

The AFMLTA has pleasure in announcing the success of our nomination of Professor Joseph Lo Bianco for the FIPLV International Award in recognition of exceptional and outstanding contributions to language teaching, learning and research in Australia and internationally over an extended period, that has influenced the pattern and quality of language teaching and learning in sustained and significant ways. Joe is internationally renowned for his contribution to the field of Language Policy and Languages Education. His vision in authorship of the 1987 National Policy on Languages, in which he developed a bipartisan national plan for English, Indigenous, Asian and European languages, and Interpreting and Translating services, has guided Australian policy over the subsequent decades, and is used worldwide as a model for Languages planning. He continues to be a highly respected, influential and prolific contributor to debate, policy and international initiatives that shape languages policy and education worldwide. Recent examples are work on the 20 year strategy on Irish for the Irish government; bilingual education and reconciliation in Sri Lanka; the extensive work in SE Asia on multilingualism and social cohesion for UNICEF, especially in Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar; academic advice on foreign languages and minority languages to the State Language Commission of China; advisor to the EC project on Languages in Urban Communities for 12 European cities and towns grappling with major issues of language diversity, migration and refugee intakes. Joe was the first educator elected to the Australian Academy of the Humanities and in 2015 his work in SE Asia was featured as a leading case study of the Power of the Humanities to shape society, under the title "Using Language to Build Peace in Australia's Region". He was a member of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO for ten years. His involvement in language policy development and advocacy work, especially in promoting multi and plurilingualism, continues to be outstanding. He has been a willing and frequent collaborator with AFMLTA and affiliated MLTAs, always prepared to share his expertise with colleagues, and to mentor scores of Languages teachers, researchers and administrators.