

Language and industry experts at symposium

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ENGLISH FOR LIFE

CAMBRIDGE English For Life (CEFL) is organising a teaching and learning symposium in conjunction with the group's 15th anniversary celebration on Oct 11.

The event features the following speakers - CEFL chief executive officer Dr Elsie Chin (*pic*), Universiti Putra Malaysia Department of English associate professor Datin Dr Mardziah Hayati Abdullah, English language and literature solutions provider and former magazine editor Merina Hew and Nobel International School head of English

Mark Wright. There will also be a panel of speakers from Google Malaysia, Taylor's University and Star Media Group Berhad, who will be discussing the importance of the English language in today's world and how English language teachers can bring a positive impact while teaching in a 21st century classroom.

Dr Chin said that the education system is an engine for innovation, but without the right input to transform teaching and informed learning, there won't be any reform.

"Our education system must keep

pace with the transformation in technology if we are to prepare our students for success in the 21st century.

"Success depends on one's ability to adapt to new tools and circumstances, to innovate, to think critically and creatively, and discover new solutions to the problems facing society."

"In order to prepare students to be successful in an innovation-based economy, teachers need to be empowered to teach 21st century content in a 21st century context

using 21st century tools," she added,

"Teachers must be smart enough to consume and utilise technology. There are so many digital tools out there that can be used for teaching - YouTube, Ted Talks, Google and more.

"Teachers can even get their students to teach them to explore certain digital tools," she said, adding that resistance to change is about attitude.

As an example, Dr Chin said teachers can use pop culture or sports references to make their lessons relevant.

"However, as educators, we also need to teach our students to discern for themselves how to make things better, and to reference and not steal other people's work in this 'cut and paste' generation," said the former teacher.

Dr Chin stressed that teachers should inspire students on a daily basis.

"We want teachers to go to class with the mindset that every day is a 'wow' day.

"The 'wow' is the teacher's commitment that they will shine in their presentation, make the students sit up and learn, and ensure they put on a good show each time.

"We don't want teachers to remain as digital immigrants, but to adapt and gain digital wisdom, which is what the symposium will address," said Dr Chin.

CEFL is the leading premium provider of accredited English language courses for learners from as young as four years old to working adults, catering to all

levels of proficiency.

As an authorised Centre, CEFL administers the Cambridge English Language Assessment Examinations and is also approved by the University of Cambridge International Examinations to prepare the learning programme for practising teachers, leading to the award of the Cambridge International Certificate and Diploma in Teaching and Learning.

Established in 2001, CEFL has since grown to have some 60 centres across eight states in Malaysia, with some 10,000 students.

The group is offering 50 seats for teachers who are interested in attending the symposium. It is open to educators of all subjects.

The seats are free, upon a refundable deposit.

Teachers who are interested may call CEFL's office before the end of business on Oct 6 to find out if there are still seats available.

To register, contact Erica at 03 7883 0912 or erica@cambridgeforlife.org.

