

# INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING



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ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTER-ASSISTED LANGUAGE LEARNING

**APACALL Newsletter Series No. 10, December 2006**

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

With the year rapidly drawing to a close, I would like to thank you all for your contribution to the Association during 2006. I would particularly like to thank those members of the Executive Committee whose terms were ended at the end of October this year: Andrew Lian, Debra Hoven, Byungmin Lee, Jong-Im Han and Shirley O'Neill. I would also like to acknowledge the work that other Executive Committee members have done in enhancing the profile of the Association.

As a number of initiatives are being discussed, we will be active again in achieving many milestones and much recognition. I look forward to working with you creatively and efficiently in 2007.

Best wishes,

Jeong-Bae Son  
President

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## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S NOTES**

This is the final issue for this year. I hope that the information provided here would be of use to you. There might be changes to our newsletter starting from next year. We are in the process of discussing new ways of serving you better. We will keep you informed. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Siew Ming Thang  
Editor

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## **NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS** (July – December 2006)

### **► Publications**

Altun, A. & Çakan, M. (2006) Undergraduate students' academic achievement, field dependent/independent cognitive styles and attitude toward computers. *Educational Technology & Society*, 9(1), 289-297.

Altun, A., Gülbahar, Y., Madran, O., & Gürer, M. D. (2006). Design and development of a content management system: Eniyisi. *International Open and Distance Learning (IODL) Symposium 2*, Eskişehir, Turkey.

McCarthy, S. (2006). An interview with Steve McCarty. *CALL Review: The Journal of the Learning Technologies SIG*, International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language, 37-40.

McCarthy, S. (2006). Theorizing and realizing the globalized classroom. In A. Edmundson (Ed.), *Globalized e-learning cultural challenges* (pp. 90-115). Hershey, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.: Idea Group Publishing.

Pramela, K. and Wong B.E. (2006). Teaching in the virtual language classroom: A Malaysian experience. *AsiaC@LL Online Journal*, 1(1), 34-49.  
<http://asiacall.my-jl.com/>

Stevens, V. (2006). Guest Editor's introduction: Proceeds of Webheads in Action Online Convergence: Volume 2. In Stevens, V. (Ed.) IATEFL Poland Computer Special Interest Group, *Teaching English with Technology: A Journal for Teachers of English*, 6(3). [http://www.iatefl.org.pl/call/j\\_edit25.htm](http://www.iatefl.org.pl/call/j_edit25.htm)

Thang, S.M., & Pramanee K. (2006). Malaysian students' perceptions of the environment contents in their English Language classes, *Electronic Journal of Foreign Language Teaching*, 3(2), 190-208. <http://e-flt.nus.edu.sg/>

#### ► Conference Presentations

Chetchumlong, S. (2006, March). Web-based formative assessment in a large enrolment English class. Paper presented at the SITE 2006--Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference, Orlando, Florida, USA.

McCarthy, S. (2006, November). Podcasting for the college EFL curriculum. Paper presented at the Japan Association for Language Teaching JALT 2006 International Conference. Kitakyushu International Conference Centre, Kokura, Japan. Available at: <http://waoe.org/president/presentations/JALT2006.html>

McCarthy, S. (2006, September). Interfaces of bilingual education, Japanese socioculture and podcasting technologies. Paper presented at the International Conference on Diversity and Community in Applied Linguistics: Interface, Interpretation, Interdisciplinarity. Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. Available at: <http://waoe.blogspot.com/>

Son, J.-B. (2006, October). Working as a CALL teacher: Meanings and tasks. Paper presented at the Applied Linguistics Association of Korea (ALAK) 2006 International Conference, Korea University, Seoul, Korea.

Son, J.-B. (2006, October). A model for the evaluation of language learning Web sites. CALL Fair session at the Applied Linguistics Association of Korea (ALAK) 2006 International Conference, Korea University, Seoul, Korea.

Son, J.-B. (2006, August). CALL research: Trends, issues and methods. Plenary speech at the 2nd Postgraduate Research Colloquium organised by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Allson Klana Resort, Seremban, Malaysia.

Son, J.-B. (2006, August). Web-based language learning: Design, implementation and evaluation. Keynote speech at the Multimedia Adventure in Language Learning Seminar organised by Multimedia University, Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel, Selangor, Malaysia.

Son, J.-B. (2006, August). What teachers need to know about Internet-based language instruction. Paper invited and presented at the Multimedia Adventure in Language Learning Seminar organised by Multimedia University, Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel, Selangor, Malaysia.

Thang, S.M., & Bidmeshki (2006, November). Effects of an online ESP course on student learning and autonomy – one year down the road. Paper presented at the 3rd PacCALL conference, Nanjing, China.



## **CONFERENCE REPORT**

### **The 2006 Asia TEFL International Conference**

**S. Kathleen Kitao** (Doshisha Women's College) & **Kenji Kitao** (Doshisha University)

Asia TEFL held its fourth annual conference August 18-20, 2006 at Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan. The theme of the conference was "Spreading Our Wings: Meeting TEFL Challenges." There were about 1000 participants, including language professionals from many different countries both in Asia and in other parts of the world, including Japan, Iran, China, England, Australia, Turkey, Indonesia, Korea, the United States, Russia, Bulgaria, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan, Pakistan, Jordan, Bangladesh, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Nepal, Taiwan, Poland, and Austria.

The conference began with an opening ceremony. During the opening ceremony, there was an opening address by Ikuo Koike, the Conference Committee Chair, a welcoming address by Hyo Woong Lee, the President of Asia TEFL, and congratulatory remarks by the President of Seinan Gakuin University.

#### **Plenary Sessions**

Following the opening ceremony was a plenary session by Ryuta Kawashima of Tohoku University, Japan, who spoke on "Functional Organization of the Human Brain Involved in Comprehension of Second Language." Dr. Kawashima, a neurosurgeon, spoke on his experience experiences as a successful language teacher and learner.

Other plenary speakers were John Sinclair of the University of Birmingham, UK, who spoke on "Swimming in the Open Sea – What English is Really Like" on the subject of analysis of language corpora; Annie Hughes of the University of York, UK whose topic

was “How Do We Think They Learn English? Looking at the Implications for Teaching English to Young Learners” (delivered by Ms. Chantal Hemmi of the British Council, Tokyo due to Dr. Hughes’ sudden illness); William Grabe of Northern Arizona University, USA, who spoke on “Exploring Research on Reading Instruction: An Agenda for L2 Reading Research,” Alastair Pennycook of the University of Technology Sydney, Australia, whose title was “ELT as Translingual Activism”; and Lee Won-key of the Seoul National University of Education, Korea, whose topic was “In Pursuit of an Asian Standard of English Proficiency.”

### **Featured Speakers, Special Lectures, Colloquia, and Workshops**

There were also a series of featured speakers. Their presentations dealt with the history of language teaching in various Asian countries. These lectures were commissioned by Asia TEFL and it is intended that they will be published in book form. The speakers and their topics were: Choi Yeon Hee of Ewha Womans University, Korea (“The History and the Policy of English Language Education in Korea”), Ravinder Gargesh of the University of Delhi, India (“The History and the Policy of English Education in India”), Ikuo Koike of Meikai University, Japan (“Japanese Policy on Teaching English as a Foreign Language”), Malachi Edwin Vethamani of the University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia (“The Ebb and Flow of English Language Education in Malasia”), Phyllis Ghim Lian Chew of Nanyang Technology University, Singapore (“The History and the Policy of English Education in Singapore”), Arifa Rahman of the Presidency University, Bangladesh (“The History and the Policy of English Language Education in Bangladesh”), and Wen Quifang of the Beijing Foreign Studies University, China (“The History and the Policy of English Education in the Mainland China [1949-2005]).

There were four special lectures on the last day of the conference. They were “English Rakugo as a Hint to Find ‘Japanese English’” by Kimie Oshima of Bunkyo Gakuin University, Japan; “The Relationship between Vocabulary and Reading. New Data, New Thinking” by Rob Waring of Notre Dame Seishin University, Japan; “Should Asian Englishes be More Valued in the Classrooms of Asia?” by Seamus Fagan of the University of Newcastle, Australia; and "On English ‘Classology’ at the Tertiary Level of Education” by Mamoru Morizumi of Obirin University Graduate School, Japan.

There were also colloquia and workshops each day. There were workshops on topics such as activities for extensive reading, oral presentation tasks, cooperative learning, cultural factors influence motivation, teaching English through drama, nonverbal communication and EFL, and action research methods. Colloquia included discussion of such topics as team teaching for simultaneous interpretation, English teachers’ anxiety regarding qualification and employment in East Asia, high school English language textbooks in Asia, English for Academic Purposes for intermediate classes, and on-demand lecture circulation. Colloquia and workshops allowed topics to be discussed in more detail than was possible in concurrent sessions, which were shorter.

### **Concurrent Sessions**

There were about 400 concurrent sessions during the conference. The concurrent sessions were on a wide variety of topics. These included TEFL theory and methodology, testing and evaluation, teacher training and development, CALL, classroom-based/action research, language acquisition, alternative approaches and

methodologies, and music, art, and literature in the classroom, proficiency goals and assessment, education policy, curriculum/materials development, international/Intercultural communication, teacher education, teaching young learners, and multimedia-assisted language teaching.

## **Exhibits**

There was also a publishers' exhibition. Publishers displayed materials and demonstrated software. Most of the publishers were ones based in Japan.

## **Asia TEFL**

Asia TEFL is an organization that was founded in 2002 whose goals are to “promote scholarship, disseminate information, and facilitate cross-cultural understanding among persons concerned with the teaching and learning of English in Asia.” Countries involved are Japan, China, Thailand, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Korea, Iran, Indonesia, Russia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Israel, Iran, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, India, and the Philippines. Asia TEFL publishes The Journal of Asia TEFL (<http://www.asiatefl.org/journal/journal1.html>) four times a year. It includes articles, research reports, discussion or position papers, and book reviews or dissertation notices on the teaching and learning of English, with an emphasis on Asia contexts. Papers based on some of the presentations will be published in this journal.

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## **FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES**

- ◆ IATEFL Learning Technologies SIG Event in Nagoya, Japan, 24th March 2007 [including a Keynote Address by Steve McCarty: Wireless Ready: Podcasting Education and Mobile Assisted Language]  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LearningTechnologiesSIG/>
- ◆ Malaysia International Conference on Languages, Literatures and Cultures (MICOLLAC) in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, 22 – 24 May 2007. Its theme is “Meeting Challenges and Mapping Innovations: Synergies from Languages, Literatures and Cultures.” <http://www.fbmk.upm.edu.my/~micollac/>
- ◆ Solls.INTEC.07 Conference in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, 15-17 May 2007. Its theme is “Language and Nationhood: Discourses across Cultures and Disciplines”.  
<http://www.fpbahasa.ukm.my/SoLLsINTEC07/index.htm>
- ◆ The 5th Asia TEFL International Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 8-10 June 2007. Its theme is “Empowering Asia: New Paradigms in English Language Education”. <http://www.asiatefl.org/2007conference/conference2.html>

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Solls.INTEC.07 Conference in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, 15-17 May 2007. Deadline for submission of paper is 15 January 2007.

<http://www.fpbahasa.ukm.my/SoLLsINTEC07/index.htm>



### **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

- Members are invited to send APACALL Webmaster their names and personal homepage addresses to be listed on the 'Resources' page of the APACALL Web site.
- Your contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Please send your news items to [Webmaster@apacall.org](mailto:Webmaster@apacall.org).

