

A Brief Report
on
Participating at the WASLI Conference 2023

Event Details:

Event Name: WASLI Conference 2023

Theme: Shaping our world for a better future

Date: 4-9 July 2023 (Including pre-workshop)

Venue: Jeju Island, South Korea

Organization: National Association of the Sign Language Interpreters Nepal (NASLI-Nepal)

Country: Nepal

Participants:

Dinesh Shrestha: President, and Santoshi Ghimire: General Secretary

Organization: National Association of the Sign Language Interpreters Nepal (NASLI-Nepal)

Country: Nepal

Support by: NRASLI (National Research Association for Sign Language Interpretation), Japan
(only for 1 participants registration fees)

Introduction:

The World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) WASLI Conference 2023, which was held in Jeju Island, South Korea, from 4-9 July, 2023. It was an incredible opportunity for Nepalese sign language interpreters to connect with sign language interpreters from around the world. As President this was first time attending a WASLI conference, and for General Secretary this is second time, although we had participated in the Asian Region level program in Thailand back in 2018. The conference had the overarching theme of "Shaping our world for a better future."



Highlights and Activities:

Networking: The conference provided a platform for us to meet and network with interpreters from various parts of the world. We made valuable connections and established friendships with professionals who share our passion for sign language interpretation.

Enjoyment: We thoroughly enjoyed the entire WASLI conference, from the engaging sessions to the vibrant atmosphere created by passionate interpreters. The conference was a celebration of our shared dedication to serving the Deaf community.



NASLI General Secretary Mrs. Ghimire explaining about Nepalese interpreters situation to the WASLI President Dr. Christopher.

Annual General Meeting (AGM): Being as a National Member of WASLI, we actively participated in the WASLI AGM, as a National Delegates, where important discussions as well as election for the WASLI board for 2023-2027 took place regarding the future of sign language interpreting and the progress of WASLI.



NASLI President and General Secretary at the WASLI AGM 2023.

Pre-Conference: We were excited to be part of the WASLI pre-conference, which offered valuable insights into emerging trends, research, and best practices in sign language interpretation. The pre-conference sessions provided us with a broader perspective on the field.

Regional Meeting: We actively participated in the WASLI Regional Meeting, which allowed us to engage with interpreters from different regions, exchange experiences, and gain insights into the unique challenges and opportunities faced by interpreters in Africa, Europe, Oceania and Asia.

Sign Language Interpreting at WFD World Congress 2023: A unique opportunity presented itself as we worked as sign language interpreters at the WFD World Congress 2023, accompanying the Nepalese delegate (Satyadevi Wagle). This experience further enhanced our skills and provided exposure to international events.



WFD Congress with Nepalese delegates

Skills Development: Throughout the conference, we attended various sessions and workshops focused on interpreting skills development. These sessions equipped us with new techniques and approaches to enhance our interpreting abilities.

Depth Knowledge: The conference offered in-depth knowledge and discussions on topics specific to deaf interpreting. We gained insights into the latest research, methodologies, and advancements in the field.



Presentation on media interpreting in Malaysian

Cultural Experiences: We had the pleasure of attending the captivating opening and closing ceremonies, as well as visiting Jeju Folk Village, which allowed us to experience the local culture and traditions.

Interpreting in Press Conferences and Television News: The conference provided us with the opportunity to learn about interpreting in live press conferences and television news settings, expanding our understanding of the challenges and responsibilities associated with these domains.

Interpreting Training: We were able to gather valuable information about interpreting training programs from different countries, enabling us to bring back new ideas and approaches to enhance interpreter training in Nepal.

Best Practices:

Excellent Facilitators: The conference featured skilled facilitators who delivered engaging and informative sessions on a diverse range of topics.

Relevance and Fresh Perspectives: The topics covered during the conference were relevant to the current challenges and developments in the field of sign language interpreting, providing new insights and perspectives.

Global Representation: The conference succeeded in bringing together participants from various countries, encouraging collaboration and knowledge exchange among interpreters worldwide.

Promotion of New Member Countries: WASLI actively promoted the inclusion and participation of interpreters from newer member countries, fostering a sense of inclusivity and diversity.

Sufficient Session Time: Ample time was allocated for each session, allowing presenters to delve into their topics thoroughly and engage with the audience effectively.

Timely Notices: Participants received timely notifications and updates regarding the conference schedule, ensuring smooth coordination and attendance.

Ideal Venue: The conference venue was well-suited for hosting such a significant event, providing a conducive environment for learning and networking. The facilities, including halls and lighting, were commended.

Collaboration with Government: It seems good collaborations with the local government.

Key Learning from Participation:

Participating in the WASLI Conference 2023 was an enriching experience for NASLI-Nepal. Key takeaways:

Global Networking: The conference provided a unique opportunity to network with interpreters and professionals from diverse backgrounds, forging new connections across the globe.

Active Involvement: We actively participated in various events, including the Annual General Meeting (AGM) as National Delegates, the WASLI pre-conference, and the WASLI Regional Meeting.

Professional Growth: Working as a sign language interpreter at the WFD World Congress 2023 alongside Nepalese delegates allowed us to enhance our interpreting skills and broaden our experiences.

Knowledge Enrichment: The conference offered theoretical aspects related to interpreting, including in-depth knowledge about deaf interpreting, interpreting training, live press conferences, and television news interpreting.

Cultural Appreciation: We had the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the culture of South Korea through the opening and closing ceremonies and the visit to Jeju Folk Village.

Acknowledgments:

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to NRASLI (National Research Association for Sign Language Interpretation) Japan for their generous financial support, which enabled our representative from Nepal to attend the WASLI Conference 2023. We also extend our thanks to NRASLI for providing support for the registration process for our one delegate.



Nepalese delegates with the WASLI Asia RR Noriko and NRASLI Representative

Conclusion:

Participating in the WASLI Conference 2023 was a truly enriching experience for us as representatives of NASLI-Nepal. We gained invaluable knowledge, built meaningful connections, and broadened our perspectives on sign language interpretation. We look forward to implementing the lessons learned and sharing our experiences with our colleagues and the Deaf community in Nepal.

Reporter:

Dinesh Shrestha, President,
Santoshi Ghimire, General Secretary
National Association of the Sign Language Interpreters Nepal (NASLI-Nepal)
Kathmandu, Nepal
naslinepal2067@gmail.com
30 July 2023

Some pictures related to the WASLI Conference 2023 are as follows;



Program picture



WASLI ASIA Night



NASLI President, sharing experience



NASLI Delegates with WFD and WASLI President



Nepalese Delegates



With WASLI former General Secretary



WASLI 2023 conference participating certificate.

Thank You