

【研修報告】

An International Conference Report on The Fourth Teachers Helping Teachers Seminar in Kyrgyzstan(Bishkek Humanities University) September 10th-12th 2012

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Teachers Helping Teachers is a Special Interest Group operating under the auspices of JALT (The Japan Association for Language Teaching). The group is dedicated to the aid and assistance of fellow educators and students in the developing nations of the Asia Pacific region and beyond. Since 2005, volunteers with THT have carried out over 28 seminars in countries as varied as Bangladesh, Vietnam, Laos, Kyrgyzstan and the Philippines. Thanks to the support of the Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima College of Nursing, I was able to take part in THT's 4th Kyrgyzstan seminar in September 2012, in Bishkek Humanities University. The seminars comprise of a number of teacher training workshops that demonstrate practical approaches to English education and are informed by current research in the field.

Presenters at this seminar are generally Japan-based university teachers. They are expected to have post-graduate degrees in linguistics or other appropriate fields, and have experience in presenting at international academic conferences. Acceptance to the seminar is contingent on each presenter having three workshop or lecture proposals accepted by the Coordinating Committee.

THT 2012 in Kyrgyzstan

The theme for this year's three-day seminar and workshop series was '*Significant Learning Experiences*'. Topics covered during the seminar included: Learner Autonomy, Computer Assisted Language Learning, Genre in Writing, Reading Activities, Debate, Reflective Teaching Practices,

Survey Projects, Content Based Language Instruction (CBI), Task Based Language Teaching (TBLT) in the EFL Curriculum, Vocabulary Testing, Listening Strategies, and a number of English Haiku workshops.

My own presentations included, firstly, a workshop on Cultural Literacy, specifically aimed at developing pragmatic awareness. It demonstrated materials and activities with which to enhance learners' ability to communicate their own culture. My second presentation was titled 'Promoting Awareness of Nonverbal Communication in the EFL/ESP Classroom'. The workshop addressed the often-neglected area of paralinguistics, and offered opportunities to engage in activities that raise awareness of body language and the vitality of holistic communication. My third presentation introduced the use of Lateral Thinking Puzzles. These creative thinking scenarios provide frameworks for highly productive question-making practise and offered a template for the seminar participants to develop their own classroom materials.

The conference was held at Bishkek Humanities University, and involved participants from all the major universities in and around Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. Despite its position in a sometimes-volatile region of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan is currently enjoying a period of relative political stability. Having the opportunity to visit and meet with Kyrgyz teachers, students and citizens was a unique and invaluable experience, and I benefitted greatly from my

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Photo 1 Seminar Participants, Bishkek Humanities University

interactions there. This visit also provided a number of ideas for the development of materials for International Disaster Relief Nursing intercultural communication course activities. I would like to thank Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima College of Nursing for their generous support, without which my attendance at the conference would not have been possible.



Photo 2 Closing Ceremony at Bishkek Humanities University



Photo 3 Bishkek Humanities University