

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Dateline: (Seoul) August 21, 2013

Korea's largest annual English teachers' conference returns October 12-13 2013 (Saturday-Sunday).

1400 English teachers are expected to meet at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual KOTESOL International Conference October 12-13 in Seoul to hear and share from the world's top language educators and each other.

**Exploring the Road Less Traveled: From Practice to Theory**

A teachers' conference with practical applications, useful experiences, and fresh ideas for teachers of English.

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, theory informs practice, but less commonly, classroom practices and their results can inform ELT theory. A positive cycle between research and reality is created. Each provides a destination, each destination becomes a new starting point."

As it is the theory-to-practice portion of this journey that is most often and most clearly mapped out, this conference recognizes the need to bring into focus the rather neglected section in the theory-practice journey: the road from practice to theory.

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.

Over 1400 teachers are expected to attend the two-day event, including groups from several local government Offices of Education.

Dusthimer pointed out that teachers want tools they can use in their classrooms. "Our participant surveys highlight the fact that conference attendees are most pleased with those conference elements that lead to better teaching the very next week of school."

“The Book Exhibition is another huge draw” said Dusthimer. “We are expecting 30 publishers and distributors to show their educational materials and offer special workshops during the weekend.”

According to KOTESOL President Dr. Mijae Lee, Korea TESOL has never been stronger. “We have more members than ever, representing diverse English teaching settings across Korea, including *hagwon* (private language school) teachers, public school teachers, kindergarten teachers, and university faculty.”

While some have pointed to KOTESOL as an “expat teachers society,” President Lee points out that she herself is representative of the thriving Korean aspect of the organization. “Nearly one-third of our members are Korean,” she observed. “Our strength is our bicultural membership.”

There will be 17 specially invited speakers at the conference, including three that join a colloquium via web-cam. “KOTESOL conferences have always been Korea’s cutting-edge in terms of presenters,” said Dusthimer, “and I’m particularly pleased that our three plenary speakers represent the state of the art in how classrooms inform theory.”

Dick Allwright (Lancaster), Thomas S. C. Farrell (Brock University) and Graham Crookes (University of Hawaii) are plenary speakers for KOTESOL 2013. An additional 11 featured speakers have been invited, along with 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.”

### **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.

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](http://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>

Media kits and graphics available at:

<http://koreatesol.org/media>

\* 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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