**Call for Papers**

**Conference on Human Language Technology for Development (HLTD 2011)**

Alexandria, Egypt

2nd May – 5th May, 2011

[www.HLTD.org](http://www.HLTD.org)

Human Language Technology (HLT) is a growing field of research and development, converging multiple disciplines including computer science, engineering, linguistics, sociology and cognitive sciences, striving to develop a natural, easy and effective user interaction. HLT, including localization, is particularly relevant for addressing access to information by the disadvantaged communities, including the illiterate, the rural poor, and the physically challenged population, especially in the developing countries.

The Conference aims to promote interaction among researchers and professionals working on language technology, language computing industry, civil society engaged with deployment of language technology to end-users and policy makers. It aims to provide a single platform to engage these stakeholders in a dialogue over a wide range of relevant issues, to show-case state-of-practice in HLT and its use in development, and to identify needs and priorities of the end-users. It is hoped that the Conference will highlight HLTD challenges in the developing regions, especially in Asia and Africa.

**CONFERENCE TOPICS**

Original unpublished research papers are invited for two tracks: (i) HLT Development track, focusing on the engineering challenges and solutions for HLT, and (ii) HLT Use track, focusing on challenges and models for dissemination and adoption of HLT. Specific topics include, but are not limited to, the following areas, with special focuses on Asia and Africa.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| HLT Development | HLT Use |
| Linguistics and linguistic resources  Language computing standards  Localization  HLT (MT, TTS, ASR, OCR, IR, Dialogue systems)  HLT technology, people and process challenges  Commercialization models  Technology Policy | Education  Health  Governance  Rural development  Accessibility  Culture  Language and culture policy |

In addition, proposals are also invited for workshops, tutorials and product/project demonstrations.

Submission details are available at conference website [www.HLTD.org](http://www.HLTD.org).

**IMPORTANT DATES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Submission Deadline:  Acceptance Notification:  Camera ready paper:  Conference dates: | 7th Feb. 2011  7th Mar. 2011  23rd Mar. 2011  2nd - 5th May 2011 |

**VENUE**

The conference will be held at Bibliotheca Alexandrina at Alexandria, Egypt (<http://www.bibalex.org>).

**TRAVEL AND REGISTRATION GRANTS**

A small number of grants are available on competitive basis for travel support and conference registration fees for authors. Further details are available from the conference website.

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Adel El Zaim, International Development Research Centre, Middle East Office, Egypt

Dr. Ananya Raihan, D.NET, Bangladesh

Dr. Chafic Mokbel, Balamand University, Lebanon

Dr. Chai Wutiwiwatchai, NECTEC, Thailand

Mr. Dwayne Bailey, Zuza Software Foundation, South Africa (co-chair)

Mr. Donanl Z. Osborn, African Network for Localization, USA

Dr. Florence Tushabe, Univ., Uganda

Dr. Guy De Pauw, Univ. of Antwerp, Belgium

Dr. Hammam Riza, Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology, Indonesia

Dr. Key-Sun Choi, Korean Advance Institute of Science and Technology, South Korea

Dr. Lamine Aouad, Univ. of Limerick, Ireland

Ms. Lisa Moore, Unicode Consortium, USA

Dr. Magdy Nagi, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

Ms. Manal Amin, Arabize, Egypt

Dr. Miriam Butt, Univ. of Konstanz, Germany

Dr. Mirna Adriani, Univ. of Indonesia

Dr. Mumit Khan, BRAC Univ., Bangladesh

Dr. Peter Waiganjo Wagacha, Univ. of Nairobi, Kenya

Dr. Rajeev Sangal, International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad, India

Dr. Roni Rosenfield, Carnegie Mellon Univ., USA

Dr. Ruvan Weerasinghe, Univ. of Colombo School of Computing, Sri Lanka

Dr. Satoshi Nakamura, National Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Japan

Dr. Sarmad Hussain, Univ. of Engr. and Tech., Pakistan (co-chair)

Dr. Solomon Gizaw, Univ. of Limerick, Ireland

Dr. Steven Bird, Univ. of Melbourne, Australia

Dr. Tim Unwin, UNESCO Chair in ICT4D, Univ. of London, UK

Dr. Tunde Adegbola, African Languages Technology Initiative, Lagos, Nigeria

Dr. Virach Sornlertlamvanich, NECTEC, Thailand

Dr. Wanjiku Ng'ang'a, Univ. of Naiorbi, Kenya

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Adel El Zaim, International Development Research Centre, Middle East Office, Egypt (chair)

Dr. Ananya Raihan, D.NET, Bangladesh

Mr. Dwayne Bailey, Zuza Software Foundation, South Africa

Dr. Magdy Nagi, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

Ms. Manal Amin, Arabize, Egypt

Ms. Maria Ng Lee Hoon, International Development Research Centre, SE&E Asia Office, Singapore

Dr. Peter Waiganjo Wagacha, Univ. of Nairobi, Kenya

Dr. Ruvan Weerasinghe, Univ. of Colombo School of Computing, Sri Lanka

Dr. Sarmad Hussain, Center for Language Engineering, KICS, Univ. of Engr. and Tech., Pakistan

**ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS**

The Conference is being jointly organized by the PAN Localization Network (PAN L10n, [www.PANL10n.net](http://www.PANL10n.net)) of Asia and the African Network for Localization (ANLoc, [www.africanlocalisation.net](http://www.africanlocalisation.net)). It is supported by Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC, [www.idrc.ca](http://www.idrc.ca)).

PAN L10n is network of Asian professionals and organizations, collectively working to develop local language computing capacity and its use across developing Asian countries, since 2003. It has been developing linguistic resources, language technology, human resource capacity and relevant language computing policy in the region. It has also been active in disseminating language technology to end users, and investigating effective training and adoption models. The network coordinated by Center for Language Engineering ([www.cle.org.pk](http://www.cle.org.pk)), Al-Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science, University of Engineering and Technology, Pakistan.

ANLoc has the vision to empower Africans to participate in the digital age by removing “the last inch” barriers to language usage. The project is working towards overcoming this by creating a network of African language localizers who through various projects are developing translation and localization tools, linguistic resources, standards and software in several African languages. Building local capacities and disseminating knowledge are also essential for achieving the mission. The network is coordinated by Zuza Software Foundation ([www.translate.org.za](http://www.translate.org.za)) in South Africa.

PAN L10n and ANLoc are funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

**ABOUT THE HOSTS**

The new library of Alexandria, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, aims to be a center of excellence in the production and dissemination of knowledge and to be a place of dialogue, learning and understanding between cultures and peoples.

*For Further Queries:*

Asia coordinator: Sarmad Hussain, [sarmad@cantab.net](mailto:sarmad@cantab.net)

Africa coordinator: Dwayne Bailey, [dwayne@translate.org.za](mailto:dwayne@translate.org.za)

Egypt coordinator: Manal Amin, [Manal.Amin@arabize.com.eg](mailto:Manal.Amin@arabize.com.eg)