Aug. 26/ 13:30-14:30/ Grand Hall

Plenary Lecture 1

The Evolving Role of Assessment in Connecting Learning, Policy, and Practice

Sevak, Amit (ETS)

The true measure of a nation is not what it possess today, but what its people are able to become, tomorrow.

Across the world, education systems are being asked to prepare learners for a future shaped by artificial intelligence, longer working lives, shifting labor markets, and constant change. That challenge places readiness at the center of the education agenda: readiness for the next grade, for higher education, for work, and for a lifetime of learning and adaptation.

Assessment is essential to that work. It gives educators a clearer view of what learners know and can do. It helps policymakers understand where systems are succeeding, where gaps remain, and which reforms are producing results. It gives institutions and employers trusted evidence of the skills and capabilities people bring to the opportunities ahead.

This plenary address will examine how assessment can create stronger connections among learning, policy, and practice. Drawing on international experience and advances in measurement science, it will explore how evidence can improve instruction, guide public policy, strengthen accountability, and help education systems respond to changing economic and social needs.

The future of assessment lies in helping nations answer their most important question: Are we preparing people to succeed in what comes next?

Amit Sevak, CEO of ETS leads one of the world's leading education and talent solutions organization serving 30 million learners annually. A trusted partner to governments, ministries and institutions, he speaks to how global education systems must evolve measurement practices to build AI-literate populations and skilled workforces, creating pathways that prepare students and workers to be future-ready, to succeed in an AI-driven economy.

Aug. 27/ 16:45-18:00/ Grand Hall

Plenary Lecture 2

Learner Corpus Research in Applied Linguistics: The Evolution and Future Contributions to L2 English/Japanese Acquisition Studies

Ishikawa, Shin'ichiro (Kobe University)

Learner corpus research (LCR) has profoundly reshaped the landscape of applied linguistics. By analyzing large-scale digital databases, LCR enables researchers and educators to uncover systemic patterns and challenges faced by L2 learners across diverse variables—including L1 background, regional context, and motivational factors—thereby providing a robust, empirical foundation for pedagogical intervention. While early corpus-based L2 acquisition studies often focused on relatively homogenous learner groups, the field is now moving toward a more holistic and multi-dimensional understanding through the analysis of diverse, large-scale data. This keynote address explores the evolving contributions of LCR to L2 English and Japanese acquisition studies, specifically through the lens of two major international corpora: the International Corpus Network of Asian Learners of English (ICNALE) and the International Corpus of Japanese as a Second Language (I-JAS).

Shin'ichiro (Shin) Ishikawa, PhD, is a Professor of Applied Linguistics at the School of Languages and Communication, Kobe University, Japan. His primary research focus lies in corpus linguistics, with interests spanning various domains of applied linguistics, including the development and application of the International Corpus Network of Asian Learners of English (ICNALE). A Past President of the Japan Association of English Corpus Studies (JAECS), he currently holds several leadership positions, including Vice President of the Mathematical Linguistic Society of Japan (MLSJ), President of the JACET Kansai Chapter, and Chair of the MEXT-supported Kinki Japanese Language Teaching Platform (K-JLTP). He also serves as a member of the Council for Cultural Affairs (Japanese Language Division) under the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan.