

Japanese Language Division

Candidate for Administrator: Richard Mott

I am very happy to accept the nomination for Administrator of the Japanese Language Division for the next two years.

I am still a relative newcomer to the ATA, but in my previous two years as Assistant Administrator, I have come to learn a great deal about multiple aspects of translation and interpretation. I have met many ATA members both in the JLD and in other language divisions, and last year I had the opportunity to participate in the first East-Asian language panel between the Chinese, Korean, and Japanese Language Divisions at the ATA Conference in New Orleans. In addition, I have also been able to work with the JLD conference planning committee for the past two ATA conferences, and I look forward to continuing to do so.

My primary background is in science and engineering, and in addition to translating, I work for a large multinational consumer products company as a research engineer in product development. I find the balance between the world of conventional corporate employment and that of being an independent freelance translator allows a perspective sometimes useful to both sides. And as a result, in my past two years as Assistant Administrator, where possible, I have tried to bring in some of the practices of the corporate world into the planning and running of the Japanese Language Division.

Looking ahead, I believe one area of continuing challenge to us in the JLD will be defining, shaping, and constructively improving communications between other divisions and with ATA headquarters. In recent years there have been a number of changes in accounting policies, conference planning roles, funding guidelines for divisional activities, and other areas. The effects of these changes are still being shaken out across the divisions. One of my top priorities as Administrator will be to engage in more active discussion with the various stakeholders with the goal of increasing transparency in communication and fostering a greater sense of participation amongst all JLD members. I look forward to working with the JLD membership over the next two years.

Richard Mott
Assistant Administrator
Japanese Language Division