[FOREWORD]

Messages from Northeastern Japan to the World

Tohoku Chapter Chairman, Akita University, Minoru Kono

The JACET 42nd Annual Convention is to be held in Sendai from the 4th through the 6th of September in 2003. As host chapter, we would like to welcome as many members as possible to Northeastern Japan, where Sendai is situated.

What is the general image of Northeastern Japan? Some may regard it as “Michishaku,” the remotest land, or the least globalized part of Japan. A traveler going back in time to the early 17th century Sendai, however, would meet with HASEKURA Tsunemasa, a delegate to Spain and Rome sent by DATE Masamune, Lord of the Sendai Domain. Hasekura could be called a pioneer in Japanese diplomacy. Later in modern times, we have produced a number of international figures, such as NITobe Inazo from Iwate, and Mr. AKASHI Yasushi from Akita, a keynote lecturer at one of the JACET annual conventions.

My hometown, Tsuchiizaki, is the port in Akita City. It is a gate to the outside world. This area has produced a number of prominent figures who have introduced different ideas and cultures to our country. KOMAKI Ohmi, for example, sympathized with Henri Barbusse’s “clarte” movement and joined antiwar campaigns while he was studying in Paris. After he came home, he started a new literary magazine Sowers with his friends in Tsuchiizaki, working as a forerunner in the proletarian literature movement in Japan. Another notable personality is TADA Tokan, who made significant contributions in the research of Tibetan Buddhism and culture. The sutras and literature he collected in Tibet are now kept at Tohoku University, as well as at other universities in Japan and the United States.

After a long lapse, Tsuchiiizaki has recently produced a new eminent figure: Dr. YOSHIMOTO Takashi, President of Tohoku University and one of the keynote lecturers in the forthcoming JACET Annual Convention. As former Dean of the School of Medicine, he is expected to talk about the significance and status quo of the use of English in the medical world, and give us some suggestions for the teaching of English in colleges and universities.

Professor ISHIYAMA Koichi at Toin University of Yokohama is one of the instructors at the special seminar sponsored by the Tohoku Chapter JACET Convention Executive. Born in the downtown area of Akita City, Professor Ishiyama graduated from Akita High School (I was teaching there, at the time).
He later studied in the United States on a Crew Foundation scholarship where he received an MA, and actively worked as a conference interpreter and a contributor for foreign newspapers. In the defence session, Professor Ishiyama described his experiences as an international journalist, enabling participants to improve their oral communication skills. I am sure he will address the various issues of interest at the special seminar, with Professor Nakamura Yoichi, instructor in the IT-mediated testing session.

My colleagues and I have recently been working on a project led by Professor David Ingram at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia. The objective of the study is to determine the effect of foreign language learning on cross-cultural attitudes. It was organized by the Brisbane team and the Akita team. Students and teachers in a number of schools in and around Akita City were requested to answer questionnaires on their learning experience and their attitudes towards other cultures. The results of the survey are expected to be presented, in part, at Professor Ingram's keynote lecture at the forthcoming JACET Annual Convention.

The foregoing of more positive attitudes between people of different cultures is, I believe, one of the central aims of foreign language education. It is an issue of particular significance after the conflicts in Iraq began on the 20th of March 2003. We would like to emulate our forerunners at the forthcoming JACET Convention, and hope to issue messages promoting multicultural coexistence from Northeastern Japan to the world.

Message from the JACET Office
Michiko Nakano, Secretary General

The end of March, 2003, marks the end of my first year in office as the secretary general of JACET. It has been a very difficult year, but I am very grateful to you for your understanding and support of the Association and our activities.

Activities from April, 2002 to March, 2003 were as follows:
(1) Annual Convention
The 41st Annual Convention was held from November 7-9 at Aoyama Gakuin University.
(2) Chapter Conventions
Each chapter held its convention on the following dates and locations: Tohoku: June 8, Tohoku Gakuin University; Hokkaido: July 6 at Otaru College of Commerce; Chubu: June 6 at Kinjo-gakuin University; Kansai: July 9 at Kwansei University; Chugoku-Shikoku: June 9 at Kochi University of Engineering; Kyushu-Okinawa: October 12 at Gakushuin University.
(3) Regular Publications
JACET Bulletin No.35, No.36 and JACET News No.132-133 were published.
(4) JACET Summer Seminar
The 30th JACET Summer Seminar was held at Kusatsu Seminar House on August 17-20. The theme was "New Perspectives in ESP," and the main lecturer was Professor Dan Douglas of Iowa State University.
(5) JACET English Teaching Seminar
The 12th English Teaching Seminar was held at Toyo University on March 29. The theme was "Some Problems and Issues of Criterion-Referenced Tests in English Language Education."
(6) JACET Monthly Meetings
Six regular monthly meetings were held on the following dates at these locations: April 27 at Tokyo Denki University; Issues in Practice Teaching; May 18 at Waseda University; English Language Education in Taiwan, England and Korea; June 29 at Tokyo Denki University; Computer-Oriented Curriculum Innovations and CALL; October 26 at Tokyo Denki University. How to Teach Enthusiastic Students and Measurement of Vocabularr Knowledge; November 16 at Waseda University: Curriculum Reforms and The Third Party Evaluation; January 26 at Tokyo Denki University: "Proposals for College English - CALF in English". In addition, one special lecture was given by Professor H. G. Widdowson (University of Vienna) at The British Council: "Text and Pretext in Language Use and Learning."

(7) International Exchange Programs
Prof. N. Jimbo and Prof. H. Yamasaki represented JACET at the Annual RELC Seminar. Prof. H. Oka attended the IATEFL Conference. Prof. H. Suzuki and Prof.K. Hayasaka attended the International KATE Conference. Prof. S. Ishikawa attended TEFL CHINA Conference.

(8) Others
JACET List of 9000 Basic Words was published, Proceedings of the 29th JACET Summer Seminar and Proceedings of the 30th JACET Summer Seminar were published. A General Survey of English Language Teaching in Japan was published.

Chapter News

[Hokkaido Chapter Report]
Annual Chapter Convention
On July 6, the 2002 Hokkaido Chapter convention was held at the Otaru Univ. of Commerce. At the general meeting, the financial report for the 2001 fiscal year, the 2002 schedule and the budget were approved. After the general meeting, JACET President, Yoji Tanabe (Waseda Univ.) gave a lecture entitled, "English education in a contracting social environment." Following the lecture were two research presentations: "Eclectic teaching based on grammatical metaphors and cognitive code-learning theory" by Takamori Nakajima (Hokkaido Univ. of Education at Asahikawa) and "Considering of teaching methods appropriate for English education in special schools" by Matsuyuki Kudo (Sapporo School of The Arts). After the presentations, a symposium entitled "Seeking countermeasures to tackle the deterioration of university students' English abilities" was held. The chairman was Osamu Taki (Otaru Univ. of Commerce) and the panelists were Harumitsu Kaname (Mitsubishi Women's College), Masashi Saaki (Hokkaido Bunkyo Univ.) and Akira Nakaya (Hokkaido Gakuen Univ.). A work session was held after the Chapter Convention. The title was "A homepage making course for beginners." The lecturer was Yukie Ueno (Hokkaido Gakuen Univ.).

Lectures
On May 18, 2002, the first lecture meeting of the JACET Hokkaido Chapter was held at Hokkaido Univ. Yukie Ueno (Hokkaido Gakuen Univ.) introduced "The CALL facility of the Univ. of Victoria and their authoring software. Hot Potato." Yoshiko Yokoyama (Hokkaido Univ. of Education at Nanae) reported on "A sister-school exchange using an electronic bulletin board: International understanding education in practice." On November 9, the second lecture meeting was held at Fuji Women's College. Osamu Taki (Otaru Univ. of Commerce) chaired a symposium entitled, "Cultivating Japanese with English Abilities." The panelists were Takehiko Kusunori (Hokkaido Univ.) and Yukie Ueno (Hokkaido Gakuen Univ.). The third lecture meeting was held on February 1, 2003 at Fuji Women's College. Keiko Hayasaka (Hokkaido Gakuen Univ.) and Yasushi Kawai (Hokkaido Univ.) lectured on how to write academic papers in the APA style. CALL SIG of Hokkaido JACET organized a special lecture meeting. Lorraine C. Beaudin (Univ. of Lethbridge, Canada) gave a lecture entitled, "Technology Integration and Distance Education" at Hokkaido Gakuen Univ. on June 8, 2002.

Publications
The JACET Hokkaido Chapter fifteenth Anniversary Memorial Bulletin (Hokkaido JACET Journal, No.1) was published on June 30, 2002. The sixteenth issue of The JACET Hokkaido Chapter Newsletter will be issued on March 31, 2003. (Yasushi Kawai, Hokkaido Univ.)

[Tohoku Chapter Report]
Annual Chapter Convention
A chapter meeting was held on March 1. The Tohoku Chapter hopes to make the year 2003, especially the 42nd Annual Convention that will be
held at Sendai in September, as productive as possible.
In the year 2002, the Tohoku Chapter held three lectures by renowned pedagogues, two symposiums on hot issues in ELF education in Japan, and three paper presentations attempting to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Major Events:

Lectures

Symposiums
1. Theory and Practice of Vocabulary Teaching (Tsunoda Takanashi, Kyoto Noto Prefectural University); Discussion: Minoru Murata (Chiba University). 2. Tsunoda Takanashi (Kyoto Noto Prefectural University), Tomoko Kajiwara (Aomori Prefectural Kirakusu High), Motoko Oyama (Aomori Prefectural Shiobune High).

2. Validation of Summative Evaluation in ELF Classrooms: Giving a final grade in ELF classrooms ... does the English ability really really really matter? (July 6). Coordinator: Yoshinori Watanabe (Akita University); Discussants: SATOSHI Ito, Gokou Hiroaki (Hokkaido University), Hiroshi Kojima (Aomori National College of Technology), Masako Sanuki (Akita University College of Allied Health Science)

Paper Presentations
"A Continuous Survey of Critical Thinking" (December 7). (Ken Matsuda, Tohoku University of Community Service and Sciences) 1. "Ways of Self-Evaluation in English Education" (December 7) (Yoko Hanada, Aomori Prefectural Hanazawa High School). 2. "On Vocabulary Acquisition Using English-Japanese Dictionaries" (December 7) (Hinoshi Harada, Graduate School, Miyagi University of Education Nobuo Ikagi, Miyagi University of Education Toshio Watanabe, Sendai University Women's College)

Publications
JACET-Tohoku Newsletter 24, including reports of the lectures, the symposiums and the paper presentations was issued in February, 2003.

The JACET 42nd Annual Convention is to be held at Sendai from the 4th through the 6th of September in 2003. We are very honoured to be involved in the preparation of such a large-scale conference, and look forward to welcoming as many members as possible as the host chapter. (Masakazu Sanuki, Akita University)

Kansai Chapter Report
Annual Convention
1. Spring Convention: Date: June 9, 2002; Place: Kansai University, Theme: Innovation in English Education - JACET's Mission
(b) Presentation: Chair: Takao Hayashi (Momoyama Gakuen University) Yang Tao-pong (Kyoto University); "Turn-taking analysis of Japanese ELF learners' English," Paul Hackshaw (Kyoto Kogakuen University): "Reliability studies on preparation TOEIC"
texts used for teaching TOEIC at a Japanese university”; Motori Tanimura (postgrad., Osaka Univ. of Foreign Studies); Etsuko Yoshida (Mie Univ.). Ichiro Nakato (Nokoda Women’s Univ.). Yusubige Aikawa (Kyoto Univ. of Foreign Studies): “Reconsidering Pair Story — Referential Choice and its Factors in Japanese and English.”

c) General Meeting

(d) Lecture: Yoji Tanabe (President of JACET, Waseda Univ.): “JACET and Popularised English Education.”

1.2. Aizu Convention: Date: Oct. 13, 2002; Place: Kochi City Univ.; Theme: Innovation in English Education — JACET’s Mission —

(a) Presentations:


Lectures

2.1. Lecture meeting: July 6, 2002 at Coop. in Kyoto. Topic: “Vocabulary teaching with an emphasis on collocation — a view from corpus linguistics.” Speaker: Ichiho Akano (Kyoto Univ. of Foreign Studies).

2.2. Lecture meeting: Nov. 23, 2002 at Campus Plaza. Topic: “Why is it on a bus while it is in a car?” Psychology and Logic in English Grammar.” Speaker: Minoru Nakau (Tokusha Univ.).

2.3. Lecture meeting: Dec. 7, 2002 at Chuo Kokudo: Topic: “Materials Development in Reading for Japanese Learners.” Speaker: Isuao Takamori (Kyoto Nite Dame Univ.).


2.5. There were still other meetings held in addition to the above meetings.

English Abilities Project: Meetings

Four groups working on English abilities for (1) university students, (2) graduate students, (3) English teachers and (4) company workers were formed to cope with the strategic plan devised by MEXT.

Other meetings

SIG meetings and the meetings of Steering Committee (3 times) & Study Planning Committee (3 times) took place.

Newsletter

JACET Newsletter was published 4 times.

Future plans

The Annual Kansai Chapter Spring Convention 2003 will be held at Heian Jogakai Univ. on June 7, 2003. Theme: What is English Ability? — Innovation in English Education. Details to be announced in Newsletter.

(Yusuke Tatsuka • Osaka Sangyo Univ • Masumi Azuma • Kobe Gijyutukouga Univ.)

[Cangka/Okikawa Chapter Report]

January Workshop

A workshop was held at Shjjitsu University, Okayama, on January 26, 2003.

In the first session, members of the chapter read papers. Kyoko Harum (Okayama Graduate School of Letters) spoke on “A Role of the Use of the Mother Tongue in English Class,” in which she discussed code-switching from L1 to L1 by Japanese teachers of English. Hiroshi Tabuchi (Shjjitsu University) spoke about “Humor and a Shadow of the War in ‘The Landlady’ by Roald Dahl,” pointing out the importance of using literature as a teaching material. Goro Murata (Kochi University) introduced an English scholar in his lecture, entitled “Tomoko Makino and his Surroundings.” “A Report on Pronunciation Instruction — Taking Notes in Reading Aloud and Correcting Pronunciation” was read by Takehisa Nishiyama (Shjjitsu University).

In the second session, Professor Michio Nakano, Shjjitsu University, gave a lecture entitled “The meaning of Gestures and Action — in Translation of English into Japanese and vice versa.” The speaker.
spoke on the subtle differences in meaning in language. It was a compelling lecture.

The 2nd Steering Committee Meeting
The committee meeting was held at Hiroshima University, on March 1, 2003. The following items were on the agenda:
(1) The accounts for the 2002 fiscal year and the budget and plans for 2003 were submitted and approved.
(2) The 2003 Chugoku-Shikoku Chapter Annual Convention is scheduled for June 8 at Yamaguchi University. Two workshops are to be held on November 16, 2003 and January 25, 2004.
(3) The JCET Chugoku-Shikoku Chapter Research Bulletin is to be issued in March 2004 if the plan is approved at the 2003 general meeting.

[Kyushu/Okinawa Chapter Report]

Steering Committee Meeting
A steering committee meeting was held on January 25, and finalized the contents of Chapter newsletter, then discussed how to deal with a recurrent English teachers' training plan proposed by Japan's Ministry of Education.
On March 8, the committee members gathered together to decide their activity plan for the academic year of 2003, and revised the instruction pages for contributors to the Chapter Journal. Annual Review of English Learning and Teaching. The 18th Annual Chapter Conference will be held at Oita Prefectural College of Arts and Culture on October 11.

Publications
A copy of the seventh Chapter Journal was sent to every Chapter member in February. In the journal are six articles, which cover topics such as an international comparison of English textbooks, English education policy, CALL, and vocabulary checking software. By the end of March, Newsletter No. 19 will be published.

Chapter-based SIG Activities
On February 15, a Chapter-based SIG, "Innovative Methodologies Study Group", helped organize a symposium called "English Education Reformed from Elementary School to University." The February program was coordinated by the SIG organizer, Prof. Tatsuyoshi Kanamaru (Nagasaki Wesleyan Univ.). There were active discussions between the panelists and the floor.

JACET Information
The Chapter webpage is always being updated. Please check http://www.niigata.ac.jp/jacet regularly. Another Chapter-based SIG, ESP, has announced that its website has been recently updated. The new URL is:
http://www.titan.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/yanamii/JCET-Kyushu/Okinawa-ESP. On March 15, Prof. Yukio Tono (Mekai Univ.) spoke at the Juniun English Seminar. His topic was: "An Introduction of Corpus Linguistics for English Teachers." A summary of his seminar is available at the following website:
http://tontolab.mekai.ac.jp-sono/jinem/.
If you are interested in the activities of our Korean counterpart, PKETA, please visit the websites below:
http://www.cyeahome.com/english/index.html or

Main Chapter Activities Left Uncovered
The following is an activity which was not covered in the February web version:
June 28 (Special Lecture Meeting) Dr. Woo C. Lee (Principal Officer of American Consulate, Fukuoka) (Topic) "English Education Policy in Asia" (Venue) Saitama Gakuin Univ.
(Takushoku University, Saitoh University of Nagasaki)

Research on Foreign Language Education Abroad
We have been researching foreign language policies abroad and comparing them internationally in order to propose a new viewpoint and perspective to the foreign language education in Japan. Until JLA '99 Tokyo we had been studying foreign language education policies in Eastern Asia, because the countries and areas there are geographically close to Japan and have linguistic and cultural similarities to Japan. By comparing with those in the areas, we clarified various problems with foreign language education in Japan and how things should be. As one of our productions, in 1999 we published the booklet "Foreign Language Education in Eastern Asia and Diagnosis of Foreign Language Education in Japan." From the 6th project on, we shifted our focus to foreign language education in the West, in "developed nations." We have been collecting information and data on foreign language education in developed nations, and have published a booklet called "Foreign Language Education in Developed Nacions countries."

Reports from Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
Nations' and Some Implications for Foreign Language Education in Japan."

We hold a meeting about every two months, usually at public facilities or universities. This year we are planning to hold a symposium titled "Foreign Language Education in the University: Searching for Ideals" at the JACET 42nd annual convention in September, 2003.

Yoji Miyaraki - Kinki Univ. (Past-chairman) English Education in East Asia

Founded in early 1999, the English Education in East Asia SIG has met 33 times and has grown to 33 members as of March 2003. The purpose of the SIG is to provide a forum for disseminating research and exchanging information on English Education in various countries in East and South-East Asia, with a particular interest in China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore. Since its founding, the SIG has maintained close relations with the Yongin English Teachers' Association (YETA), the Kyushu-Okinawa Chapter's sister organization based in Fukuoka, Okinawa, and the vice president of the association of Japanese Language Teachers of Japan. In the 2002 academic year, the SIG held eight meetings, with each meeting being centered on an academic presentation. Presentations were as follows:

April 20, "Looking into the New Course of Study" (Kiyonaga Katsumi, Kogakuin University); May 25, "Thinking about Language Aptitude Tests for University Students" (Nagai Kazuko, Seinan Gakuin University); July 27, "Pedagogical Dissimilarity in High School English Classes in South Korea" (Robert J. Fouser, Kyoto University); September 9, "Influences of Elementary-School English Education on Junior and Senior High School Textbooks in Korea" (Kiyonaga Katsumi, Iwate University); October 22, "Introducing Non-Native Varieties of English to the Classroom: A Case Study of Inviting International Students to a Classroom" (Shiina Masahiro, Kyoto University); December 21, "Developmental Trends in Learner Beliefs about Learning English" (Raphael D'Onofrio, Fukuoka Junior College of Medicine); February 22, "Teaching English from the Perspective of 'International Language'" (Kakimoto Eiko, Kogakuin University). In addition to the above presentations, Kiyonaga Katsumi, Kiyonaga Katsumi, Robert J. Fouser, and Hagiwara Akiko (Kogakuin University) organized a symposium entitled "What Japan Can Learn from English Education in South Korea" at the 41st Annual National JACET Conference in September 2002. The SIG plans to continue to hold monthly or bi-monthly meetings in 2003. For further information on the SIG's activities, please contact Kiyonaga Katsumi at kiyonaga@kogakuin.or.jp or Robert J. Fouser, Kyoto University.

Notices and Announcements

Announcement from the Committee of the JACET Bulletin

The JACET Bulletin will feature a new section "Research Notes." This section will carry short practical articles which is intended to give researchers an opportunity to share findings and insights from work that may not warrant treatment in a full-length academic paper. The editors invite readers to submit articles of no more than 10 pages in the format specified and following the procedures delineated under INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS of the Bulletin No. 36. (TAKAHASHI Sadai ° Tamagawa Univ.)

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