



INTERSTENO ENEWS **112** | JULY 2025

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All contributions to this e-news are published under the full responsibility of their authors only.

President's message



My dear Intersteno Friends,

It has become a comprehensive e-newsletter. Fortunately, many of you are at the beginning of a holiday period, so I presume and hope there's plenty of time to read and enjoy it.

First of all, I am very happy to announce that Liverpool is officially the location where our congress will be held in 2026. Furthermore, it is never pleasant to report the loss of a beloved member of our Intersteno community. Gabrielle Fasnacht from Switzerland passed away last April at the blessed age of 95. I wish her relatives strength in this time of loss.

Further in this e-news are the results of the Internet competition. Additionally, there are articles from the country groups of the Philippines, Turkey and the Netherlands.

Victor Gonzalez also shares some tips for visiting Córdoba. There is still a holiday period in between, but I am already looking forward to our meetings in Córdoba in September, when I hope to meet many of you in person!

I wish you all a good, relaxing summer holiday.

The next e-news will appear in October 2025. The deadline for submitting articles is at the end of September, to be sent to marlenerijkse@intersteno.org.

Rian Schwarz-van Poppel
Intersteno president



55th Intersteno Congress 2026



The 55th Intersteno Congress will take place in **Liverpool** (United Kingdom) from **Saturday 18th to Thursday 23rd July 2026**.

Most congress activities will take place at the **Adelphi hotel**. Located in the centre of Liverpool, the Adelphi retains its reputation as one of Liverpool's most iconic hotels. It originally opened in 1862 and has been re-built three times. The 'third' Adelphi opened in 1914 and is the same building that stands to this day.

When Britannia Hotels bought the building in 1982, it was renovated, rescuing the top two floors which had been virtually derelict after the previous owners had closed them off. The hotel displays a seamless mixture of old and new, with the lower floors and public areas giving a more modern 21st century feel. However, the grand architecture retains its traditional charm with which the hotel was built.

The hotel is currently undergoing another complete refurbishment to bring the hotel up to modern standards while retaining its historic charm. This work is scheduled to be complete well before the congress.

The 55th Intersteno congress is organized with the important cooperation of BIVR, the British Institute of Verbatim Reporters.

All information will gradually appear on www.intersteno2026.org.

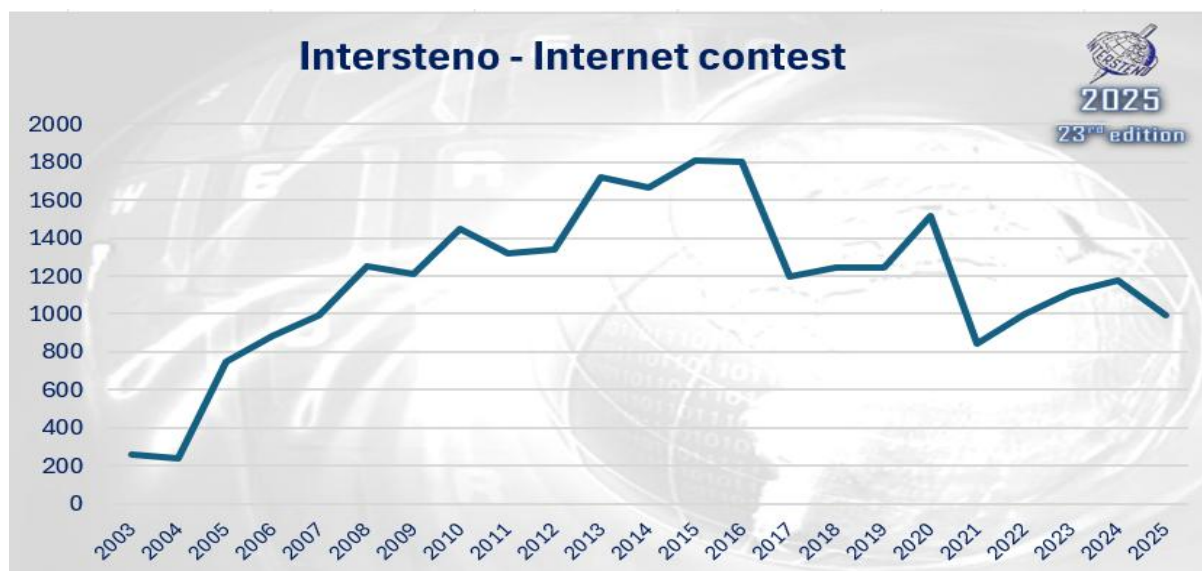
2025 –INTERNET CONTEST

By Georgette Sante, Jury-President



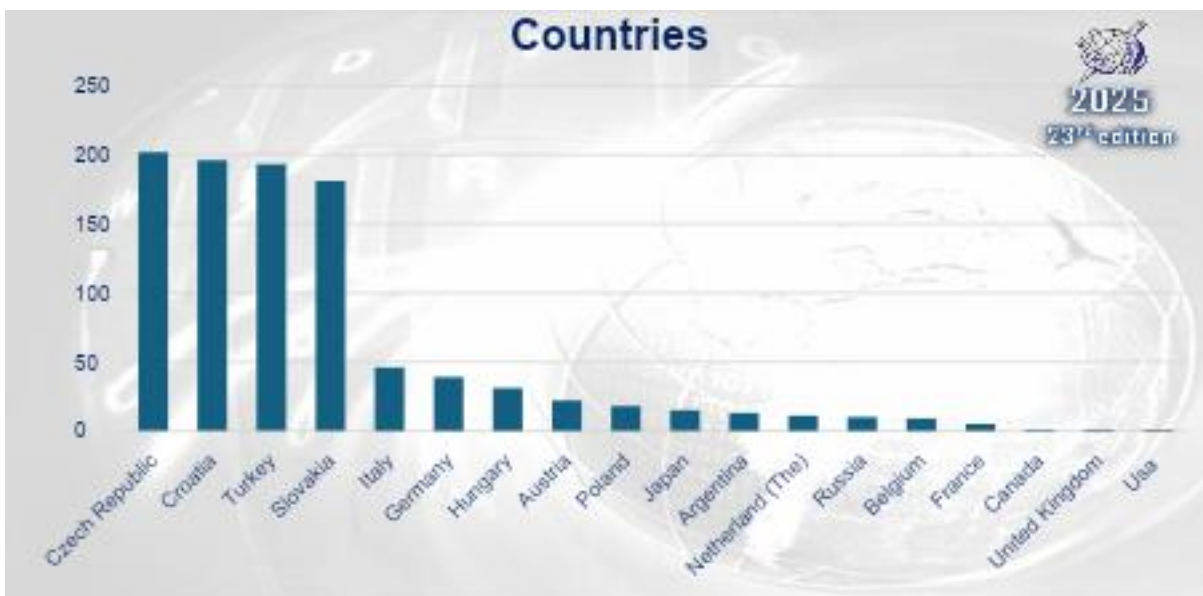
- Eighteen countries
- 188 schools
- 228 teachers
- 994 competitors

have participated in the 23rd edition of our annual international keyboarding competition via Internet. Unhappily, this means a decrease of 15%, whereas the previous two years had recorded an increase in participation of 12% and then 5%.

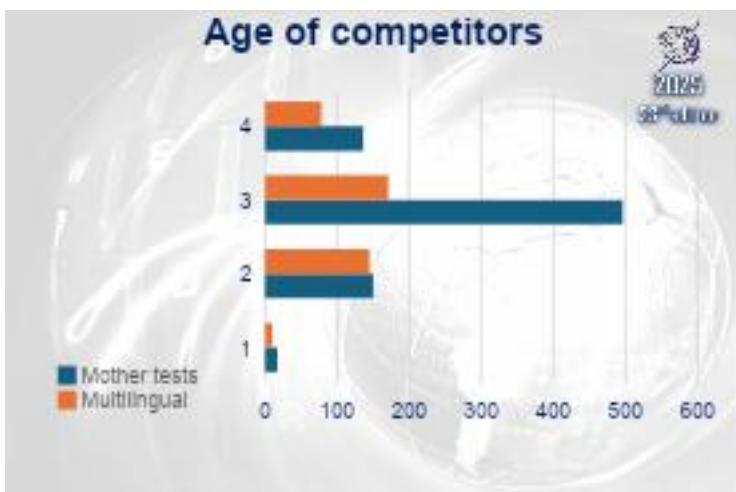


Which countries are competing?

Participation varies greatly from one country to another. Since the beginning, due to the huge work of Helena Zaviačičová, the Czech Republic registered the higher number of competitors. Another great champion very closely follows her; Andrea Wawrzynek. Congratulations on your work and for motivating and supporting schools, teachers, and competitors. Unhappily, Switzerland and Romania do not compete anymore, and this year, Serbia, Luxembourg, and Spain are absent as well.



How many participants in each age category?



This year, as shown on the graphic above, 38% of the participants have competed in multilingual. But this percentage of about one-third of competitors presenting at least one foreign language is not the same for all countries. In Belgium, all the competitors present at least one foreign language (but it is true that there are three official languages in this small country)! The percentage is also higher in Poland, Hungary, Germany, Russia, and the Czech Republic.

Intersteno offers the possibility of competing in eighteen languages. For five of these languages, we have no native competitors: Portuguese, Finnish, Romanian, Serbian and Spanish.

% of success

The success rate is about 62%: mastering the keyboard both in accuracy and speed is not easy and fewer courses are given in schools.

The best typists in their mother language

1	Jonáš Vala	Czech Rep.	886 cpm	0.090	8461 points
2	Andrea Akhlaghi Farsi	Italy	786cpm	0.076	7568 points
3	Erdi Çiller	Türkiye	784cpm	0.077	7542 points

Senior competitors achieved higher scores, but we are enormously proud of the performance of younger once and want to warmly congratulate them.

Juniors (17 >20 years old)					
1	Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu	Türkiye	692	0.104	6877
2	Miraç Yıldırım	Türkiye	662	0.054	6122
3	Vladimír Čokina	Slovakia	602	0.076	5871
Pupils (13 > 17 years old)					
1	Merve Mutlu	Türkiye	574	0.060	5447
2	Şerife Nisa Erdin	Türkiye	551	0.100	5367
3	Filip Kempný	Türkiye	524	0.035	5041
Children (0 > 12 years old)					
1	Şevval Erva Başoğlu	Türkiye	499		4842
2	Hasan Eymen Başoğlu	Türkiye	400		3809
3	Ziya Doruk Ay	Türkiye	286		2816



Jonáš Vala



Andrea Akhlaghi Farsi



Erdi Çiller



Takayuki Nakayama

Multilingual performances

For some competitors, it is an annual challenge to count the higher score in multilingual.

We should point out the performance of Andrea Akhlaghi Farsi - the only Italian competitor to compete in multilingual - who improved his score by almost 2% (90,679 points). However, he had to give up the first place - which he held for three years - to the Japanese competitor, who increased his multilingual speed by more than 8%!

First place multilingual 2025 – Takayuki Nakayama – Japan – 94,061 points

Detailed classification lists are available on our website: [Classification Lists - Intersteno](#)

Software's

Up to now, two software's are collaborating to manage the 3422 tests of this 23rd contest: the Czech ZAV (1654) and the Italian Taki (1768). Both software's offer free training on their website.

Local contests

Three countries, registering all together 1454 competitors, are using the TAKI software to organize a local contest: Belgium, Luxembourg, and Türkiye. Helena and the ZAV team also organize national competitions in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Spotlight: Erika Just – A World champion

She competes in typewriting since 1954 and participated for the first time to the Intersteno world championships in 1965, in Paris.

She was on the podium in 1991 (Brussels – 3rd place) and 1993 (Istanbul - 2nd place). In 1995 (Amsterdam), she was at the first place so the **World champion**. Her last congress was Budapest in 2015. Now she continues participating every year in the Internet contest in German and multilingual.

In Belgium, the "Tintin" comic book magazine advertised itself as being "for young readers from 7 to 77 years old" but our Internet contest is as well a contest for young writers from 7 to ... more than 77 years ... we do not tell you how much!



Gabrielle-Fasnacht †

By Danny Devriendt

I received the sad news that our Honorary Member, Mrs. **Gabrielle Fasnacht**, peacefully passed away on 21st April 2025 in the age of 95 years.

Gabrielle lived in Switzerland and was one of the participants at the legendary meeting in Vevey in September 1954, where Intersteno restarted after the second world war with preparing a next congress in Monaco/Montecarlo 1955. As teacher in shorthand and French language, Gabrielle competed in multilingual shorthand competitions, was corrector and jury president, and represented Switzerland in our Federation.



In 1998 she was president of the organization committee of the 42nd Intersteno congress in her hometown Lausanne. Those who participated at that congress, certainly have fond memories at this excellent organized congress at the border of the Lac Lemman. Together with William Bonnet, she managed the congress into all details.

In 2007, Gabrielle Fasnacht, was nominated Honorary Member of Intersteno at the General Assembly in Prague. It was her last participation at international level.

The last years of her life, she has been living in a nursing home where she was well cared.

We will remember Gabrielle Fasnacht as a distinguished, hard-working and well appreciated lady with a good sense of humor, and keep so many nice memories over the decades she was one of the leading ladies of our Federation.

May she rest in peace!



Mauro Panzera and Gabrielle Fasnacht

An adventure in South-America; Intersteno Córdoba Council meeting 2025

By Victor Gonzalez

From the heart of Argentina, we want to express our excitement and enthusiasm for the upcoming Intersteno Council Meeting in September 2025.

This is a very important event, endorsed by the provincial and municipal governments. Hotel Y111 will host the event, boasting a strategic location in the city center and offering many interesting places to visit nearby.

Metropolitan Museum of Art



This museum was designed to showcase urban culture, art linked to new technologies, digital art, emerging art, and other related genres. Its main audience is young people and a diverse audience. Another of its functions is to act as a radar for artistic proposals from cities and towns in the metropolitan area of Córdoba. It opened in 2023 and is located in a key part of the city between the Nueva Córdoba neighborhood and the University City, in the basement of Plaza España.

Paseo del Buen Pastor

In the heart of the Nueva Córdoba neighborhood, the Paseo del Buen Pastor is a cultural complex that offers visitors a wide variety of artistic and recreational activities within a beautiful urban space reclaimed for community use.

Only a few years after its inauguration and due to its



constant activity, the Paseo del Buen Pastor seems to have always been a meeting point for the people of Córdoba, making it one of the most pleasant spaces in Córdoba.

Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of the Capuchin Fathers

Construction of this imposing creation began in 1926 and was inaugurated in 1933, but was fully completed in 1980. The building was also restored throughout 2016 and 2017. It was built by architect Augusto Ferrari, who combined elements reminiscent of Gothic and Romanesque architecture and is noted for its large number of sculptures and paintings.



The Bohemian Güemes Neighborhood

The bohemian Güemes neighborhood today is synonymous with fun, encounters, diversity, avant-garde design, culture, art, nightlife, gastronomy, hidden alleys, bookstores, galleries, antique dealers, live music, cultural centers, independent theaters, and multiculturalism. Life in the area intensifies especially after sunset and continues until the early hours of the morning.

Barrio Güemes never ceases to amaze; each visit to the area is a unique experience, and it offers a wide range of attractions, ideal for repeating and fully exploring.

Córdoba is eagerly awaiting the visit of the Intersteno family; we hope to see you soon in our city. Thank you Intersteno for trusting us; it will be a great experience!



Annual report of the Scientific Committee

By Carlo Eugeni, Chair of the Intersteno Scientific Committee

Dear friends, before the summer break begins, the Intersteno Board has agreed that the Scientific Committee Chair should provide regular updates about the Committee's activities. As you know, the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee is appointed by the Council and becomes a de facto member of the Board. Since our work often involves only a limited number of people, we thought it would be interesting for the entire Intersteno community to learn more about who we are and what we do.

This will be the first in what we hope will become an annual report. However, since I dislike missing opportunities to do things a bit differently, I've decided to focus this report on future activities of the Committee, rather than past ones. The goals of this initiative are four:

- 1 - To update everyone on the Committee's activities;
- 2 - To encourage wider involvement;
- 3 - To promote these initiatives more broadly;
- 4 - To ensure that the Council is well-informed when it comes to appoint the next Chairperson.

Since this is the last e-news issue before the Council meeting in Córdoba, I will focus on the activities planned for that occasion. Future reports will provide a more comprehensive overview of the actions and outcomes of the Scientific Committee meetings.

As you can see from the online programme, we have several events scheduled. Here they are in chronological order:

1 Workshop on parliamentary reporting strategies

This open, three-hour event will be led by Eero Voutilainen. It will explore practical approaches to parliamentary reporting, addressing linguistic, editorial, administrative, and workflow-related challenges. The workshop consists of three parts: 1) a brief introduction to the selected topics; 2) an open discussion where participants can share their perspectives and experiences; 3) peer support for challenges in parliamentary reporting. Topics will be selected by the workshop leader, but you are welcome to suggest ideas by emailing Eero at eero.voutilainen@eduskunta.fi before 31 August.

2 Scientific committee meeting

This meeting, led by me as the current chairperson, is open to everyone – both in person and online – who is interested in the Committee's work. The agenda (still under development) includes: a reflection on the workshop, reform of the Scientific Committee's internal structure, preparations for Diamesic 8, updates on ongoing projects (language comparison, Wikipedia article, digital archive of publications on reporting issues, a new book on reporting), appointment of new Committee members. Members are encouraged to send agenda proposals to me at c.eugeni@leeds.ac.uk before 31 August.

3 Tiro editorial meeting

This closed meeting is reserved for the members of the Editorial Board of Tiro, the Journal of Professional Reporting and Transcription. We will review recent trends, plan upcoming issues, and outline a marketing strategy to promote the journal among professionals, students, users, and academics.

4 DIAMESIC 8 Conference (co-organized with the IPRS)

This annual Intersteno event that gathers the efforts of the Scientific Committee and of the IPRS (Intersteno Parliamentary Reporters and Other Professional Reporters' Section). Co-chaired by

Intersteno President Rian Schwarz and myself, this year's conference focuses on the impact of Generative AI on Diamesic Translation. Confirmed speakers include Eero Voutilainen (Finnish Parliament); Ana Luísa Reis, Ana Rita Pereira and Paulo Granja (Portuguese Parliament); Henk Jan Eras (Dutch Parliament); D'Arcy McPherson (Canadian Parliament), Carlo Eugeni (University of Leeds). The full programme is available online. Online attendance is possible upon registration.

5 Book on Parliamentary Reporting

To be published by a leading international publisher, the project of a book on Parliamentary Reporting has been on my mind for a while now. With the rise of Generative AI, the time has come to highlight both the theoretical and professional dimensions of parliamentary reporting. This is crucial to ensure that the Human Intelligence required for accurate reporting is not forgotten or overlooked by those who may think that Artificial Intelligence can easily replace it. The book will include chapters on the theory of diamesic translation, the difference between spoken and written language, types of transcription, reporting as a text type, challenges and strategies in parliamentary reporting, technologies in court reporting, current and future workflows. If you are interested in contributing, please attend the meeting (either online or in person), or email me at c.eugeni@leeds.ac.uk.

Warm regards. We will see each other soon in beautiful Argentina.



Tiro's Spring 2025: A quick round-up of the latest issue

By Eero Voutilainen

Intersteno's journal Tiro – The Journal of Professional Reporting and Transcription published its eleventh issue in June. The articles in the issue open various perspectives to professional reporting and transcription.

The first articles discuss the use of AI (artificial intelligence) and ASR (automatic speech recognition) in professional reporting. In his editorial, Eero Voutilainen discusses the differences in reception between spoken and written language. Dan Kerr presents how the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Canada, switched to using a new, open source ASR system to develop their own solution called Parrot. He also discusses the role and responsibilities of human editors in the AI-based work process. Tatsuya Kawahara, Yyua Akita and Mikitaka Masuyama describe a technological solution that is used to make quick, high-quality captions for parliamentary meetings based on their official transcripts. Henk-Jan Eras gives a general look into the recent developments of generative AI in the context of parliamentary reporting, discussing disinformation, threats to quality and credibility, and the EU's recent AI Act. He also presents results from a survey that shows that more than half of responding parliaments use AI tools in parliamentary reporting.

Reporting and transcription are also invaluable tools for accessibility. In her article, Anneke Faaij-Nulle gives an introduction to the different methods that the Parliamentary Reporting Office of the House of Representatives in the Netherlands has used to increase the accessibility of its parliamentary sessions. As new innovations, she presents two interesting pilot projects: short video reports and podcasts that cover parliamentary debates with simple language which is easily followed by people with limited language skills. Eero Voutilainen and Riikka Kuronen, in turn, present results from a survey study on how the parliaments of Europe provide text alternatives for video recordings on their public websites.

The last three articles examine different reporting principles. Kristján Sigurðsson argues that, because of necessary editing, there are certain limitations in using parliamentary reports as data for linguistic and rhetorical research. Lauri Haapanen reacts to an earlier Tiro article by Andrew Hill about shorthand in journalism (issue 2/2024) and aims to show that there are good reasons to edit direct quotations in certain journalistic texts. Finally, in his regular column, Carlo Eugeni discusses the notion of linguistic relativity – the close relationship between language and thinking – and contemplates what implications it might have for the nature of reporting and transcription. In doing so, he highlights the distinctions among various types of reporting.

You can read all these articles for free at Tiro's website tiro.intersteno.org!

Eero Voutilainen is Tiro's editor-in-chief. This round-up of Tiro's Spring 2025 issue is re-published here with minor changes from his newest editorial.

COSTRAPHIL-Luzon holds its first Regional Convention in Tagaytay City, Philippines with International Guest Speaker Dr. Carlo Eugeni.

By Cesar Saloma

The **Court Stenographers Association of the Philippines (COSTRAPHIL)** Luzon Region successfully held its first Regional Convention on May 22-23, 2025 at Tagaytay City, Philippines with the theme “**Empowering Court Stenography for Judicial Innovation**”. Dignitaries of the Supreme Court, court stenographers, legal practitioners and academic experts in stenography were brought together to discuss advancements in court transcription, stenographic workshops and education.



*Hon. Alexander G. Gesmundo
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines*



COSTRAPHIL National President Mr. Cesar C. Saloma

The convention aimed to enhance stenography skills, and innovation with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) amongst practitioners to improve accuracy and speed in court recording and transcription. Among the highlights of the event were the insights of the **Hon. Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo** on the successful implementation of voice-to-text in various pilot courts all over the Philippines. Hon. Gesmundo also reiterated to the 1,432 court stenographers in attendance that the implementation of AI assisted transcription will not lead court stenographers into extinction but rather would be tools to enhance productivity and efficiency of stenographers nationwide.

Championing Progress: A Vision for the Future of Court Stenography

The National President of the Court Stenographers Association of the Philippines (COSTRAPHIL) delivered a powerful message emphasizing unity, lifelong learning, and embracing technology to strengthen the profession.

He highlighted that innovation should be viewed as a valuable ally in enhancing accuracy and efficiency in court transcription. His message reinforced COSTRAPHIL’s commitment to professional development and modernization.

International presence

A salient feature of the event was the presence of **Dr. Carlo Eugeni**, an internationally recognized expert in Audiovisual Translation and the Chairman of the Intersteno Scientific Committee who heeded the invitation of COSTRAPHIL National President Mr. Cesar C. Saloma. His discussion brought valuable insights in international practices and the important role of stenographers in modern legal parliamentary and judicial proceedings.

Dr. Eugeni's participation marked a historic milestone for Philippine stenography in the judicial sector as the first International Guest Speaker to grace any COSTRAPHIL event, cementing the ties between Philippine Stenography and the Intersteno International Federation.



Dr. Carlo Eugeni (far right) together with COSTRAPHIL National President Cesar C. Saloma (right)

Academic collaboration

Distinguished faculty members from the Rizal Technological University (RTU) composed of Asst. Prof. Rosa F. Diestro, Asst. Prof. Marie Joy C. Jorduela, Instr. Ma. Victoria C. Painaga, and Instr. Marvin A. Fuentes featured their expertise through drills and workshops cementing the importance of academic-professional partnerships with COSTRAPHIL and the Supreme Court in advancing high stenographic quality and standards amongst stenographers.



(From left to right) Instr. Marvin A. Fuentes, Asst. Prof. Marie Joy C. Jorduella, Asst. Prof. Rosa F. Diestro & Instr. Ma. Victoria C. Painaga



Bridging Academia and Judiciary: PUP Professors Join COSTRAPHIL-Luzon Convention Observations

Professors from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) simultaneously conducted observations as part of their unwavering support for the COSTRAPHIL convention in Tagaytay City.

Their presence is a testament to the reinforcement of strong collaboration between academic institutions and stenography professionals in the judiciary.



FASTEST FINGERS CONTEST: A Showcase of Stenographic Excellence



Fastest Fingers Contest Machine-use and short- hand transcription

COSTRAPHIL and private entity collaborations have played a great role in the drive for the advancement and innovation of court stenography in the judicial system and this was evident during the convention by the conduct of the Fastest Fingers Contest in Tagaytay City. Pacific Office Solutions Vice President Ms. Deliza Ridoloso together with COSTRAPHIL, Inc. spearheaded the contest with its pursue for stand-out stenographers from COSTRAPHIL with incredible skill and dedication to the craft of machine-use stenography and short-hand transcription.

Fastest Fingers Contest Machine-use and short- hand transcription

The competition is aimed to enhance the skills of court stenographers by challenging them to transcribe spoken legal discourse with impeccable accuracy under intense time constraints in three categories, (1) Text Production, (2) Speech Capturing, and (3) Audio Transcription. Ms. Angelica Toraja and Ms. Precious Joy Polanco ranked No. 1 in Text Production and Speech Capturing respectively.



(center) Ms. Angelica Toraja - rank No. 1 in Text Production

Participants for Speech Capturing and their respective rankings.

Participant's Name	Court Station	Mode	# Words	Total Errors	Captured Words	Accuracy	Ranking
Polanco, Precious Joy	RTC Br. 155 Binan Laguna	Gregg Shorthand	492	29	463	94%	1
Austria-Cercado, Lovely	RTC Br. 100 Antipolo	Gregg Shorthand	492	33	459	93%	2
Toraja, Angelica	RTC Br. 18 Cainta Rizal	Gregg Shorthand	492	48	444	90%	3
Santos, Noela	RTC Br. 76 San Mateo Rizal	Gregg Shorthand	492	47	445	90%	3
Barasan, Baby Grace	RTC Br. 20 Imus, Cavite	Gregg Shorthand	492	97	395	80%	4
Samonte, Jennifer	MTCC Br. 3 Tuguegarao City	Gregg Shorthand	492	103	389	79%	5
Almazora, Sharmaine	Family Court Br. 8 Calamba	Gregg Shorthand	492	134	358	73%	6
Mag-atas, Rashellyn	RTC Br. 142 Cainta, Rizal	Gregg Shorthand	492	162	330	67%	7
Moreno, Jonalyn	RTC Br. 30 San Pablo City	Gregg Shorthand	492	162	330	67%	8
Pauig, Marilyn	MTCC Br. 1 Tuguegarao City	Gregg Shorthand	492	165	327	66%	9
Elipane, Ermil	RTC Br. 64 Batan Buguias, Benguet	Machine Shorthand	492	164	328	66%	10

Participant for Text Production and their respective rankings.

Participant's Name	Court Station	Mode	# Words	Total Errors	Captured Words	Accuracy	Ranking
Toraja, Angelica	RTC Br. 18 Cainta Rizal	Keyboarding	656	8	648	99%	1
Austria-Cercado, Lovely	RTC Br. 100 Antipolo	Keyboarding	656	13	643	98%	2
Bonifacio, Vince Andre	RTC Br. 29 San Pablo City	Keyboarding	656	15	641	97%	3
Almazora, Sharmaine	Family Court Br. 8 Calamba	Keyboarding	656	20	636	96%	4
Samonte, Jennifer	MTCC Br. 3 Tuguegarao City	Keyboarding	656	24	632	96%	5
Mag-atas, Rashellyn	RTC Br. 142 Cainta, Rizal	Keyboarding	656	32	624	95%	6
Moreno, Jonalyn	RTC Br. 30 San Pablo City	Keyboarding	656	46	610	92%	7
Pauig, Marilyne	MTCC Br. 1 Tuguegarao City	Keyboarding	656	48	608	91%	8
Polanco, Precious Joy	RTC Br. 155 Binan Laguna	Keyboarding	656	61	595	90%	9



(from left to right) Mr. Cesar C. Saloma (COSTRAPHIL National President), Hon. Assistant Court Administrator Ma. Regina Adoracion Filomena M. Ignacio (Supreme Court of the Philippines), Dr. Carlo Eugeni (Intersteno), Atty. Ria Corazon H. Berbano-Ablan from the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA), Ms. Deliza Ridoloso from Pacific Office Solutions, Ms. Dorothy "Othy" Obias (COSTRAPHIL, Vice President for NCJR) and Ms. Ronalyn Almarvez (COSTRAPHIL Executive Vice President)

Beyond the competition, the event reinforced the critical role of stenographers in judicial accuracy and efficiency. It fostered camaraderie, skill development, and professional growth within the COSTRAPHIL community.

COSTRAPHIL-Luzon Convention Caps Off Nationwide Series, Advancing Judicial Innovation Through SPJI

The **1st COSTRAPHIL-Luzon Regional Convention** is aligned with the Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations 2022–2027 (SPJI), the Supreme Court of the Philippines’ long-term reform program spearheaded by Hon. Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo. The SPJI emphasizes the modernization and integration of technology in the Philippine Judicial System, focusing on efficiency, innovation, and access to justice. It aims to ensure that the delivery of justice is timely, fair, transparent, accountable, equal, inclusive, and technology adaptive.

This Luzon convention marks the final instalment in this year’s series of COSTRAPHIL Regional Conventions, following the successful conduct of COSTRAPHIL NCJR in Baguio, COSTRAPHIL Visayas in Bohol, and COSTRAPHIL Mindanao in Siargao.

As the culminating event, it serves as a vital platform to consolidate insights, celebrate milestones, and reinforce the collective commitment to judicial excellence and innovation across the country.

The convention’s alignment with the SPJI sets a strong precedent for future Supreme Court initiatives, particularly in integrating innovation into court proceedings while reaffirming the indispensable role of court stenographers in ensuring accurate and reliable legal documentation.



Delegates of the COSTRAPHIL-Luzon Regional Convention

One week in the Philippines

By Carlo Eugeni

From May 19 to 28, I was invited by the Intersteno delegation of the Philippines to attend the 1st Luzon Convention of Court Reporters, held in Tagaytay on May 22 and 23. The event, as well as my agenda, was organized by the Philippine delegate Cesar Saloma and Deliza Ridoloso, whom many of us met and appreciated in Katowice during the 54th Intersteno Congress.

After a 28-hour journey departing from Rome at 20:30 on May 19, I landed in Manila at 00:30 on May 21. I was warmly welcomed and brought to the Rizal Park Hotel by four delegates from the Association of Court Reporters of the Philippines (Costraphil), led by Cesar.



That same afternoon, I met with the Supreme Court's Assistant Administrator Gina Ignacio and the Chief Justice of the Philippines, the Honorable Alexander Gesmundo, in his office. I introduced him to Intersteno and our activities. As he is about to implement a three-year technological reform introducing Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) into the court reporting system—while still involving stenographers—he expressed strong support for the Philippine delegation's involvement in Intersteno, because he sees Intersteno membership as highly valuable and aligned with the interests of the Philippine judiciary system. He also presented me with an institutional gift and granted me diplomatic status during my stay—this meant having a driver, a bodyguard, and two police agents, which increased to four when traveling outside the capital!

The next day, we traveled to Tagaytay, about two hours from Manila, for the conference. I delivered one of the opening speeches and was honored with a Barong Tagalog (the traditional formal shirt for men), a welcome lei, and a plaque of appreciation for being the first international visitor ever to attend a Costraphil event. I also had the joy (and exercise!) of taking a photo with each of the 1,432 delegates in attendance!



On the second day of the conference, I delivered a 75-minute talk on the idea of a Universal Report. This concept proposes that professionals use ASR technology to produce not only quick, flexible, and accurate transcripts, but also ones that ensure accessibility for all users: including deaf and blind individuals, people with intellectual disabilities, second-language speakers, migrants, and those with low literacy skills. The convention also featured a variety of events—dancing, talent showcases, a shorthand contest, and even a pajama party, for which Deliza Ridoloso, the first Philippine competitor at an Intersteno World Championship Christian Dabeh Clerigo, and I were invited to judge the winners!



On Monday, May 26, I visited the Hall of Justice in Manila, where I met the director and was allowed to observe a courtroom trial. This gave me the opportunity to see firsthand how court stenographers work in the Philippines.



However, my week in the Philippines wasn't only about international meetings, conferences, and institutional visits. What touched me most—and what I will carry in my heart—is the deep love and passion that people here bring to everything they do. I was invited to a welcome dinner at the delegates' resort in Tagaytay, where I enjoyed an array of incredible homemade traditional dishes.



I attended a family lunch in San Pablo for the wedding anniversary of Dabeh's parents, where I met his entire family.



I visited a traditional healer, the *albularyo*, who speaks only Tagalog but reads everyone's minds, hearts, souls, and bodies.



I joined a boat trip in Little Boracay, had a delicious seafood lunch on a houseboat, kayaked to a neighboring beach, and survived flipping over and plunging into the water fully dressed with my hat and glasses still on!



Despite the rain, I climbed all 1,000 steps to the top of a hill with a breathtaking view of the seven lakes that define the San Pablo region. I also manually pulled a flatboat across a lake using a rope stretched from shore to shore, and dove into the highest lake—from a boat, from a tire hanging from

a tree branch, and even from a 10-meter-high board. While in the scope of the SWAT team's rifles!



I was dedicated a song by multi-talented Dabeh while I was busy chasing huge butterflies, I desperately took my chances singing at a karaoke night, tried, and was moved to hear “Bella Ciao” sung in Italian by a traditional trio at a beautiful colonial-style restaurant in Manila.



I finished my stay with an aperitif on the rooftop of a Manila building with a view of the bay and the city skyline, after a guided tour of *Intramuros* (Spanish for “within the walls”, or city centre) and an enriching visit to the Museums, with inspiring stories of the national heroes.



The stories are endless, and I'll be happy to share them with you all the next time we meet. For now, a very warm welcome to the Philippine delegation to our Intersteno family. We will all mutually benefit from your membership. I look forward to seeing you again in Argentina!



Patrick Kinna, Winston Churchill's Shorthand Writer during World War II

By Marcela Beatriz Kobe (Tucumán, Argentina)

A story taken from my book: "SHORTHAND. Origins, stories, personalities, writers, and present".

Patrick Francis Kinna (1913-2009) was Winston Churchill's shorthand writer during World War II, from 1941 to 1945. As Winston Churchill's secretary and assistant Kinna often found himself at the center of events during World War II.



How did it all begin?

The Kinna family had served in the military for generations but Patrick, short in stature and not suited to following his four older brothers into the army, believed he had a career as a journalist; with that intention, he enrolled in secretarial school to acquire shorthand and typing skills. Later he won the English Championship for shorthand speed.

Patrick Kinna was the confidential secretary to the Duke of Windsor during his service with the British military mission in France.

Beginning of the war. "A very sad and tragic story"

Upon his return to England, he was offered the job of Winston Churchill's stenographer –he had been recommended by the Duke of Windsor's staff–. The group of clerks and typists worked in shifts around the clock while Churchill frequently dictated telegrams and memorandums in the middle of the night. After two days, the green light went on indicating that a stenographer was needed, and that's when Kinna walked into Churchill's office for the first time. Churchill paced back and forth and said: "This is a very sad and tragic story." Patrick replied: "Oh! I'm so sorry!" And Churchill began to dictate.

Kinna's competence impressed Churchill

Kinna's competence soon impressed Churchill, and he often asked for him when he urgently needed something typed. Kinna typed so quickly on the typewriter that keys would often get hung up, so he acquired a special portable typewriter with lubricated keys, which he took with him on all his trips abroad. Women were not allowed to go on missions abroad –it was considered too dangerous–, for this reason he replaced the secretary and stenographer Kathleen Hill.

An unusual place to type

Kinna became accustomed to staying in the White House and the Kremlin, and meeting with most of the Allied heads of State. It was while he was in the White House that he would listen to Churchill dictating in the bathroom –Churchill's favorite place for composing–; Churchill would disappear underwater, reappear, and produce the next sentence of his argument.

Patrick also remembered having to take dictation in the tiny bathroom at Chartwell (Churchill's country house) while Churchill bobbed up and down in the tub. The only place to sit was on the toilet seat, balancing his trusty laptop on his knees.

Kinna meets the heads of the allied States

During this time, Kinna met Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Josip Tito, and Marshal Joseph Stalin. Kinna was also present at the Yalta Conference, and briefly he summarized the Yalta Agreement. The Yalta Conference was the meeting held before the end of World War II (February 4–11, 1945) by Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt. It took place at the former Livadia Palace in Yalta, Crimea. It is often considered the beginning of the Cold War.

While in London, Kinna lived in the bunker and attended many of the meetings of the Defense Chiefs, some of whom he came to know well. When the War Rooms were about to open to the public, Patrick was interviewed there by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) and found the name cards of those present still on the table.

Patrick Kinna (first on left). Winston Churchill, Averill Harriman (The American Representative of Roosevelt), and Stalin



Farewell

After the election that overthrew Churchill, Kinna was summoned to the Cabinet Room to say goodbye. Churchill recalled all the travel they had done and commented that now, although he had won the war for the people of Britain, they no longer wanted him; tears streamed down their faces. Churchill asked Kinna to remain on his staff in Opposition – Churchill was the leader of the Opposition party – but he was so exhausted by the long hours, incessant travel, and late nights; it had been four years without a break. They kept in touch and always exchanged letters on their birthdays. At the end of the war, Kinna was awarded the MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).

After the war

After the war, Kinna worked as Ernest Bevin's secretary, Foreign Secretary in the Labour government. In the early 1950s, Patrick joined the Montague Meyer timber company and became personnel manager. He later lived in happy retirement with his sister Gladys. He was also a great collaborator for many wartime writers, especially Martin Gilbert, Churchill's official biographer, and for the archivist at The Churchill Archives Centre, where a large amount of his memorabilia is held.



The Türkiye Ihsan Yener Typing Championship celebrated it's 20th anniversary

By Emrah Kuyumcu

The Türkiye Ihsan Yener Typing Championship, organized by the INTERSTENO Turkish Group FEBIDER since 2006, was organized for the **20th time this year** and all competitions were completed between March 10 and April 18, 2025.

It was completed with **402 competitors from 48 provinces out of 81 across Türkiye**, and under the supervision of **117 teachers from 100 schools/institutions**. It is the most comprehensive and widely participated competition in Türkiye for 20 years. And also, it is the only national typing competition supported by the **Ministry of National Education in Türkiye** so far.

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www.interstenoturk.org

2025 TÜRKİYE İHSAN YENER KLAVYE ŞAMPİYONASI

The final result lists were announced in a total of 8 categories, including two main categories, native language and multilingual, and 4 age categories in each. 2025 Türkiye Ihsan Yener Keyboard Championship, which encourages computer users of all ages to work with **touch-typing**, with scientific and more efficient methods of the **Turkish National Keyboard Layout (F-Keyboard)**, was completed by writing 10-minute texts as quickly and as accurate as possible.

The names of our competitors who won medals by ranking in the top 3 in each category across Türkiye are as follows.

Turkish Mother Tongue Competition – In the 13–16-Year-Old Students Category:

1. **Türkiye Champion: Mustafa Tetik** from Ankara Sincan Ahmet Andıçen Trade Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School, with 81 words per minute,
2. **Second Place: Yiğit Tokmak** from Antalya Nazime Baki Saatçioğlu Trade Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School, with 66 words per minute,
3. **Third Place: Ahmet Furkan Yiğit** from Kütahya Gediz ŞHG Trade Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School, with 64 words per minute,

Turkish Mother Tongue Competition – In the 17–20-Year-Old Juniors Category:

1. **Türkiye Champion: Efe Turan Çelik** from Istanbul Tuzla Ahmet Yesevi Anatolian High School, with 94 words per minute,
2. **Second Place: Ali Sait Sumar** from Ankara Suzan Mehmet Gönç Trade Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School, with 85 words per minute,
3. **Third Place: Yasin Duman** from Ankara Suzan Mehmet Gönç Trade Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School, with 79 words per minute,

Turkish Mother Tongue Competition – In the Over 20-Year-Old Seniors Category:

1. **Türkiye Champion: Ümit Şeker** from Izmir Şimşekler General Ship Chandlers Inc., with 123 words per minute,
2. **Second Place: Arif Altuntaş** from Istanbul Intersteno-Türk FEBIDER, with 117 words per minute,
3. **Third Place: Mehmet Sertaç Ayhan** from Istanbul Intersteno-Türk FEBIDER, with 110 words per minute,

Multilingual Competition – In the 13–16-Year-Old Students Category:

1. **Türkiye Champion: Kaan Koca** from Zonguldak Çaycuma Mehmet Akif Ersoy Trade Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School, with a total of 7,016 points in 2 languages,

Multilingual Competition – In the Over 20-Year-Old Seniors Category:

1. **Türkiye Champion: Ali Koç** from Osmaniye T Type Penitentiary Institution No.1, with a total of 47,845 points in 18 languages,
2. **Second Place: Ümit Şeker** from Izmir Şimşekler General Ship Chandlers Inc., with a total of 44,817 points in 17 languages,
3. **Third Place: Erkan İlkay** from Tokat Intersteno-Türk FEBIDER, with a total of 26,820 points in 13 languages.

We congratulate all students and individual participants who participated in the competitions; we would like to express our gratitude to teachers and executives who trained them for their successful participation, and especially their contributions to popularize the scientific use of the F-Keyboard in touch-typing education across Türkiye.

You can access the final results lists of the 2025 Türkiye Ihsan Yener Typing Championship via the link below:

<https://www.interstenoturk.org/2025-turkiye-ihsan-yener-klavye-sampiyonasi/yaris-sonuclari/>

Beyond the 20th year of the national typing competitions in Türkiye

Although the Türkiye Ihsan Yener Typing Championship celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2025, it is actually the online-only version as the recent milestone of **a long history of 77 years** in the official national typing competitions in Türkiye.

In 1946, at early days of **Ihsan Yener** as a typewriting teacher at Sultanahmet Trade High School in Istanbul, **first he started to organise Istanbul Typing Championships in 1946 and 1947**. Then he also started to prepare in order to organise a Türkiye Typing Championship for the next years. Thus, the first national typing competition was organised by Ihsan Yener in Istanbul on May 18, 1948, with the participation of **44 competitors**; thanks to his huge personal efforts and also support of official

authorities. A detailed story of how the first national competitions were organised can be seen at: <https://www.interstenoturk.org/1946-turkiye/>

HER SENE KENDİ
REKORUNU KIRAN

ECE ALPAY DOKUZ SENEDİR DAKTILO ŞAMPİYONU

Dünya daktilo sürat şampiyonu Hasfield dakikada 138 kelimeyi daktilo maratonunda çıkartarak öyle şampiyon olmuş. Ece Alpay da 1955 Türkiye Daktilo Yarışmalarına hazırlanmak üzere yaptığı denemelerde 185 kelimeye kadar yükselmiş fakat müsabakalarda 18 kelimesi yanlış yazıldığından dakikada 122 kelimeyle yeniden Türkiye şampiyonu ilân edilmiştir.

5 yazı makinesi ve 9 kupa...

İşte 9 yıldır yazı makinesi kullanan ve bu zaman zarfında 9 defa Türkiye'nin en süratli yazanı seçilen Ece Alpay Özbayrak'ın mükâfatları... Bunlara küçük kardeşi Erol Alpay'ın kazandıkları da ilâve edilince aile koleksiyonundaki kupa-
paların sayısı 16 oluyor.

Ece Alpay 1946 senesinde Ticaret Lisesine başladığı zaman 14 yaşında daktiloya başlamış. Süratli daktilo yazmanın ailesinde müşterek bir kabiliyet olduğunu söylüyor. Buna inanmak lazım. Çünkü 9 yıldır kendisi şampiyon, bunun beş yılında erkek kardeşi hep ikinci olarak onu takip etmiş. Ayrıca bir yıl da diğer iki kız kardeşiyle birlikte birincilikten üçüncülüğe kadar bütün dereceleri paylaşmışlar.

23 yaşındaki Ece Alpay 1955 şampiyonluğunu kazanmasına rağmen daktilo antrenmanlarına eşi Bülent Özbayrak'ın nezaretinde devam ediyor. Niyeti, inkân bulursa milletlerarası daktilografi yarışmasına iştirak etmek. Kendisine sorulduğu zaman, "Bir dünya şampiyonluğu kazanmadan daktilografi müsabakasını terketmeyeceğim," cevabını veriyor.

Fakat asıl gayesi gelecek yıl Türkiye'de ilk defa yapılması kararlaştırılan ve "Daktilo Maratonu," diye isimlendirilen yarışmaya



9 senedir şampiyonluğu kazanan Ece Alpay müsabakalara emekdar makinesiyle girmeyi tercih eder..

iştirak eden daktilolar hiç durmamacasına bir buçuk saat yazı yazacaklar. Yazılardan yanlış kelimeler çıkartıldıktan sonra kalan kelime sayısı dakikalara bölünerek sürat şampiyonu gene bir dakika üzerinden tesbit edilecek.

Esasen bu senenin dünya daktilo sürat şampiyonu Hasfield dakikada 138 kelimeyi daktilo maratonunda çıkartarak öyle şampiyon olmuş. Ece Alpay da 1955 Tür

kiye Daktilo Yarışlarına hazırlanmak üzere yaptığı denemelerde 135 kelimeye kadar yükselmiş fakat müsabakalarda 13 kelimesi yanlış yazıldığından dakikada 122 kelimeyle Türkiye şampiyonu ilân edilmiş.

Ece Alpay'ın 9 yıl evvel 14 yaşındaki Türkiye rekoru olan dakikada 100 kelimeye kadar yükselmiştir. Şampiyon el ve kol adalelerini

mümkün olduğu kadar yumuşak tutmak için devamlı olarak piyano da çalıyor. Şampiyona antrenmanlarında biraz sert olan adalelerini gevşetmek için yılını giyinmesi ve perhize girmesi elzem oluyormuş. Şampiyona günü yoğurttan başka bir şey yemezmiş. Yazarken karnının dolu olmayışının ve müzik dinlemesinin sürat kazanmakta tesiri oluyormuş.

An interview with Ece Özbayrak (formerly Ece Alpay) from Hürriyet Newspaper, June 5th, 1955.

Ece Özbayrak (formerly Ece Alpay) had been the first Türkiye Typing Champion in 1948, and also kept this title for more than a decade. She had become a legendary competitor who was one of the first students of Mr. Yener, because she also won "the World Typing Champion" title of Türkiye in 1965 for the first time, at the 26th Intersteno Congress, Paris.

Since then, the Türkiye Typing Championships have been organised every year in May in Istanbul, by Mr. Yener with the assistance of teachers and students he trained. Since the Turkish National Keyboard Layout (F-Keyboard) was invented by Mr. Yener in 1955, he also joined Intersteno Federation in 1957 as the beginning of Intersteno Turkish Group, and his students began to compete in the world championships. Also starting from 1956, the "Typewriting Competitions Regulations" prepared by the International Federation of Stenography and Typewriting (Intersteno) began to be implemented in the Turkish national championships.

In 1992, the Türkiye Typing Championship was organised also as an international competition with the participation of other countries. This was also a demonstration for the 40th Intersteno Congress and world championships, which were held in Istanbul in 1993.

From the 1960s, all the Türkiye Typing Championships were organised in Istanbul by **FEBIDER** (formerly “Şampiyon Courses Graduates and Members Solidarity Association”) with the leadership of Mr. Yener. Besides this, the main supporter and financial sponsor was “**Şampiyon Courses**”, which was the private course centre for the F-Keyboard training owned by Mr. Yener. Income from social events for students was donated to FEBIDER regularly. And Şampiyon’s senior teachers were also in the organisation committees of FEBIDER, especially for the national championships and for training competitors for the Intersteno Congresses.

However, national competitions could not be organised regularly in the late 1990s, because of financial problems, which especially the Şampiyon Course Centre had. Sponsorships and participation for the Intersteno Congresses were also affected by that. It was the end of an era of national championships, which were organised in person, physical gatherings.

In 2003, thanks to the Intersteno Federation and the Intersteno Italian Group’s initiatives, a new online competition type was introduced to the international community: **TAKI**. Mr. Yener and the Intersteno Turkish Group worked closely with **Marco Olivo**, the developer of TAKI, and especially with **Gian Paolo Trivulzio** either for the spreading of the Intersteno Internet Contest and also for adopting TAKI for a new type of Turkish national competitions. Thus, as a new era starting from 2006, the **Turkish Internet Typing Championships** started to be organised across the country by FEBIDER, with the leadership of Mr. Yener.



Ihsan Yener at the prize-giving ceremony of the 2006 Turkish Online Typing Championship, at Şampiyon Course Centre, Istanbul.

Participations to the Türkiye Ihsan Yener Typing Championships in 20 Years:

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
255	137	298	280	395	495	599	655	509	802	845	867	1152	788	907	187	277	280	45	402

Since Mr. Yener passed away on September 2nd, 2016, FEBIDER Board, in the name of **Intersteno Turkish Group**, had a decision with its all-members' approval, to change the name of the competition as "**Türkiye Ihsan Yener Typing Championship**", starting from 2017.



Open Interland Championship Netherlands, Friday, June 13, 2025

By Joeke Spierings

The National Group Interinfo Netherlands has organized the Open International Championship, thanks to the sponsors Arbor Media and the Central Bureau for Typing Skills on Friday, June 13, 2025, at the fantastic location of Hotel Babylon in The Hague.



In addition to 11 Dutch participants, we were also able to welcome three Belgian participants.

Interinfo Groep Nederland was very pleased to use the Intersteno International program (TAKI software) for this championship.

At the Open International Championship, two texts are offered that are typed individually: the best result counts. A favorite event is the relay: a team of three participants that types one text together for 200 seconds per team member. The public is also very welcome to cheer on this event.



After the competitions, there was a lovely lunch. Subsequently, the participants and their supervisors headed to the nearby building of the House of Representatives where Anneke Faaij-Nulle conducted an interesting tour.

The festive award ceremony took place afterwards in the House of Representatives. This is also a very special location to organize an award ceremony.

Thanks to this championship, Interinfo Group Netherlands is establishing itself on the map. The enthusiasm of the participants shows that this should become an annual event.

Results

	cpm	mistakes	points	ranking
Wendy Lempers	634	6	6042	1
Daphne Spoolder	581	12	5217	2
Terri van der Velden	549	7	5146	3





The participants, their supervisors, and the organization look back on a very successful day.



70th anniversary of the Korean Stenography Association

By Rian Schwarz-van Poppel

In the previous e-newsletter, we paid attention to the above joyful event. We received the following thank-you email from Ms. Son Sookja, along with beautiful photos. Not everyone will be able to meet the wish to celebrate the 100th anniversary together in 30 years, but it is a lovely thought!

‘Dear INTERSTENO friends!

Thank you very much for celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Korean Stenography Association.

The highlights of the March 25 event were Danny's congratulatory video, and a video of congratulatory letters from U.S. representative Virgene Koehler Biggers, Italian representative Francesco Marchionne, and Croatia representative Andrea Wawrzynek.

I'm sending you a picture together.

We hope to meet together when the Korean Stenography Association celebrates its 100th anniversary, and look forward to meeting you in Córdoba, Argentina’.

