

Thailand TESOL/Pan-Asian Consortium International Conference: 2007

“Beyond Boundaries: Teaching English for Global Communication in Asia”

Background

In 2007, the Pan-Asian Consortium of English Language Teaching Organisations (PAC) will hold its 7th international conference. The conference will be hosted by Thailand TESOL in Bangkok where, ten years earlier, PAC was inaugurated. Since 1997, the consortium has continued to grow, and it is on the verge of becoming an even more significant group of ELT organisations with the addition of more new partners.

Conference Theme

“Beyond Boundaries: Teaching English for Global Communication in Asia”

With the increasing pressures on Asian countries to participate in global economic, social, educational and recreational activities, English has become a truly international tool of communication. In most, if not all countries across the Asian region, the importance of English has grown considerably, and the traditional view of English as a foreign Language (EFL) is being replaced with a more functional and often critical view of English as an international language.

This view of English as a global language for citizens from a myriad of cultures, continents, countries and communities carries with it some core assumptions and questions about just what it is that English language teachers are teaching in Asia, and for what purposes, and what it is their learners need to learn to do in English on a more global level. These assumptions and questions centre on core issues such as:

- the relationship between culture and English as a global language, and therefore the role of culture in ELT
- the uses of English within a country and among countries, and therefore the kinds of curriculum and syllabus designs appropriate for developing language proficiency
- the accepted varieties and standards of English in particular contexts, and therefore the models of language brought to the learning contexts

Conference Objective

The overall objective of the conference is to provide forums in which the three core issues outlined above can be teased apart and subjected to scrutiny and discussion from the viewpoints of teaching, learning, researching, policy planning, program designing, teacher training, and materials designing.

Participants

As this is a pan-Asian styled conference, it is expected that there will be a broad representation of ELT professionals from the many Asian countries in which English as a global language is significant, including Thailand, Japan, the Republic of China, Korea, Far-Eastern Russia, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines. Additionally, ELT professionals from many other parts of the globe are expected to participate in order to make this a truly global forum to discuss Asian issues in English language teaching.



AYF The Asian Youth Forum



Developing Leaders for the 21st Century

Asian Youth Forum (AYF) <www.asianyouthforum.org>

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- WHAT:** A 4-day international youth event held in English for Asian EFL learners which brings together college-aged young people from across Asia for academic seminars, intercultural workshops, social events and interpersonal exchanges.
- WHY:** To promote international understanding, intercultural communication and leadership skills through the medium of English-as-an-international-language.
- WHERE:** The AYF is held in selected cities in Asia. Previous AYF events have been held in Seoul (Korea), Kitakyushu (Japan), Taipei (Taiwan) and Vladivostok (Russia).
- WHEN:** The AYF is held roughly every 1- 2 years as part of the international “Pan-Asian Conference” (PAC) series on foreign language teaching.
- WHO:** College-aged students and youth from countries throughout Asia. Special youth delegations attend from countries such as Korea, Japan, Thailand and Russia.
- ORGANIZERS:** The AYF is organized each time by a committee of AYF student leaders and AYF Advisors (EFL teachers from JALT, KoTESOL, FEELTA, ETA-ROC, Thai TESOL).
- HOST:** AYF is hosted each time by the national language teaching organization which hosts PAC as well as by interested teachers and institutions in the local area.
- COSTS:** AYF participants generally have to pay two costs:
 (1) roundtrip travel expenses from their home to the AYF site
 (2) a participation fee of US \$150 (for AYF program, meals & accommodation)
- APPLICATIONS:** Application forms for each AYF event are posted on the Asian Youth Forum website: <www.asianyouthforum.org> for on-line applications by students.
- AYF WEBSITE:** The Asian Youth Forum website includes information, reports and photos from our previous AYF events (Korea 1999, Japan 2001, Taiwan 2002, Russia 2004).
- ORGANIZING:** The Asian Youth Forum is organized each time by (1) an AYF Organizing Committee (consisting of AYF teachers and student leaders under Kip Cates) and (2) a local AYF site committee in the host country
- AYF CTTEE:** The main AYF Organizing Committee consists of AYF advisors (teachers) and AYF student leaders who take charge of general AYF organizing, publicity, program planning and student recruitment in Asia.
- LOCAL SITE COMMITTEE:** The AYF Local Site Committee consists of teachers and students in the host country who help to arrange the following:
- an AYF site (building or rooms) for holding AYF events during PAC
 - meals and accommodations for AYF students (dormitory and/or homestays)
 - help with visas and invitation letters for Asian students
 - recruiting local students and volunteers to attend AYF
 - assistance in getting local funding to help cover AYF expenses
 - help arrange local excursions, school or NGO visits, cultural events
- INFORMATION:** For more information about the Asian Youth Forum, contact:

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