

Where research meets practice

ALTHOUGH we don't always realise it, those of us involved in English language teaching often unconsciously form divisions between research and practice. It almost seems like the two fields are on separate islands, coming up with theories for their own needs, and forgetting that each is not independent of the other.

Classroom practitioners at times wonder about the point of research that has no relevance to practice in the classroom. On the other hand, those involved in research connected to English language teaching, learning and acquisition may point out the importance of knowing the fundamentals of the field,

including the latest theories, in order to be effective teachers of the language. The bridge that links research and practice is often viewed with suspicion, with each side refusing to acknowledge the importance of compromise and cooperation.

The 10th Malaysia International Conference on English Language Teaching (MICELT 2014) will be held at the Palace of the Golden Horses, Kuala Lumpur from Sept 13 to 15.

Themed "Enabling Research, Making it Meet Practice", the conference hopes to reach those involved in all aspects of English language teaching.

The message the conference

aims to impart is that the domain of research is not an unreachable place reserved for the exclusive few or for those who are particularly inclined, but can and should be brought back to the field of practice, the classroom, where it actually belongs.

The speakers at MICELT 2014 include experts from both sides: those well known for their contributions to research, and those who have successfully incorporated unique and vibrant methods in the classroom.

Dr B. Kumaravadivelu is a specialist in language teaching methods, post-method pedagogy, teacher education, classroom

discourse analysis, and teaching culture. Educated at the Universities of Madras in India, Lancaster in UK, and Michigan in the US, he is the author books like *Language Teacher Education for a Global Society* and *Cultural Globalisation and Language Education*.

Another speaker at the conference is the creator of the *Inspector Singh Investigates* series of crime novels, Shamini Flint, who was born in Malaysia and currently resides in Singapore.

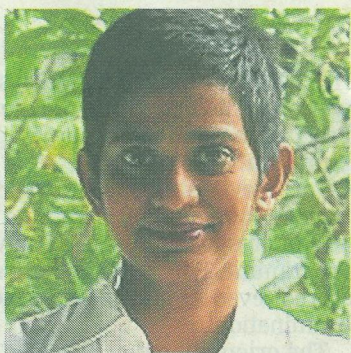
Once a corporate lawyer, Flint is now a stay-at-home mum, writer, part-time lecturer and environmental activist. Aside from her *Inspector Singh* novels, which have been translated into several languages, Shamini writes children's books with cultural and environmental themes.

Also at MICELT 2014 will be performance poet Adisa "The Verbaliser" who has presented his work at a range of venues, from basement pubs to Buckingham Palace, primary schools to senior citizen day centres.

Adisa also runs workshops for English and Drama students, teaching them to devise their own poetry based on personal identity and life experiences.

The poet's amazing ability to connect to young people and to draw out incredible poetry from even the most reserved and shy students has won him high praise.

Other names in the field of



Flint writes crime novels as well as children's books.

English language teaching who will present at the conference include Carolyn Graham, creator of jazz chants; and Australian children's author, poet and educator, Mark Carthew, who is well known for his award winning books and series exploring wordplay, music & movement, drama and humour.

To share the experiences of these and others who have significantly contributed to both the fields of research and practice in English language teaching, make a date with MICELT 2014.

MICELT 2014 is organised by the Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia and supported by the Education Ministry. MICELT2014 invites paper proposals from all areas in ELT (research and practice/applications, etc). For more information please visit the website <http://www.micelt.org>, call 03 89468172, or email micelt2014@micelt.org.