

Report from the Committee on Affiliated and Associated Organizations (CAAO)

21 June, 2025

Our committee has just taken the first steps to engage in the activities we defined as our mission last year. The objective of our committee, outlined in the previous report, is as follows:

- (1) To promote the inclusion of our member National Associations in AILC/ICLA activities, i.e. to encourage National Associations to proactively engage in those activities at various levels, for example, representation at the ICLA Congress, participation in research committees, etc.
- (2) And at the same time, offer opportunities for National Associations to produce mutually creative links, through, for example, joint events and publications, and other collaborative activities;
- (3) Reach out to regional Comparative Literature associations that are not formerly affiliated with AILC/ICLA, including associations not identified with or sponsored by a nation;
- (4) Reach out to other groups of comparatists on whatever level and support their desire to be affiliated with AILC/ICLA as groups rather than as national associations or individuals;
- (5) Seek possible collaborative links with entities that deal with relevant academic or creative fields: translators' associations, cultural organizations, writers' groups, screenwriters' guilds etc.

We have newly added the aspiration to:

- (6) Facilitate links between AILC/ICLA Research Committees and external organizations having similar areas of interest.

The committee met online on 12 June, 2025, and discussed concrete measures to achieve our aims. Upon confirming the mission described above, the committee agreed to:

- (a) Review the description of CAAO currently posted on the Administrative Committees page on the AILC/ICLA website and clarify our role. We will provide the updated version to the president in time for the coming release of the new AILC/ICLA website.
- (b) Assign specific regions and/or fields of activities to committee members, in order to

concretize our action. Details of our decisions are given at the end of this report.

- (c) Ask to secure a space on the new AILC/ICLA webpage to be used for CAAO activities. The space will play the function of a “contact” page, allowing individuals and groups interested in affiliating with AILC/ICLA to write in to ask for information and/or support. We can also possibly create a space for those individuals with no current affiliation to communicate with each other and form a group on their own.
- (d) Suggest that the new AILC/ICLA website introduce a system to allow groups that are not yet a formal national association but interested in joining AILC/ICLA to be given a space to manage independently, which will make their presence visible to AILC/ICLA as well as to the interested individuals in the respective regions.
- (e) Make a request to the Seoul Congress organizers to find a spot in the Congress timetable for an informal CAAO gathering for exchanging ideas and discussing possible collaboration projects. The gathering will be open to everyone interested. We will ask for a space that has a facility for an online meeting so that members who cannot attend in person can also join.

As a start, we identified specific regions and groups to approach and allocated a task to some of the members to pursue developing concrete connections:

- (a) Contact the European Society for Comparative Literature and discuss the possibility of them becoming one of our member organizations;
- (b) Seek connections in Spain;
- (c) Explore establishing connections in Saudi Arabia (and other nations in the region);
- (d) Work on creating links between African Literature Association (ALA) and AILC/ICLA’s Comparative African Literatures and Languages Committee;
- (e) Reach out to comparatists in the Philippines;
- (f) Reach out to screenwriters’ guilds (starting from Italy);
- (g) Resume communications with those who have shown interest in affiliating with AILC/ICLA (e.g. contacts in Vietnam, Serbia, Lithuania).

We have since found out that the Lithuanian Comparative Literature Association has approached our president to notify that they will formally become an AILC/ICLA member organization.

The committee plans to meet every half a year or so to exchange updates on the respective developments.

CAAO Co-chairs

Haun Saussy and Toshiko Ellis