



Language Centre

UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

SPEAK. GROW.

Joint Conference by Language Centre, UBD and Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah, Malaysia

In November 2021, the Language Centre, UBD successfully co-hosted an international conference with the Academy of Language Studies (APB) of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Kedah titled “International Innovation in Teaching and Learning | Language Education Conference (i-InTeLeC 2021)”. The joint conference was held virtually from 9 to 10 November with the central theme “Education 5.0 – Exploring new

frontiers in language and education”. The two-day conference included several events: a research workshop, an academic conference, a round table discussion, as well as innovation and video presentation competitions. A research workshop on how to achieve successful “Publications in high-impact journals” was conducted by Associate Professor Dr Nor Fariza Mohd Nor of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia on the first day.



the need to experiment with pedagogies that stimulate student abilities such as independence, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving, all of which have been identified as key requisites for the 21st century.

The official day of the conference was held on the second day which began with the opening ceremony officiated by the guest of honour, Yang Berhormat Dato' Wira Dr Ku Abdul Rahman Ku Ismail, Chairman of the Higher Education Committee, Kedah State Government, followed by welcoming remarks from UiTM Kedah Rector, Professor Dr Haji Mohamad Abdullah bin Haji Hemdi, and Language Centre Director, Dr Yabit Alas. The keynote speech for the conference was delivered by Associate Professor Dr Andrew Littlejohn of SHBIE, UBD, a leading figure in the field of language education who spoke about the direction of language teaching and learning and

the need to experiment with pedagogies that stimulate student abilities such as independence, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving, all of which have been identified as key requisites for the 21st century. Next was the Round Table Discussion which looked into issues on opportunities and challenges in education brought by advanced technology. The distinguished members of the panel included invited speakers with expertise in language and education from UBD and UiTM (Shah Alam, Selangor). Finally, concluding the conference as the last event was the parallel sessions of the Language Education Conference (LEC). This important collaboration with APB of UiTM Kedah provided an opportunity for LC to further develop and establish academic relations with other language faculties of international institutions.



The Guest of Honour giving his welcoming speech.

i-InTeLeC 2021: Round Table Discussion

An engaging forum with the theme “The Future of the Digital Age: Opportunities and Challenges” was held on 10 November 2021 in conjunction with the Language Education Conference (LEC). Among the panelists were academics with expertise in the fields of language and education such as Professor Dr Ahmad Mazli Haji Muhammad of APB, UiTM (Shah Alam), Associate Professor Dr Noor Azam Haji-Othman (Dean of FASS, UBD), Associate Professor Dr Andrew Littlejohn (Deputy Dean of Research at SHBIE, UBD), and Dr Juliana Shak (Lecturer at SHBIE, UBD).

The forum began with an interesting discussion on how far modern technology has sent teaching backwards. Since technology is generally synonymous with ‘advancement’, the exploration into

issues that show otherwise is significant as these issues tend to be ignored. This is especially relevant to the current switch to online education worldwide as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Other important issues that were discussed include the resulting increase in learner autonomy and learner engagement, and the role of remote teaching and learning in creating inequalities of opportunity among students.

Finally, the panelists shared their expert opinions on what opportunities arise from the use of technology to overcome these challenges, along with the skills that educators need to adopt in the changing education landscape and its implications on teaching and learning in the 21st century. The forum ended with questions from members of the audience

who also shared their thoughts about the issues discussed.



Panel speakers: (from top left) Professor Dr Ahmad Mazli, Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrew Littlejohn, (from bottom left) Assoc. Prof. Dr Noor Azam Haji-Othman, Dr Juliana Shak.



i-InTeLEC 2021: International Creative Presentation Award

As part of the i-InTeLEC 2021, an International Creative Presentation Award (ICPA) competition was held with the theme “Enhancing Language Use via Creative Presentation”. Students from higher education institutions and schools across Malaysia and Brunei were invited to submit short videos (done in groups) that would showcase not only their proficiency in various languages, but also their creativity in delivering specific messages to society. The winners were announced online on the final day of the conference, with the top prize awarded to students from UBD: Mohd Haziq Fakhry Mohd Bahtiar, Abu Huzaifah Awang Haji Sabli, Ak Ahmad Khairi Pg Haji Anuar, Muhd Zamir Zahran Burhan and Danial Hamizan Reduan, for their Public Service Announcement (PSA) video in Arabic language on handling a pandemic in Brunei Darussalam. Second place went to UiTM Kedah students with their short drama in English, while the 3rd, 4th and 5th places were also bagged by UBD students, with a short drama in Korean, a short drama in Arabic and a PSA in Arabic respectively.

In addition to language accuracy and fluency along with creativity of presentation, each video was assessed based on its positive message, theme execution, originality, as well as students’ overall coordination and performance.



Winners (1st place) of ICPA from UBD

Book translation into Mandarin for the 2021 China Shanghai International Children’s Book Fair

文大语言中心为文莱参展书籍大纲进行翻译

The Language Centre, UBD had been approached by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports to translate the synopsis of books published by the Brunei Language and Literature Bureau (DPB), Brunei Museums Department, and Brunei History Centre, from Malay to Mandarin. A total of 51 book synopses were translated into Mandarin to be showcased at the China Shanghai International Children Book Fair 2021 (CCBF 2021), as part of Brunei’s participation in the event.

The international event has been postponed to 22-24 July 2022 and will take place at the Shanghai World Expo Exhibition and Convention Centre (SWEECC) later this year.

中国上海国际童书展原定于2021年11月19日举办。文莱三大机构，即：文莱语文图书局，文莱博物馆和文莱历史中心参展了中国上海国际图书展。因此，文莱文化、青年与体育部委托文莱大学语言中心为参展书籍的大纲提供翻译。文莱大学语言中心一共翻译了51本马来文书籍的内容大纲。因疫情影响，2021中国上海国际童书展延期至2022年7月22日-24日

Japanese Online Interaction Sessions

和歌山大学(日本)バリアンタウ大学(ベトナム)

UBD言語センターの3大学日本語オンライン交流会

Japanese language lecturers from Wakayama University, Japan and the Language Centre, UBD jointly organised an online Japanese language interaction event on 9 September 2021, with 20 students from both universities participating, comprising international students studying Japanese at Wakayama University and UBD students studying Japanese at the Language Centre. With the success of the event, a second session was held on 23 December 2021 with the addition of Vietnamese students studying Japanese language at Ba Ria Vung Tau University, Vietnam, with a total of 50 students from all three universities. The aim of the event was to encourage the use of the Japanese language and to provide a platform for students to communicate in Japanese in a fun and informal environment. During the sessions, the students interacted with each other first by playing bingo games, which was then followed up with presentations about their universities. Finally, unstructured conversation sessions took place in breakout rooms on three topics: self-introduction, learning the Japanese language, and hobbies.

2021年9月9日に和歌山大学とUBD言語センターの日本語教師が共同で、日本語オンライン交流会を開催し、両大学から計20名の学生が参加した。和歌山大学で日本語を学ぶ留学生とUBD言語センターで日本語を学ぶ学生たちが主な参加者だった。好評につき2021年12月23日に第2回日本語オンライン交流会が開催された。ベトナムのバリアンタウ大学の日本語学習者たちも加わり、総勢50名が参加した。この交流会の目的は、学生たちが楽しく気さくな雰囲気の中で日本語を話し、今後の日本語学習につなげることである。交流会では、ビンゴゲーム、お互いの大学紹介、最後にブレイクアウトルームに分かれて1)自己紹介2)日本語学習3)趣味について自由に話し合った。

Program Komunikasi Profesional

Dalam Bahasa Melayu

Professional Communication

Programme in Malay language

Program Komunikasi Profesional dalam Bahasa Melayu (Professional Communication in Malay Language) telah mula dijalankan pada 17 Januari 2022 sepertimana dijangkakan dalam perancangan tahun lalu. Program yang diatur selama lapan minggu telah berakhir pada 13 Mac 2022. Seramai lapan orang peserta dari Singapura mengikuti program ini. Para peserta adalah terdiri daripada dua orang lelaki dan selebihnya peserta perempuan. Mereka turut menduduki peperiksaan percubaan sebagai langkah persediaan menghadapi peperiksaan sebenar setelah kembali ke Singapura. Sementara itu, tenaga pengajar yang terlibat dalam pelaksanaan program ini seramai dua orang, iaitu Puan Rabi’atul Adawiyah binti Haji Hassan dan Puan Hajah Zurinah binti Haji Ya’akub dari Pusat Bahasa, UBD.

The Professional Communication Programme in Malay Language commenced on 17 January 2022 as had been scheduled in the previous year. The eight-week long programme had recently ended on 13 March 2022. A total of eight participants from Singapore (two males and six females) took part in the language enrichment programme, after which they sat for a mock examination as part of the preparation for their local examination upon returning to Singapore. The teaching staff who were involved in the facilitation of the programme were Mrs Rabi’atul Adawiyah binti Haji Hassan and Mrs Hajah Zurinah binti Haji Ya’akub of LC, UBD.

Academic Activities by LC Staff

Academic staff at LC have been active in presenting papers at conferences, giving keynote speeches, as well as delivering guest lectures.

- Dr Ishamina Athirah Muntassir presented her paper on “Developing Global Englishes Language Teaching (GELT) in Asia: Pronunciation teaching and ELF” at the Brunei Malaysia Forum: Trans-Asian Networks: Continuity and Change hosted by Universiti Brunei Darussalam on 14 September 2021.
- Ms Suciwati Sulaiman gave a talk at the Effective Journal Reviewing and APA Referencing Workshop on 15 September 2021 which was organized by The Journal of Creative Practices in Language Learning and Teaching (CPLT), UiTM Kedah.
- Dr Balazs Huszka presented a seminar titled “Metaphorical Conceptualization of Basic Emotions in Indonesian” for The Fifth International Seminar on Linguistics (ISOL), organised by Universitas Andalas / UIN Imam Bonjol, Padang, Indonesia, on 26 September 2021.
- Dr Balazs Huszka gave a guest lecture on “Cabaran dan Kepentingan Bahasa Melayu di Peringkat Antarabangsa”, hosted by Management and Science University (MSU), Shah Alam, Malaysia on 28 September 2021.
- Dr Balazs Huszka delivered his keynote speech titled “What Outcome-Based Education Really Is: An Overview of Spady’s Concept”, at ICED-QA IV, The Fourth International Conference on Educational Development and Quality Assurance, held from 9-11 November 2021, organised by Ministry of Education / Universitas Andalas, Padang, Indonesia.
- Dr Ishamina Athirah Muntassir delivered a keynote speech titled “Putting the ‘G’ (Global) on ELT: Are we ready for a change?” at The Second International Conference on English Language, Literature and Culture (SICELLC) hosted by Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia on 13 November 2021.
- Dr Sarah Boye presented her paper on “Using the concept of plurilingual competence to understand Bruneian university students’ attitudes about their language use” at the International Association for Languages and Intercultural Communication (IALIC) Annual Conference 2021: Language, Culture, and Interculturality: global debates, local challenges. The conference took place on 23 November 2021 in Bogota, Colombia, hosted by Universidad de Los Andes.
- Dr Mohi El-Din presented his paper titled “The benefit from the interactive e-book in teaching and learning the Arabic language at Universiti Brunei Darussalam” at The Third International Conference on Teaching Arabic Language, held in Selangor, Malaysia on 15 December 2021.
- Ms Suciwati Sulaiman gave a seminar on “Effective Academic Writing Skills” for the Effective English Language Writing for Publications Workshop on 6 January 2022 which was held at Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolckiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, Ministry of Defence.
- Ms Suciwati delivered a talk on “Using Technology in Language Learning” at the International Mother’s Language Day Forum on 21 February 2022 which was organized by the High Commission of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.
- Ms Yuki Akita gave a talk on “An approach to understanding Japanese Culture at Universiti Brunei Darussalam : From case studies of Japanese Language Learners and Japanese Culture Club Activity” for the Wakayama University International Symposium Series Vol. 2 Japanese Culture and Japanese Language Education on 3 March 2022.

CONSULTANCY AND SERVICES

The Language Centre offers consultancy in Language Programmes and in Premium Editorial Services (proofreading, editing and translation)

Please contact the following officers for further inquiries:

1. Language Programme Consultant - Suciwati Haji Sulaiman
2. Premium Editorial Services Coordinator - Liyana Putri Hj Abd Ghani

UPDATES & ACTIVITIES

New languages offered at LC

The Language Centre is expanding its language courses and is now offering new courses on Vietnamese language starting this semester. Other interesting languages that may be offered in the near future include Belait and Italian.

New Staff



Dr Omar Colombo currently teaches French at LC. He holds a PhD in Linguistics & Didactics of Foreign Languages. His qualifications include over many years of academic experience in teaching Italian, French, translation, linguistics, and didactics of the foreign languages. He has worked in France, UAE, Malaysia and now Brunei. His research areas include foreign languages, comparative language studies, technology enhanced learning and he has published various educational materials (didactic units and course book chapters).



Dr Tran Trong Nghia currently teaches Vietnamese at LC. He has a PhD in Linguistics from Vietnam National University (VNU). He has taught the Vietnamese language since 2012 at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, VNU, as well as Busan University of Foreign Studies in South Korea. His research interests are in Vietnamese studies, language teaching, and developing Vietnamese language textbooks.

UBD-EPT

[Click Here for details](#)

Contact Us:

- office.lc@ubd.edu.bn
- lc.ubd.edu.bn
- [@lc.ubd](https://www.instagram.com/lc.ubd)
- [@language_centre.ubd](https://www.facebook.com/language_centre.ubd)

**Language
Centre**