

Report for IOC ThaiTESOL 36th International Conference.

### Event

Location: Khon Kaen Pullman Khon Kaen Raja Orchid.

Dates: January 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Program Chair: Pragasit Sitthitikul

Main Contact: Pragasit Sitthitikul (pragasit@gmail.com)

Upcoming International Conference theme: Thai TESOL IC 2017 ELT Pathways to Professional Excellence, Bangkok, Thailand January 27-28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### Representative Details

Christopher Miller

[chriskotesol@gmail.com](mailto:chriskotesol@gmail.com)

KOTESOL current positions:

- a) Associate editor *The English Connection*
- b) Research committee chair

### PAC Meeting

The PAC meeting was brief, at slightly under 30 minutes. Salient points addressed including the upcoming FEELTA conference from June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Vladivostok, Russia. According to Richmond Stroupe, the PAC website is ready to "go live." He requested a series of photos representative of the local culture from each representative (one each of traditional scenery, traditional costume, and a local citizen wearing modern attire). Phil Owen briefed the group on plans to incorporate PAC 2017 with the 2017 KOTESOL International Conference. Various dates for calls for presentations were shared from KOTESOL, JALT (deadline February 15<sup>th</sup>), and FEELTA. Near the end of the meeting Richard Stroupe noted his work on task force designed to reassess the relationship between TESOL inc. and affiliate organizations such as KOTESOL, I along with Phil Owen shared our knowledge about the history of the relationship (as far as we were aware), and forwarded a questionnaire to our current KOTESOL president.

### Conference

Some plenary sessions may have been underwhelming. However, there were interesting and engaging featured speakers. One of the better speakers I witnessed was Craig Thaine. Phil Owen (current IC program chair) later talked with him about possible interest in presenting at a future KOTESOL event. There were a high number of research based presentations. There were 11 featured speakers, 3 plenary speeches, and 1 Keynote speaker. The keynote was given by the

current Thai deputy minister of education. Somewhat of departure from recent KOTESOL events very few featured and plenary speakers presented more than once. The only exception was Numa Markee.

The event featured very detailed hospitality, with a buffet lunch provided for all attendees on both days. The dinner on the first evening was free to volunteer staff, presenters, and representatives. It was also available to attendees at an additional cost. As it was a dinner, there was less opportunity for mingling, and diverse social interaction, unlike the recent shift to the after conference social event which KOTESOL has adopted for their past two international conferences.

### KOTESOL Representation

KOTESOL had a desk stationed at the side of the main plenary hall. The desk was shared with JALT. Publications and other KOTESOL promotional items (i.e. water bottle, pamphlets, and call for 2016 IC proposals) were displayed. I probably interacted with approximately 15 individuals at the table, as the KOTESOL/JALT table was somewhat separated from the publisher's desk. When interacting with attendees I attempted to stress the potential value of participation and membership with KOTESOL, such as publication opportunities, IC conference, and research grants, among other benefits.

One deficit in KOTESOL representation is the lack of clear guidelines/expectations, or objectives for KOTESOL representatives. Should we be selling the value of KOTESOL membership? Should we "simply represent" KOTESOL at the event? Should we be evaluating featured/plenary speakers? At a minimum a pre-made display poster/mini-stand (i.e. on a desk) could clearly display the value of KOTESOL participation/membership to attendees passing the representative's table. IOC may want to consider the value of setting up various objectives for future attendees to perform while during the meeting. For example, attend at least 3 featured speakers' sessions and consider the suitability of each presenter for a future KOTESOL event.