo for the Ancestors" published by Southeast Asia Publications, Northern Illinois University, 2003. It contains annotated translations and transcription of Zhuang ethnic group (southern China and SE Asia) cosmological texts found in a manuscript hidden in a cave. It provides a vivid and coherent account of buffalo sacrifice in both religious and performance aspects.

"Magnificent job making an important cultural artifact accessible", Professor of Foreign Languages, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University.

HIGHLY COMMENDED RECOGNITION FOR TWO TRANSLATORS

The work of Victoria Jourdan, Professional Spanish Translator (NAATI accredited), on the translation into Spanish of the 88-page guidebook "Crystal Oracle – Guidance from the Heart of the Earth" was recognised as "Highly Commended". Leviseda Bun Douglas, Professional Khmer Translator (NAATI accredited), received a "Highly Commended" recognition for her translation into the Khmer language of published information for the NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE T/I INDUSTRY AWARD FOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & TRAINING

The Department of Education & Training won an “Outstanding Contribution to the Translating & Interpreting Industry” award for their training package “Talking In Tune – A Guide to Working with Interpreters in Schools”. The 30 minute video, hard copy training guide and comprehensive user notes are being distributed free to all Government schools in Victoria and are also available through the Language and Multicultural Education Resource Centre. It provides models of situations where interpreters should be used in school-specific context.

VICTORIAN DEAF SOCIETY IS RUNNER UP

Runner up in the “Outstanding Contribution to the T/I Industry” category is the Victorian Deaf Society (VicDeaf) with its Auslan (Australian Sign Language) Interpreter Professional Development Programme. The largest provider of Auslan interpreters in Victoria introduced its mandatory PD programme for Auslan interpreters registered with VicDeaf VAIS in 2005. By launching their professional development programme, VicDeaf play a pioneering role in the T/I industry.

HIGHLY COMMENDED RECOGNITION FOR METROPOLITAN AMBULANCE/CORPORATE LANGUAGE COMMUNICATIONS AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice, Diversity Issues Unit was recognised for its Justice Online Directory for Justice Information (www.justice.vic.gov.au/translations). The Metropolitan Ambulance Service received a "Highly Commended" recognition for their “4 Steps for Life” CPR Programme which was produced by language services provider Corporate Language Communications initially in four languages other than English.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The AUSIT Excellence Awards, launched with a single category in 2004, have been fully embraced by the T/I industry and its supporters. They enjoy the backing of key sponsor VOMA, partner organisations SBS Radio Melbourne and the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Victoria State Office.

The Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, John Pandazopoulos, was delighted to present the award for *Outstanding Contribution to the Translating and Interpreting Industry* at the AUSIT Excellence Awards on Monday night.

“The Bracks Government is strongly committed to ensuring that all Victorians have fair and equitable access to important basic services,” Mr Pandazopoulos said.

“We recognise the vital role that interpreters and translators play in our diverse society; this is why we have committed over \$2 million to the *Language Services Strategy* to improve the delivery of language services in Victoria.”

“The Bracks Government is also pleased to be key sponsor of the 2005 AUSIT Excellence Awards,” he said.

Eva Hussain, Chair, AUSIT Victoria/Tasmania said: “By showcasing individuals, small teams and organisations that have demonstrated excellence and best practice, the Awards serve an important role in promoting the highest standards of professionalism within the interpreting and translating industry. I congratulate all nominees and applaud each of the winners for their efforts in striving for professional excellence.”

AWARD CRITERIA

The key selection criteria for initiatives that are recognised by AUSIT through these awards include innovation, role model value, benefits delivered to users and/or practitioners and their level of impact on the industry as a whole. Additional criteria for the interpreter and translator categories include linguistic and interpreting skills; professionalism and ethical conduct, evidence of research and use of available resources; accurately reproducing all the information, and faithfully reproducing the style, register and all other pragmatic features of the original in the translation; also fulfilling its purpose.

JURY

The six jury members appointed by AUSIT are highly qualified and respected individuals representing different sectors of the T&I industry with Dr Rita Wilson acting as Jury Spokesperson. Dr Wilson coordinates the Postgraduate Translation Programme at the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University, and has authored several publications on translation and research in fields such as literary translation, intercultural studies, narrative and new media.

Details on the nomination process and submission criteria for the 2006 Awards be publicised in early 2006.

Please go to Excellence Awards on www.ausit.org for details. The particulars of the winning initiatives will be published shortly.

FURTHER INFORMATION/INTERVIEWS:

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