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Conclusions and recommendations of JIAMCATT 2016

JIAMCATT is a dynamic network, which continues to prove its value as a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience across organizations.

JIAMCATT 2016 enjoyed a record level of participation, bringing together language technology specialists, linguists and managers from partner organizations around the world.

The theme of JIAMCATT 2016 was Technology as an agent of change. Not only do technological developments result in significant and often unavoidable changes within our organizations, but organizational change is also a powerful driver of technology. This paradigm was evidenced at JIAMCATT by the variety and ingenuity of solutions that organizations have implemented in response to the changes they have experienced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

JIAMCATT 2016 adopts the following recommendations:

1. Member organizations are encouraged to actively reflect on the positive impact that technology can have when embedded in a conscious change management process.

2. Structured document formats such as XML provide a more effective way to handle multilingual content, and help assure formatting consistency across languages and versions. JIAMCATT members have a key role to play in promoting their use.

3. A strong theme of JIAMCATT 2016 was the importance of the end-to-end authoring-translation-publishing chain, and the role of technology and standardization within this. Closer cooperation between the actors in this chain would not only allow for efficiency gains but also improve the quality of the end product.

4. Efficient use of technology can be achieved with limited resources. Creative, smaller-scale developments may yield major practical results.

5. Building on the strengths of what we have achieved in JIAMCATT 2016 at WMO, JIAMCATT members are encouraged to continue sharing information and collaborating in the exchange of their language assets.

6. The sharing of resources, tools and know-how is the raison d'être of JIAMCATT. Therefore, members are recommended to seek modular and flexible solutions, incorporating open standards and formats.

7. Communication technologies have opened up new modes of interpreting. Interpretation services need to make the best use of the new opportunities created in order to increase their added value.

8. JIAMCATT Member organizations are encouraged to align their communication objectives with the five-point spectrum of machine translation, ranging from raw MT to full human translation.

9. For terminology work to be relevant, it has to rely on its strengths: timeliness, reliability and shareability. In the terminology work undertaken by JIAMCATT organizations, it is vital to ensure that concepts are described and defined at the point of coinage.

10. Local JIAMCATT meetings have shown to be a cost-effective and valuable way for partner organizations to share knowledge and information throughout the year: such initiatives should therefore continue to be encouraged and promoted. The JIAMCATT secretariat undertakes to facilitate and assist with the organization of such local meetings and the corresponding communities when requested.

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