



Presentation to the ISO-JTC1 SC36 plenary session
Montreal, March 2004

SEM@TICE

An AUF Research Group engaged in E-Semantics and E-Learning

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General framework

- ❑ AFU is a network of French Speaking Universities, created in Montreal (Canada) 1961,
- ❑ Since 1989 : AFU is a direct operator of the International Organization of the French Speaking Community (Organisation internationale de la Francophonie = OIF),
- ❑ It cooperates essentially with French Speaking Countries in Africa, the Arab World, South-East Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and Caribbean,
- ❑ It counts more than 430 affiliated members (among Public and private universities, Research centers or institutions, institutional networks, and administrative networks related with the academic context,
- ❑ More than 350 French studies departments and worldwide academic institutions = this sounds like a unique partnership network that AFU federates and animates throughout its 8 action and assistance programs,
- ❑ AFU has national and regional offices in more than 35 countries : a large scope field of action which it holds the major keys.



AFU Programs

Some of AFU action programs :

- ❑ RESEARCH within the framework of the “Academic French Speaking Fund for Research = *Fonds francophone universitaire de la Recherche*”,
- ❑ TEACHING & TRAINING within the frame of “Academic French Speaking Fund for Training = *Fonds francophone universitaire de la Formation*”,
- ❑ ACADEMIC COOPERATION within the framework of “International Fund for Academic Cooperation = *Fonds internationale de Coopération universitaire*”,
- ❑ E-LEARNING within the frame of “French Speaking Virtual University = *Université virtuelle francophone*”.

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AFU & E-Learning : the symbiosis !

- ❑ Since Cotonou workshops, June 2001 (TEI, Unicode), E-Learning, Standards and E-Semantics became one of the strategic orientations in the AFU preoccupations,
- ❑ The scientific days at Versailles (France, April 2003) were the real starting point for AFU as a classified “A” Liaison structure to SC36,
- ❑ However, AFU has henceforth marked its experimental E-Learning field through several international action forms :
 - Training of trainers programs : AFU Transfer Workshops...
 - Certified E-Learning Trainings : UTICEF Diploma (conducted by an academic consortium between France, Belgium, Switzerland, Tunisia and Senegal) ...
 - Institutional Partnerships with Worldwide E-Learning structures (i.e. UVT : Tunisia ; IFI : Vietnam ...)

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E-Learning / AFU : North / South Partnerships

- ❑ The French Speaking academic instances have been thinking throughout AFU agenda to identify and promote E-Learning partnerships in many countries,
- ❑ These partners have thought about it and proposed their proper vision about the issue based on their respective needs and requirements for E-Learning,
- ❑ Many of them were not acquainted of technological evolutions in the field of standards neither were informed about actions proposed by JTC1,
- ❑ This did not prevent them from working on their own approaches,
- ❑ AFU has considered many of these experiences to be mature enough to call for a potential sharing experience with them on basis of a brainstorming on concepts,
- ❑ It has been observed throughout these contacts that it exists a strong tendency for linguistic and cultural assumptions to be treated as urgent issues in the partnership orientations,
- ❑ These results were among the benefits of April 2003 scientific days at Versailles.

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AFU / ISO : A liaison role (1)

- ❑ AFU would play the Influencer role to identify E-Learning segments to develop,
- ❑ AFU, as a liaison member of SC36, volunteers to explore this thematic and to report on facts, events and evolutions which it will come across in this field,
- ❑ These reports will be dealt with in meetings and discussions where concerned officials will be invited to talk about e-semantics themes and their associated tools, typically : Terminologies, Topic Map, Ontologies etc.
- ❑ AFU will remain neutral and will replicate ISO resolutions within the French speaking community,
- ❑ Debates will be held under auspices of AFU which proposes to play the liaison role among groups,
- ❑ However, AFU is volunteer to recommend and favor representation of member states within SC36, when it would be possible, with at least the status of Observer membership.,
- ❑ Among AFU major objectives in this liaison role :
 - *Help to respect deadlines within the ISO action program,*
 - *Involve regional partners as AFU official speakers in the limits of actions engaged,*
 - *Implement an AFU standardization consortium to involve partner states in the standardization process = a Convention for good standardization practices..*

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AFU / ISO : A liaison role (2)

- ❑ AFU will thus help reinforce the position of French-speaking countries excluded from the dominant current technological debates,
- ❑ This statement is fundamental when looking for standardization consensus in E-Learning. Even beyond e-semantics, it preserves preeminence of Public Goods for every thing related with fundamentals of knowledge, of Science and of ways to transmit and have access to knowledge,
- ❑ A potential market output which benefits would be so wide that no hindrances would prevent massive involvement of populations nowadays excluded from the world markets of modernity of science and knowledge,
- ❑ What would be Europe Nowadays (and particularly Germany) if there had not been immediately after the War a strong motivation for reconstruction !?)

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SEM@TICE : What's the heck ? (1)

- ❑ One of the concrete E-Learning-based AFU actions is the enhancement of the research action : SEM@TICE is then born,
- ❑ SEM@TICE is a French-speaking Research Group oriented towards : E-Learning / E-Semantics / Standardization,
- ❑ Its goal is to go beyond the mere idea to develop a work strategy. It is rather a matter of coming out with practical recommendations to present to concerned instances,
- ❑ SEM@TICE will not be an isolated or unique vis-à-vis to SC36. It has collaborative perspectives and interactions with other committees working in connected domains like documents tagging, terminology, and even standards for character codes codification,

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SEM@TICE : What's the heck ? (2)

- Some members SEM@TICE (i.e. L. Romary), are involved in other standardization sectors,
- SEM@TICE is precisely conceived to coordinate good standardization practices within a large universal academic network distributed over more than 55 countries,
- SEM@TICE also aims at constituting a knowledge patrimony with high level of reusable added values, and localization potentials,
- An action plan has already been proposed.



SEM@TICE : Major orientations

- Initiatives
- Liaisons
- Contributions
- Relationships



SEM@TICE : Main actions

- Put into perspective (3 to 5 years) a multilingual orientation of E-Learning constructions based on semantics,
- Get interested with Knowledge and concepts modeling and conceptualized concepts rather than with elaborating vocabulary lists. SC37 contribution will be highly requested,
- Describe the state-of-art of techniques which have real, direct, immediate or potential influence, to disseminate useful knowledge for scientific research and educational tools,
- Share action possibilities on a collaborative approach.



SEM@TICE : Action Program (1)

- Contribution to SC36 activities,
- Accompaniment of work on metadata Descriptors (ISO 11179) teaching and pedagogy, and contribution with an experimental partner languages metadata corpus,
- Application of ISO 16642 : multilingual terminologies,
- Feeding SC36 with automated terminology (White book action : SYNTAXE INRIA, AUF recommendations formatted into thematic reports),



SEM@TICE : Action Program (2)

- Contribution to TC37 repertoire : materials for linguistic description, methodology and recommendation 12620 Dcrs (contribution and intervention) – Languages Documentation,
- Pedagogical Experimentation e-semantics related with the academic environment,
- Liaison with WSIS via the Tunisian contribution,
- Watching international activities and initiatives in E-Learning domain : European Liaison Committee / UNESCO convention with AFU : Proposition of a descriptive synthesis.



That's All Folks

Thank You

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