



ThaiTESOL 2015 General Report to National

Submitted by David E. Shaffer

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Conference Name: PAC @ Thailand TESOL
The 35th International Conference
Conference Theme: English Language Education in Asia: Reflections and Directions
Date & Location: January 29-31, 2015
The Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Date and location of next conference of this organization:
January 29-30, 2016; Khon Kaen, Thailand
Website:
<http://thailandtesol.org/Menu/Conference/2016%20ThaiTESOL%20Conference/2016%20ThaiTESOL%20Conference.php>

YOUR INFORMATION

Name: David E. Shaffer E-mail: chosunu@yahoo.com
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Current KOTESOL position: Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter President
Publications Committee Chair
KOTESOL Proceedings Editor-in-Chief

CONFERENCE REPRESENTATION DETAILS

1. Who was your main contact person in the hosting organization prior to departure? List his/her e-mail and/or phone contact information and position in the host organization.

- Unchalee Sermsongswad thailandtesolcm@yahoo.com
Conference Chair & President

2. **Main contact person** at the conference, if different. (Please list their e-mail address, etc.)

- Unchalee Sermsongswad thailandtesolcm@yahoo.com
Conference Chair & President

■ PAC COUNCIL MEETING

The PAC Council meeting was held on the second day of the conference, with only 30 minutes of time allotted for it. The time proved to be too short and the recommendation was to allot at least an hour for future meetings. After the meeting got started introductions were made, followed by a brief report of the previous meeting's minutes, the previous PAC Conference, the present PAC Conference, and KOTESOL was asked to confirm whether we would be hosting the next PAC Conference and what year we would hold it in – 2015 or 2016. I confirmed on behalf of KOTESOL that we would hold the next PAC conference in 2016. Information that the council requested as soon as possible on PAC 2016 was:

- Dates of the conference
- Conference venue
- Conference theme
- Information on how that other PAC Partners could help with the conference – recommending plenary speakers, helping with conference promotion

Other than this, there were only two topics of discussion:

- Deciding to move the PAC website to the JALT server
- My question concerning what useful purpose PAC now serves

The purpose of my question was for PAC to seriously consider that it serves no real purpose that would not be fulfilled without PAC, and that PAC is costly for the conference host. The only positive response to my question was from the PALT Partners: They said that PAC Partner promotion was helpful to their conference in the year that they had their terrible typhoon damage. With that comment conversation diverted away from the question.

I learned at the beginning of the meeting that it is customary for the next PAC Conference host to be the convenor of the PAC Council meeting

■ SYNOPSIS OF PAC @ THAITESOL 2015

The 35th Thailand TESOL International Conference and PAC 2015 was held at the Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The three-day conference ran all day Thursday and Friday, and until 3 p.m. on Saturday. The theme of the conference was *English Language Education in Asia: Reflections and Directions*.

The conference began with a outstanding keynote presentation by Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, a high-ranking government official and former diplomat. In addition, there were 6 split plenary sessions (2 each day), 11 featured-speaker sessions (bunched into one time slot each day), 2 split plenary panel discussions, 213 concurrent sessions, and 31 poster presentations.

The conference program book contained the names, addresses, and contact numbers of all 30 of their conference exhibitors prominently positioned in the front of the program book. Although many presentation rooms were located next to each other, they were quite because they were separated by walls, not panels.

■ PHOTO GALLERY



Main Hall Stage. KOTESOL logo prominently displayed.

Closing Ceremony: KOTESOL representative Shaffer on stage with keynote speaker Thai TESOL President and more. ▼



The Main Exhibition Area. Spacious, ceiling two floors in height.



KOTESOL Display Table: Located in corner, next to PALT table and JALT table.



KOTESOL Display Table: The cover is the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter's table cover, which I borrowed. A banner hanging in the back would have been desirable (see JALT display table).



The JALT Display Table: The white table banner, the wall banner, and the little notice stands – all very useful.



With plenary speaker Michael McCarthy after his concurrent session.