

## Towards Excellence: Some Signposts for T & I Practitioners

### Suzan Piper

Freelance practitioner, Sydney

There are many paths to becoming a professional translator and/or translator in Australia. The focus of this talk is not about attaining formal training or accreditation but rather about becoming established and recognised as a professional practitioner.

As with other professionals establishing their practice, it is often the first five years that proves decisive. After graduating with the diploma, the degree or having gained that NAATI accreditation, what then? How does one sustain oneself as a T & I professional? Furthermore how does one grow strong and resilient as our industry, like so many others, undergoes profound transformation? How does one stand out from the crowd?

Suzan will indicate some signposts in the journey of T & I practitioners, offering her thoughts on business orientation, tools and networks to meet the changing demands of the T & I environment. She will also discuss how one might achieve a prestigious milestone in such a journey – the national AUSIT Excellence Award.



The AUSIT national awards for excellence were established in 2007. In 2009 awards were presented for excellence in translating, interpreting, being a role model for the industry, outstanding contribution to AUSIT, and outstanding contribution to indigenous interpreting. The next AUSIT Excellence Awards will be presented in 2011.

**Suzan PIPER** is a professional translator and interpreter. She established Wot Cross-culture in 1995 to offer Indonesia-related translation and interpreting, cultural consulting, research, writing and editing services. Her work is informed by decades of teaching Indonesian Studies on various Sydney university campuses. She currently teaches interpreting in Diploma and Advanced Diploma accreditation courses at the Sydney Institute, Petersham TAFE. In 2009 Suzan received the national AUSIT Award for Excellence in Translating.