

15th St. Jerome Translation Contest

— 2020 EDITION —



Statement by Ms. Nidale Noun Chief of the ESCWA Conference Management Section

The St Jerome Contest is an annual literary translation competition, launched 15 years ago by the United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM). Every year, a duty station or regional commission organizes the Contest, which is open to participants from across the world, to celebrate the vital role of translation in intellectual, cultural and humanitarian interactions.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized the 2020 edition of the Contest. The competition attracted participants and judges from numerous countries, reflecting the transboundary nature of translation that transports ideas and concepts across time and space. The Contest was held in the six official languages plus German, and was open to students, professionals and amateurs. The judges represented various United Nations entities and academic institutions. The texts were quirky and idiosyncratic, requiring notable intellectual capacity, cultural awareness, research and technology skills, translation prowess and eloquence.

I thank the contenders for their participation, and the judges for their time and effort. I also thank our colleagues at all the duty stations and regional commissions for their valuable contributions, expertise and innovative methods in coordination and communication during these challenging times, and for their enthusiasm, commitment and ideas that enriched this activity. Although the judges had the difficult task of selecting winning texts from a pool of impressive translations, the St Jerome Contest emphasizes that we are all winners when the barriers of silence are broken with elegant language and effective communication. The competition reflects the United Nations esteemed position as a beacon of multilingualism, diversity and hope for a brighter future for all.

We look forward to your participation in next year's Contest!

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