

# 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 planning the use of HLT in national development projects. 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Original unpublished research papers are invited for two tracks: (i) HLT Development track, focusing on engineering challenges and solutions for HLT, and (ii) HLT Use track,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

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

#### HLT Use

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 the Conference website [www.HLTD.org](http://www.HLTD.org).

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

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|--------------------------|--|
| Submission Deadline:     | 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 2011                  |
| Acceptance Notification: | 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar. 2011                  |
| Camera ready paper:      | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar. 2011                 |
| Conference dates:        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 a competitive basis for travel support and Conference registration fees for authors. Further details are available from the Conference website.

## **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Dr. 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. Donald Z. Osborn, African Network for Localization, USA  
Mr. Dwayne Bailey, Zuza Software Foundation, South Africa (co-chair)  
Dr. Florence Tushabe, Makerere 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  
Dr. 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)  
Mr. 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 Nairobi, Kenya

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Adel El Zaim, International Development Research Centre, Middle East Office, Egypt (chair)  
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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 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 is coordinated by the 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 HOST INSTITUTION**

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:*

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