



Institute for
Bible
Translation
Russia/CIS

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Dear colleagues,

From 24 to 26 September 2008 the Institute for Bible Translation (IBT) and the Institute of Linguistics at the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) will host a conference entitled: "Bible translation as a factor in preserving and developing the languages of the Russian Federation and the CIS". This is the latest in a series of scientific events organised jointly by IBT and RAS.

In accordance with the Russian Federation Law "Concerning the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation", creating the right conditions for preserving the languages spoken by the peoples of Russia is a cultural achievement, and a priority of the government policy. An important part of this process is the translation of the Bible into these languages. Bearing in mind IBT's more than 30 years' experience in this sphere, the conference organisers propose discussion of the following topical issues:

- the role of Bible translation in raising the status of the mother tongue
- the role of Bible translation in creating a united field of cultural linguistics in Russia
- the role of Bible translation in mutual relations between Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and other cultures
- problems in creating a written language and promoting literacy in the mother tongue among speakers of non-written languages
- opportunities to use the translated texts in schools for teaching the mother tongue and literature
- problems with the relationship between the literary norm and dialectal influence on the translation
- the role of Bible translation in the development of grammatical structures and vocabulary of the languages in the Russian Federation
- the relationship between "academic" translations and those for a general readership
- the use of explanatory notes, illustrations and multimedia as ways to increase interest in the text and, thus, in the language
- translation activities as an aspect of scientific language learning
- the use of translated texts for scientific research

If you wish to participate in the conference, please send your application by 1 March 2008 to conference2008@proint.ru. In your application give your full name, place of work, and the title of your presentation.

Those who have sent in applications will receive another letter in March, setting out the requirements for the theses and the deadline for sending them in. It is planned to publish these theses in time for the conference.

We look forward to hearing from you,

The conference committee