Communicate!—a new voice on the conference circuit

Welcome to the first edition of Communicate! -- a new bi-monthly Webzine for conference interpreters, and for anyone involved with or interested in the language business.

Communicate! is published by AIIC, and its aim will be to provide news and views on all aspects of the conference industry as they affect our members. But it's not just for the members. It is meant to be a resource and a forum for anyone involved in the language profession, whether as a practitioner, a client, a student, or a teacher… Vincent Buck, a member of AIIC's Communication Committee, and one of the driving forces behind Communicate!, explains how it came to be published, and what it will offer to readers

Conference interpreters are a particular bunch. They are thin on the ground, scattered the world over, and always on the move. No wonder that they find it hard to organise.

But any professional group, however mobile and global, will feel the need to come together at some point, to reflect about future trends, contribute ideas, discuss practices, review standards, share concerns. That was true 40 years ago when AIIC was established to represent professional conference interpreters and define their working conditions. It is equally true today.

A lot has changed in 40 years. The nature of the conferences at which we interpret has evolved, and so have the profile of delegates and the subject matters we cover. Even conference technology has changed, mostly for the better.

And that is precisely why we need a forum to learn, share and get involved with other stakeholders in the conference industry.

Technology makes it easier to create and sustain such a forum. The Internet is good at connecting people separated in space and time, and it affords forms of interaction that would be impossible to organise otherwise.

And so Communicate! was born.

Communicate! -- AIIC's bi-monthly interactive webzine -- is aimed at conference interpreters, but not only at them. Communicate! aims to become an online community for anyone with an interest in the conference industry and multilingual communication.

Every second month, new articles will cover issues as broad as conference technology, interpreter training, new language trends, effective communication across cultures. And we will also let people
talk in interviews, and share useful tips and tricks in our professions.

Of course, we will cover news stories as soon as they break.

But *Communicate!* will be more than purely editorial content. We won't stop at sharing what we know with you. We want you to share what you know with one another.

How? *Communicate!* offers theme-based discussion forums, in-page comment forms, specialised mailing lists, and a user-defined library of Internet links. Typically, a *Communicate!* article will give you a list of all mailing lists, internal and external links and discussion forums related to the same theme or themes. If you would like to contribute an external link yourself, you can. It will appear on the page as soon as you refresh it. Likewise, your comments are welcome directly under any *Communicate!* story and will be displayed immediately. (By the way, a good way to invite a friend to *Communicate!* is send him or her an article by email.)

All you need to do is use our Toolbox, to the right of every page. So, whether you are a conference interpreter, a translator, a conference organiser, a user of interpretation services, a student, or simply someone interested in multicultural communication, bookmark this page, or add it to your Favourites list and make sure we hear from you.

- **Current Communicate! issue**

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AIIC volunteers are encouraged to apply.!

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**Recommended citation format:**