

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

This Committee, formerly called “NA Plus” was formed to:

- (1) Promote the inclusion of our member National Associations in the AILC-ICLA activities, i.e. to encourage National Associations to proactively engage in the AILC-ICLA 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;
- (4) Reach out to non-organizational groups of comparatists interested in forming a National Association and provide whatever support they require so that they could participate in the AILC-ICLA as an NA member rather than as an individual;
- (5) Seek possible collaborative links with non-comparative literature organizations that deal with relevant academic fields: translations studies, cultural studies, etc.

Unfortunately, there is little to report on our activity for the current term, though we are slowly moving towards taking a step forward in materializing our aim, particularly with regard to (4) above, seeking potential NA groups to form an official affiliation with AILC-ICLA. In response to some interest shown by a group of comparatists in Indonesia (by faculty members of Ahmad Dahlan University) we offered a proposal for them to form an NA, but apparently, the circumstances were not ripe for them to take concrete measures to move in such direction. We have also heard of some interest in Vietnam, and possibly in Malaysia, too, and we intend to reach out to these groups, seeing that Southeast Asia is weakly represented in AILC-ICLA.

On a positive side, we have learned that the AILC-ICLA Web development group is working on a new website, which will include a log-in facility where national associations or affiliated groups can run their own page semi-independently, posting relevant information and joining in the AILC-ICLA net community. If such creative space is made accessible to “looser”, non-formal groups of comparatists as well, it will open the avenue for these groups to make their presence visible, which, we believe, will facilitate the procedure for them to form a National

Association. The site will certainly work positively for Comparative Literature Associations that are not formerly affiliated with us (as mentioned in (3) above). We look forward to making an effective use of this new website.

In the coming term, we intend to meet regularly and discuss what other ways there are to achieve our mission. Our membership in the UNESCO umbrella group Fédération Internationale des Langues et Lettres Modernes (FILLM) may lead to new partnerships, as FILLM holds a conference every other year, each time on a different continent. Hopefully for the 2028 Triennial Conference, we will be able to propose an event that will fulfill our (1) and (2) objectives.

CAAO Co-chairs

Haun Saussy and Toshiko Ellis