

New Directions

Assessment and Evaluation

6-8 July 2011, Kuala Lumpur

First notice

In order to support informed decision-making and practice in the area of Assessment and Evaluation, British Council would like to invite you to the fourth English symposium in East Asia: **Assessment and Evaluation: New Directions**. The symposium will bring together decision makers, planners, practitioners and academics from Ministries, the private sector and universities to share information and

- discuss issues surrounding the benefits and challenges of current Assessment and Evaluation systems
- explore possible new directions in Assessment and Evaluation and the challenges and the implications of implementation for all levels of the education system.

Participants will have the opportunity to share experiences and discuss their concerns with experts from the UK who have extensive experience of Assessment and Evaluation from around the world as well as share regional experiences and lessons learnt.

Symposium theme

More now than ever, education is in the spotlight. On a macro level, governments are negotiating the recession and populations are on the move as migrant workers play a key role in the national social economics and education of many countries in Asia. On a micro level individuals compete for highly-skilled jobs in an ever-decreasing global employment market. What challenges do these changes present for Ministries of Education? How will this affect policy and practice? The last five years have seen a great deal of change in education in East Asia particularly in the areas of the language of instruction, teacher training and curriculum reform. However, apart from one or two exceptions, there has been very little evaluation of assessment practices. There is now increasing interest in this area. There are several reasons for this:

- Top results do not necessarily mean top employees. Employers are increasingly indicating that performance on the job and the vast array of skills that go with this are just as crucial as excellent exam results. For education systems this means not only reviewing curriculums, methodology but also aligning assessment processes to them
- The realisation that alternative forms of assessment can be effective tools for improved student performance and fairer to more students and therefore a more eclectic approach to assessment is needed
- Linked to this is teacher competence and the whole area of teachers performance and assessment
- Institutions and organisations are under more pressure to show returns on investment for expensive, large scale programmes and therefore more likely to want to build in elements of monitoring and evaluation into their programmes.

New Directions

Sub-themes

Assessment of/for learning

- The relationship between formative and summative assessment
- The assessment of content being learned through English
- The development of national examinations

Assessment/testing literacies

- Training for test developers
- Teacher competence/readiness for assessing learners

Teacher assessment

- Standards/competencies for teachers
- Assessing teaching

Programme evaluation

- The development of a framework for large scale programme evaluation
- The implications of programme evaluation

Symposium outcomes

- Fuller understanding of the different Assessment and Evaluation systems being implemented in the region and elsewhere
- Greater awareness among participants of the range of Assessment and Evaluation systems available
- Greater awareness of the implications of various Assessment and Evaluation systems for trainers, teachers and learners

Symposium objectives

The objectives of the symposium are as follows:

1. Knowledge sharing

- To share knowledge about different types of Assessment and Evaluation in the region and elsewhere at primary, secondary and tertiary level
- To share practice and experiences to date of Assessment and Evaluation systems from the region and elsewhere

2. Debate and discussion

- To create a forum for strategic and policy dialogue to increase understanding of;
 - the benefits and risks of various systems of Assessment and Evaluation
 - the challenges surrounding the effective planning and implementation of Assessment & Evaluation systems

3. Partnership

- To work together to develop relevant, context-dependent plans of action for the improvement of assessment systems in the East Asia region.
- To identify possible cooperation areas to develop mutually beneficial collaborative projects

Important dates

Deadline for applications for speakers

Speakers notified

Deadline for speaker registration (If registration is not received by this date, then proposal is not accepted)

Deadline for registration for delegates

15 April 2011

30 April 2011

15 May 2011

17 June 2011

There are only **100 spaces** available for the symposium. Registrations will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

For more information please contact
mina.patel@britishcouncil.org.my

