

1. CANDIDATE INFORMATION

- Name: Meerbek Kudaibergenov
- KOTESOL Elected Position Sought: 2nd VP
- Work Affiliation(s): Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech)
- KOTESOL Membership Period: since 2021
- Education:
 - Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, 2021, PhD in TESOL
 - Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, 2018, MA in TESOL
 - Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, 2014, BA in Translation & Interpreting
- Work Experience:
 - Seoul National University of Science and Technology, since 2022, Assistant Professor
 - TOPIA Education, 2021-2022, R&D Specialist
- Service
 - ☐ KOTESOL Service – National
 - 2027 KOTESOL International Conference Program Director (since May 2026)
 - 2026 KOTESOL International Conference Committee Chair (May 2025-May 2026)
 - 2025 KOTESOL International Conference Co-chair and Program Director (May 2024 – May 2025)
 - ☐ KOTESOL Service – Chapter / SIG
 - KOTESOL Research SIG Facilitator (since March 2026)
 - ☐ Other ELT-Related Service
 - SeoulTech Language Education Colloquium Coordinator (since 2022)
- Awards
 - ☐ KOTESOL Stepping-Up Award 2025
 - ☐ Global Korea Scholarship Award 2015-2018
 - ☐ Global Korea Scholarship Award 2018-2021

2. CANDIDATES' STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am running for 2nd Vice President of Korea TESOL because I would like to contribute more directly to the organization and its members. As an Assistant Professor at Seoul National University of Science and Technology, I have experience in university teaching, teacher education, research, and academic event and conference organization. I have also worked with educators from diverse backgrounds through my involvement in Korea TESOL, particularly as conference chair, co-chair, program director, and Research SIG facilitator. These experiences have given me a strong understanding of the needs of ELT professionals in Korea.

If elected, I will focus on strengthening communication and collaboration among SIGs, and KOTESOL members through SIG coordination and Connections Day Planning. I will especially support early-career teachers and members from diverse backgrounds and seek to connect research with classroom practice. I will work collaboratively with the National Council and other members to develop practical and inclusive initiatives.

I declare that I have read and am aware of the contents of the Korea TESOL Code of Conduct and will uphold its principles in carrying out the responsibilities of this position.

Meerbek Kudaibergenov

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meerbek Kudaibergenov', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

September 1, 2026

KOTESOL Nominations & Elections 2026-2027

Dr. Meerbek Kudaibergenov - Second Vice-President

My name is Gabriela Villafradez, and I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Meerbek Kudaibergenov for the past two years as the KOTESOL International Conference Co-Chair and Programme Director (2026), and he as the KOTESOL International Conference Chair (2026).

It is with great confidence that I endorse Meerbek Kudaibergenov for the role of Second Vice President (2VP). Having worked closely alongside him during the 2026 KOTESOL International Conference (IC), I have experienced his leadership first-hand. Throughout our time together, Meerbek acted not only as an exceptional leader and mentor to me, but he also became a close colleague. He consistently demonstrates the finest qualities of a strong leader: profound knowledge, reliability, and immense patience.

Meerbek has taught me a great deal, and I am entirely certain that our wider KOTESOL community will continue to learn, thrive, and grow under his guidance. As the current Research SIG facilitator, he has a thorough, ground-level understanding of Special Interest Groups, the facilitators who run them, and the exact institutional expectations of the role - insights that are absolutely vital since oversight of the SIGs falls directly to the 2VP.

What sets Meerbek apart is his ability to build bridges across every tier of our organisation. He has cultivated deep, meaningful relationships with the National Council through his stellar work as the KOTESOL IC Chair 2026, with local chapters as a dedicated Seoul Chapter officer, and with the broader membership as an established academic.

Meerbek is more than qualified to embody this role. He has been an extraordinary asset to our team, and I have no doubt whatsoever that he will bring the same dedication, vision, and leadership to the National Council.



Gabriela Villafradez

University of Ulsan

KOTESOL membership, January 2024 - present

2026.09.04

Endorsement

Meerbek Kudaibergenov

For the Position of

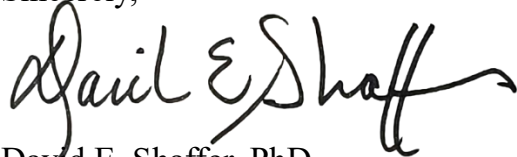
KOTESOL International Conference Committee Co-Chair

My association with Dr. Meerbek Kudaibergenov has been chiefly through the KOTESOL International Conference Committee (ICC) over the past two years. During that time, Meerbek served as ICC co-chair and chair, and has impressed me with how and how quickly he is able to come to grasp situations and details new to him. In my positions as finance and invited speakers directors on the 2025 and 2026 ICCs, I worked closely with Meerbek, especially on ICC 2026 when he was conference chair. Meerbek was a pleasure to work with and possesses admirable organizational skills as witnessed by ICC 2026 itself and its financial report that was in the black. After serving a grueling year as conference chair, many chairs step back for a year of rest and recuperation – not Meerbek. He is back on ICC 2027 as program director. His dedication to KOTESOL service shows.

Meerbek is also the facilitator of the Research SIG. With his special interest group experience and his organizational skills, I am confident that Meerbek will do an excellent job as KOTESOL's second vice-president, where the two main duties are overseeing the work of the SIGs and the planning and hosting of KOTESOL Connections Day.

Meerbek is an educator, a scholar, an organizer, a presenter, and a pleasure to work with. For all of the above reasons, it is my pleasure to endorse Dr. Meerbek Kudaibergenov for the position of KOTESOL second vice-president.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David E. Shaffer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David E. Shaffer, PhD

Gwangju International Center

KOTESOL Member: 1993–present (lifetime member)

September 1, 2026