

DGACM and Salamanca University to organize conference of universities

The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) and Salamanca University are jointly organizing a conference of universities to be held on 3 and 4 May 2011, at Salamanca University in Spain.

The conference will bring together representatives from the 18 academic institutions that have signed with the United Nations a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in training of candidates for Competitive Language Examinations, and will aim to build a network of universities that are committed to enhancing their language training programmes for translators and interpreters so that they better meet the requirements of the United Nations. A model memorandum of understanding document can be accessed at <http://www.iamladp.org/MoUs.htm>.

Language professionals form the backbone of the conference services that the United Nations provides to its member states. In order to ensure the availability of sufficient numbers of qualified candidates to fill current and future vacancies in its language services, DGACM launched in 2007 an action-oriented Outreach to Universities Programme.

DGACM will be represented at the conference by Under-Secretary-General Mr. Shaaban M. Shaaban, officials of the Department including those from duty stations away from Headquarters, and representatives of the Department's language services. Other participants include representatives from partner agencies and institutions.

It is hoped that the conference will serve as a cornerstone of the succession planning efforts systematically taken by DGACM to address the world-wide shortage of qualified interpreters and translators.

For additional information about the conference, please follow the link below (<http://exlibris.usal.es/index.php/es/1st-mou-conference>).