The Japan Association of Interpretation Studies

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A few years ago a number of interpreters and teachers of interpretation in Japan started thinking of ways to promote scholarship in this growing field. Their efforts led to the birth of a new academic association, the Japan Association of Interpretation Studies (JAIS). Officially founded on 23 September 2000, JAIS is still a relatively small organisation with just over 100 members, but it is growing quickly with an average of 6 new members joining every month.

JAIS was a natural outgrowth of the Interpreting Research Association of Japan (IRAJ), which was established in 1991 and made its presence felt by hosting some 75 study meetings and publishing 17 issues of Interpreting Research.

JAIS's structure allows for the formation of special groups bringing together members with a common interest in a specific area of interpretation studies. One dedicated to Interpreter Education has already become active and more are sure to follow. The association also publishes an annual journal, Interpretation Studies. The "baby" is very much alive and kicking!

The founders and members of JAIS feel that more research on all aspects of the service we provide is needed. The association was founded to encourage such research on the part of the academics as well as practitioners. We also aim to promote a greater awareness and better understanding of our profession by society at large. And by fostering cross-fertilization through international exchanges, we hope to contribute to the development of our common base of knowledge. In a way we are just joining the worldwide community of interpretation researchers and we welcome sessions with visiting researchers and practitioners (contact me whenever you are in this part of the world and would like to meet our members). We also welcome new non-Japanese members.

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