



Fan Lijun

Short bio

Mr. Lijun Fan is an experienced language services professional and senior manager. As Director of the Language Division at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) since 2013, Mr. Fan manages comprehensive language services including translation, interpretation, editing, and terminology management across WIPO's six official languages, supporting global stakeholders and member states. He represents WIPO in the United Nations (UN) network of focal points on multilingualism and chaired the Working Group on Language Services of IAMLADP (International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangement, Documentation and Publications) from 2018 to 2023, facilitating cooperation among UN and other international organizations.

Contribution

Bridging the Digital Language Divide: AI-Driven Linguistic Inclusion – WIPO's Experiences

As global institutions transition to an “augmented ecosystem of multilingualism,” we face both an unprecedented risk of digital exclusion and a historic opportunity for language equity. Under the 2026 International Translation Day theme of “Linguistic Diversity and Language Rights,” the Director of WIPO’s Language Division will address how artificial intelligence and machine translation are actively extending multilingualism beyond the traditional UN six-official-language regime. Drawing on the real-world deployment of WIPO’s homegrown AI tools – WIPO Translate and WIPO S2T (Speech-to-Text) – the talk will showcase how WIPO operationalizes linguistic inclusion at WIPO, and globally by sharing these advanced technologies with Member States and some UN and other international organizations.

While WIPO champions a deliberate, layered hybrid model where human translation and interpretation remain the absolute gold standard for high-stakes international negotiations, these advanced AI tools safely extend vital communication to historically under-resourced or low-impact spaces.