

Making English language teaching come alive

DIVERSE AREAS: English language educationists, parents, students and the public are invited to take part in the 5th Johor State English Language Conference 2013 themed Moving Forward In English Language Teaching from Sept 14-16.

The event will provide a platform for teachers to gain insights into innovative ideas that will help them meet the challenges of teaching English.

Jointly organised by the JB English Language Teaching Organization (JELTA) and the Johor State Education Department, this seminar offers a dynamic programme focusing on diverse areas within English Language Teaching (ELT), English Literature and English as a Second Language such as creative methodology, curricular and material design innovations, and critical thinking in English language teaching and learning.

An exhibition of books and multimedia products for ELT will be held during the conference.

JELTA will also be awarding the Johor Excellent English Language Teacher Awards to five educators who have contributed to the development of English language teaching in the state.

Participants can look forward to a stimulating discourse during the presentation of seven plenary papers and a number of parallel sessions. Among the topics covered are practical writing, teaching of Literature, coping with mixed ability classes, enhancing reading skills,



Mary Yap Kain Ching

methodology, oral communications and drama.

The conference will be officiated by Deputy Education Minister Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching while New Straits Times Press group managing editor Datuk Abdul Jalil Hamid will deliver the keynote address.

Dr Mohamed Abu Bakar, deputy director of English Language Teaching Centre, Ministry of Education Malaysia, will speak on the Malaysian Education Blueprint.



Abdul Jalil Hamid

Other speakers include former Associate Professor Nesamalar Chiravelu from University of Malaya, Faculty of Languages and Linguistics; Associate Professor Cynthia Yolanda Doss from MARA University of Technology, Shah Alam; Rahmah Sayuti from SM Sains Sembrong, Kluang; Professor Jayakaran Mukundan from Universiti Putra Malaysia and Maureen Parker, a mentor-teacher trainer for the Ministry of Education TELL (Teaching English Language and Literacy)

project.

Nesamalar's paper, themed The Way We Are And May Need To Go, will highlight the problems that teachers and learners of English language face in Malaysia.

English language teacher Juhaida Abdul Aziz, who has more than 19 years of teaching experience, will demonstrate how teachers can promote fun reading via new technology enhanced learning approaches. Juhaida will co-present her paper with Mohd Faisal Farish Ishak from

SK LKTP Keledang, Kota Tinggi.

Norina Melati Mohd Yusof, a lecturer at the English Language Teaching Centre, Ministry of Education will conduct a workshop on *Visualising Poetry... Literally*. Participants will learn to draw meaning from a combination of texts and visuals in contrast to traditional literacy.

Attendees will also get hands-on experience with the use of the *New Straits Times (NST)*.

Adeline Cruz, an English Language lecturer from Kuala Lumpur, will demonstrate newspaper-based activities in the classroom.

Former *NST* chief news editor A. Kathirasan will speak on *How To Write A News Report*. Kathirasan, who has been a journalist for 37 years, has conducted journalism courses and will offer a guide on some fundamentals of helping students to write news reports.

In view of the overwhelming response, the closing date has been extended to Friday.

Government schools can collect the conference brochures and invitation letter by the State Education Director from the school's letter boxes at the district education offices in the state.

Registration fees, which include lunches, coffee breaks, a conference bag, materials, stationery, files, a grammar book, a group photo and a certificate of attendance, are RM130. To register, call Nur Maryam (017-790-5426/017-782-4738) or fax 07-2244-737 for details.