

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dateline: (Seoul) September 25, 2013

The world's best and brightest English teaching experts come to share insights with 1400 teachers at Korea's largest annual English teachers' conference October 12-13, 2013 (Saturday-Sunday).

The World is Coming to Korea (TESOL)

Six continents, 16 countries are sending their best and brightest language teaching experts to share insights with teachers at the annual Korea TESOL International Conference in Seoul October 12-13, 2013 (Saturday-Sunday).

The theme of KOTESOL's 2013 International Conference is "Exploring the Road Less Traveled: From Practice to Theory." According to Conference Chair Carl "Dusty" Dusthimer, "Teacher training programs generally emphasize the importance of basing our classroom instruction on ELT theory, but are the scholars listening to the teachers' realities?"

As Dusthimer explains, "The route between practice and theory is bi-directional. Traditionally, the emphasis has been on how theory informs practice. In contrast, this conference has chosen to focus on how classroom practices and their results can inform ELT theory. That is, 'the road less traveled'."

It is the teacher-to-teacher aspect of KOTESOL conferences that make them different from the typical scholar's conference, where one researcher lectures to peers and students. In the eyes of some teacher-educators, it is this "less traveled" path – the theme of this year's conference - that makes all the difference.

As invited speaker, Professor and Brain Science Researcher at Kansai University, Curtis Kelly puts it, "We need a platform that will allow us to meet and interact, to hear about a vision we never would have sought out on our own, and to test our own ideas. KOTESOL will do that for us. And what a well-chosen theme to represent this endeavor: "From Practice to Theory." It puts everyday teachers in the center and commits us to share what we have learned in the classroom."

In addition to the traditional native speaker hubs of the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, presenters are coming from China, Hong Kong, Macau, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the UAE, and Vietnam.

“Fellow EFL lands have shared challenges in teaching and learning English,” notes Dusthimer, “and we EFL teachers should be learning from each other, not solely dependent on scholars buried in so-called ‘native-speaker’ territories.”

Dr. Willy A. Renandya, National Institute of Education, Singapore (NIES), co-author for the best-selling *Methodology in Language Teaching: An Anthology of Current Practice* notes,

“The theme is just perfect as it provides a wonderful opportunity for practitioners to discuss issues that are of great concern to them, i.e., how their practical experience as language learners and teachers can inform theory. In my featured-speaker session, I will reflect on my own experience as a language learner, language teacher, and language teacher educator and share with the audience how I made sense of this experience in light of some ELT theories that I now subscribe to.”

There will be 17 specially invited speakers at the conference, including three that join a colloquium via web-cam, plus a special strand of presentations featuring the IATEFL Young Learners & Teenagers (YLT) SIG. *

Conference Co-chair Ralph Cousins noted that the KOTESOL annual event has become much more than a teaching conference. “Each year our social areas are busy with teachers meeting up with old friends, discovering new peers, and sharing their insights well beyond the established program. This year we are incorporating more networking into the program. This is the true heart of conferencing.”

A User-Created Content (UCC) contest highlighting attendee perspectives of the conference through social media is one of this year’s innovations. Full details on that competition will be announced through the KoreaTESOLnews Facebook page and the Twitter account @OfficialKOTESOL in the final hours before the conference commences.

QUICK FACTS

Date: October 12-13, 2013 (Saturday-Sunday)

Venue: Sookmyung Women’s University, Seoul

Participants: 1400 teachers, 140 presenters, 80 overseas visitors for 225 presentations and workshops, with 40 educational displays and 60 promotional sessions.

Media kits and graphics available at:

<http://koreatesol.org/media>

Contact information to arrange telephone, Skype, Email, or face-to-face visits with our lineup of presenters through Rob Dickey – Korea (Cell) 010-2272-0968

Line-up of Invited Sessions

Dick Allwright, Lancaster (UK)
Graham Crookes, University of Hawaii Manoa (USA)
Thomas S.C. Farrell, Brock University (Canada)
Charles Browne, Meiji Gakuin University (Japan)
Beverley Burkett, Marlboro College (US)
Gabriel Diaz Maggioli, The New School (USA)
Sue Garton, Aston University (UK)
Jihyeon Jeon, Ewha Womens' University (Korea)
Curtis Kelly, Kansai University (Japan)
William Littlewood, Hong Kong Baptist University
Jun Liu, Anaheim University (USA)
Annamaria Pinter, University of Warwick (UK)
Willy A. Renandya, National Institute of Education (Singapore)
Lillian Wong, University of Hong Kong

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Korea TESOL (KOTESOL, Korea Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, 대한영어교육학회) was founded in 1992, and is the official Korean affiliate of both TESOL International (USA) and IATEFL (United Kingdom) as well as a partner in the Pan Asian Consortium of Language Teaching Associations.

KOTESOL has 800 teacher-members, 30% are Korean teachers of English and 70% are expatriate teachers in Korea.

KOTESOL website: www.koreatesol.org

Conference Onsite Registration

50,000 won: Members *

75,000 won: Non-members

30,000 won: Undergraduate Students (current enrolment certificate required)

Annual membership dues are 40,000 won, and may be paid at the conference to qualify for the 25,000-won member discount.

Re-registration Discounts are available online (pre-registration closes October 1.)

Learn more at <http://koreatesol.org/ic2013>

* IATEFL – The International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (based in the United Kingdom) includes more than 4,000 members across the globe. <http://www.iatefl.org/iatefl/welcome>

** TESOL International (Alexandria Virginia USA) hosts over 12,000 members in more than 180 countries. <http://www.tesol.org>

*** SIG – Special Interest Group – groups of teachers who associate based on particular areas of teaching concern rather than geographic convenience – may include groups such as Professional Development, Young Learners, Research, Technologies & Multimedia, Global Issues, etc.

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Ralph Cousins, Conference Committee Co-chair: aloha2002@hotmail.com

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