

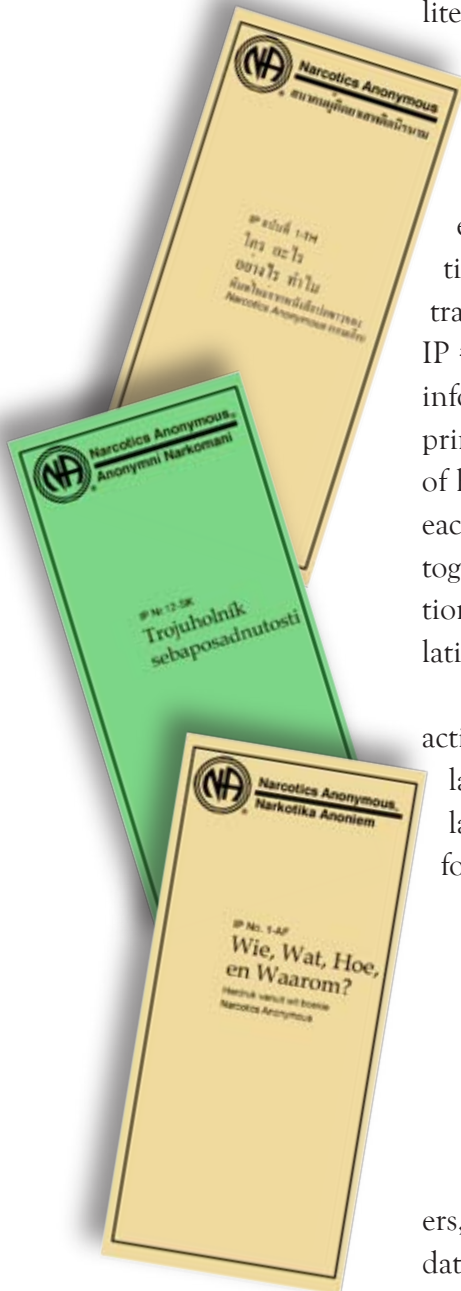
# Translations and Fellowship Development

As of 2007, NA speaks sixty-five languages. Of those sixty-five, literature and keytags have been produced in thirty-five. It's a wonderful thing to have a minimum of one piece of literature available to addicts of that many language groups, and we are striving to complete as many more translations projects as possible. The process begins within each language group, when enough members are able to pull together and form a translations committee. One of the first important steps for each new translations committee is to arrive at a satisfactory translations of IP #1, *Who, What, How, and Why*. The language in that particular information pamphlet is crucial, as it contains the fundamental principles that make up the NA philosophy. Part of the importance of having local committees work through this on their own is that each NA community will then need to approach those core ideas together as a group. NAWS staff and a board-appointed translations evaluation group go to great lengths to ensure that each translation, IP #1 and beyond, maintains NA philosophy.

Of the nearly 300 translation projects in the queue, we are actively working on almost eighty projects in more than forty languages. In the last year, a total of fifty-five products in other languages became available for distribution, including in the following languages:

Afrikaans	Arabic	Brazilian	Castilian
Farsi	French	German	Hebrew
Hindi	Icelandic	Italian	Japanese
Lithuanian	Norwegian	Russian	Slovak
Spanish	Swahili	Swedish	Thai

A few notable projects were completed this fiscal year. For starters, IP #1 has been translated into Thai. This establishes a foundation that makes it possible for Thai translations committees to work on further projects. A revised version of the Basic Text in Russian was published this year, marking progress for the Russians





as they have decided on a word for “addict” upon which they can all agree. Additionally, the White Booklet was translated into Hindi this year, and the *Sponsorship* book into German, among many other projects completed.

A few translations pieces to look forward to in the coming year include: *Sponsorship* in French and Brazilian; the *Introductory Guide* in Arabic; the Basic Text and White Booklet in Turkish; *Just for Today* in Japanese, Swedish, and Russian; and *The NA Step Working Guides* in Portuguese.

## Translations Workshop – Nepal

We held one major translations workshop during the course of this fiscal year, in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Forum in Nepal. Over eighty members, including twelve representatives from the six area LTC subcommittees of Nepal, participated in the workshop. These members came from a total of seventeen communities, representing fourteen different literature translation committees. In the course of the past year, these committees were collectively responsible for completing more than fifty translations of information pamphlets.

The translations workshops began with a panel of speakers who shared about their experiences as LTC members, followed by Q&A, and, finally, workshops that consisted of both small- and large-group exercises. As a large group, participants discussed the idea of conceptual fidelity in translations, using fictitious examples of simple translation mistakes that can dramatically change meanings of sentences or phrases. In small groups, members had a chance to discuss ways to solve common LTC problem scenarios using principles of the steps, traditions, and concepts.

## Translations and PR

A recent development in India highlighted the importance of literature translation to good public relations. An Indian state upheld the local language as the state’s official language, requiring schools to teach only in that language and official proceedings, such as court proceedings, to take place in only that language. At the time, local members hadn’t yet translated any NA literature into that language.

At the Indian regional committee meeting in February 2007, NAWS was present for a discussion about the need for proactive translations efforts. Approved translations, rather than no translations or pieces marked “draft,” can enhance our credibility among both newcomers and those who might refer addicts to us. In the months that followed, several translations efforts sprang up in India, and another translation project has been completed. This sort of energy will go a long way in enhancing NA’s public image.

