



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL  
INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION  
Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

## **International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) Appoints Hong Kong Representative Ester Sin-man Leung**

The International Medical Interpreter Association is proud to announce the appointment of Ester Sin-man Leung as the official representative of Hong Kong to the association that represents over 1,900 medical interpreters speaking 70 languages in 20 countries worldwide. Leung is currently an Associate Professor in the Translation Program at Hong Kong Baptist University.

Holding a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Lancaster University in the United Kingdom, Ms. Leung also gained extensive experience interpreting in different legal and medical settings in England before she came back to teach in Hong Kong in 1997. She has published various articles on legal translation and interpreting as well.

Leung hopes that by becoming the Hong Kong representative for the IMIA, she will gain access to support and advice from fellow members on the plight of those in need of medical interpreting services in Hong Kong. Says Leung, "Thousands of domestic helpers from Philippines and Indonesia, mostly women, have left home to work in Hong Kong. Access to the public services provided to these non-Chinese, non-English speaking people is severely handicapped by unsatisfactory interpreting services usually organized on ad hoc basis." Additionally, Ms. Leung has done extensive research on the issue of interpreting and interviewing victims of sexual assault. Her research project entitled ***From legislation to translation, from translation to interpretation: the narrative of sexual offences in the courtroom*** is available at <http://cpdb-arts.hkbu.edu.hk>.

IMIA promotes language access in health care as an international human right. "Because of increased awareness, the medical interpreting profession is growing all over the world. We believe international representation we will help other countries not have to duplicate the work we've already done" says Izabel Arocha, M.Ed. IMIA President. "We are also embarking in an international job analysis and hope to gather information from linguists and others who are now acting as medical interpreters in Hong Kong. There is much to be learned from how other countries bridge the intercultural communication gap."

### **About the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA)**

The International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) is committed to the advancement of professional medical interpreters as the best practice to equitable language access to health care for linguistically diverse patients. Founded in 1986, with currently over 2,000 members, most providing interpreting services in over 150 languages, the IMIA is the oldest and largest medical interpreter association in the world. In 2007 it expanded to a more international focus, to promote and unite medical interpreters worldwide. While representing medical interpreters as the experts in the medical interpreting field, associate membership to the IMIA is open to those interested in medical interpreting and language access in health care. IMIA has a division of providers, corporate members, trainers and language specific groups. (<http://www.imiaweb.org>)