

# English language conference at UPM

**ENGLISH IN ACTION:** The event will feature eight speakers and 20 presenters sharing ideas on classroom teaching practices

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**T**HE ELS Language Centre in collaboration with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), is organising the International Conference on English Language Learning (ICELL).

Themed *English in Action*, the conference will be held at UPM's Faculty of Educational Studies on Nov 15 and 16.

Eight speakers and over 20 presenters will be sharing ideas and experiences focusing on classroom practices.

The guest speakers all have different backgrounds and styles in making teaching English fun and interactive.

One of them is jazz musician Carolyn Graham who has written numerous English language teaching books like *Jazz Chants* and *Let's Sing, Let's Chant*.

Poet Paul Cookson has been performing his poetry and helping children to write their own poems since 1989 and has sold over 865,000 books for Macmillan alone.

Stan Cullimore, a musician, author, TV broadcaster and journalist has performed in numerous schools and conducts highly inspirational and passionate presentations for teachers.

Other speakers include poet Valerie Bloom, School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies of Victoria University senior lecturer Dr Jonathan Newton and London University Master's Degree holder in Theatre Arts Jill Coombs.

Guest speakers include former deputy director-general of Ministry

of Education Malaysia Datuk Noor Rezan Bapoo Hashim and Monash University Sunway Campus School of Arts and Social Sciences senior lecturer Dr Andrew Ng Hock Soon.

With a target of 250 participants, 150 have already registered including a group of teachers from the Philippines.

ELS Language Centres chief executive officer Prof Datuk Dr Mohamed Mahyuddin Mohd Dahan spoke to *Streets* recently on this topic.

"ICELL is timely as there is an interest in the direction of the subject in schools.

He said that teachers and students do not have much time to prepare for the 2016 must-pass rule for the English language paper in order to get the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia.

This requirement was announced by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin earlier this year.

Among the sub-themes to be discussed at ICELL include listening,

conversation, reading and writing skills, materials development, creativity and innovations in language pedagogy and linking theory to practice.

"We will be reinforcing existing teaching methods and discussing their effectiveness as opposed to introducing new ones," said Mohamed.

ELS Language Centre vice-principal Josephine Teo Chen said that participants can expect new and different perspectives in teaching the English language from various individuals.

"One presentation that should be interesting to see is *The Poetry of Grammar* by Dr Andrew Ng from Monash University," said Teo.

ELS Language Centre welcomes participation from English language teachers in private and public schools of all levels.

The fee for both days is RM180 per participant. Visit [www.icell.my](http://www.icell.my) for details.

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**Prof Datuk Dr Mohamed Mahyuddin Mohd Dahan,**  
ELS Language Centre  
chief executive officer

