



East  
Asian  
Research and  
Translation in  
Hong Kong

Ms. **Ellen Potts**

mailto:[ep21@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ep21@soas.ac.uk)

Endangered Languages Documentation Program  
**Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project**

Hong Kong, 03/10/10

**HKLNA-Project -- The beginning of a solution**

Dear Ms. Potts,

Twelve years on the ground in East Asia has taught me that the world is not yet ready for a universally shared common language. In the simplest of terms there are too many people learning English to provide adequate training to non-native speakers and insufficient *real* demand to help them sustain what they have learned after having 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 languages have been neglected, and understanding between peoples of East Asia and the West has been impaired. The obvious solution to this problem is to remove the *artificial* demand for English language created by East Asian governments and the language's global proponents. Unfortunately, those who are in the best position to remove this excess demand and consequent poor quality oversupply are the least inclined to do so.

In order to start the ball rolling I have created the Hong Kong Language Needs Assessment Project.

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

Although dedicated almost entirely to Hong Kong, the project has important implications for the rest of East Asia, where I hope someday to move it forward under a different name. The purpose of the project is to assess the *real* use and need of the English language in Hong Kong and eventually other East Asian societies and thereby provide policy makers and individual citizens with the information they require to make proper choices with regard to English language training and learning. The first important stage of this project is research, and it is to this end that the following proposal was developed and money, or alternatively employment, is now being sought

<http://homepage.mac.com/moogoonghwa/earth/current/hklna/documents/proposals/030828-1.pdf>

Please consider the project and research proposal carefully and think about ways that you, your organization, or others whom you know, might best contribute to the

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HKLNA-Project's ultimate success.

I am looking forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

橋 守

R. A. Stegemann  
HKLNA-Project Director

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Professor **Barry Supple**

mailto:[bes@arcticnet.com](mailto:bes@arcticnet.com)

Chairperson

International Panel

**Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project**



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## **HKLNA-Project -- The beginning of a solution**

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Professor **William Foley**

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Panel Member

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Professor **Johanna Nichols**

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Panel Member

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Professor **Peter K. Austin**

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Panel Member

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