

THT



Teachers Helping Teachers

Volume V Issue 2 September 13, 2010

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From Dr. Peter Wanner
THT Foundation President
JALT Affiliate THT-SIG Coordinator

**We're not just an organization, we're an idea, a concept.-
Bill Balsamo
1943—2008**

Teachers Helping Teachers is dedicated to the aid and assistance of fellow educators and students in the developing countries of the world.

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Dear THT members,

Our second newsletter for 2010 contains a feature article written by Joseph Tomei, our Assistant Delegate Leader for the Vietnam/Hue conference planned for June 2010. We will have another newsletter shortly for the Bangladesh, Philippines, and Kyrgyzstan seminars, scheduled for later this year.

For the November 19-21 the JALT national conference, which will take place in Nagoya, our program chair, Joseph Tomei, has organized a forum with information about the Laos, Vietnam, Philippines, Bangladesh, and Kyrgyzstan seminars. We have renewed commitments from all of these countries to continue conferences until March 2012. Deadlines for abstract submissions will be posted from November 2010. Also, please note that there will be a general meeting to discuss whether to separate the THT foundation responsibilities from the JALT THT-SIG responsibilities or continue to combine them. The general meeting will not be a meeting to discuss the programs that we currently offer in the six countries where we hold seminars, since this will be discussed in the forum. Also, at the general meeting, the general election of JALT THT-SIG officers will also take place, so if you wish to become more involved in the SIG as an officer, please attend the THT AGM. The Forum, THT AGM, and THT guest lecturer, Dr. Pat Dougherty, are as follows:

Saturday, November 20th, THT Forum, 17:15-18:45

Saturday, November 20th, THT AGM, 19:00-20:00

Monday, November 22nd, THT Benefits and Beyond, 9:15-10:15

Between March 22 to March 28, a small delegation will go to India to give a preliminary visit and some limited seminars to show the training programs that THT offers Universities and Departments of Education seeking to provide further Educational Faculty Development for their teachers in their schools. We hope to provide a full seminar to meet the needs of KIIT University from 2012.

From Dr. Peter Wanner (continued)

THT in the Philippines February 2011

One important upcoming conference for which we are now accepting abstracts is from February 17 through February 25, 2011 in the Philippines. The deadline for a total of three different abstracts is required by December 1, 2010, so please start preparing these now if you wish to join this conference. The deadline for payment is December 31, 2010. Applicants who submit worthy proposals earlier than December 1 will be notified and sent a letter of invitation before the deadline to help arrange any special documentation at the University they must process to attend this conference. All participants will be notified by December 15 as to whether they have been accepted or not. This is a volunteer conference, so it will cost between 40,000 to 100,000 yen, depending on whether you opt for the Manila Seminars, Calapan Town School in-service program, the Banilad Village School in-service program, or all three. This fee covers all transportation (excluding airfare), food, and lodging while staying in the Philippines. Please refer to prior calls for papers on our home page <http://tht-japan.org> for an idea of various options offered in August 2010. Letters of invitation and billing statements as well as receipts will be provided so that those presenters who are able to get reimbursement through their institutions for presenting at this conference can do so. The conference will consist of two portions. The first portion is in Manila, February 19-20, for 500 educators (mostly junior high and high school educators). A Master degree in TESOL, TEFOL, or Education is required for all presenters submitting proposals. THT needs at least 20 volunteer teachers, each willing to give three different presentations. Each presentation will be done twice, hence six presentations in total will be given over the two days. Classes will consist of approximately 50 students per class and presentations or workshops should be planned according to these numbers. The second portion will be in Calapan Town School and Banilad Village School and consist of teaching Elementary School students through in-service classes with the teachers. We need at least 8 volunteer teachers who will be paired to teach various areas of the curriculum in English such as Physical Education, Science, Reading, Music, Writing, Games, and Mathematics. They will teach four subjects each day and get a chance to experience the tribal life of village students such as bathing in the river. If teachers have not had previous experience teaching young children, they will be paired up with an experienced teacher. All teachers are welcome to participate in this in-service program. Please refer to past THT newsletters (<http://tht-japan.org>) highlighting these events. For more information, contact Peter John Wanner at tht@jalt.org.

Sincerely yours,

Peter John Wanner, Ph.D.



Dr. Peter Wanner at THT seminar in San José del Monte (August 2010)
Right: Tentative schedule for the program in 2011

February 17 Everybody arrives in Philippines
February 18 Orientation and tour and check-in hotel
February 19 First day seminars
February 20 Second day seminars
February 21 Sonia's Garden
February 22 Sonia's Garden Breakfast
Group 1 Leave for Manila airport
Group 2 Leave for Mindoro Elementary Town School (Stay overnight in Banilad)
February 23 Elementary Town School Program (Stay overnight in Banilad)
February 24 Banilad Elementary School Village (Leave Banilad and return Manila)
February 25 Leave Manila

A Report from THT Vietnam June 2010

The THT Vietnam program is celebrating its fifth year, and the group participating in this year's THT Vietnam program, while small, may well have been the most diverse we have ever had. The host institution, Hue University, lived up to the high standards established in the previous programs, always ensuring that everything goes smoothly.

In addition to team leader Peter Wanner and myself, we had three other Japan based educators who were first-time participants in the program: Kathleen Riley, recently retired and coming to us via Siem Riep, Cambodia where she was investigating volunteer teaching opportunities; Joe Wood, currently teaching in the Nagoya area, and Alexandra Shaitan,

teaching at several universities in the Tokyo area. The group was rounded out by Christopher Fulton, a China based educator with extensive experience in Southeast Asia. Each person brought a unique skill set to this year's program, hopefully setting the stage for some new and exciting developments in the future. The participants were 150 secondary school teachers from all over Thua-Thien-Hue Province as well as graduate students from the university. Rounding out the group were the facilitators, Hue University students assigned to presenters to help them make the most of their time in Vietnam. This year's facilitators included some who have been with us before and some first time facilitators, adding some new blood to the mix.

Below: THT delegates and Hue hosts at dinner



THT in Vietnam June 2010

Delegates (left to right): Alexandra Shaitan, Kathy Riley, Christopher Fulton, Joseph Tomei, Peter Wanner, Prof. Tran Van Phouc and his wife, and Joseph Wood

THT in Vietnam June 2010

Team leader Peter Wanner, in addition to organizing the program, presented on four topics: Reading Comprehension Tasks Using Visual Aids with Context; Enriching Language Development in the Brain; Google Docs Web-based Word Processor Applications for the Classroom; and Phonetics in the Classroom: How and When Should it be Taught. The combination of theoretical and practical presentations helped to provide a variety of settings and appeal to the widest range of interests.

Kathleen Riley, brought her experience and knowledge to Hue, presenting on Rhyme, rhythm and repetition: Exploring the Value of Jazz Chants; Reflection: Connecting Experience and Beliefs; and Using Songs for Language Learning. With the addition of pronunciation components to the exam system in Vietnam, participants are eager to discover ways to help their students improve in these areas. I would also note that Kathleen joined us after traveling in Cambodia, which underlines the flexibility the program provides.

Joseph Wood, teaching at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, presented on his research area of interest: communication strategies. He

did two presentations: What are Communication Strategies and How Can We Teach Them?; as well as Building Communicative Competence with Communication Strategies. Due to a large number of participants, presenters were asked to present their topics two or three times. This repetition allows us to improve our presentations, making the program an excellent opportunity to develop a presentation that you may wish to present in elsewhere at a later date. As Joseph noted, "When the first one was over and my technical problems were fixed, I felt a lot more confident and my presentations became 100% better. The participants seemed to really enjoy them and began to work alongside their partners. The participants were very active and contributed lots of ideas to the discussions during my presentations."

Alexandra Shaitan, despite arriving late Friday and having to leave that Sunday, was a whirlwind of energy, presenting on two topics: Cooperative Learning in Content-Based Programs; and Teachers' Creativity in Designing Teaching Materials for Teaching Grammar. A number of participants expressed their appreciation for her presentations, the classroom atmosphere she generated, and

her ability to show the participants how to organize their lessons and control their classes.

Christopher Fulton, a China based educator, had previously worked in Vietnam with some of the participants. His knowledge of Vietnam (and Vietnamese) allowed us to get to know the participants better. He also showed us how easy it was to get his China based iPhone working in Vietnam, allowing us to make contact with participants after the presentations so that we could meet with them and get to know them better. Christopher presented on three topics: Instant Messaging and Collaborative Writing Activities; Visual Aids for Teacher Training and Computers in the Classroom: Activities for Young Learners and Observations on Classroom Management.

Joseph Tomei, the second repeater in the group, presented on the two topics: Functional Grammar and Explaining English Usage; and Music in the Classroom; as well as giving a new presentation on Utilizing Lemov's taxonomy to improve your classroom.



Joseph Tomei, Assistant
Delegate Leader

A participant's report from THT Vietnam June 2010

We were fortunate to have Christopher Fulton, a China based educator, with us this year. His experiences and background were fascinating and we wanted to share them with the readers, so we asked him to write a short introduction.

In China, I work for Meten, a large private language training institute. My main work is heading the development of new courses for Chinese learners and the respective teaching materials and teaching approaches for local and international teaching staff. I also have been deeply involved in creating online language proficiency tests for professionals working in IT and finance. Recently, my responsibilities include assisting a local team complete and launch a virtual, online gaming environment.

In addition, I recently assisted in editing The Official Guide to Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE); the PTE is an international computer based language test. Commencing in September, I will again become an exemplary life-long learner as I will be completing courses for a Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Educational Studies at The University of Hong Kong. My main research interests are in the fields of participatory methods, human development and information technology in education.

The workshops I had with the educators in Hue in June proved to be very enjoyable and memorable. In my first session, I was very pleasantly surprised to find myself reunited with a Vietnamese colleague from Quang Bing University, a Vietnamese university where I had once worked. In that first session, I proposed that educators can use the communication tools which learners and language learners use outside of a traditional classroom (i.e. instant messaging systems such as Yahoo Chat) inside the classroom. Afterwards, a participant in that session commented that such a proposal is exciting and most welcome. I could see that an idea had been shared, and such learning moments are precious and memorable.

In addition to sharing practical and academic ideas, we managed to squeeze in some time to share personal experiences with several participants - not an easy feat considering World Cup football fever was in full swing (and most teachers have many responsibilities and commitments). Armed with a GPRS enabled smartphone I was able to email and text out invitations and organize a couple of informal gatherings. Incidentally, a national carrier, Viettel, configured my phone to a GPRS network for a very reasonable fee. Hearing about the lives of the teachers who had come from many different provinces is always very memorable, and many of our Vietnamese colleagues had traveled great distances to attend this three day seminar. In the short time I spent in Hue, I believe I personally established several friendships and contributed to building practical knowledge in Vietnamese teacher training institutions, and I greatly look forward to further discussions with many new colleagues and friends in the upcoming seminar.

Yours truly,
Christopher



Left: (left to right) the Hue University Rector, Prof. Tran Van Phouc, Christopher Fulton, and the Rector's wife.

Right: (left to right) Christopher Fulton, Joseph Tomei, and



Dr. Peter Wanner

THT in Vietnam June 2010

This year, for the final event, a mock teaching session was organized at the end of the program where the facilitators did a wonderful job demonstrating some techniques that they practice. It is always wonderful to see new developments in the program every year, many based on suggestions of the participants and the mock teaching session was another great move forward for the seminar series at Hue University.

The participants were also treated to a show and dinner that was held in conjunction with the Hue Festival 2010. The show featured Hue court music, dancing and other art performances as well as the famous Royal cuisine of Hue, often regarded by Vietnamese as the best in Vietnam.



THT delegates at the Citadel in Hue



Alexandra Shaitan and two participants at THT seminar



Student facilitator doing mock teaching session at THT seminar

All of the presenters expressed the desire to return next year if possible. If you want to join us, or simply want to investigate the possibility, please send an email to

thtjalt@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

THT Vietnam June 2011: Tentative Schedule

The dates for the next THT/Hue University Seminars will be June 11-13, 2011. The basic schedule consists of the following:

Ideally, we will have a list of those who want to participate by mid April, along with their topics and a brief abstract. People who have participated before will give advice on the topics and abstracts in order to make them as appealing and useful as possible for the participants. This past year, we were able to send electronic versions of our handouts for reproduction in Hue, making it easier not only for organizing the presentations, but making our luggage lighter!

Though there are a number of hotels in the center of the city, we ask that all participants stay at the University guesthouse during the seminar, which charges \$10US a night and has free wireless. This makes picking up and dropping off presenters easier for the driver of

university van.

Generally, there is a dinner the night before the seminar for the participants to get to know each other, exchange information, and get ready for the seminar. Participants can come a few days earlier and stay a few days later to sightsee and the university will arrange for one of the students to take you to various places.

The day of the seminar, there is a short (by Japanese standards) opening ceremony, and the presentations begin after that. There are generally four one hour sessions scheduled during the day, with a long break for lunch. The presentations are usually scheduled for Friday and Saturday, and a closing ceremony takes place on Sunday morning. After that, the university organizes an outing for Sunday afternoon and evening. Previous outings have included trips to the Royal

tombs on the outskirts of the city, leisurely boat rides on the Perfume River, which flows through the city, accompanied by delicious Vietnamese food.

We've set up a mailing list so that participants and presenters can communicate before and after the seminar. We also work with participant presenters, possibly developing and helping them with presentations and getting to know more about the Vietnamese education system and Vietnamese teaching.



Top right: THT delegates at closing ceremony

Bottom right: Dr. Peter Wanner presenting certificate to Alexandra Shaitan

Bottom left: Participants at THT seminar

THT Vietnam June 2011: Getting there

Getting there

It is remarkably easy to get to Hue from Japan. You first need to fly to either Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh (Saigon) and then take a domestic flight to Hue. There are direct daily flights for Ho Chi Minh with either ANA or its partner, Vietnam Air from Narita and Kansai, and flights twice a week from Nagoya and Fukuoka. For Hanoi, there are daily flights from Kansai, four flights every week from Nagoya, twice a week from Fukuoka and twice daily from Narita. Once you arrive in Vietnam, there are three flights daily from Hanoi to Hue and four flights daily from Ho Chi Minh. (as of August 2010). The time difference is only two

hours, so jetlag is minimal. The flight to Vietnam is 5-6 hours and another hour from Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh to Hue. Participants with a bit of time and a sense of adventure can take the overland train to or from Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh via the 'Reunification Express'. Other participants have added a day or two to experience the frenetic pace of life in Ho Chi Minh or the capital city Hanoi.

Our host, Hue University

THT Vietnam is hosted by Hue University, the main regional university and a major academic hub for Central Vietnam. THT's efforts help the university with pre-service training of students

studying education and translation and in-service training of secondary school teachers. The university allows us to stay in their guesthouse, operated by the Department of Tourism. The guesthouse has wireless internet and, as of this writing, was 10 US dollars a night.

Hue, the city

Hue, located in the center of the country, midway between Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi, is the ancient capital of Vietnam, similar to Nara in Japan and provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of the long history and culture of the country.



Left:
Perfume
River
Right:
Cultural
ceremony



For more information please check our website tht-japan.org

Contact THT Coordinator Peter Wanner at thtjalt@gmail.com

THT

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