
Korea TESOL Matters

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Message from the President:

NEW ERA OF KOREA TESOL JUST LAUNCHED

Park Joo-Kyung, PhD
Korea TESOL President

Dear Korea TESOL members,

The 1996 Korea TESOL International Conference closed the years 1995-1996, shedding glory and joy upon all the Korea TESOLers and the conference attendees. It has been said that the conference has gotten better each year and the one we had this year was the best ever. Now it's only natural that we acknowledge those people who have worked so hard as upfront runners. They include, if I may name only a few, the past presidents, Drs. Kwon Oryang and Kim Jeong Ryeol, conference co-chairs, Profs. Carl Dusthimer and Andy Kim, and all the past local chapter and national executive officers. I truly thank them for their expertise, leadership and dedication. However, my utmost thanks go to all you members, who worked hard behind the scenes.

As we all know, Korea TESOL launched its journey 4 years ago. For the past 4 years, it has grown extensively to reach a membership body of 800. However, this figure did not occur without much effort. There have always been those people who were willing to share their time and energy for the professional development of others as well as of themselves. Now the torch has been passed on to me and the 1996-1997 Korea TESOL officers. We will do our best by following the steps that our past leaders have taken while adding our own perspectives toward making this organization an even better one.

I am convinced as the new president that our goal as a professional organization is three-folds as follows: first, to support individual member's professional development; second, to pursue an organizational development; third, to make a contribution to this nation that provides us with opportunities to remain in our wonderful profession, TESOL, which is continuously challenging us.

In order to better accomplish these missions, we need to approach them from two aspects: the physical aspect and the spiritual aspect. In an effort to physically structure ourselves better, we are going to have two major changes. First, Korea TESOL is going to have its own office which will serve as the central communication channel. The central office will expedite all the communications in and out of Korea TESOL, best suiting the needs and wants of the members living in the modern information society. Second, we are going to have two separate publications: bi-monthly newsletters and an annual (or possibly semi-annual) academic journal. The bi-monthly KOTESOL newsletters are expected to serve as an updated news carrier while also functioning as a communication network for sharing a variety of concerns and issues related to teaching English at all levels in general as well as specifically in Korea. The academic journal will provide us with more professional ideas and insights so we may strike a balance between teaching and doing research with the ultimate purpose of realizing teaching excellence in our own classrooms.

However, the physical changes mentioned above will turn out to be successful if and only if they are accompanied by the spiritual changes. By this, I mean the changes in our attitude and view of teaching English and our determination as a language teacher. From a negative attitude, if you had one, into a positive one, from a narrow-minded view into an open-minded one. For example, I believe that teaching English should be viewed not only as delivering the knowledge of how to put the physical sounds and structure together more appropriately, but also as sharing our mind and soul with our students, in order to help them to be a better communicator and thus to be a partner for working together for world peace in the long run.

Now I ask for partnership from all of you. There is no such thing as a spectator or a supporting role in Korea TESOL.

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We all should take leading roles on this stage given to us. What we need now is not a few good men but every mind and soul which gathers together in this organization, convinced that teaching English is their calling. I urge you to take one step forward from where you are: to make presentations at the local, national, and international conferences, to share your teaching tips or the 'why's' and 'how's' for your successes and failures in our newsletters, and to have your research papers or action papers published in our journal. All the chances are open to you and all you need is to grab them. After all, Korea TESOL is all for you.

Now my dear Korea TESOL members, welcome aboard to this wonderful cruise of challenge and I wish you all, "BON VOYAGE!!!"

Korea TESOL Matters

This is the first time any of you will have seen this publication. Most of you will not even have heard of it! Korea TESOL Matters will be a bimonthly national newsletter. (Bimonthly in the sense of every two months NOT twice a month).

The content of the newsletter is entirely up to you. Please send book reviews, letters, poetry, teaching tips, horror stories, cartoons and maybe even the occasional joke to me: Andrew Todd

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Since this edition is a little on the light side I've included the *KoreSEOULetter* for December as well. If you DO NOT wish to receive the Seoul chapter newsletter in future please let me know (it's a monthly newsletter).

Also since this is light edition the next edition will be **JANUARY 1997**. So get your thinking caps on. Flex your fountain pens and get writing.

There will also be an academic journal for Korea TESOL provisionally titled **KOREA ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING**. Any other titles will be considered.

Korea TESOL will have a central office in the very near future. Details to be announced.

All the essential names and telephone numbers will be included in the next edition of Korea TESOL Matters.

Important Announcement Constitution Ammendments

1. In order to better render the name and spirit of Korea TESOL into Hangul the name will be changed from

대한 영어 교육 연구회

to

대한 영어교육학회

(Sorry about my writing)!

The original Hangul rendition carries a study group connotation NOT a professional teachers organization. Our resident lawyer has pointed out that a name change requires the membership approval. So, if you *disagree* with the name change contact me. If enough of you disagree (with good reasons) I will pass them on.

2. "One of the vice presidents shall be a Korean national" has been struck down (deleted) from the constitution. It had originally been included to insure continuity in a time when non-Koreans were not staying in Korea for any length of time.

3. Conference co-chairs will be appointed by the president and approved by the council.

The next National Council Meeting will be held on Saturday the 2nd of February. If you have anything you wish to bring up please either write, telephone, fax or email myself or any other Korea TESOL officer. Thank you.

Taegu Chapter Report

by Steve Garrigues

The Taegu Chapter of Korea TESOL has had a busy and successful year throughout 1996. Attendance at meetings has been consistently around 40 or 50, with the largest meetings having somewhat over 60 participants. As has become our practice, the Taegu Chapter meets the first Saturday of every month except for February and August when we have no meeting. In addition to our regular monthly "academic" meetings, twice a year we have an evening social gathering for dinner at the Taedong Hanshik Buffet restaurant, on the first Saturday in January and July.

In March we had a workshop focusing on teaching speaking and listening in secondary schools. Our speaker for April was Dr. Arthur McTaggart, former USIS Director in Taegu, recently-retired professor of Youngnam University, and long-time TESOL member, the "grandfather" of English teachers in Taegu. He spoke from his many years of experience on "Common, Inevitable, Natural Errors" in Korean students' English.

The speaker for May was Dr. Steve Garrigues of Kyongbuk National University, who gave a presentation on "Gesture, Culture and Language" in which he examined some of the misunderstandings which arise from using nonverbal communication in cross-cultural contexts. There was lively interaction with the multi-cultural audience throughout the session.

In June Prof. Rodney Gillett of Chongju University gave a very interesting demonstration of the use of videos in the classroom. After our summer break, we had a presentation by Dr. Kim Young-min of the Taegu National University of Education on the up-coming introduction of English classes in the primary schools. In addition to discussing strategies of early second language acquisition she also raised a number of questions in relation to the new elementary English program.

Dr. Igor Nosenko of Kyongbuk National University gave a talk on "Word Modes and Oral Speech Teaching" in October. His well thought out presentation made use of his many years of experience as an English instructor in Russia and a Russian instructor in Korea. In November we were enlightened as well as entertained by a lively presentation by Mr. David Shakleton and Mr. Ian MacDonald of the KNU Language Institute. Their presentation was titled "Open Their Mouths and They Will Follow" and dealt with a number of innovative methods they have developed to encourage the students to speak English in class.

The year's program finished in December with a talk by Mr. Dean Hagin who recently came to Korea after teaching English at the Xi'an Medical University in China for the past three years. His talk was an interesting comparison of English teaching (and learning) in the two countries, China and Korea.

For the past three years the Taegu American Culture Center (USIS) has graciously allowed us to use their comfortable facilities for our meetings, but unfortunately this is soon to change. In March of 1997 Mr. Richard Huckaby, the Director of the American Center, will be our featured speaker, and then at the end of the month the Center will close its doors for the last time. We are now in the process of searching for a new venue.

