



# **BELTA International Conference 2014**

Badi'ah Hotel

***Oral Language for Literacy – Teaching Talk***

**13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Bandar Seri Begawan

Negara Brunei Darussalam

## *Introduction*

The Brunei English Language Teachers' Association (BELTA) International Conference 2014, is targeted at all teaching the English Language, users of the English Language as their medium of instruction as well as those concerned with the teaching and learning of the English Language. One of the aims of the conference is to educate participants; specifically to update and reflect on the significance of and developments in oral language development for literacy.

With the advent of technology, the constant human psychological evolution and the complexities of social economic dynamics, teaching and learning of the English Language has only proved to be dynamic. One of our keynote speakers, Associate Professor John Munro is the author of the '*Teaching Oral Language: Building a firm foundation using ICPALER in the early primary years*', where he explicitly guides teachers to teach oral language today.

We will also have Professor Pamela Snow from the Monash University to present evidence from her research titled, *Oral language supports early literacy: A pilot cluster randomized trial in disadvantaged schools*.

It is hoped that their findings and recommendations inspire participants and presenters to conduct research, evaluate pedagogy, improve curriculum and design better materials in the common objective of promoting literacy and ultimately positively impacting on social economics.





*Venue*

Badi'ah Hotel  
Badi'ah Complex, Mile 1 ¼,  
Jalan Tutong  
Bandar Seri Begawan BA1712  
Negara Brunei Darussalam

*Date*

13<sup>th</sup> Nov - 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014

*Organiser*

Brunei English Language Teachers' Association (BELTA)

*Language*

English Language

*Presentation Formats* Plenary

Paper/Workshop

## *Keynote Speaker*

### **Professor Pamela Snow**

Pamela Snow is an Associate Professor in a conjoint appointment between the Department of Psychiatry and the School of Rural Health at Monash University (based at the SRH Bendigo site in central Victoria). She is the academic convener for Medicine of the Mind (Psychiatry) in Year 4 of the Monash MBBS (Northern Victoria Medical Education Network stream) and from 2006 – 2013, coordinated via distance education the Graduate Diploma in Mental Health for Teaching Professions.

Pamela is a registered psychologist, having qualified originally in speech pathology. Her research has been funded by nationally competitive schemes such as the ARC Discovery Program, ARC Linkage Program, and the Criminology Research Council, and spans various aspects of risk in childhood and adolescence:

- the oral language skills of high-risk young people (youth offenders and those in the state care system), and the role of oral language competence as an academic and mental health protective factor in childhood and adolescence;
- linguistic aspects of investigative interviewing with children / adolescents as witnesses, suspects, victims in criminal investigations;

Pamela has research links with the education, welfare and justice sectors, and her research has been published in a wide range of international journals. She is frequently called upon to address education, health, welfare, and forensic audiences. She is a Fellow of the Speech Pathology Association of Australia and is the past Victorian State Chair of the Australian Psychological Society. She has over 100 publications, comprising refereed papers, book chapters, monographs and research reports.

#### *Relevant publications include:*

2002, (co-author: Thomson, M.B.), *The written expression of children with reading disabilities: a comparison of written and dictated narratives*, Australian Journal of Learning Disabilities, vol 7, issue 4, Learning Difficulties Australia, Australia, pp. 13-19.

2009, (ed., with James, E., Ward, B., Dickinson-Swift, V.A., Kippen), *Best practice in research methods assessment: Opportunities to enhance student learning*, in Teaching Research Methods in the Social Sciences, pp. 139-149.

2009, (ed.), *Oral language competence in childhood and access to equity in education and health across the lifespan*, in Communication in Healthcare, Oxford, UK, pp. 101-134.

2010 (co-authors: Antoniazzi, D., Dickson-Swift, V.), *Teacher identification of children at risk for language impairment in the first year of school*, International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology[P], vol 12, Informa Healthcare, UK, pp. 244-252.

2013, (co-authors: Eadie, P.A., Connell, J., Dalheim, B., Munro, J.K.), *Oral language supports early literacy: A pilot cluster randomized trial in disadvantaged schools*, International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology[P], vol epub, Informa Healthcare, London, EC1R 3DA United Kingdom, pp. 1-12.

## *Main Plenary Speaker*

### **Associate Professor John Munro**

Associate Professor John Munro is Head of Studies in Exceptional Learning and Gifted Education in the Graduate School of Education at The University of Melbourne. He is a trained primary and secondary teacher and a psychologist. His research interests, teaching and publications are in the areas of literacy learning and learning difficulties, maths learning disabilities, oral language, learning internationally, gifted learning, professional learning, instructional leadership and school improvement.

Dr Munro developed the VELS English Curriculum, in 2006, the Language Disorders Program in 2005 and the Dyslexia and Other Literacy Learning Difficulties Materials for the DEECD. He is a consultant to several school improvement projects around Australia. He developed the Creative and Critical Thinking General Competencies in the Australian Curriculum.

He was commissioned by the Aga Khan Foundation to develop an identification protocol for identifying students who are gifted and talented in African and Asian cultures using a range of culture relevant authentic problem solving tasks. He has contributed to the International Baccalaureate over the last 15 years, particularly in the areas of the Extended Essay, analysis of the relationship between the IB Hexagon and vocational education and the PYP.

He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Council of Educational Leaders, a Life Member of the Learning Disabilities Australia and was chairperson of the College of Educational and Developmental Psychologists.

*Media Release by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), Melbourne – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2011*

Teaching Oral Language: Building a firm foundation using ICPALER in the early primary years by Dr John Munro, Head of Studies in Exceptional Learning and Gifted Education in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne, provides schools and teachers with an explicit guide for teaching and monitoring oral language development.

“Many teachers hear their students talking and assume that they have the language competence for academic learning,” said Dr Munro. “This is not always the case. Teachers need the knowledge and tools required to analyse the quality of students’ oral language and to teach it.”

In his book, Dr Munro identifies four key ways of assessing the quality of a student’s ability to use language: the ideas they can talk about and understand; how they use language rules; how well they use language to communicate with others; and how they use language to think and learn. *Teaching Oral Language* shows teachers and schools how each aspect operates, how to recognise it in children and how to teach it in order to enhance student outcomes overall.

Dr Munro’s approach is a foundation of the successful literacy program that has significantly lifted literacy outcomes in Northern Metropolitan Region of DEECD over the last four years. Further, a study conducted by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria in 2010-11 revealed that Prep students whose teachers taught the oral language program showed an annual improvement in reading comprehension that exceeded by more than one year the growth made by a matched group whose teachers were not trained to use the program. Indigenous students and students from low socio-economic contexts made the greatest gains.

Dr Munro stresses that international research shows oral language ability distinguishes between students who will be more successful and those who will be less successful.

“Students learn by listening and speaking and by thinking in words and sentences,” said Dr Munro. “Their oral language determines how they develop social skills and friendships, how they deal with problems, their self-confidence and ultimately who they are.”

“Teaching oral language knowledge in a systematic and regular way addresses one of the most critical foundations for successful learning and for dealing with educational disadvantage,” he said. “In the past it has often not been recognised practically as a major cause of underachievement in learning. However we now know that, if it is not targeted through explicit and on-going teaching, it is likely to restrict severely successful learning at school.”

*Relevant publications include:*

2003. *Fostering Learning Literacy Across the Curriculum*. International Journal of Learning. 10:327-336.

2004. *Subvocal phonological decoding: A key component in diagnosing reading disabilities*. Australian Educational and Developmental Psychologist. 19:109-123. 2004

2005. *Working Out What Works (WOWW) Training and Resource Manual: A teacher professional development program designed to support teachers to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for students with learning difficulties*

2011. *Powerful learning in the classroom needs effective pedagogy*. Powerful Learning. A strategy for systemic educational improvement. ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research Press). 109-124.

2011. *Teaching Oral Language: Building a firm foundation using ICPALER in the early primary years*. ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research Press).

## ***Presentations & Exhibitions***

The conference will also showcase the 2014 University of Oxford evaluation that investigated the evolution of the Brunei approach to bilingual education.

### ***Bilingual education in Brunei – Dr Greg Keaney***

This research, carried out by the University of Oxford, addresses the evolution of the Brunei approach to bilingual education and the role of CfBT in promoting educational change.

During 2012/13, academics from the Department of Education, University of Oxford were commissioned by CfBT to conduct an independent evaluation of the CfBT Brunei English teaching programme. The evaluation sought to document the various processes of change and improvement within the Bruneian education system between 1996 and 2012, in particular looking at the teaching of English as an additional language in the bilingual system and the involvement of CfBT as an external education provider and change agent.

The evaluation identified six 'evolutionary paths':

1. Bilingual education policy in Brunei demonstrated a consistent focus on promoting bilingual education.
2. There has been strong consensus in Brunei on the need to encourage higher levels of English attainment to promote economic competitiveness, recognising English as a crucial 'tool' for the 21st century.
3. The MoE-CfBT relationship has changed, evolving from a recruitment link into a bilingual education partnership.
4. Programmes targeting student outcomes and attitudes have moved from pockets of good practice to national-level reach.
5. Programmes targeting teaching practice, professional development and capacity building for both CfBT and Bruneian language teachers have been key to developing a collaborative working relationship between CfBT and the Bruneian government.

6. Building the infrastructure and the potential for school- and system-wide improvement, the relationship has evolved into one where CfBT expertise is focused on capacity building as well as capacity providing.

**Dr. Greg Keaney**

Greg is the Country Manager for CfBT Brunei, one of the world's largest and longest running international English language teaching (ELT) projects. CfBT has been working with the Bruneian Ministry of Education since 1984 in the development of a highly effective bilingual education system. Greg has a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics and a PhD in International Education Management. He has spent three decades working in the ELT and international education sector in Asia (Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan) and Australia. Greg also leads CfBT's worldwide ELT offer in countries such as Malaysia, India, Oman, Indonesia, Egypt and Palestine. Greg's academic and professional speciality is reconciliation of management needs for effectiveness and efficiency with the aspirations of educators and internationalists for outstanding social outcomes.



# Theme

## ***Oral Language for Literacy – Teaching Talk***

## Sub-Themes

The scope of the conference includes, but is not limited to, the following topics which are related to development of oral language in the teaching and learning of the English Language.

- Strategies for promoting oral language development
- Language learning
- Classroom for oral language development lessons
- Oral language and communication for adults/tertiary level institutions
- The use of new technologies for language teaching in schools
- Promoting the use of new technologies amongst language teaching professionals
- Developments in the pedagogy of online learning
- Corpora and language learning
- Courseware design
- E-learning: implications for oral language development
- Multimedia use in the language class
- Materials design for oral language development lessons

## Format

1. Plenary sessions
2. Parallel sessions (30 minutes)
3. Workshops (45 minutes + 15 minutes for Questions & Answers)

# Call for Papers

## Abstract & Full Paper

An abstract of not more than 200 words (font size 12, Arial, double-spaced) in length consisting of the following items in sequence:

- author's name(s) and affiliation
- mail address
- e-mail address
- seminar sub-theme
- title and abstract content

The abstract content should clearly state:

- research/paper objectives
- methodology
- scope of investigation/findings

The abstract should be submitted no later than **15<sup>th</sup> August 2014**.

The full paper, not exceeding 10 pages (single spacing), should be submitted to the Secretariat not later than **15th October 2014**, either by

e-mail to **beltasecretariat@gmail.com**

Or

post to **BELTA**  
P O Box 870  
Mail Processing Centre  
Berakas, BB 3570  
Brunei Darussalam

**Note:** All abstracts received will become the property of BELTA and may be used in future BELTA publications.

## Proceedings

The conference proceedings will be available for purchase during the conference. Details of the purchase of this publication will be made available at a later date.

## **Important Dates**

<b>15<sup>th</sup> August 2014</b>	Submission of abstract
<b>1st September 2014</b>	Notification of acceptance
<b>15<sup>th</sup> October 2014</b>	Submission of full paper
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Mac to 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014</b>	Conference registration

## **Secretariat**

Conference Secretary

BELTA

P O Box 870, Mail Processing Centre, Berakas BB 3570

Brunei Darussalam

tel: +673 8873738

e-mail: [beltasecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:beltasecretariat@gmail.com)

## Fees/Registration

The full registration fee, which covers seminar materials, tea breaks, is payable in advance.

	<u>Before 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014</u>	<u>After 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014</u>
Local participants	BND100	BND120
Foreign participants	BND200 (± USD160)	BND220 (± USD180)
Presenters	BND200 (± USD160)	BND220 (± USD180)

BELTA Members pay a flat rate of BND100.00 for participation and a flat rate of BND200.00 if presenting.

Payments (in local cheque or bank draft) should be made payable to **Brunei English Language Teachers' Association** and sent directly to the Secretariat.

## Accommodation

Conference participants requiring accommodation are recommended the conference venue hotel, **Badi'ah Hotel**. For more information on the accommodation, see the hotel's website, <http://www.badiahotel.com/>

Please indicate on the registration form if accommodation is required to avail the special rates for conference participants and guests.

Other accommodation available around the conference venue includes the Le Gallery Suites and Abdul Razak Apartments.

# Conference Registration Form

Please print your particulars in block letters.

Title:  Prof.  Assoc. Prof.  Dr.  Mr.  Ms.

Family Name/Surname : \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation : \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Participation:  Presenter  Participant

Title of Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Presentation:  Paper  Workshop

Presentation Equipment Needed:  Whiteboard  Flipchart

Laptop & Projector  TV & DVD Player

Please select the type of accommodation required (if applicable):

Note – All boarding includes free airport transfer and free wireless internet access.

---

- |                          |               |                       |   |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Standard Room | Twin Bed or Queen Bed | B\$95.00 (Free Breakfast for 2 person)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Superior Room | Twin Bed or Queen Bed | B\$115.00 (Free Breakfast for 2 person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Superior Room | Double Queen Bed      | B\$125.00 (Free Breakfast for 4 person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Executive     | Deluxe King Bed       | B\$155.00 (Free Breakfast for 2 person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Executive     | Double Queen Bed      | B\$165.00 (Free Breakfast for 4 person) |
- 

<b>Method of Payment for Conference Registration Fee</b>
--

#### **CASH PAYMENT**

Please enclose your payment together with the Conference Registration Form either to:

BELTA Secretariat - (From 12noon of 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014 only)  
Badi'ah Hotel  
Business Centre  
Badi'ah Complex, Mile 1 ¼,  
Jalan Tutong  
Bandar Seri Begawan BA1712  
Negara Brunei Darussalam

Or **CfBT Education Services (B) Sdn. Bhd.**  
Block D, Units 5 & 6, Kiarong Complex  
Lebuhraya Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah  
Bandar Seri Begawan BE1318  
Negara Brunei Darussalam  
Tel: +673 2442773/4/5

#### **BANK DRAFT/ CHEQUE PAYMENT**

I hereby enclose a Bank Draft (for foreign participants and presenters only)/Cheque\*.

No: \_\_\_\_\_ for the amount of BND: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Bank Drafts/ Cheques must be made payable to “**Brunei English Language Teachers' Association**”.

\* Please note that we **cannot accept personal cheques** as a form of payment.