

#ALCA2026

ALCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Theme

**TURNING CHANGE
INTO GROWTH IN THE
AGE OF AUTOMATION**



**27
&
28**

August
2026



ACCRA
GHANA

**AH HOTEL & CONFERENCE,
EAST LEGON, ACCRA, GHANA**

WELCOME!

We are excited to present the 3rd Annual Conference of the Association of Language Companies in Africa (ALCA), held under the theme: **Turning Change into Growth in the Age of Automation**. Join industry leaders from across Africa and beyond to explore how automation is reshaping language services and how it can deliver measurable business value.

ALCA was registered in Accra, Ghana, in August 2023. The inaugural 2024 ALCA Annual Conference was held virtually in August 2024. The second edition was held in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2025.

ABOUT ALCA

MISSION: To promote the growth of language services companies in Africa and facilitate knowledge sharing and best practices.

VISION: To contribute towards building a resilient and thriving language services sector in Africa.

Email: info@alca-association.org

Website: <https://alca-association.org/>

Want to join us? Visit <https://alca-association.org/become-a-member/>

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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TIME	[DAY 1] THURSDAY AUGUST 27, 2026
8:30 – 8:55 AM	Badge and Conference Merchandise Collection
9:00 – 10:15 AM	Opening Ceremony Cultural Performance Keynote Address Sponsor Remarks
10:15 – 10:45 AM	Coffee Break
10:45 – 11:30 AM	Session 1 Panel: The African Language Services Industry Report 2026 <i>Christian Elongué, Oumi K. Elkindy-Ferguson, Ady Namaran Coulibaly, Johan Botha</i>
11:35 – 12:20 PM	Session 2 Genuine Intelligence! The Answer to the Future in the Language Industry <i>Jen Jooste, RWS</i>
12:25 – 1:25 PM	Lunch Break
1:30 – 2:15 PM	Session 3 Beyond English-Centric AI: Scaling Inclusion Through Low-Resource Language Innovation <i>Kirti Vashee, Translated</i>
2:20 – 3:00 PM	Session 4 NLP and LLMs for African Languages: How Integration of African Languages in Large Language Models Expands Market Size and Opportunities <i>Matthias Kavuttih, Kingfisher Linguistics</i>
3:05 – 3:40 PM	Session 5 <i>Is AI Localisation Ready For Africa?</i> <i>Johan Botha, Folio Online</i>
3:45 – 4:15 PM	Session 6 Standardisation and Corpus Development as Foundation for African Languages Automation: The Case of Itón and Gumba <i>Roseline Fleur MBALLA, RoseM AfriTransl</i>
7:30 – 10:00 PM	Networking Dinner Jamrock Restaurant and Grill, University of Ghana, Legon

TIME	[DAY 2] FRIDAY AUGUST 28, 2026
8:30 – 8:55 AM	Arrival and Networking
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Session 7 Panel: Empowering the Language Workforce through Automation <i>Kenneth Perez Nielsen, Jen Jooste, Joaquín Soler Arias</i>
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Coffee Break
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Session 8 Panel/Demo: AI Terminology for African Languages <i>African Languages Lab & Partners</i>
11:35 – 12:05 PM	Session 9 From Translator to AI Trainer: Turning African Linguists into the Workforce of the Automated Future <i>Maliki Woudouwa, Barikawords</i>
12:10–12:40 PM	Session 10 Artificial Intelligence and Kiswahili: Positioning Africa’s Language Economy for Regional Economic Empowerment <i>Phibbian Muthama</i>
12:40 – 1:40 PM	Lunch Break
1:45 – 2:25 PM	Session 11 Scaling Menstrual Health in Africa Through AI-Powered Localization <i>Jade Augusto Gola, Clue App</i>
2:30 – 3:10 PM	Session 12 Building Future-Ready Language Professionals Through Collective Leadership <i>David-Living K.D. Asiam, Ghana Association of Translators and Interpreters (GATI)</i>
3:15 – 3:30 PM	Closing Remarks <i>ALCA Board</i>

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR OUR NETWORKING DINNER YET?

Join us at JamRock Restaurant & Grill, at the University of
Ghana, Legon, on Thursday 27 August

Time: 7:30 PM to 10 PM GMT

The culinary experience offers a vibrant and flavorful menu. It begins with a Mixed Garden Salad, Callaloo Spring Rolls, or Spicy Gizzards. For the main course, diners can enjoy Boston Jerk Chicken, Curry Chicken, or Crispy Breaded Fish Nuggets. Sides include Vegetable Jollof Rice, Coconut Rice n Peas, Crispy Yam Balls, and Fried Plantain, enhanced by Green Chili & Black Pepper Sauces. Desserts feature a Fruit Platter or Chocolate Brownie. This feast celebrates both taste and tradition.



**Scan the QR code
to register**



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As part of RWS Holdings, we combine cutting-edge technology with native expertise to deliver translation, interpreting, subtitling, and transcreation services across 26 countries.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER



PROF. ISAAC WIAFE

*PROFESSOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA*

Prof. Isaac Wiafe is a distinguished scholar whose pioneering research focuses on the intersection of technology and human behavior, particularly in the areas of virtual reality and persuasive technologies.

He is recognized for his innovative studies on how these technologies, designed to change attitudes or behaviors, can promote healthier lifestyles, enhance learning outcomes, and encourage sustainable practices. By leveraging immersive virtual environments and intelligent systems, he creates engaging experiences that drive meaningful behavioral changes.

His research extends to educational technology, where he explores IT solutions that improve access and adaptability in learning environments while fostering engagement and motivation.

His work in areas such as automatic speech recognition and knowledge-sharing platforms reflects a commitment to making digital spaces more inclusive and effective.

SPEAKER PROFILES



JEN JOOSTE

TALENT MANAGER,
RWS

Jen Jooste is a Talent Manager at RWS Africa, based in Cape Town, South Africa. In her role, she works with a diverse network of language vendors and professionals across Africa.

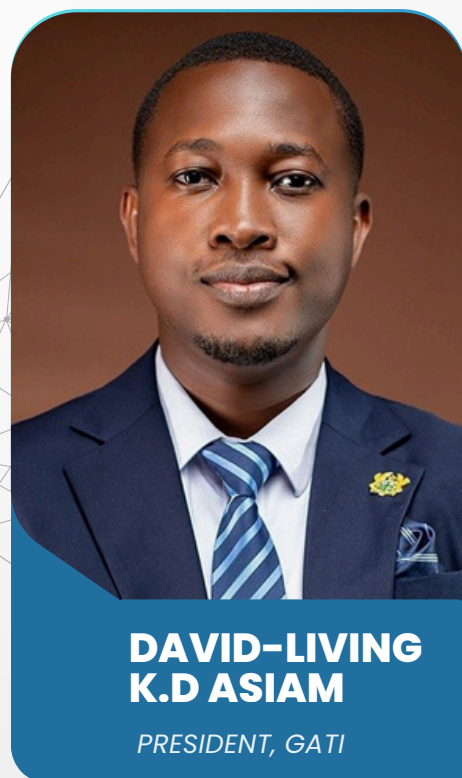
Her work gives her the opportunity to connect with people from different backgrounds and learn about their cultures, values and approaches to language. She takes particular pride in building meaningful professional relationships that contribute to successful projects.

For Jen, the human element is one of the most rewarding parts of working in the language industry. She enjoys the conversations, problem-solving and individuality of the people she works with, as well as the fast-paced and constantly changing nature of the industry.

David-Living Kofi Dzigbordi Asiam is a Ghanaian conference interpreter, translator, and language professional working in English and French. David-Living has provided conference interpreting services for regional and international institutions.

His areas of expertise include governance, regional integration, public health, trade, taxation, justice, sports administration and sustainable development. He also heads the Translation and Interpretation Directorate of Sopodiva Training Centre, a language consultancy firm based in Accra.

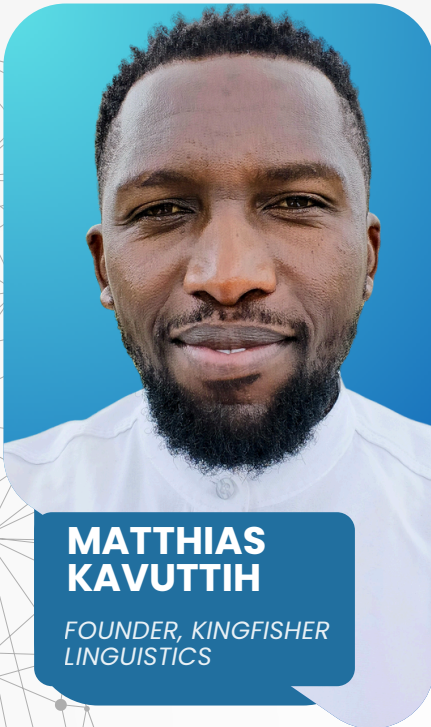
He currently serves as President of the Ghana Association of Translators and Interpreters (GATI), where he champions professional excellence, capacity development, ethical practice, and the strategic adoption of technology to strengthen Africa's language industry and foster collaboration among language professionals across the continent.



**DAVID-LIVING
K.D ASIAM**

PRESIDENT, GATI

SPEAKER PROFILES



**MATTHIAS
KAVUTTHI**

FOUNDER, KINGFISHER
LINGUISTICS

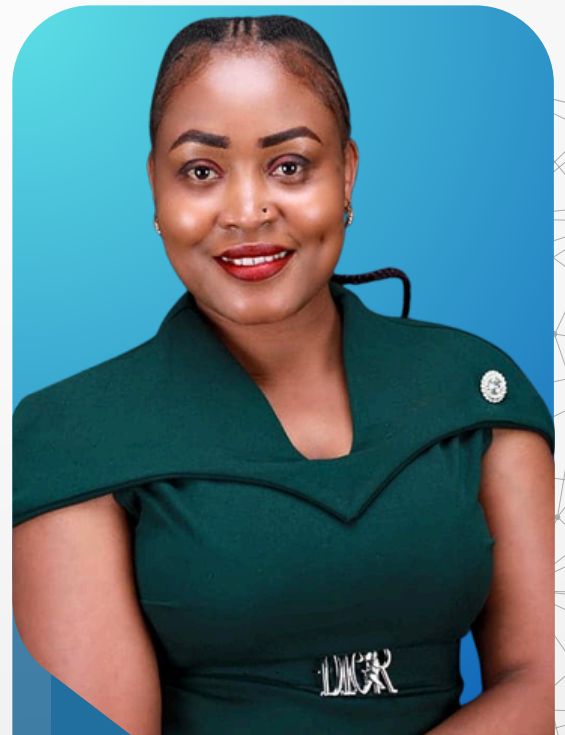
Matthias Kavutthi is the founder of Kingfisher Linguistics and an experienced Swahili translator. He holds a Master's Degree in Translation Studies and a Bachelor's in Education (Linguistics), both from the University of Nairobi. He has 13 years of experience in the fields of IT, Legal, Medical, Travel and Marketing, among others.

Matthias has positioned Kingfisher Linguistics as a go-to LSP for key East African languages across a range of fields."

As a member and former President of the East African Interpreters and Translators Association (EAITA), Matthias has attended and spoken in several EAITA and IAPTI conferences. He has contributed about 500,000 words of pro bono translations for Translators Without Borders (now Clear Global), towards providing information on tropical diseases.

Phibbian Muthama is a Kenyan linguist, English-Swahili conference interpreter, translator, and strategic communication specialist whose works advance multilingualism, intercultural dialogue, and regional integration across Africa. An active advocate for the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), she leverages linguistic precision to position the Swahili language as a vehicle for continental integration, trade, diplomacy, and the creative arts.

She is a certified interpreter with the National Swahili Council (BAKITA) and a Swahili tutor for foreign-language learners with MS-TCDC in Tanzania. She is also a TV host and scriptwriter for EDU TV|Radio at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), working on junior and senior school content. She is a published author and has also worked as an editor on the secondary-school set book *Mapambuzuko ya Machweo na Hadithi Nyingine* (2022-2026).



PHIBBIAN MUTHAMA

- SWAHILI LANGUAGE ADVOCATE AND TUTOR
- COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

SPEAKER PROFILES



JOHAN BOTHA

- *DIRECTOR, FOLIO ONLINE*
- *BOARD MEMBER, ALCA*

With over 20 years of experience in the language services industry, Johan Botha is an experienced manager, translator, and specialist in African language solutions. He leads operations and strategic initiatives at Folio Online and Folio InterTel, two of Africa's leading reputable language service providers delivering high-quality solutions to major global brands and organisations.

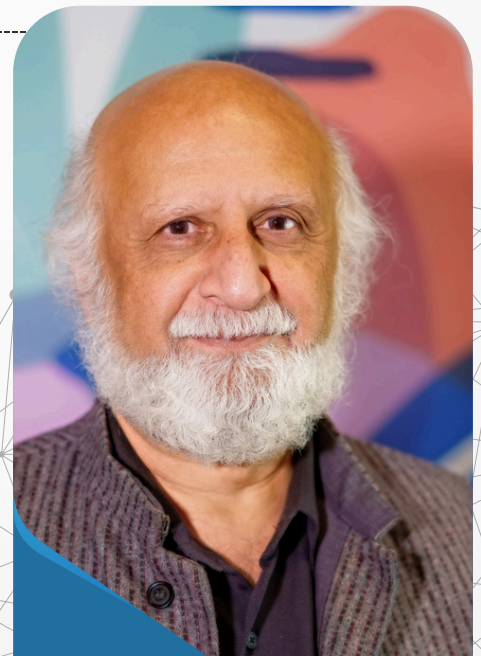
As Founding Board Member of ALCA, Johan established the continent's first umbrella organisation for localisation providers, focused on uniting and strengthening African language service companies.

Recognised as a 2025 Language Industry Influencer by MultiLingual magazine, he contributes actively to the global and African localisation communities as a member, speaker, and organiser of industry associations and initiatives.

Kirti Vashee is a Language Technology Evangelist at Translated Srl, and was previously an Independent Consultant focusing on MT and Translation Technology. He was formerly associated with several MT developers, including Language Weaver, RWS/SDL, Systran, and Asia Online.

He has long-term experience in the MT technology arena and prior to that worked for several software companies, including Lotus, OTG, Legato, & EMC. He is the moderator of the Automated Language Translation (MT) group with over 15,000 members on LinkedIn, a group that is consistently considered among the most active groups on LinkedIn, and is also a former board member of AMTA (American Machine Translation Association).

He is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Texas at Arlington, teaching a course on Language AI & MT.



KIRTI VASHEE

*LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY
EVANGELIST, TRANSLATED*

SPEAKER PROFILES



SHERIFF ISSAKA

AI RESEARCH LEAD, AFRICAN
LANGUAGES LAB

Sheriff Issaka is a PhD student at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he conducts state-of-the-art research at the Misinformation, AI & Responsible Society (MARS) Lab. His work focuses on critical areas in Natural Language Processing (NLP), including bias and fairness, low-resource languages, and multimodal models for enhanced language understanding.

As founder and lead researcher of the African Languages Lab (ALL Lab), Sheriff spearheads a global collaborative project that is revolutionizing NLP for African languages. This initiative creates comprehensive roadmaps, innovative methodologies, and open-source resources to democratize AI for underrepresented languages, addressing a critical gap in current language technologies.

Jade Augusto Gola has been the Senior Localization Manager at Clue since 2018 and leads the company's localization strategy. He oversees the expansion of Clue into new markets, managing the localization of the app, website and content across 27 languages, helping make Clue the world's most accessible menstrual and reproductive health app.

Working at the intersection of language, content, technology, and healthcare, Jade collaborates with product, engineering, design, medical, legal, and marketing teams to deliver culturally relevant, inclusive, and medically accurate experiences for millions of women and people with cycles worldwide.

His work includes developing localization processes, establishing linguistic standards and terminology, and ensuring that complex health information is adapted thoughtfully for diverse audiences.



JADE GOLA

SENIOR LOCALIZATION
MANAGER, CLUE

SPEAKER PROFILES



**ROSELINE FLEUR
MBALLA**

FOUNDER,
ROSEM AFRITRANSL

Roseline Fleur Mballa is an applied linguist, translator, educator, and language documentation researcher from Cameroon. Her work focuses on the documentation, standardisation and digital development of under-resourced Cameroonian languages, particularly Itón and Gumba.

She is involved in corpus development, orthography standardisation, and initiatives that support the integration of African languages into language technologies such as NLP and AI. In addition to her research activities, she works in teaching and professional translation.

Her interests include language preservation, multilingual communication, and the development of digital resources that enhance African languages visibility and sustainability in the digital age.

Ken operates from Copenhagen, Denmark, and has worked in the industry since Trados came on a dongle and before Google existed.

Ever since he was a small Viking in shorts, with considerably smaller horns on his helmet, he has heard that the translation industry has no future and that he should probably find something else to do. Yet here he is in 2026.

Unlike the real dinosaurs, he has adapted to the disruptive trends and recurring hypes that have always been part of the industry.

On the panel, Ken will share what he has learned and why he believes the human voice will remain essential in the age of automation.



**KENNETH PEREZ
NIELSEN**

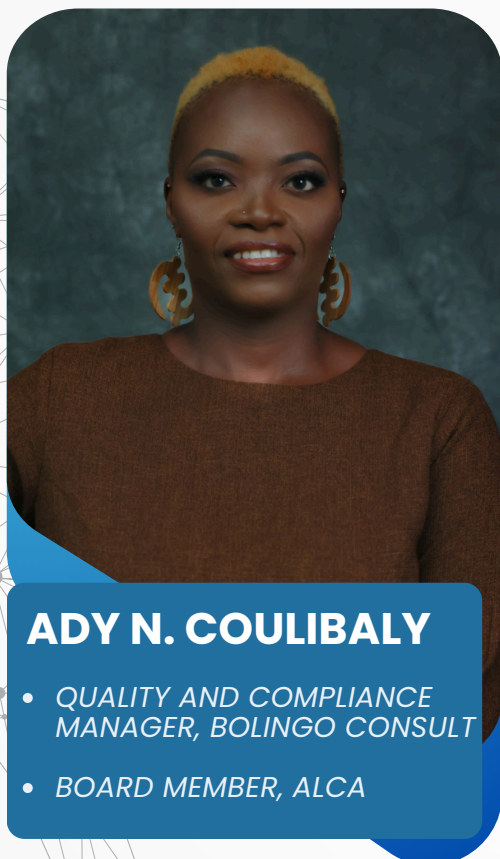
DANISH LANGUAGE EXPERT

SPEAKER PROFILES

Ady Namaran is Quality and Compliance Manager at Bolingo Consult, a language services company with offices in Ghana and Rwanda.

Ady considers herself an advocate for African languages and is the co-founder of the African Languages Conference (AFLC). She has been featured in the Nimdzi 2021 Localization Influencers Watchlist and in MultiLingual Media's list of 52 Women Driving the Language Services Industry in 2022.

As a Founding Board Member of ALCA, she is inspired and driven by the desire to see the language service industry in Africa thrive and become recognised within the global language sector.



ADY N. COULIBALY

- QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE MANAGER, BOLINGO CONSULT
- BOARD MEMBER, ALCA

Christian Elongué is the managing director of Kabod Localisation Services (KLS), an ISO-certified Language services provider based in Accra, Ghana. He has 11 years of experience as a translator in the tech, nonprofit and video game industries.

He founded the network of African Languages Translators and Teachers (ALATT) and the Marketplace of African Translators & Interpreters (MATI), both about 4,030 translators, interpreters, linguists from Africa. He is also a Founding Board Member of ALCA and the host of a podcast spotlighting localization and language technology initiatives in Africa. In February 2024, he was the only African featured in the MultiLingual Media's list of 34 Influencers driving the language services industry. In September 2024, he launched Afrolinguals, the first magazine with insights and resources for Africa's language services industry.



CHRISTIAN ELONGUÉ

- MANAGING DIRECTOR, KABOD LOCALISATION SERVICES (KLS)
- BOARD MEMBER, ALCA

SPEAKER PROFILES



**MALIKI
WOUDOUWA**

FOUNDER AND CEO,
BARIKAWORDS

Maliki Woudouwa is the Founder and CEO of BARIKAWORDS, a language services and AI data company based in Benin, West Africa, specializing in African endangered, low-resource, and minority languages. With a network of 400+ vetted native professional linguists spanning 30+ African countries and covering 100+ African languages, BARIKAWORDS builds the foundational language data infrastructure that keeps African languages alive in the digital world.

Maliki is a leading voice at the intersection of AI, linguistic equity, and community empowerment. He advocates for a fundamental shift in how the AI industry engages with African languages moving African linguists from the margins of the global knowledge economy to its center, not as data suppliers, but as co-architects of the AI systems that will shape their communities.

Joaquín Soler Arias is Vice President of Supply Chain and Procurement at RWS, where he leads the company's global network of external collaborators, vendors, and suppliers across language services, digital content, data solutions, and indirect procurement. Based in Madrid, Spain, he works closely with partners around the world to support the delivery of multilingual and data-driven solutions at global scale.

With an academic background in languages and business administration, Joaquín has built his career at the intersection of language, culture, technology, and international operations. He leads a diverse global team dedicated to understanding local market dynamics and connecting linguistic and cultural expertise with the evolving needs of content, data, and AI ecosystems.

Joaquín has a particular interest in collaborating with African language and data professionals, researchers, and institutions.



**Joaquín
Soler Arias**

VICE PRESIDENT OF
SUPPLY CHAIN AND
PROCUREMENT, RWS



\$100,000

to fund language technology innovators who share the goal of making it easier for everyone to understand and be understood by all others.

Find out more.





Sheriff Issaka (Founder and Head of Research)

Africa's Leading AI Company

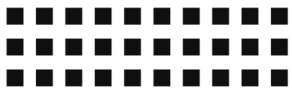
By Africans. For African Inclusion. To Power Global Technology



Africa's languages belong in the future of AI.

We build the infrastructure that brings African language intelligence into production, at scale, for the world. Language models, datasets, translation, and speech technologies, ready for enterprise.

LANGUAGES COVERED



30+

AFRICAN LANGUAGES

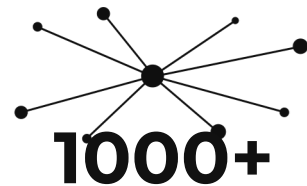
PLATFORM REACH



Phrase
Blackbird
Trados
XTM

ENTERPRISE INTEGRATIONS

ANNOTATOR NETWORK



EXPERT ANNOTATORS

SOLUTION 1



Mansa

Our flagship multimodal AI platform for African language translation and speech recognition. Integrated into leading language technology ecosystems including Phrase, Blackbird, Trados, and XTM.

SOLUTION 2



All Voices

Our multilingual data creation and annotation platform powering high-quality African language datasets and model performance at scale.

SOLUTION 3



Swarm Intelligence

Africa's largest curated expert annotation network, connecting global AI and enterprise needs with elite African academic, technical, and linguistic talent at scale.

RECOGNITION

- Winner LocWorld54 Process Innovation Challenge
- Masakanhe 2026 Grant Recipient
- **ALCA Rising Star Award 2025**
- and more

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Seamless Language Solutions Across Africa and Beyond

Boling Consult is a trusted language solutions partner, with offices in Ghana and Rwanda and a reach spanning Africa and international markets.

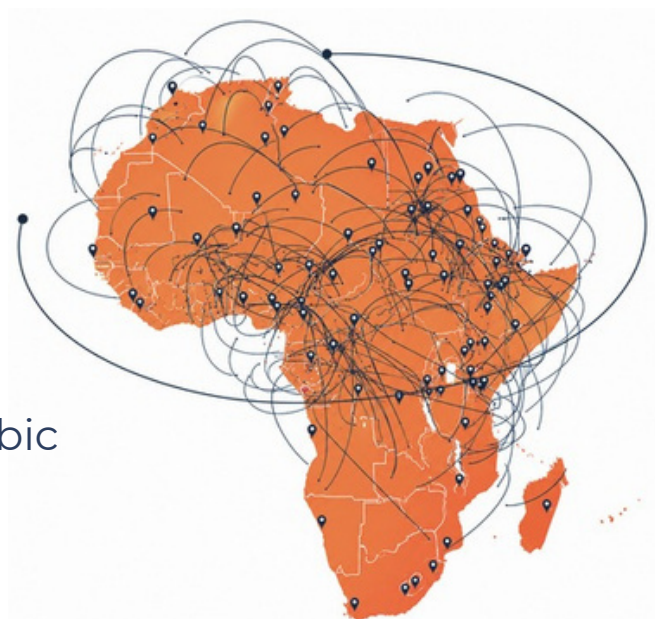
We help organizations communicate seamlessly across languages and cultures, reach wider audiences and make a greater impact.

Our experienced team, rigorous quality standards and deep cultural understanding underpin high-quality language solutions.

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We reach 50 000 readers across 100 countries, distribute a Weekly Digest to 16 000 subscribers, and engage 50 000 social media followers, delivering trusted, industry-focused coverage and insights.

Website

<https://www.multilingual.com>



The Ghana Association of Translators and Interpreters (GATI) is the national professional body representing and regulating translators and interpreters in Ghana.

Incorporated in 1992, it sets professional standards, provides a common forum for language professionals, and establishes minimum market rates for translation and interpretation services.

Website:

<https://gatigh.org/>

*ALCA's official launch in February 2024 in Kigali,
Rwanda*



*ALCA Annual Conference 2025 in Cape Town,
South Africa*

