

How does AIIC further the conference interpreting profession?

AIIC advocates the highest standards of interpreter conduct and competence combined with an appropriate working environment for optimum performance. This formula for excellence has been adopted by international organizations and the meeting industry world-wide.

AIIC members and other conference interpreters who strive for excellence abide by:

► **The Code of Professional Ethics**, which establishes the standards of integrity, professionalism and confidentiality

► **The Professional Standards**, which define the working conditions that enable qualified professionals to provide quality service.

Find the Code, the Standards, and the Practical Guide for Professional Conference Interpreters at www.aiic.net.

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**INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS**

AIIC USA Region

**HOT TIPS FOR ACCOMMODATING
THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU
AND
LIVING TO TELL YOUR GRANDKIDS**

It's your reputation

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TALKED INTO ACCEPTING THE FOLLOWING LAST-MINUTE ASSIGNMENT...

...By yourself in simultaneous?

- ◇ Forty-five minutes maximum.
- ◇ Just the foreign keynote speaker.
- ◇ Not-technical-not-to-worry.

...Only to find on arrival that:

- ◇ Your foreign keynote speaker will be followed by two English speakers, followed by a panel discussion. For a total of three-and-a-half hours.
- ◇ Your speaker, the Panelist of Honor, is counting on you. Not only to interpret his piece, but to be able to follow the entire proceedings. And engage in the panel discussion.
- ◇ His talk is entitled:
Is the elenchus deterministic?
And, oh, for the web cast—did we forget to mention—we're recording you...



AIIC STANDS FOR PROFESSIONALISM AND QUALITY INTERPRETATION

Not an entirely uncommon scenario.

The meeting is hosted by the U. of X Philosophy Department. The receptionist was told to find a translation service when the “fluent” student scheduled to “translate” came down with mono. They hired you.

We've been there! But have no intention of going back...

Because it's standard world-wide practice (not to mention common sense) for conference interpreters to take control of their working situation. To decide what's “technical” and what's not. And to walk into the meeting in possession of the full and complete information.

After all, who is the one facing the lions?

So, unless you enjoy seeing your life flash in front of your eyes, be assertive and require:

- ◇ At a minimum, the agenda, the meeting schedule, and the list of speakers. They're available to every participant!
- ◇ Presentations to be delivered—it's standard practice for the interpreters to prepare them in advance (OK, occasionally, hot out of a flash drive, one minute in advance.)
- ◇ A letter of appointment clearly stating terms of service and working conditions. Hired for only forty-five minutes? Show your signed agreement to the conference organizer as you shake his hand good-bye.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS

- ▶ Operate in satisfactory conditions of sound, visibility and comfort.
- ▶ Work only in teams comprised of a sufficient number of interpreters.
- ▶ Ascertain the working conditions prior to accepting an engagement.



Which brings us to the topic of flying solo.

Professional conference interpreters always work in pairs. Only once or twice in their career may they work alone in a conference situation. A well-planned situation. Maximum forty-five minutes. As an exception. To be avoided. (OK, OK, we get the point! Ed.)