



SPELT ebulletin

34 Years of
Empowering

FROM THE SPELT DESK

‘Thinking out of the box’ is a strategy, which SPELT has used right from its inception in 1984 till date. One such example is SPELT’s Travelling Conference. This innovative model is now replicated in many other countries. SPELT conference has now become an event for which people wait the whole year round to experience the rich interaction with national and international presenters, which in our impoverished educational environment is an academic treat. Also, through its networking SPELT is proud to have opened windows of opportunity to many SPELTers, who are now leaders in the ELT field in Pakistan and abroad!

Every year SPELT holds four conferences within a ten-day period. The inaugurating conference is in Karachi, followed by simultaneous conferences in Lahore, Islamabad, and Abbottabad; As such the travelling conference reaches out to 2,000-3,000 teachers across the country, enriching their lives with new ideas and strategies for teaching and learning. A lot of planning

and hard work goes into making the conference such a success. Because our presenters travel from one place to another - in a kind of relay race pattern, fitting in their programmes in different cities is almost like putting a jigsaw puzzle together where all the pieces have to fit in to complete the picture!

Why doesn’t SPELT follow the traditional pattern of a conference, held at one venue where everyone converges for the duration of the conference? Thinking out of the box, SPELT realized that most of our membership is female and our social norms will not allow them to travel to another city; also, not being so well paid, the expense involved would be prohibitive for both male and female teachers. So SPELT thought that “If teachers cannot go to the conference, the conference will come to them.” It’s a win-win situation for everyone - our overseas visitors get a chance to travel across the country and meet teachers from all over Pakistan, while our teachers get a chance to develop themselves professionally through their interaction with international and national

presenters. SPELT not only gives its members a chance to enrich themselves, it also shows a positive face of Pakistan to our visitors from different countries. As such, SPELT also serves the nation by keeping our flag flying high through its professionally organized travelling conference each year.

2019 is SPELT’s 35th year - members are invited to become a part of the travelling conference and enjoy the wonderful road show! Think out of the box and join us!

SPELT House: 101, First Floor, Plot No. C-28, Bank Al Habib Building, Kh-e-Ittehad, Lane 12 Phase II Ext, D.H.A, Karachi, Pakistan.

Contact No: +923351233626

Email:

speltheadoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.spelt.org.pk

E-bulletin Team

Ms. Farheen Hasan

Ms. Sadia Jameel

Ms. Salwa Abbasi


SPELT Working Committee Updates

Workshop Committee

- The classroom management session by Tahira Moin in October was well attended and highly appreciated.
- This year the Workshop Committee had planned on holding 4 Post-conference sessions. Two sessions were held at the SPELT House and one at Happy Home School. Unfortunately, the 4th session had to be cancelled as the presenter fell ill and had to be hospitalized.
- Future Events: On November 24, Ms Rehmat Ibrahim, the Workshop Coordinator will conduct a 2-hour session on 'Experience outlining through reading'. This comprehensive session will be held before the monthly academic session; therefore, participants will have the opportunity to enjoy 2 sessions that day.



Academic Committee



**Integrating
Gardening Activities
in ELT Lessons**

**FREE ACADEMIC
SESSION
#SPELT**

Day : Saturday

Date : 24 November 2018

Time : 3pm to 5pm

**Venue : SPELT Head
office, DHA, Karachi.**

34th SPELT International Conference Highlights

Karachi, 3rd-4th November' 2018

After a year of planning for the 34th SPELT International Conference 2018, this mega professional development event for ELT teachers, practitioners and educationists was finally held on 3-4 November 2018 at the Institute of Business Management IoBM at its 34th International Conference amidst political unrest and uncertainty in the country. Kudos to the unending efforts of SPELT Conference Committee and the entire Working Committee!



International presenters from the USA, Nepal, Bangladesh, Canada, and Australia and eminent national presenters from all across Pakistan presented more than 100 papers, workshops, colloquia and webinars and panel discussions on the theme of the conference “Engaging the 21st Century Learner”.

The Conference was inaugurated at 9:30 am with some verses from the Holy Quran beautifully recited by Talha Saleem. After the welcome address by the Conference Coordinator, the program started formally. Dr Tina Sharpe, Sydney University TESOL, Australia, delivered her key note address on “Scaffolding Teachers' Professional Learning to Support Student Understanding” which focused on the theme of the conference. The program proceeded with the plenary one by Dr Ron Thomson, Brock University, Canada on “Teacher cognition and English Pronunciation Instruction”. After an exciting and interactive session by Dr Thomson, Beth Trudell from BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh presented her plenary talk on “Making Waves: Radio Waves That’s It” that focused on how students of 21st century could be engaged through radio for English Language Learning.

The first phase of the day 1 ended at 12: 45 pm then the participants were dispersed for prayers and lunch. A huge marquee was set up for the food court and for the sponsors’ stalls where participants could enjoy dhaba chai with shawarma while networking with each other. Following lunch, parallel sessions were held from 1.30-5.00 p.m. These included featured presentations by national and international delegates. All the sessions were very well-attended which showed participants’ interest in the topics they had chosen to attend.

The second day of the conference kicked off with the parallel sessions. Mr. Abbas Hussain, as always, attracted a large audience for his session titled ‘Chained or Changed? The New Roles of Engagement’. Motikala Subban Dewan, President of NELTA, Nepal, presented a very interesting session on ‘Life with Folktales: An Effective Tool in EFL Class’ which was highly appreciated by the conference participants. Dr. Carolyn Layzer also captivated the participants' attention by presenting on ‘Engaging Learners in Self-Assessment’ which is the dire need of 21st century.

After lunch and prayers, the conference participants headed to the main hall where two plenaries, panel discussion and the closing ceremony took place. Dr Judy Sharkey conducted plenary 3 on 'Intercultural Citizenship: Fostering Civic Engagement through Language Education'. Dr Sharkey emphasized that intercultural citizenship and accepting the differences amongst the cultures graciously is an important need for the 21st century learner. After an exciting and interactive session by Dr. Sharkey, Dr Habibullah Pathan, Director, Centre of English Language, MUET, Jamshoro, took the stage for plenary 4 on 'A shifting Role of Motivation for Learning English In Pakistan'. His talk on 7 motivational factors that affect students' motivation was very engaging and insightful. The closing session started with a panel discussion moderated by Dr Bushra Ahmed Khurram on 'Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age'. The panelists included Abbas Hussain, Arzu E. Daniel, Dr Fatima Dar, Dr Judy Sharkey, Motikala Subba Dewan, and Dr Tina Sharpe.

The two-day conference passed so quickly but the impact of the various presentations, will, we hope, remain for a long time and translated into practice by the attending teachers and administrators.

Invited speakers with guests –Dr Irfan Hyder, Dean CBM, IOBM, Ms. Sana, Head Publishing, Paramount Books Pvt. Limited, Mr. Arshad Husain, MD, Oxford University Press, and Mr. Zeeshan Altaf Loyah, Z International.



Islamabad 11th-12th November' 2018

The Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT), Islamabad Chapter held its 34th Spelt International Conference on November 11 and 12 at Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) under the theme "Engaging the 21st Century Learner, as part of the larger SPELT travelling conference 2018.



National/ international speakers and researchers conducted a vast range of plenary sessions, paper presentation and workshops. Noted among the speakers were Abbas Hussain, Dr. Ronald Irvin Thomson, Beth Trudell, Dr Judy Sharkey, Dr Carolyn Layzer, Dr Madhu Sharma and Motikala Subba Dewan. There were 56 sessions in all which covered a variety of topics and attracted English language teachers. Besides, ELT sessions, there was a strand of teaching of Urdu sessions as well.

The concluding session was a very interesting and enlightening panel discussion, comprising the best educationists of the twin cities, Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The session was chaired by Prof Dr Shahid Siddiqui

and the guest of honor was Prof Dr Samina Qadir. Other panelists included Dr. Sarwat Rasool, Dr. Munizza Yaqoob, Dr Judy Sharkey and Abbas Husain.

In the end Spelt Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to veteran SPELTER Nasim Humayun, in appreciation for her services to SPELT Islamabad Chapter.

Though the attendance was much less than was expected (due to myriad reason), all in all, the presentations were well appreciated and got positive feedback from the participants.



Abbottabad 10th-11th November' 2018

The afternoon of Saturday, November 10, 2018 was an unusual one. The place was abuzz with the excited voices and fast-moving footsteps. It was day 1 of the 34th Annual Conference in Abbottabad and the venue was Modernage Public School & College for Girls. The conference started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Mr. Rustam, Programme Coordinator, SPELT Abbottabad chapter and Ms. Sumeera Wahid, the Co-Principal of Modernage School Abbottabad, welcomed the guests. Subsequently, Ms. Shagufta Tahir, Conference Coordinator, orientated the audience about different streams and segments of the conference.



Unit reports were presented by the Units in charge: Mr. Safdar Ali Khan (Haripur), Prof. Muhammad Farooq (Havelian), Mr. Abeer Aslam (Mansehra), and Ms. Haleema (Abbottabad). The Keynote address was by Mr. Tazanfal Tehseem, Assistant Prof, University of Sargodha. The guest speaker Ms. Wendy Price (IELTS Exam Coordinator) also addressed the audience. The day ended with refreshments.

The 2nd day of the conference was all the more promising. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the recorded message by RELO Pakistan was played. The morning plenary session was conducted by Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar from International Islamic University Islamabad. After that, concurrent sessions were held from 10:10 to 11:25 am, and from 11:35 to 12:50 pm in which presenters talked about different ELT topics. The afternoon plenary talk was given by Daniel E. Arzu from the British Council. The conference ended with a panel discussion on '*Teaching-Learning in the Digital Age*' moderated by Ms. Shagufta Tahir. The panelists were: Prof. Dr. Ayaz

Afsar, Dr. Bushra Ahmed Khurram, Ms. Arzu E. Daniel, Dr. Asma Shahid Qazi and Prof Rustam. It was a very well-attended session in which participants asked many lively questions.



Group photo of presenters with working committee members, Abbottabad Chapter

Lahore 11th-12th November' 2018

34th SPELT International Conference 2018 was held in Lahore on 10th and 11th November. The theme of the conference was “Engaging a 21st Century Learner”. National and International educationists and teachers presented. Teachers enjoyed the sessions as their queries on how to engage “The Millenarians” were answered. International presenters shared their experience on different initiatives they have taken in their countries and how it helped them to engage learners. National speakers focused more on different strategies and techniques which could help teachers in making their classrooms a hub of learning.

The Chief Guest of this year's conference was Dr Tayyaba Tamim, Associate Professor at the School of Education, University of Management Sciences, Lahore. Teachers from different (public and private sectors) schools participated and attended different sessions, a 90-minute session in the morning and a 60-minute session in the afternoon on both days.

A dinner was hosted on 9th November 2018 for guests from Karachi, British Council Lahore and friends from TESOL Arabia. Mrs. Iram Qazi also hosted a Diwali dinner at her place for the two international presenters, Madhu and Motikala. They were overjoyed and appreciated Mrs. Qazi's efforts. All international presenters were given a small “Rickshaw” as a souvenir. Since it has Truck art on it, our guests loved it. Our keynote speaker Beth Trudell received a shield from Dr Shireen Rahim as acknowledgement.



Conference Day 1, 10 Nov 2018



Pre-Conference Dinner

Presenters' Feedback

The following are extracts from presenters' detailed feedback.

"I love the idea of the travelling conference. It seems a wonderful way to create synergy between the home office of SPELT in Karachi and the two regional offices in Lahore and Islamabad. The SPELT leaders shared how energizing the annual event is –in addition to the tremendous amount of work it is to organize, coordinate and implement. As a visiting presenter traveling to the three sites, the traveling conference provided a much richer national picture of the SPELT community and its tremendous value and impact on language professionals in Pakistan. Traveling with a small cohort of international presenters from Karachi to Lahore and Islamabad was also an incredibly rich bonding experience. I feel as though I've made new life-long friends and colleagues." **Dr Judy Sharkey**

"The conference provides an opportunity for young teachers to be exposed to new ideas for language teaching and also for more experienced teachers to share their work. It is also a good opportunity for teachers to network and share their experiences." **Dr. Tina Sharpe**

"The traveling conference was great as it allowed me to share my ideas with teachers working in diverse contexts. It also allowed me to see more of Pakistan than I would otherwise have been able to do. Having travelled so far, this makes a lot of sense, both for conference attendees and presenters." **Dr Ron Thomson**

"The most exciting aspect of my visit was meeting with all women participants and Spelters and having conversation/interaction with them. I felt women in Pakistan are more empowered and sound than in Nepal academically and culturally." **Motikala Subba Dewan**

"This was such a great experience. I loved every minute. Every single person was so welcoming and helpful. The conference participants were involved and active." **Beth Trudell**

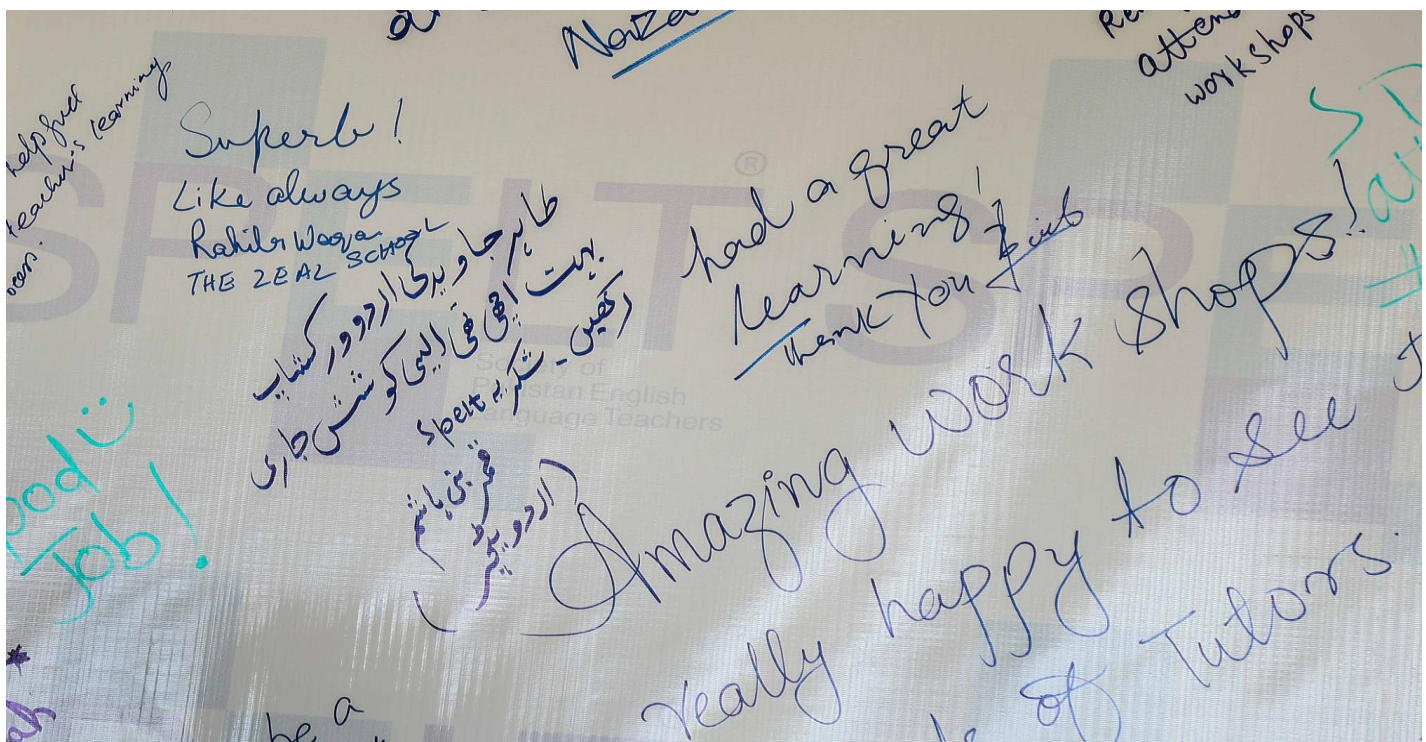
The travelling conference is such a creative solution to the challenge of sharing professional development and inquiry among ELT professionals across the nation. The conference organizers, SPELT leaders, and SPELT volunteers worked so hard to make each city's conference a huge success. I really appreciated the opportunity to meet SPELTers from different regions, and I gained a little bit of insight into how different the three cities and their language teaching challenges are. **Dr Carolyn Layzer**

*"Best aspect [of the visit], hands down, is the people! We met so many remarkable women, and even some very nice men, and had many opportunities to interact with them and hear their stories. Not enough time, really, I will need to return! I just can't get over how nice people were – both in SPELT (especially) and on the streets. We were very fortunate to see firsthand how nice people really are. Like Judy, I am planning to write a short "Today I learned..." piece for our internal website so that people can get an idea of what I was lucky enough to experience." **Dr Carolyn Layzer***

"[The best aspect of the conference] The people, the people, the people! I may still be in re-entry culture shock because I feel incapable of adequately capturing the impact of the visit. Meeting and interacting with the so many intelligent, warm, funny, scholars dedicated to improving the lives of youth in Pakistan was as humbling as it was inspiring. The opportunity to visit some schools was fantastic! I wish I had been able to visit more.

*"I am working on several presentations for colleagues and community members in hopes of sharing just a slice of the humanitarian and educational impact that Pakistani women are having on their country. Pakistan has always had a special place in my heart because of the role it has played in my own professional development: I completed my MATESOL practicum in Islamabad in 1989. However, my 10 days with SPELT 34 provided a much richer, more comprehensive picture of Pakistan than my 6 months in 1989 did. While in Pakistan with SPELT, I said several times "thank goodness my visa is good for two years. I have to come back!" **Dr Judy Sharkey***

Participants' feedback- A Glimpse Only!



SPELT would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support for the 34th International Conference.



