

Hostelworld Introduces ‘Speak the World’ Powered by Google Cloud Translate Technology

New Mobile App Feature Translates Up To 43 Languages, Eliminating Communication Barriers for Travelers Around the Globe

Dublin, Ireland — May 17, 2017 — [Hostelworld](#), the largest online hostel-booking platform sparking social experiences across the globe, today announced a new feature for its iOS and Android app called Speak the World, which instantly translates up to 43 languages including Bengali, English, French, Hindi, Japanese, Romanian, Spanish and Thai. The new feature, powered by [Google Cloud Translate Technology](#), allows travelers to fully immerse themselves in the local culture by eliminating language barriers in real time.

Hostelworld app users can launch Speak the World with the tap of a button to begin translating in seconds. Users will be prompted to select a language, speak into the device’s microphone and wait for words to be translated audibly and into text. The feature will then listen for a response and automatically translate that information back. Speak the World can process up to 40 seconds of speech and translate up to 5,000 characters at a time. A split-screen design allows users to compare text translations side-by-side as the device simultaneously dictates the conversation. In addition, Speak the World can turn your device screen into a comedic mouth, with lips that move along with translated words. There are eight different filters to choose from including a cartoon robot face, handlebar moustache mouth and punk rocker lips.

Speak the World is powered by Google Cloud Translate Technology’s end-to-end learning system built on Neural Machine Translation. This Neural system is capable of translating full sentences at a time, and uses broader context to figure out the most accurate translation. Thanks to state-of-the-art training techniques, Google Cloud Translate Technology can rearrange and adjust speech patterns to more closely emulate a human using proper grammar. Click [here](#) to see a video demonstration with comedian Phil Wang putting Speak the World to the test in Indonesia.

“At Hostelworld, our ultimate goal is to help people meet the world. We empower travelers to explore and engage with new cultures by tearing down cost barriers and fostering social connections around the globe,” said Breffni Horgan, Head of Product at Hostelworld. “Today, we’re taking things a step further by leveraging technology that tackles language barriers head on, and in a fun way, too. Speak the World allows travelers to interact with new cultures in a more meaningful way and communicate with people like never before. ”

The Hostelworld mobile app is available to download from the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

About Hostelworld

Hostelworld, the largest online hostel-booking platform sparking social experiences across the globe, inspires passionate travellers to see the world, meet new people and come back with extraordinary stories to tell. Hostelworld customers are not your average tourists; they crave unique experiences that Hostelworld facilitates with the best choice of hostels around the world. It’s the social nature of hostels that turbo-charges their global adventures and

empowers them to Meet the World.

Hostelworld has over nine million reviews across 35,000 properties in more than 180 countries, making the brand the leading online hub for social travel. The website and mobile app operates in 19 different languages.

The Hostelworld Group went public in November 2015, listing on the main London and Dublin stock exchanges. Headquartered in Dublin, Hostelworld has offices around the world in London, Shanghai, Sydney and Seoul and was recently recognized as a Best Workplace for 2016 by the Great Places to Work Institute.