

East Asian Research and Translation in Hong Kong

The beginning of a solution

Professor Dr. **Saran Kaur Gill**

mailto:saran@pkisc.cc.ukm.my

Professor of Sociolinguistics and International Communication
School of Language Studies and Linguistics

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Hong Kong, 04/08/19

Dear Professor Dr. Gill,

Twelve years on the ground in East Asia has taught me that the world's universal English language (UEL) requirement is failing in its mission.

In the simplest of terms there are too many people learning English to provide adequate training, and there is insufficient *real* demand to help sustain what has been learned after they have been trained.

Moreover, there are too few people learning the languages of non-English speaking peoples to provide a sufficiently strong foundation for good cross-cultural communication and understanding. As a result the overall quality of the English language has suffered, East Asian and other languages of the world have been neglected, and understanding between peoples of Asia and the West has been impaired.

The obvious solution to this problem is to remove the *artificial* demand for English language created by Asian national governments and the language's global proponents. Unfortunately, those who are in the best position to remove this excess demand and consequent oversupply of poor quality English are the least inclined to do so.

In order to start the ball rolling I have created the Hong Kong Language Needs Assessment (HKLNA) Project. Before the project can get off the ground, however, it must receive support from reputable people within the world community. To this end I would like to bring to your attention two, upcoming, Hong Kong events.

East Asian Research and Translation in Hong Kong

<http://homepage.mac.com/moogoonghwa/earth/>

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EVENT 1

The 18th International Language in Education Conference

http://www.ied.edu.hk/ilec2004/eng_cfp.htm

Paper abstract deadline: **September 30, 2004**

With regard to this event I am seeking to organize a colloquium that would include public policy makers and researchers concerned about the wasteful application of UEL requirements across East Asia and the world as a whole. Proponents of the UEL requirement that could constructively address specific problems introduced by the HKLNA-Project would also be welcome. Please see the below URL for more information.

Hong Kong Language Needs Assessment Project

<http://homepage.mac.com/moogoonghwa/earth/current/hklna/indices/qualdex.html>

EVENT II

2005 Pacific Rim Conference

Western Economic Association International

Hong Kong Economics Association

<http://www.weainternational.org/>

Paper abstract deadline: September 15, 2004

Panel deadline: **August 15, 2004**

With regard to the second event I am seeking to organize a panel session that would address problems of the economics of education, culture, and/or language, as they apply to globalism and regionalism in the world today. Papers that address problems similar to those found at either of the following two URLs would be especially welcome

Hong Kong Language Needs Assessment Project

English or languish - A severe case of market distortion

<http://homepage.mac.com/moogoonghwa/earth/current/hklna/indices/econdex.html>

Hong Kong's Bottom Line

<http://homepage.mac.com/moogoonghwa/earth/current/hklna/ff/quality/budget.html>

Please pass this letter along to others whom you think would be interested in either of the above two conferences. Let us not miss this golden opportunity to make multidisciplinary studies count where the world is in so much need of help.

Sincerely,

橋 守

R. A. Stegemann

HKLNA-Project Director

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Dr. **Gary M. Jones**

mailto:gmjones@fass.ubd.edu.bn

Department Head

Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics

Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Hong Kong, 04/08/11

Dear Dr. Jones,

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Professor **Koenraad Kuiper**

mailto:kon.kuiper@canterbury.ac.nz

Department of Linguistics

University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Hong Kong, 04/08/03

Dear Professor Kuiper,

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