

# Advancing ELT for a Prosperous ASEAN

## Concept Note

### Background

1. The need for enhancing the quality of English Language Teaching (ELT) in the ASEAN region has become a pressing issue in recent years. With the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the rise of globalization, English has increasingly become the language of business, trade, and diplomacy in the region (Lee & Kim, 2017)<sup>i</sup>. As a result, there has been a growing demand for proficient English language skills among the ASEAN population, particularly in the areas of tourism, hospitality, and education (Phan, 2018)<sup>ii</sup>.
2. However, the quality of ELT in the ASEAN region has been inconsistent, with some countries lacking the necessary resources and expertise to provide effective English language instruction (Gao, 2019)<sup>iii</sup>. This has resulted in a disparity in English proficiency levels across the region, which could hinder the economic and social development of ASEAN as a whole (Kumara & Santosa, 2016)<sup>iv</sup>.
3. To address this issue, it is necessary to explore ways to enhance the quality of ELT in the ASEAN region. This can be achieved through the sharing of best practices, the development of teacher training programs, and the promotion of innovative teaching methods that cater to the needs of ASEAN learners (Phan, 2018).
4. Accordingly, the Vietnam National Institute of Educational Sciences and National Foreign Languages Project will cohost the "Advancing ELT for a Prosperous ASEAN" on 14 and 15 September 2023 to foster collaboration among ELT practitioners, researchers, and policymakers in the region, and to provide a platform for discussion and exchange of ideas regarding ELT in ASEAN.

### Objectives

The Conference aims to:

- Provide a platform for ELT practitioners, researchers, and policy makers to share their experiences and research findings related to the teaching and learning of English in ASEAN countries.
- Facilitate the exchange of best practices, ideas, and innovative approaches in ELT.
- Address the challenges and opportunities facing ELT in the ASEAN region and identify strategies for enhancing the quality of English language instruction.

### Themes and Subthemes

The conference will cover the following themes:

- 1. Innovative approaches in ELT**

- Thinking outside the box: unconventional teaching methods and strategies
- Empowering learners: fostering autonomy and motivation in the language classroom
- Beyond the basics: developing critical thinking skills for language learners
- 2. Technology and ELT**
  - The digital revolution in language teaching: innovative technology integration
  - Exploring the effectiveness of technology-based teaching approaches
  - Ethical dilemmas and digital divides: navigating challenges in technology use in ELT
- 3. ELT curriculum and assessment**
  - Beyond the textbook: designing effective and engaging language curricula
  - Assessing what matters: developing valid and reliable assessment tools and practices
  - Cultivating global citizens: integrating intercultural competence into ELT curriculum and assessment
- 4. Professional development for ELT practitioners:**
  - Lifelong learning for teachers: promoting ongoing professional development
  - Stronger together: collaborative professional development and peer support for ELT practitioners
  - The future of teacher training: exploring innovative approaches to professional development
- 5. English for specific purposes (ESP) in ASEAN countries:**
  - Navigating the ASEAN context: teaching English for specific purposes in a diverse region
  - ESP for the real world: developing courses and materials that align with regional needs and priorities
  - Measuring success: evaluating the effectiveness of ESP programs in preparing students for academic and professional contexts.
- 6. English as a medium of instruction (EMI) in higher education:**
  - The great debate: weighing the benefits and challenges of English as a medium of instruction
  - EMI excellence: developing effective policies and practices for teaching in English
  - Crossing cultures: addressing the linguistic and cultural needs of EMI students and teachers.
- 7. Global Citizenship Education (GCED) in the English classroom**
  - Fostering global perspectives: integrating global issues and cross-cultural understanding into ELT
  - Building empathy and tolerance: promoting values of social justice and inclusivity in language learning
  - Active citizenship: empowering learners to take action and make a positive impact in their communities
- 8. ELT research and innovation:**
  - Advancing ELT theory and practice: current trends and future directions in research
  - Research methodologies in ELT: exploring innovative approaches and tools
  - Translating research into practice: bridging the gap between theory and classroom application

## Format

The conference program will encompass a variety of engaging formats including plenary sessions, parallel sessions, oral presentations, posters, and panel presentations. Participants are encouraged to submit abstracts relevant to the conference themes for consideration in these different formats.

| Format                     | Duration   | Description   |
|----------------------------|------------|---|
| <b>Workshops</b>           | 60 minutes | The presenter demonstrates a teaching initiative or innovation for about 15 minutes, followed by a hands-on activity that engages participants in discussions, sharing ideas, and producing specific outputs. |
| <b>Keynote Speeches</b>    | 50 minutes | Prominent plenary sessions featuring invited speakers with expertise in their fields. Speeches last for 40 minutes, followed by a 10-minute question and answer session.                                      |
| <b>Featured Speeches</b>   | 50 minutes | Parallel sessions with invited speakers who are experts in various fields. Speeches last for 35 minutes, followed by a 15-minute question and answer session.   |
| <b>Oral Presentations</b>  | 30 minutes | Presentations focused on research-oriented or practice-oriented topics. The presenter has approximately 20 minutes for the main content and 10 minutes for the question-and-answer section.                   |
| <b>Posters</b>             | 45 minutes | Visual exhibits allow informal discussions between presenters and participants. Presenters engage participants during the 45-minute session, sharing research ideas and receiving feedback.                   |
| <b>Panel Presentations</b> | 75 minutes | Interactive discussions on specific topics organized by individuals. Each panel presentation lasts for 75 minutes, involving short presentations by panel members followed by an in-depth discussion.         |

\*Please note that the durations provided are approximate and subject to change based on the conference schedule and requirements.

## Audience

The conference will bring together policy makers, educators, teachers, researchers who are key stakeholders responsible for ELT from ASEAN region, and beyond, including participants from:

- Representatives of the Ministry of Education and other relevant ministries
- Regional/national institutions
- Inter-governmental/non-governmental organizations
- Universities

## Date and Venue

The conference will take place on September 14-15, 2023 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The venue will be announced at a later date.

## Call for Papers

Participants are invited to submit abstracts of no more than 250 words on any of the conference themes and a brief biography of the author(s). Abstracts should be submitted through the conference website by July 21, 2023. Full papers will be with no more than 6000 words and should follow APA 7<sup>th</sup> style due by August 31, 2023. Selected papers will be published in the conference proceedings.

### ***Important Dates:***

Abstract submission deadline: July 21, 2023

Notification of acceptance: August 11, 2023

Presentation submission: August 31, 2023

Conference dates: September 14-15, 2023

Full paper submission deadline: October 15, 2023

### ***Abstract Selection Criteria***

The selection criteria include the following.

- ***Relevance:*** The abstract should effectively convey the relevance of the proposed presentation to the three main conference themes and sub-themes. It should demonstrate a clear connection between the topic and the overall focus of the conference.

- ***Theoretical and Practical Foundations:*** The abstract should provide a concise and well-defined explanation of the theoretical and/or practical foundations that underpin the proposed presentation. It should demonstrate a solid understanding of relevant concepts, theories, and methodologies.

- ***Originality and Significance:*** The abstract should emphasize the originality and significance of the proposed presentation within the context of the current state of the field. It should highlight any unique perspectives, innovative approaches, or contributions to existing knowledge or practices.

- ***Clarity and Coherence:*** The abstract should exhibit clarity, coherence, and logical structure. It should be well-written, using appropriate language and style to effectively communicate the key points and objectives of the presentation. The abstract should be easily understandable to a diverse audience.

## Online Registration

- Participants are invited to register for the conference by visiting the conference website <http://eltconference.vnies.edu.vn> and completing the online registration form. Please note

that by registering online, you will have the opportunity to join the conference virtually. On-site participation is by invitation only. Kindly be aware that registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and the number of online participants is limited.

For more information, please visit the conference website or contact the conference organizers at [eltconference@vnies.edu.vn](mailto:eltconference@vnies.edu.vn), phone +84987200179

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<sup>i</sup> Lee, H. & Kim, S. (2017). The demand for English language education in the ASEAN region. *English Teaching*, 72(2), 155-176.

<sup>ii</sup> Phan, L. H. (2018). English language teaching in the ASEAN context: Issues, challenges, and opportunities. In T. S. Le, M. T. N. Nguyen, H. T. T. Le, & T. D. Pham (Eds.), *English Language Teaching in the Southeast Asian Context: Research, Theory, and Practice* (pp. 1-14). Springer.

<sup>iii</sup> Gao, X. (2019). ELT in ASEAN: Achievements, challenges, and opportunities. *Journal of Nanning Teachers College*, 32(4), 100-106.

<sup>iv</sup> Kumara, A. & Santosa, R. (2016). The ASEAN economic community and English language education: Opportunities and challenges. *TEFLIN Journal*, 27(2), 181-195.