

**Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization
Regional Language Centre**



Celebrating 50 years of Excellence as the Regional Language Centre of Choice

‘How to get the most out of this Conference?’

Why are you coming to the Conference? The major reason is that it is good for you:

1. to see or meet the authors who have written papers or books you have read,
2. to see what is current in language teaching research,
3. to start to build relationships with other practitioners and researchers in the field,
4. to network with professionals and educators in your field and exchange useful ideas for teaching and learning in the classroom.

If these are your goals, these tips might be helpful to you:

Some tips for attending paper presentations, *conversations with invited speakers* and workshops

1. Scan through the programme to see if there is anyone you absolutely don't want to miss a talk by.
2. Read the abstracts and decide which paper presentations you would like to attend.
3. You may want to mark what is your first choice and second choice of presentations in case the venue for your first choice is full and the organizers are bound by regulations to turn you away.
4. Plan a daily timetable of what you would do.
5. Remember pre-selection is required for admission to workshop sessions.
6. Share with other participants what you gained from attending a particular paper/ workshop. Listening to summaries of presentations you were not able to attend could prove useful.

Tips for socialising at the Conference

In addition to socializing with colleagues whom you know, you might want to use this opportunity to meet people from other institutions and countries. In fact, one of the most important parts of a conference is “standing in hallways talking to other professional colleagues, or socialising with them during lunch”.

1. Always remember the first law of socializing: act like a host. This means taking the initiative and introducing yourself to others.
2. If someone gave a talk, then introduce yourself and ask a thoughtful question about some issue that you are curious about or found interesting.
3. Use a mutual acquaintance. It is easier to walk up to a group if you already know one of them.
4. Talk with people at meals.
5. At lunch, meet everyone at your table, find out what they are doing, and tell them what you are doing. Try sitting at a random table with people you don't know. It might lead to valuable new contacts.
6. If there is someone you particularly want to talk to at the conference, just go up to that person and join or start a conversation.
7. Help others: make introductions and tell others of related work of people they should talk to. Not only is this the right thing to do, but others will remember and will do the same for you.