

JIAMCATT 2015
8 April 2015, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 3

**JIAMCATT 2015
International Annual Meeting
on Computer-Assisted Translation and Terminology**

**Remarks by Mr. Tegegnetwork Gettu
Under-Secretary-General
for General Assembly and Conference Management**

Mr. Chair of JIAMCATT-IAMLADP Liaison Committee (Josep Bonet Heras),

Ms. JIAMCATT Secretary (Hannah Riley),

Distinguished delegates of international organizations,

My dear Colleagues,

It is an honour for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations to welcome the representatives of more than 60 international organizations to the 2015 International Annual Meeting on Computer-Assisted Translation and Terminology (JIAMCATT).

The theme of this year's meeting, which is **Collaboration**, is a fitting description of this forum. It is also timely: after years of

implementation of new IT tools, we must now analyse which of these tools are effective, where and why they work, and share that information with the whole community. This will allow all intergovernmental organizations to make **informed decisions**, benefit from past experiences and avoid reinventing the wheel.

In DGACM, we see the fruits of JIAMCATT in our daily work. A successful partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on **statistical machine translation** launched a couple of years ago now benefits our Department. Through collaborative efforts, and without any additional financial implication, both organizations have created a very useful system, called TAPTA, to prepare quick translation drafts. This system relies on the very large collection of translations done by hundreds of DGACM translators over the years. A measure of this success is that the system is actively used by more than 400 UN translators at our four duty stations (New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi), cutting time and costs at the drafting stage, as part of the gText system.

Other organizations are now regularly approaching us to provide them with our translation corpus in order to develop similar systems. For instance, in the last six months our Department has released its

collection of translations in six official languages to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and to the International Labour Organization (ILO). By the way, I would like to highlight the presence today of our distinguished keynote speaker, Professor Philipp Koehn, of the Johns Hopkins Institute, who is a renowned scholar in the revolutionary field of statistical machine translation. We are very pleased to have him with us today.

The successful collaboration in machine translation underscore the effectiveness of JIAMCATT as a forum where international organizations with similar ideas can gather momentum by working together and sharing expertise.

As in past years, over the next three days you will attend presentations by professionals who believe that change is possible, that innovation is a must and, especially, that new tools can help our institutions to cope with growing workloads, increasingly demanding deadlines and decreasing budgets.

One of these tools is eLUNa, a new platform developed by our Department and successfully implemented at all four DGACM duty stations in 2014. This web-based translation tool was designed to bring

together all the information a translator needs in one single screen and to present results in a way that is convenient and user-friendly. I encourage you to attend tomorrow's interactive workshop during which UN colleagues will demonstrate how they work with eLUNa on a daily basis. Here again, our development team has been approached by other organizations to explore the possibility of introducing eLUNa in their Translation Services. These organizations include, to mention only a few, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) – a very impressive list. Our Department is currently reviewing a policy on how to meet this demand in a way that is mutually beneficial.

However, we must bear in mind that technical improvement is not our only goal. **Technology should not be pursued for its own sake.** What we ultimately need is to **use technology to meet the mandates we are entrusted with** and to deliver quality translation services on time.

I challenge you to come out of this meeting with more ideas, more energy and more passion to enhance the delivery of all of our services and to meet the goals of our respective organizations. It is a good opportunity to solve our issues, share our knowledge, exchange our ideas, and explore new avenues. Let us do it together. At the end of this conference, let us go back to our offices re-energized and invigorated with a greater sense of purpose to improve the way we do our work and deliver our services using our brand of IT tools. Over the next three days, I wish you all a successful and productive JIAMCATT session, and I look forward to the outcome.
