

General Report to KOTESOL International Outreach Committee

# MELTA 2016

Malaysian English Language Teaching Association  
Ipoh, Malaysia May 30 – June 1

Rob Dickey, KOTESOL OPs Liaison

## CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Conference Name: 25<sup>th</sup> MELTA International Conference

Conference Theme: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning in English Language Education

Date & Location: 30<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016  
Casuarina Hotel & Convention Center, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia

Date & Location of Next Conference of this Organization:  
To be determined. Probably in August 2017.  
(check <http://www.melta.org.my/> early next year)

## REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION

Robert Dickey Cell: 010-2272-0968 Email: [rdickey@content-english.org](mailto:rdickey@content-english.org)

KOTESOL current position: OPs Liaison

## CONFERENCE REPRESENTATION DETAILS

1. Who was your main contact person in the hosting organization prior to departure?  
List his/her e-mail and/or phone contact information and position in the host organization.  
Ramesh Nair <[rameshnair6789@gmail.com](mailto:rameshnair6789@gmail.com)>, Office +603 55442756,  
Mobile/SMS or WhatsApp +60133931507 stood in after the untimely death of  
Vice President and conference international coordinator Dr. Teh Chee Seng.
2. Main contact person at the conference, if different. (Please list their e-mail address, etc.)  
Same as #1.

## DETAILED CONFERENCE REPORT

Wonderful in so many respects, MELTA chooses to do some things quite differently than KOTESOL, but other things perhaps not so differently. The following offers information on their conference, but also a few other things about the organization I learned while there.

This report is largely chronological, but I'll start with some general facts. I'm enumerating each paragraph to assist in future discussions.

Photos and other Images follow the text, Expenses Report follows photos, receipts submitted separately.

My expenses do not include local transportation in Korea to Incheon Airport, instead an inexpensive hotel in Seoul, as I traveled direct from the National Conference rather than from my home in Daegu. This way saved KOTESOL money, and me time.

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## GENERAL FACTS

1. 800 attendees, approximately the expected number. 240 were presenters.
2. The conference starts early morning (8:30AM), runs late (past 5PM), has two coffee breaks with appetizers and a full buffet lunch (catered by the hotel) for all attendees.
3. The conference begins on a Monday, and is held each year during a school break. Next year, as fasting month (Ramadan) will overlap the traditional late-May conference period, the conference will be scheduled later in the year (date and location not yet finalized).
4. The conference moves around the country. Malaysia is both a peninsular and island country, with significant travel issues involved. The organization is "committed to taking the conference to other parts of Malaysia to reach as many Malaysian teachers as possible."
5. MELTA is the sole major ELT teachers' association in Malaysia, and enjoys the favors of a royal patron, plus also usually receives significant governmental support from the host state/city (part of the process of determining the destination involves the level of local government support). The banquet dinner – approximately 200 attendees – was by invitation, fully paid by the state government.
6. This year's conference received a tremendous amount of financial support from state government, which is not usually the case, so things far more elaborate than usual. The photo attached shows my gifts. (Note that the CDROM of conference proceedings was not a gift, only for sale.)
7. Every presentation included a moderator, most of whom are MELTA staff working in a variety of other roles.
8. Pre-conference Workshops & Post-conference events were organized by sponsors.
9. Membership cards are sponsored, which means that members also receive a corporate (sponsor is a bookstore) membership card at the same time.
10. The Emcee was a government staff who has recently been seconded to UNICEF. Beautiful, charming, gracious "TV quality" work with no ego.
11. Membership in MELTA provides a discount on conference registration.
12. Foreign attendees pay considerably more. Not quite clear, but I think "foreign" includes permanent resident aliens in Malaysia.
13. Representatives of MELTA partners were expected to present a paper/workshop, and asked to wear "traditional dress" of their country for the dinner. Most did not dress traditionally (I wore Hanbok). Note that MELTA is not a PAC Partner. Groups present included KATE, JALT, TEFLIN (Indonesia), PALT (Philippines), and ThaiTESOL. These featured sessions were indistinguishable from other concurrent session except for marking in the timetable.
14. Newspaper publicity for the conference was very poor. One of the major English papers had an article nearly three months earlier, focusing on the state (Perak) commitment to the event. I'm not sure how much local language press they got.
15. MELTA provided three nights accommodation, which included free breakfast buffet, and one formal dinner (mostly conference presenters and honored guests).

16. There are several "associated events" with the conference – some sponsored by private groups, but also MELTA has its own Corporate Social Responsibility program that has a key element in the annual conference – MELTA Heart (donating assorted English-language books for English learners at rural schools).
17. Only 2 display tables for the 7 partners attending the conference. Only 3 did setups, none of the tables were "staffed" at any time.

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## **CHRONOLOGICAL**

18. I departed from the KOTESOL National Conference in Wonju, stayed in hotel overnight in Seoul, and departed Incheon Sunday morning. From Kuala Lumpur I took an Airport Express Bus to Ipoh, arriving after the Sunday evening early-conference checkin had closed.
19. Hotel checkin no problem, nice room, wifi OK. Swimming pool, free breakfast with room. Malaysia uses a square 3-prong power outlet (I forgot that), and hotel was out of loaners, but there was "Dollar-Store" type place nearby, so bought an adaptor (next day).
20. Opening Ceremony at 8:30AM. Very ceremonial. Dancing (students). Opening prayer (Muslim, half of which in Arabic, almost all remainder in Malaysian language Bahasa Melayu). Welcoming speeches, including a 15 minute from Royal Patron princess (Oxford educated) after a 10min intro of her by a MELTA mid-rank officer. The event MC is brilliant, well-spoken, beautiful, not a word of herself. Most invited folks wearing coat and tie in respect to Princess: I deliberately left coat in Korea, but happy I'm wearing long-sleeved shirt and Andong-Tal string tie. The Koreanness was noted and appreciated by numerous attendees. President neglected to name KOTESOL in announcing partner organizations, a simple oversight corrected at closing ceremonies.
21. The intro ceremonies actually finished a bit early. 800 people milling about during scheduled break with coffee/tea and noodles/cake, no tables. Hotel-style coffee cups/saucers, plates, and silverware.
22. Monday's final plenary (4:30PM) had ~100 in attendance. (Last session of first day.) Final tea served early, at 4:45, so lots of folks were eating before plenary finished at 5:15. (Lunch was 1PM til 2.)
23. Tuesday much like Monday, though I had a presentation at 9AM – about 20 attendees. The Gala Dinner was rescheduled to 8:30PM as the local (host) Prince's schedule was changed – he is in fact the brother of the Royal Patroness, who married a prince from a different Sultanate (State) of Malaysia. I wore modern Hanbok to both my presentation and the dinner, as requested by MELTA leaders.
24. Checked out of hotel Wednesday morning, left bags at desk. Picked up KOTESOL display table materials since the table had been taken over by a MELTA activity.
25. Assorted sessions during the day, closing Panel Discussion on Technology in the Classroom was uninspiring.
26. Departed conference right at end of closing ceremonies (which were short (20 minutes) and sparsely attended (maybe 100 attendees?) with PALT and JALT reps to bus terminal for ride to airport – return to Korea uneventful.
27. National Geographic/ Cengage was the major publisher present, had two commercial sessions. A major nationwide bookseller displayed Cambridge, Oxford, and Pearson books. A few local small digital publishers and some Malaysian TESOL/AppLing schools were the balance of the "commercial displays, except for a traditional crafts seller and a few schools that showcased kids' projects (non-commercial).

## Photos & Images

### Social Media Buildup to the Conference



### Namebadge design could allow for insertion of a namecard.



Way With Words Competition

**1st June 2016**

**WAY WITH WORDS COMPETITION**

- Improve spelling
- Increase vocabularies
- Learn concepts
- Develop correct English usage

Way with Words Competition is a platform for students to prepare and practise in becoming more efficient in organising, storing and remembering new vocabulary items. It taps into the power of words and images in shaping students' way of thinking and perceptions.

This competition consists of 2 categories:

1. Upper primary (10-12 years old)
2. Lower secondary (13-15 years old)

It is open to ALL Malaysian schools. Each school can send a maximum of 3 teams for each category. Each team shall comprise 3 members only.

Contact us for more information or visit the link below:  
<http://2016conference.melta.org.my/index.php/events/way-with-words>

Like Comment Share

11 Top Comments

Kulwant Rekhra Nikki Fadsha...  
Like Reply May 19 at 6:55pm

Write a comment...

Post-conference Event

**UBSM DIGITAL EDUCATION ODYSSEY**

Topic: 21st Century Digital Learning Skills

Date: 29th May 2016

Time: 1.00 pm to 5.30 pm

Venue: Casuarina 4 & 5 (1st Floor)  
Casuarina Hotel & Convention Centre, Perak

UBSM MELTA KIPERAK

**UBSM DIGITAL EDUCATION ODYSSEY**

PROGRAMME OUTLINE




29th May 2016

TIME	PROGRAMME
1.00pm - 1.50pm	<b>Registration</b>
1.50pm - 2.00pm	<b>Welcome Speech</b>
2.00pm - 3.00pm	<b>21st Century Digital Learning Skills</b> by Keith Thong (MBIC, MBA & UBSM)
3.00pm - 3.30pm	<b>The Teacher Doesn't Know the Answer:</b> Learning to Think through Multiple and Opposing Viewpoints by Masaki Morisawa (Gale Cengage Learning)
3.30pm - 4.00pm	<b>Tea Break &amp; Product Displays</b>
4.00pm - 5.00pm	<b>A Practical Approach for Language Learning</b> by David Choo (Malaysiana LCMS)
5.00pm - 5.30pm	<b>Q &amp; A</b>

**21st Century Education from the Digital Perspective**

Education has seen a tremendous transformation in all fields and disciplines in the last decade. Institutions, organizations and individuals are involved in numerous workshops, seminars, colloquiums, conferences and other academic and professional endeavours in searching for innovations and best practices which will change the façade of education. The 21st Century has further propelled the needs for more innovative approaches which will benefit the world of education. Hence, educationists throughout the world have been on the unceasing journey of looking for solutions in general and in-context to address the required changes and new directions of education. One of the significant features of 21st Century education is embarking on information and communications technology (ICT). This presentation reveals the importance and relevance of ICT, which includes search engines, social media tools, and other technology-based platforms, in enhancing teaching and learning of different disciplines in the field of education from pre-school to tertiary level. The structure and organization of specific content and application of technology-related resources, including academic & educational industry from a practitioner approach will also be shared.

Post-conference Event




KPERAK INC CORPORATION AND YAYASAN PENDIDIKAN KAMPAR  
CORDIALLY INVITES

DATO' / DATIN / MR / MRS.....

TO

**OH MY ENGLISH "WE GOT TALENT" PERFORMANCE**  
HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
25TH MELTA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016



ON/AT  
2ND JUN 2016 (THURSDAY), 12.00 P.M  
LANAI IBUNDA THE KANDU, GOPENG  
LOT 10731, JALAN BESAR JAHANG, KG GUNUNG MESAH HULU, 31600 GOPENG  
PERAK

**PROGRAMME**

12.00 P.M : ARRIVAL OF GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS  
12.30 P.M : ARRIVAL OF SPECIAL GUESTS FROM MELTA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016  
1.00 P.M : LUNCH  
: OH MY ENGLISH "WE GOT TALENT" PERFORMANCE  
2.30PM : PROGRAMMED ENDS (FOR SPECIAL GUESTS)  
: PERFORMANCE CONTINUES

**FOR ATTENDANCE CONFIRMATION PLEASE RSVP MS ZUBAIDAH, TEL : 05-5060715**

**ATTIRE: SMART CASUAL**

Opening Ceremony showcased the conference theme of technology, included the Royal Patron (an Oxford graduate)



Foreign Reps and others at MELTA



Moderator stays present throughout the session



Poster Sessions were out front and very visible



End of Presentation Certificate





National Geographic was the major bookseller present



Special Registration Desk for Visitors from Japan



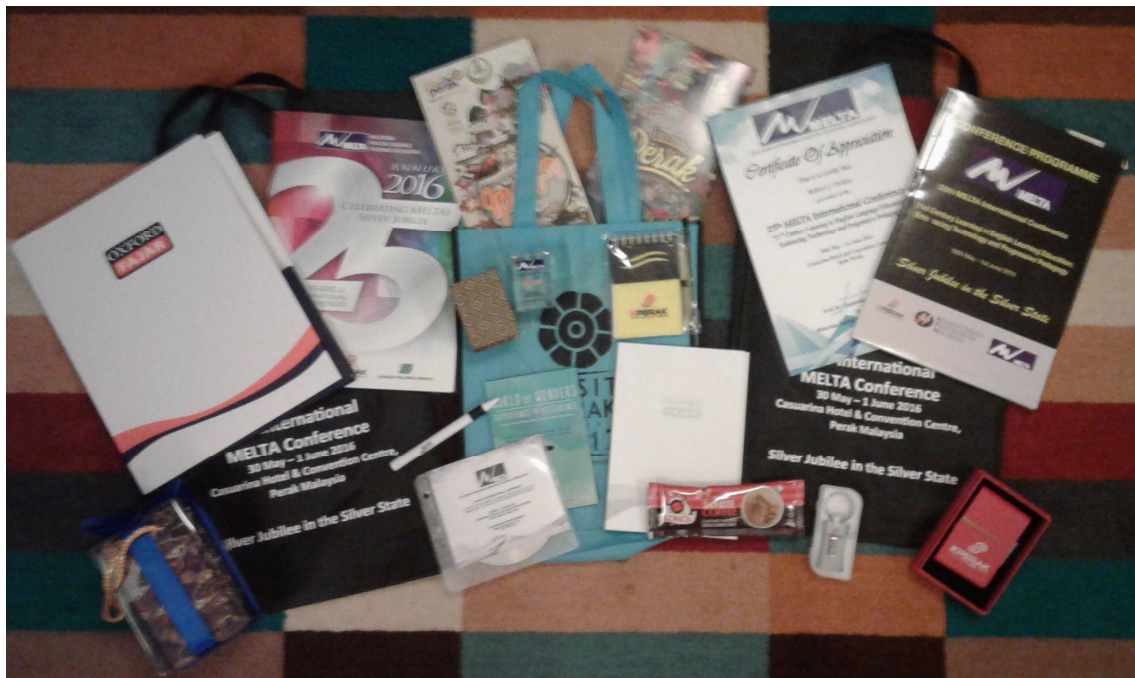
Many invited sessions very poorly attended



Technology varied from room to room



MELTA Gifts



Far lower right is a business card holder, next to that a thumb-drive USB, both from the State's government-owned mining company. (Perak (state/sultanate) is known for silver and tin mining. These were in presenters' registration bag. Other attendees' bags didn't include these. The package far lower left is, as I guessed, a Malay-style sarong-skirt. (I have one at home, I actually know how to tie these!) Above that is a simple folder with some lined paper, from Oxford Univ Press, and next to that is the corporate annual report for MELTA. Next to that is a pretty little box that held the crystal souvenir adjacent (on the blue bag). The blue bag at center was given at the Gala Dinner Tuesday night, at which the Sultan of Perak attended. (Sultan is basically a Heiriditary Prince.) Dinner free to invitees – basically, all

presenters. That bag had three tourism pamphlets and a pen. Some folks got a Perak collar pin (rather unpretty, big, clumsy, mine got a premix coffee instead - I guess they ran out of pens. Also on the blue Visit Perak bag, but actually in one of two black bags, is a small yellow spiral notebook and an A5 size (or smaller) pad from Oxford. One black bag was at registration, with program book and annual report and folder, other was after presentation with certificate and crystal/box and gift (sarong-skirt?). Partner orgs got a featured session, which labeled differently but no differently scheduled than any other concurrent session. There were also 3 pencils and a couple of pens in the mix, not exactly sure which got what.

The Annual Report looks like something a major corporation would do, though little attention to the financial side.

## Expenses Report

1. Hotel in Seoul.	53,401 (KRW)
2. Domestic Travel in Korea	0 (KRW)
3. Airfare to Malaysia (roundtrip)	473,719 (KRW)
4. Busfare from Kula Lumpur Airport to Ipoh (and return) 84.84MYR	24,100 (KRW)
TOTAL:	551,220 (KRW)
KOTESOL Reimbursement (80%)	440,976 (KRW)

(Receipts submitted separately)