The Orientation Day of the Master of Arts in Computer-aided Translation Programme took place on 13 October at the Li Koon Chun Hall. This year’s Orientation is more than a welcoming party for freshmen, it also represents a new beginning for the restructured programme since its inception. The programme has undergone several revisions to meet the needs of the society. The revised studying scheme and newly added courses provide more choices for students with different interests and backgrounds.

Apart from Year One and Year Two students of the programme, this Orientation was also attended by alumni and others who are interested in translation technology. The Orientation was divided into two parts: Translation Technology Seminar and Course Introduction. The first part started soon after the opening speeches by Professor Gilbert Fong (Department Chairman) and Professor Chan Sin-wai (Programme Director). The speaker of the seminar, Mr. George Lu (General Manager of SDL China), introduced the latest trend of translation software after the merging of TRADOS and SDL. In the second part, teachers of each course introduced their courses.

Through this orientation, students know more about the recent development of the programme. This enjoyable afternoon also provides a communication platform for students, teachers as well as those interested in this field.
The secret to the success of SDL and TRADOS is to be able to foresee what their clients need. Localization is one of the most recent global trends that comes along with the emergence of information delivery over the Web, such as product details, customer supports, sales, and promotion. The best way to achieve localization is through Global Information Management (GIM), a strategy of delivering content to international markets. The localization process and the life cycle of Global Information Management are illustrated in Figure 1 and 2 respectively.

Acknowledgement

The Department of Translation would like to thank SDL International for their generous donation of ten licenses of “SDLX Translation Suite – Professional Edition,” valued at more than HK$140,000. The software, which are installed in the computers of the Computer Room at the Humanities Building, are available to all the students of our department.

SDL International also gives their support to the Master of Arts in Computer-aided Translation Programme by offering “SDLX Translation Suite – Standard Edition” to CAT students who want to purchase it for personal use at a special price of US$99 (the original price is US$695).
Computer translation (or machine translation) is one of the oldest large-scale applications of computer science. Its objective is to translate one human language into another. In today’s increasingly networked world, the need for systems to translate documents to and from a variety of languages is expanding. Typical applications include multilingual e-mail, browsing World Wide Web texts in other languages, high-quality translation of business letters and reports, translation of technical documents and articles, and speech-to-speech translation for business and travel.

The aim of the course is to introduce various approaches to computer translation and the techniques required in the development of the systems. The approaches include the corpus-based approach, example-based approach, rule-based approach, knowledge-based approach, memory-based approach, pattern-based approach, probability-based approach, statistical approaches, and statistics-based approach. Students learn to analyze the performance of the systems through a comparative study of the various approaches.
Dr. Tom McArthur has been a Distinguished Visiting Professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong and at Xiamen University, Fujian, China. He is the creator of the best-selling *Oxford Guide to World English* (2003) and the *Oxford Companion to the English Language* (1992, Concise 1998, Abridged 1996). He edits the quarterly journal *English Today* (Cambridge University Press). Other works include *The Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English* (1981) and *The English Languages* (Cambridge, 1998). In the 1980s, he broadcast regularly for BBC English (World Service), notably in “The Story of English,” a worldwide series, with David Crystal. He has an M.A. in English from Glasgow University, and a Diploma, M.Litt., and Ph.D. in Linguistics from Edinburgh University. He has been an education officer in the British Army, Head of English at Cathedral School in Bombay, India, an Associate Professor of English at the Université du Québec, Canada, and Deputy Director of the Dictionary Research Centre, the University of Exeter, England.

Dr. McArthur teaches “Bilingual Lexicography” for this Programme.

Following the renovation of the Computer Room, our software inventory of over 130 items has also been re-organized. Based on the software details such as production year, language, and category, we have reconstructed the database with enriched information for each software.

We have also built an online search engine, CAT Software Search (CATSS), to facilitate easy searching and locating of various software in our database. Using this system, students can easily retrieve the information of the software they want through the Internet. Recent acquisitions include SDLX Translation Suite (Professional Edition), TRADOS 7.0, and Dr. Eye 6.0 Professional.