

Report from the Chair

At the end of my second term as Chair of ISATT, it is my pleasure to share with you the main activities and events developed over the last two years. You have had the opportunity to follow these through the ISATT Newsletter, but I would like to highlight some of the major achievements and to also identify some future initiatives. I am really happy to belong to an organization like ISATT which is proud of its past, celebrates its present, and challenges its future.

As I mentioned in my first message as Chair in 2013, one of my goals was to expand ISATT, especially in under-represented regions of the globe through outreach activities. It is my pleasure to report an increase of ISATT membership, particularly from countries in which ISATT has not been represented before, for instance, Jamaica, Russia, Romania, Mozambique, Austria, France, Oman and Namibia. In total, ISATT includes 242 members in total coming from 55 different countries from all over the world. It is also worth noting that two bids were submitted for the next ISATT biennial conference from new ISATT members. This is again a great sign of the vitality of ISATT. As Chair, I would like to acknowledge the commitment of all ISATT members and their contributions to this great research community, as the Newsletters have been reporting over the last two years. Of particular importance to ISATT's ongoing research community are the collaborative research grants that enable both senior and junior ISATT members from different countries to develop relevant research that meets ISATT goals. Over the last two years, ISATT has supported two collaborative research grants whose outcomes will be presented in papers at the ISATT conference in Salamanca.

Among events that occurred during the past two years was the ISATT Regional Conference held at the University of Haifa, Israel, under the theme "Promising Pedagogies in International Teacher Education" in December 4-5 2016. The conference was a success! It provided all participants with relevant opportunities to discuss issues and future directions in international teacher education. In total, 42 participants from 14 different countries presented their research work in roundtable sessions and participated in collaborative discussions related to promising pedagogies in teacher education internationally. Again, I would like to express my gratitude to Lily Orland-Barak from the University of Haifa, Israel, and Cheryl Craig from the University of Texas A&M, USA, for organizing such an enjoyable and professionally rewarding conference.

Events such as the regional and international conferences as well as ISATT's participation at the Invisible College/AERA (2016) have been really important to fulfilling ISATT's mission: To share knowledge and research on teaching and teacher education and to disseminate the organization internationally. Several ISATT members attended the annual meeting of AERA in Washington D.C., in April 2016, and participated in various sessions. Members of the ISATT Executive Committee attending in Washington were also able to meet informally. ISATT and Taylor and Francis honoured the former Executive Editors who left the editorial team of the journal *Teachers and Teaching Theory and Practice* and welcomed the new executive editors. Thanks go to Susan Elliott-Johns for assisting with the organization of that celebration.

Another important information item I would like to share with you is the participation of ISATT at the 10th Union of International Associations (UIA) Round Table Europe. It took place in Monaco on the 3rd-4th November 2016. Daniela Hotolean, ISATT Administrator, and myself participated in the event which aimed at sharing experience in meeting challenges in membership, communications, funding, and governance in international organizations. The UIA is a research institute and documentation centre, independent and non-governmental in nature, and it has been a pioneer in the research, monitoring and provision of information on international associations and their global challenges since its foundation in 1907. Subsequently, ISATT was included in the 54th edition of the Yearbook of International Organisations (November 2016). Our participation at the UIA Round Table Europe was very fruitful in terms of sharing experience and knowledge, and gaining practical tools in running international associations, organizing conferences and effectively recruiting members.

Another piece of ISATT business that deserves attention is the recognition of ISATT members' work. The ISATT Award Committee has received nominations for the ISATT ST²AR Award (Service to Teachers and Teaching, the Academy, and Research). The Outstanding TTP Article Award and the Pam Denicolo Award are also an opportunity to celebrate the work of our members. The names of the recipients selected to receive these awards will be revealed at the biennial Conference in Salamanca, Spain in July 2016. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Awards Committee members for their work and collaboration.

In the near future the goal is to continue to expand ISATT and, more importantly, to foster the dissemination and celebration of the work of its members. In this regard, it is also important to note the Travel Bursaries that have been awarded to ISATT members who met the required criteria and submitted their Full Papers for the next ISATT conference in Salamanca. In total, 11 travel bursaries were allocated this year to support both graduate students and Faculty participation at ISATT conference in Salamanca next July.

One of the goals for the future is also to continue to make ISATT more present in international forums and to support research and increased collaboration among ISATT members. The possibility of looking for grants for wider research projects involving members from different regions and countries will be discussed at the new EC meeting in Salamanca.

At this moment, many of us are already making preparations for the 18th Biennial Conference that will take place at the University of Salamanca, Spain, from 3-7 July 2017. I am sure that all of us have great expectations and are looking forward to meeting colleagues and friends in Salamanca. The theme of the biennial conference is "*Teaching search and research*" and it aims, "to capture the mutual interrelations between the academia and schools in order to combine discourses and align positions". I trust that both the scientific and the cultural programme will make this conference yet another memorable ISATT event. I would like to thank Dr. Juanjo Mena for his commitment and all of his hard work in the role as Chair of the Organizing Committee for ISATT 2017 in Salamanca, and as the Treasurer of ISATT.

I would like to finish this report by recognizing publicly the work of all ISATT members and paying tribute to those who passed away over the last two years: Specifically, Xiaohong Yang from Hangzhou Normal University. As Chair I also would like to thank all the Executive Committee members for their work and support over the last two years. Special thanks go to the ISATT Outreach Coordinator, Samuel Oyoo, whose final term ends in 2017, and for his six years of service to ISATT. I am sure that we can still count on him as an active member of the association.

I would like to express my gratitude to Susan E. Elliott-Johns, Secretary of ISATT, with whom it has been a pleasure to work and discuss ISATT's projects going forward. Her hard work and consistent support have been really appreciated.

I also would like to acknowledge the support and work of all our EC members and their willingness to contribute to the development of ISATT. Their suggestions and support have also been very important to ISATT moving forward.

Last but not least, I am very grateful to our ISATT Administrator, Daniela Hotolean, for her hard work, support and assistance in dealing with many issues and challenges. I am sure that ISATT will continue to be an active research community in which members feel welcomed. I feel really privileged to be part of such a supportive and active community.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in Salamanca.

Best regards,
Maria Assunção Flores, Chair