Foreword from the Thai TESOL President

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Proceedings of the Asia TEFL / Thai TESOL Conference, Creativity and Collaboration in English Language Teaching, held in Bangkok in August of 2009. Many of us look back at the conference itself as a wonderful example of creativity and collaboration. Indeed, co-hosting the regional conference with Asia TEFL is an opportunity that we await with great anticipation.

This year’s proceedings are filled with practical tips and useful insights for teachers of English, and are international in scope. For example, from Japan, Lyndon Small offers five adaptable exercises to assist EFL teachers in planning structured vocabulary exercises based on loan words. In a bi-national effort between Malaysia and Thailand, Syahrarom Addullah and Anurak Binnui focus on students who created business plans and made field trips to enhance communication and entrepreneurial skills.

If you are looking for easy-to-use activities, you will want to read William “Andy” Anderson’s “A Super Toolbox for Creative Teachers,” and “Fifty Pathways to Out-of-Class Language Learning, by A.K. Kripps. Dr. Kantatip Sinhaneti also explores using local news broadcasts to strengthen listening skills, and provides a number of adaptable classroom tasks and worksheets. Thomas Hoy offers creative exercises that stimulate and develop inner speech in EFL learners.

Thai university students are the focus in Supakorn Phoocharoensil and Damrong Attaprechakul’s papers. Ajarn Supakorn examines challenges learners face with relative clauses in English, while Ajarn Damrong investigates students’ creative potential in regard to reading authentic
letters about political unrest in Sri Lanka. Kanjana Charttrakul explores collaborative Internet-based learning in Thai EFL classrooms, including the teacher’s role and students’ perceptions.

For the reflective teacher, Pisarn "Bee" Chamcharatsri looks at classroom observation as one way to gain deeper awareness and understanding of the classroom culture and of our performance as teachers.

These are but a sample of the Proceedings, and I hope that all of them will offer useful insights into the creative and collaborative aspects of our unique and time-honored profession. Enjoy!

I offer my sincere thanks to the Thai TESOL community for their efforts to make the conference and proceedings a success, and I look forward to the upcoming year in preparation for the 2011 conference in Chiang Mai. Please join us!

Sincerely,

Ubon Sanpatchayapong

President, Thai TESOL

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