

## MELTA 2019

### General Report

Submitted by Rhea Metituk

### CONFERENCE INFORMATION

**Conference Name:** The 28<sup>th</sup> Malaysian English Language Teaching Conference  
**Theme:** “English Language Education and Society 5.0: Developing Sustainable Literacies”  
**Date & Location:** August 13-15 2019  
Riverside Majestic Hotel - Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo

### YOUR INFORMATION

**NAME** Rhea Metituk  
**Phone:** 010-2567-8882  
**Current KOTESOL Position:** Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter President  
(at time of conference)  
KOTESOL 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
(at time of report)

### CONFERENCE REPRESENTATION DETAILS

1. Who was your main contact person in the hosting organization prior to departure? List his/her e-mail and/or phone contact information and position in host organization.  
Datin Dr HjH Raja Mazuin bte Raja Abdul Aziz  
Vice- President 2  
[Kumaz92@gmail.com](mailto:Kumaz92@gmail.com)

### EXPENSE REPORT

1. Flight to venue: Busan to Kuching  
622,502 KRW
2. Gifts Provided by KOTESOL before departure
3. Banner postage: 5000KRW to mail banner to next representative

### HOSPITALITY and COURTESIES

1. Accommodation for two nights at the conference venue hotel

2. Free meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout all the days of the conference, including banquet dinners
3. Gifts – special beaded necklace, made in the traditional Sarawak style, to wear to indicate identity as invited presenter, and a vase with conference name inscribed on it

#### **DUTIES/KOTESOL DISPLAY TABLE/MATERIALS**

1. Invited Speaker Presentation: 50 minutes, in the second-biggest venue room.
2. Display table – one large display table was available for all reps. JALT, and KOTESOL were the two invited speakers who took advantage of the table. Decorated it with banner, brochures, magazines, and attended it when not presenting, especially focused on the time during the morning sessions, but with contact information available.
3. Networking and visiting as many booths and presentations, having discussions with fellow presenters and attendees

#### **GENERAL ADVICE**

Future attendees from KOTESOL would best, if possible, be teachers of young learners, and also if possible, Korean teachers.

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*Content of TEC Article for MELTA 2019:*

#### **MELTA 2019 – A Lavish Display of Professional Commitment to Pedagogy in Malaysian Borneo**

Majestic, ceremonial, and grounded in local culture, the 28<sup>th</sup> Malaysian English Language Teaching Conference in Kuching, Sarawak was a splendor to partake in. The theme “English Language Education and Society 5.0: Developing Sustainable Literacies” was well placed on Malaysian Borneo, a land of jungle, sea, and protected wildlife, while showing forward momentum in innovative content. MELTA’s conferences have, since inception, been planned with the support of the Malaysian Ministry of Education, so are lavishly celebrated, and intricately connected to the local community of educators, as well as students, and the flourish of the royal patron of MELTA, DYMM Raja Zarith Sofiah Binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah, Permaisuri Johor, who gave a touching speech indicating her personal investment in English education in the nation. The MELTA Ecosystem is based on a solid pentagonal structure including Teacher Development, Learner Development, Research & Scholarship, Partnership, and Social Responsibility. MELT-A-HEART is the recipient of the latter in the list, where gorgeous new books for young learners are collected and donated, to support local communities in need. Local culture was celebrated in the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as formal dinners attended by local musicians and dancers.

## **Integrated**

This pentagonal structure's development is the result of the unique aspects of MELTA conferences. Upon entry to the conference venue, attendees are welcomed by poster presentations, partnership tables, and sponsors for the event. The constant hive was the hub of connection to the conference rooms beyond, so it is easy to engage with each part of the organizational structure. MELT-A-HEART was at the center. MELTA's social responsibility initiatives include tuition and libraries for underprivileged children in over 40 schools throughout Malaysia. Young learners attended the event to compete in the Way With Words competition, awards for project-based learning projects, and the Malaysian International Students Innovation and Creativity challenge.

The conference also included a research competition and awards in five different categories: Teacher Trainers/Academics, Ph.D Candidates, Master's Students, Teachers, and Teacher Trainees/Undergraduates.

The 2019 MELTA conference had 500 attendees from 30 countries, and the usual range is from 500 to 900 each year with delegates comprising internationals from 25-30 countries. MELTA's 11 chapters were all strongly represented. Each year chapters are chosen in rotation to be hosts, spreading the development across the various areas of the country. In addition to the local chapters, MELTA has partnerships with 15 international organizations, including KOTESOL and KATE from Korea, and other countries in Asia.

## **2019 Representative Role - Maybe you could go next!**

As a featured speaker, I presented on my current focus of interest, creative film projects with Korean university students. I would recommend the next delegate to present on pedagogy related to young learners, and especially it would be great to have a Korean KOTESOL representative. Of the 15 international partners, tables were set up by KOTESOL, JALT [Japan] and ETA-ROC [Taiwan]. Delegates socialized while attending spectacular presentations, as well as on a river cruise conveniently setting out from the front of the conference venue, the Riverside Majestic Hotel in Kuching. The name of the city of Kuching means "cat" in Malay, and the city is dotted with cute statues commemorating its namesake, as well as a fantastic array of museums. After the final ceremonies were enjoyed, I explored these and also was able to set off on jungle treks.

## **History of MELTA, and MELTA and KOTESOL's Partnership**

MELTA, a voluntary non-profit, was officially formed in 1982, and is completely run by Malaysians. Its growth mindset is proudly reflected by its current president, the friendly and well-spoken Dr. Ganakumaran Subramaniam. KOTESOL and MELTA created a memorandum of understanding June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, and started active partnership from 2016. I was inspired by MELTA's standards of being strongly

integrated with the community, and including celebratory aspects in the conference which showcase local cultural traditions, artistry, and culinary delights.

**Bio Data of Author**

Rhea Metituk is currently 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of KOTESOL and a member of the Busan council. She was Busan Chapter Secretary for one year, Busan Chapter President for two years, and Financial Affairs Chair on the national council for two years. Rhea works at the University of Ulsan.