

**Supervisory Unit, Educational Region 11**

with

**The English Language Centre of Australia**

and

**Suranaree University of Technology,  
Nakhon Ratchasima**

**A free one-day seminar**

## **Can learner independence be taught?**

*Learner independence is one of the buzzphrases of modern language teaching, but how can teachers apply these ideas in the real classroom? And are they really suitable for Asia anyway? This seminar gives some examples of activities and approaches that can work with Thai young learners; and it also takes a peek at the future of learning.*

Topics covered will include: Using vocabulary notebooks; using portfolio assessment in schools; collaborative learning in large classes; risk and risk-taking; second language acquisition from a Thai perspective; how ELCA uses individualised learning programs.

*There will be an opportunity to discuss the ideas in feedback groups at the end of the seminar.*

Presenters will include

**Sarah Johnston, Academic Director ELCA**

**Dr Dhirawit Pinyonattagarn, School of English, SUT**

**Clyde Fowle, Director of Studies, Assumption-Bell Language Centre  
Sriracha**

**Aj Nom Ranok, Supervisory Unit, Educational Region 11**

**Dr Sonjai Chaibunruang, Dept of Foreign Languages, KKU**

**Clarence Shettlesworth, UCLES (Cambridge University) Asia-Pacific**

**Richard Sproat, Director ELCA**

**at Surasammanakhan, Suranaree University of Technology, Nakhon  
Ratchasima**

**Saturday 27 March 10am to 4pm**

*Free admission includes lunch and refreshments*



Centre of Australia

**Fax to:** Tirawit Pinyonuttakan,  
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**From:** Richard Sproat,  
Director ELCA

**Total pages:** 1

**Date:** 25 March 1999

**Subject:** Seminar schedule

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Dear Dhirawit

Our draft schedule for the seminar is as follows:

0930 Registration of participants

1015 Opening remarks by Dr Wichit Srisa-an for SUT  
Reply by Richard Sproat for IDP/ELCA

1030 Mini-presentations 1 & 2

1110 Coffee break

1130 Mini-presentations 3, 4 & 5

1230 Lunch

1330 Mini-presentations 6, 7 & 8

1430 Tea

1450 Mini-presentation 9

1510 Discussion groups

1545 Plenary feedback from discussion groups

1600 Closing remarks by Richard Sproat for ELCA  
Vote of thanks by Sarah Johnston for ELCA

If you have any suggestions or problems with the above schedule, let me know.

I am today sending an invitation to the Head of the Supervisory Unit, Educational Region 11.

Regards

*Richard*

## **WELCOME REMARKS**

**By**

**Professor Dr. Wichit Srisa-an**

**Rector, Suranaree University of Technology**

The Seminar on “**Can Learner Independence Be Taught?**”

jointly organized by Suranaree University of Technology,

The English Language Centre of Australia, and Supervisory Unit, Region 11

at Surasammanakhan Center, Suranaree University of Technology

Saturday, 27 March 1999, 10.00 - 17.00

Colleagues from ELCA

Colleagues from Supervisory Unit, Region 11

Colleagues from SUT

Distinguished speakers and participants

Ladies and gentlemen

May I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the first teacher education seminar organised jointly by The English Language Centre of Australia, Suranaree University of Technology, and The Ministry of Education through its Supervisory Unit in Nakhon Ratchasima. Today is the first in what we hope to be a series of events and educational programs that will bring IDP Education Australia and Suranaree University of Technology close together in this part of Thailand.

As we all are aware, doing things cooperatively is always a challenge. This is because different institutions have different ways of working, different values, and different expectations and objectives. However, the rewards of working with others is that you learn, you make progress, you change; and if one does it well, one can change for the better.

In today's world of internationalization and globalization, one actually has no choice but to work with people who are very different from us. Modern communications can reduce geographical distance to zero, but the cultural distance is still there, and the challenge of bridging the cultural gap in a positive way will remain. It is then our duty to overcome this problem in a productive way, through our collaborative efforts and cooperation.

Our presenters today, as I have been informed, are Thai, Australian, and English, and our participating institutions are Thai universities, colleges, and high schools, Australian and English language schools, and publishers, both Thai and British. Our participants are mostly Thai teachers of English. The combined experience in English language education here today is very wide indeed, so the potential for us all to learn something new or unlearn old unproductive habits is high.

Let us then maximize our intelligence, experience, and goodwill today to try to bridge some of the interesting differences and learn something from each other.

Finally, I thank all the people from ELCA, Supervisory Unit Region 11 in Nakhon Ratchasima, and SUT who have made this seminar a reality. I wish you all great success in your deliberations today, and hope you will make good use of what you have learned today for the benefit of your students and yourself.

Thank you.

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DR. DHIRAWIT

1. Kindly attend to the UNESCO paper.
2. I have returned on your table the Surabaya paper. Try if it can still be shortened a bit. Otherwise, kindly finalize it ready for sending to Surabaya when I return. I will draft the cover letter.
3. Kindly prepare a one at most two-page essay on "Importance of Communication Skills specially in English" in the internationalization of our graduate programs. We will be using it in the preparation of questionnaire which we will send to graduate students to determine their English training needs and interests. This will be in relation to IDP program. Kindly assign Pin to coordinate the IDP Program together with ISU.
4. Please follow up also the Thai participation to the Yunnan conference, specially the choice of keynote speaker and the participation of universities and industries.

KHUN TOH

I HOPE YOUR EYE TROUBLE IS GETTING CURED.

KHUN PIN ✓

WELCOME BACK. KINDLY COORDINATE WITH TECHNOLIS WHAT IS TO BE DONE REGARDING ISU.

KINDLY TAKE OVER THE IDP PROJECT COORDINATION. REQUEST KHUN TOH AND DR. DHIRAWIT TO BRIEF YOU ABOUT IT.

TUKTA ✓

1. Kindly attend to the booking of the Paris-Strasbourg-Paris ticket. Confirm with the Rector if he decides to extend his visit to France to visit other universities aside from University of Paris and Strasbourg. I would prefer a Business ticket which I could top up myself or use my mileage.
2. Please forward to me any important documents that will arrive during my absence.
3. Kindly attend to the catalogues or filing, pictures, and erasures in the computer.- don't forget to check on the garden when you are not too busy.

AE

Please take care of all the files and letters as usual. Attend training programs on computers whenever there are new programs to learn.

BEST REGARDS TO ALL...THANKS.

1. Together with this fax is the draft of the Minutes of the Advisory Board Meeting. Kindly finalize, give to Dr. Wichit for his signature and then distribute to the Board Members.
2. Kindly draft a letter to all the Board Members telling them that they will be featured in the next issue of the Gazette and so we are asking for a short CV plus their most recent colored picture.
3. Kindly follow up various brochures, letters, visas that have been obtained.
4. Your travel has been approved and so include yourself in all preparations to China. Please fill up the forms for the Yunnan Conference. I do not know if we have sent our own reservations. There will be four from SUT - the Rector, Dr. Weerapong, yourself and myself. Dr. Weerapong will not be included in the Guizhou trip. He will return after the APDMEN Conference in Yunnan.
5. Kindly contact Yunnan and ask them as to the number of AUAP members who have sent the applications to the Conference. Ask them to keep us informed.

*Since*