

BELTA Newsletter

Table of Contents

01. Message from BELTA President	01
02. BELTA AGM 2023	02
03. BELTA Executive Committee 2023-2025	03
04. Handover Ceremony and First EC Meeting of the New Committee	06
05. 17th BELTA-THT Teacher Development Conference 2023	06
06. BELTA National Conference 2023	08
07. Launching of BELTA Jashore Chapter	09
08. Reports on BELTA Webinars	10
09. BELTA's Participation in the First Council Meeting of BRLCN	14
10. Reports on Conferences attended by BELTA Members	15
11. Success Stories of BELTANs	18
12. BELTA Chapter Activities	21
13. Meetings with the American Center & the British Council	23
14. BELTA in Photos	25

Message from BELTA President



Dear BELTA Members

Greetings of the New Year!

I am happy to welcome you on behalf of the new Executive Committee of BELTA 2023-25. We are delighted to bring out the December 2023 issue of the BELTA Newsletter. It brings you the news of the recent activities of BELTA and its members and keeps you posted on the coming programmes and events.

BELTA held its Annual General Meeting on 16 June 2023 at the RC Majumdar Auditorium, University of Dhaka and a new executive committee was elected. Since the new committee assumed office, the last six months have been pretty active and full of events.

This issue presents two big events in addition to the regular activities of BELTA; the first one being the BELTA-THT Teacher Development Conference 2023. It was the 17th BELTA-THT conference held on 27-29 October 2023 in hybrid mode. This is a flagship teacher development programme of BELTA organized in collaboration with THT (Teachers Helping Teachers), a SIG (Special Interest Group) of JALT (Japan Association of Language Teachers). The THT team was led by Dr Cecilia Silva and other members were Prof. Patrick Dougherty, Prof. Anne McLellan Howard, and Prof. Erin Mikulec, Brent A. Jones and Prof. Marian Wang. In organizing the events we are happy to partner with the University of Asia Pacific (UAP) and Comilla University.

The other big event was the BELTA National Conference held on 25 November 2023 in Jashore in partnership with the Department of English, Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST). The conference was a huge success with the participants from different regions of the country and one of the main features was the presentations by a good number of students. The keynote speaker was Professor Dr Rubina Khan, Immediate Past President of BELTA. Another remarkable event that coincided with the conference was the launching of a new chapter, 'BELTA Jashore Chapter'. It is the 16th chapter of BELTA.

In the last six months, BELTA organized five webinars on various topics including Social Emotional Learning in ELT, Effective Strategies for Teaching Mixed-Ability Classes, Enhancing English Proficiency through Self-Regulation, and Introduction to Writing Centers. The webinars were also live-streamed on the BELTA Facebook page and were well attended by teachers, educators and students as well.

This issue also presents a brief list of BELTA members' recent professional development activities including research publications and participation in seminars and conferences at home and abroad, and their personal and professional achievements. It also showcases the activities of two BELTA Chapters: BELTA Chittagong South Chapter and BELTA Rajshahi Chapter. They organized workshops and teacher training programmes with the support of the US Embassy in Dhaka. It is heartening to note that the newly appointed U.S. Regional English Language Officer (RELO) for Kathmandu, Nepal, Mr Roger Cohen also facilitated one of the teachers' training workshops in Chottogram on October 16, 2023.

I am sure the year 2024 will be full of activities for BELTA and we are awaiting some exciting and big events. We are planning to organize the 11th BELTA International Conference in November 2024 in addition to our annual BELTA-THT Teacher Development Conference in Sept/Oct 2024. We would like to open new chapters and activate the existing ones, organize more teacher and student development programmes including a student conference, in addition to our regular monthly webinars which we hope to share in the next issues.

I must acknowledge, this issue is not a comprehensive list of activities; neither is the Newsletter meant for showcasing the Executive Committee members only. It is rather a platform for all BELTA members who can share their glorious academic achievements and news of presentations at conferences and seminars, workshops, and brief write-ups about their experiences and any matters related to education. Therefore, I request you all to submit your write-ups to BELTA Newsletter any time of the year.

Finally, I sincerely thank all our partners, facilitators of the webinars, workshops and trainings, BELTA office bearers and executive committee members for their support in organizing the events, and the newsletter team for their time and efforts to put this issue together.

BELTA is committed to working relentlessly to

help teachers and students across all levels and contribute to the overall development of English education in the country and beyond. I seek all your continued support and contribution to BELTA in achieving its goals, and missions in the coming days.

I wish you all the best wishes in 2024.

Thank you.

Ahmed Bashir

President, BELTA

&

Professor, Department of English

University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

BELTA AGM 2023

The Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (BELTA) conducted its Annual General Meeting on Friday, 16th June 2023, at the R C Majumder Auditorium, University of Dhaka. The event commenced at 3:30 pm and saw the active participation of 47 members. Ms. Afroza Aziz Suchana welcomed the attendees, and the AGM began with a recitation from the Holy Quran by Md. Habibul Hasan.



Dr. Rubina Khan, the outgoing BELTA President, delivered a heartfelt welcome address, expressing gratitude to the members for their commitment despite busy schedules. She reflected on her four-year tenure, emphasizing the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighting BELTA's significant

achievements, including international collaborations, research initiatives, and successful events like the Teacher Helping Teachers Conference. Dr. Khan acknowledged the role of the dedicated volunteers and members, urging continued support for the future leadership of BELTA.

The confirmation of the minutes of the 2022 AGM was carried out by Dr. Tazin Aziz Chaudhury, the Vice-President, and no other issues were raised. Prof. Ahmed Bashir, the General Secretary, presented the Annual Report for 2022, summarizing the extensive range of BELTA activities, including webinars, conferences, and collaborations with international organizations. Mr. Kushal Das, the Treasurer, presented the audited financial report for 2022, followed by the proposed budget for 2023. The approval of BELTA's auditor for 2023 was given to Ahmed Zaker and Sons. Prof. Tazin Aziz Chaudhury invited comments from general members, resulting in suggestions to revitalize inactive chapters and open new ones.

Chapter Coordinators from Sylhet, Cumilla, Chittagong South, and Kushtia reported on the activities and achievements of their respective chapters, showcasing the diversity and impact of BELTA across different regions.

The meeting concluded with the formation of the new BELTA Executive Committee for 2023-2025 through an election process. The Vice-President, Prof. Tazin Aziz Chaudhury, delivered a vote of thanks, expressing appreciation for the outgoing leadership and acknowledging the support of various individuals and organizations.



Elected EC members with the Advisor and Immediate Past President

In summary, the AGM 2023 served as a platform for reflection, acknowledgment of achievements, and strategic planning for the future, reaffirming BELTA's commitment to advancing English language education in Bangladesh.

BELTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023-2025

Advisor:

Dr Arifa Rahman

Former Professor
Institute of Modern Languages
University of Dhaka.



Immediate Past President:

Dr Rubina Khan

*Department of English,
University of Dhaka*



President:

Prof Ahmed Bashir

*Department of English
University of Dhaka*



Vice-President:

Dr Tazin Aziz Chaudhury

*Department of English
University of Dhaka*





Vice-President:
Dr Qumrul Hasan Chowdhury
*Department of English,
University of Dhaka*

Organising Secretary:
Moshiur Rahman
*Program Manager,
BELTA*



General Secretary:
Dr Md Mohib Ullah
*Department of English
Language & Literature,
International Islamic
University Chittagong*

Publications Secretary:
Dr Zakia Ahmad
*Department of English,
University of Asia Pacific*



Joint Secretary:
Dr Atikur Rahman
*Bangabandhu Sheikh
Mujibur Rahman
Maritime University,
Bangladesh*

Members

Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana
*Department of English,
University of Asia Pacific*



Treasurer:
Zakia Sultana
*Adamjee Cantonment
Public School & College*

Dr Akhter Jahan
*Department of English,
East West University*



Joint Treasurer:
Ferdoushi Rahman
DPS STS School Dhaka

Golam Kader Zilany
*Department of English,
University of Liberal Arts
Bangladesh*





Kanita Ridwana
*Department of English
Stamford University
Bangladesh*

**Dr Mohammad
Moninoor Roshid**
*Institute of Education &
Research (IER),
University of Dhaka*



Md Saiful Islam Akon
*University Laboratory
School and College, IER,
University of Dhaka*

**Dr Prodhan Mahbub
Ibna Seraj**
*Department of English,
American International
University Bangladesh*



Md Shahrear Talukder
*Department of English
Shanto-Mariam University
of Creative Technology*

Roxana A Chowdhury
*ELT Practitioner
Former teacher, United
International University*



Dr Md Shaiful Islam
*Department of English
and Modern Languages,
Independent University,
Bangladesh*

Rumi Ahmed
Playpen School Dhaka



**Dr Mehnaz Tazeen
Choudhury**
*Department of English,
University of Asia Pacific*

Sabbir Ahmed Dibbo
*Department of English,
Shahjalal University of
Science and Technology*





Sultana Nasrin Chowdhury

*The Aga Khan School
Dhaka*



Takad Ahmed Chowdhury

*Department of English,
University of Asia Pacific*

Handover Ceremony and First EC Meeting of the New Committee

The handover ceremony and the first meeting of the new executive committee took place at Army Golf Club, Dhaka on 22 June 2023. The newly elected President, Prof Ahmed Bashir and General Secretary, Dr Md Mohib Ullah along with other members were greeted with flowers.



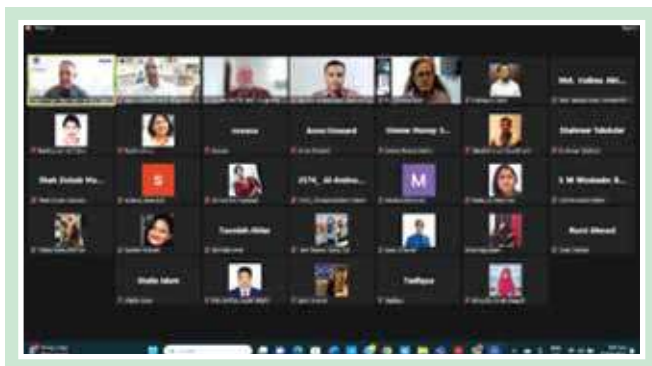
17th BELTA-THT Teacher Development Conference 2023: Insights for Changing Landscapes



The Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) and Teachers Helping Teachers (THT) held their 17th Teacher Development Conference on October 27-29, 2023, focusing on the theme "Language Teaching: Insights for Changing Landscapes." The event was held both online 1st day and 3rd day, and in person on the second day at the University of Asia Pacific (UAP) in Dhaka. The conference offered a dynamic program featuring renowned Japanese experts sharing their expertise and insights with a vibrant community of Bangladeshi English language educators.

Day 1: Online Sessions (October 27)

The conference kicked off online with an engaging opening ceremony by the welcome speech of Prof Ahmed Bashir, President, BELTA and Prof. Cecilia Silva from THT team followed by a full day of presentations and workshops. Prof Brent A. Jones set the stage by exploring "Building L2 Confidence and Competence via Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)", emphasizing the power of technology in fostering effective cross-cultural learning experiences. Next, Prof. Marian Wang delved into "Engaging EFL Students in Collaborative Presentation Projects", sharing practical strategies for harnessing project-based learning to boost student engagement and communication skills. Prof. Patrick Dougherty then offered a thought-provoking session on "Creative Writing and EFL", highlighting its potential to nurture student creativity and critical thinking within language learning.



After lunch break, Prof. Dougherty returned with a session on "Transformational Educational Leadership", exploring effective leadership principles for navigating the evolving world of education. Prof. Cecilia Silva then offered a compelling talk on "Traditional and New Models in Intercultural Communication: From Theory to Practice", challenging participants to reconsider approaches to intercultural communication in the light of contemporary global dynamics. The day concluded with closing remarks by Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah, General Secretary, BELTA, leaving attendees with a wealth of actionable insights to apply in their classrooms.

Day 2: In-Person Sessions at the University of Asia Pacific (October 28)

The second day of the conference brought more than 100 participants together physically at the University of Asia Pacific (UAP) auditorium for a jam-packed schedule of presentations and workshops. The day began with an opening ceremony where Mr. Takad Ahmed Chowdhury, Convener of the conference kicked off the proceedings with a graceful speech thanking BELTA, THT and UAP for their combined efforts in organizing this program. An impactful speech was then delivered by Professor Ahmed Bashir, President of BELTA, signifying the importance of such an event and thanking the respective parties involved in organizing this event. Afterwards, speeches were delivered by the VC of UAP, Dr. Qumrul Ahsan and then the adviser to BELTA, Arifa Rahman.



BELTA-UAP-THT organizing committee with the facilitators

The opening ceremony was followed by Prof. Anne McLellan Howard's insightful session on "Discourse Analysis for Language Learning", equipping participants with practical tools for analyzing and understanding spoken and written language in context. Prof. Erin Mikulec then tackled the ever-important topic of "Developing Meaningful Reading Comprehension Questions for Critical Thinking", providing strategies for crafting questions that go beyond simple recall and encourage deeper analysis and engagement with texts.

After a brief tea break, Prof. Dougherty returned with a session on "Teaching Writing", offering practical guidance for fostering effective writing skills in EFL learners. Prof. Silva explored "Mediation in Language Teaching: A Classic Concept, A New Mode", highlighting the role of mediation in facilitating and scaffolding learning through guided interactions. Following lunch, Prof. Mikulec delivered a session on "Enacting Intentional Scaffolding with Student-Centered Instructional Activities", providing concrete strategies for scaffolding learning while empowering student autonomy.

The afternoon continued with Prof. Howard's insightful session on "Step by Step through Summarizing", guiding participants through the process of teaching and learning this crucial academic skill. Prof. Silva then addressed the challenges of "Teaching Multilevel Classes", offering practical tips for tailoring instruction to

Day 3: Comilla University (Online)

Launched with the welcome speeches by Prof. Ahmed Bashir, President, BELTA and Dr. Banani Biswas, Chairperson, Department of English, Comilla University respectively, the final day saw repeat sessions by Prof. Howard and Prof. Mikulec, ensuring wider accessibility of their valuable insights. Prof. Dougherty's leadership talk was again a standout, inspiring educators. Prof. Silva's session on "Working with models in intercultural communication" ended the conference sessions on a high note. Finally, the conference concluded with a vote of thanks from Prof. Dr. Tazin Aziz Chaudhury, Vice-President, BELTA. The partner of the 3rd day program was the Department of English, Comilla University which was supposed to be held in Cumilla. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the resource persons and the BELTA team were unable to travel on that day, therefore the program was conducted online.

Overall, the BELTA THT-UAP-COM conference 2023 was a resounding success with the virtual and in-person attendance of 300 participants which promoted collaboration, innovation, and excellence in English language teaching. The rich exchange of ideas and practices among experts and educators marked a significant step forward in the field. The exchange of innovative teaching methodologies, leadership perspectives, and collaborative projects highlighted the event's commitment to advancing English language education. Participants left enriched, equipped with new skills and perspectives to enhance their teaching methodologies, promising a brighter future for English language learning and teaching.

BELTA National Conference 2023



Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) organized its National Conference 2023 in partnership with the Department of English, Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST) at its beautiful campus in Jashore on 25 November 2023. The conference theme was 'Rethinking English Language Teaching-Learning Practices'.

The inaugural ceremony, graced by Professor Dr. Md. Anwar, the Vice Chancellor of JUST, set the tone for insightful discussions. In his address as the chief guest, Professor Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain emphasized the pivotal role of English as the language of science and research, stressing the necessity of mastering it for effective teaching and learning. He posed a crucial question regarding the challenges students face in adapting to English at the university level, prompting a call for solutions to identify systemic issues within the education system. Acknowledging BELTA's significant contribution to English education in post-pandemic situations in Bangladesh, Professor Dr. Md. Anwar expressed gratitude to the organizers for selecting JUST as the venue for the BELTA National Conference 2023.

Professor Ahmed Bashir, President of BELTA and the Convener of the Conference, delivered the welcome speech. In his speech, he pointed out that Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association is the oldest and largest English language teachers' association in Bangladesh, which was established in 1984. It has been regularly organizing various teacher development events including seminars, trainings, workshops, Teacher Helping Teachers (THT) seminars, and national and international conferences, since its revival in 2003.

He said that the theme of the conference, "Rethinking English Language Teaching-Learning Practices", is a timely one. He continued, in the last few years, since the inception of the Corona pandemic, the education sector along with all other sectors of life, has experienced tremendous shifts and changes. Traditional concepts of teaching-learning and classroom practices have given way to new ideas and innovations in education and pedagogical practices.

And the conference provides an opportunity for the participants to know what the presenters are thinking and rethinking about language teaching and learning in these changing times.

The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Md. Munibur Rahman, Chairman of the English Department at JUST and co-convener of the conference. Another co-convener of the conference was Dr Md MohibUllah, General Secretary of BELTA.

The Keynote Speaker was Professor Dr. Rubina Khan, immediate past president of BELTA. The title of the Keynote paper was Re-thinking CPD in Low Resource Contexts. In her paper, Professor Khan highlighted that in the 21st century two goals which teacher educators need to pursue are: connectivity and collaboration. These dual objectives are of paramount importance for self-growth and for building personal and professional networks (in both urban and rural contexts). Dr. Khan talked about the basic components and types of CPD which focus on teacher development and aim to improve teacher performance, exchanges and dialogues. A brief synopsis of what is being done to promote CPD in Bangladesh was also outlined in her presentation. Finally, the keynote speaker highlighted the need to think about ways of engaging teachers in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Individual Professional Development (IPD) in low-resource contexts where facilities and opportunities are scarce.

The conference drew the participation of over 150 teachers, researchers and students from schools, colleges, and universities across the country, presenting more than 60 papers and presentations during the parallel sessions and workshops. A panel discussion added depth and perspective to this enriching event. The title of the panel discussion was “Transforming Teaching Practices to Reshape Learning Approaches in EFL: Exploring Local Realities”, which was moderated by Dr Md Shaiful Islam, BELTA EC member, and Assistant Professor Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB). The panelists were Dr Tazin Aziz Chaudhury, BELTA Vice-President and

Professor, Department of English, University of Dhaka, Dr Md Shahjahan Kabir, Professor, English Discipline, Khulna University, and Dr Md Abdullah Al Mamun, Associate Professor, Department of English, Jashore University of Science and Technology.



Panelists at the Panel Discussion

The inaugural and closing programs were skillfully anchored by Koraisha Binte Humayun and Tasneem Mahbooba, two students from JUST's English Department, adding a dynamic student perspective to the proceedings. There was an amazing group of forty student volunteers from the English Department of JUST who gave support tirelessly during all the sessions throughout the day. Certificates of appreciation were handed over to the volunteers and certificates of participation and presentation were also awarded to all the participants and presenters at the certificate awarding ceremony before the closing session.

Finally, the conference ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah, General Secretary, Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA).

Launching of BELTA Jashore Chapter



BELTA has a countrywide network of teachers through 15 chapters in different regions of the country. During the BELTA National Conference held on 25 November 2023 at the campus of Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST), a new chapter, BELTA Jashore Chapter was launched. It is the 16th chapter of BELTA. A convening committee headed by Dr Md Munibur Rahman, Chairman, Department of English, JUST was formed. The member secretary is MD Mahmudur Rahman Siam and the other members are Dr Md Abdullah Al Mamun, Dr Mariam Jamila, Abdullah AL Mamun and Tabassum Islam Nabanee.



The BELTA Jashore Chapter committee members with the President, Immediate Past President, and General Secretary of BELTA

REPORTS ON BELTA WEBINARS

BELTA Webinar: 26 Advancing SEL in ELT

The Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) hosted its 26th webinar series focused on "Integrating Social Emotional Learning in the English Language Classroom" on the 29th of July, 2023. This enriching session, which ran from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm, was accessible through Zoom and was aimed at promoting personal development and social progress through social and emotional learning (SEL) within the context of English language education.

WEBINAR SERIES 26
Integrating Social Emotional Learning in the English Language Classroom

ABSTRACT
Social and emotional learning (SEL) is a crucial aspect of personal development and social progress. Investing in SEL programs can have significant benefits for individuals, communities, and society as a whole. Research has shown that individuals who possess strong social and emotional competencies tend to have better mental health, higher academic achievement, improved behaviour and attendance in school, and more positive social relationships. In addition, SEL has been found to reduce the incidence of risky behaviours, such as substance abuse and violence, and enhance employability and career success.

Facilitator: Ramij Ahmad
Lecturer (English)
Sylhet Cadet College
SEL Exchange 2023
Department of State, USA

29th July 2023
7:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Zoom ID: 6688717171
Passcode: 616161

The webinar featured Ramij Ahmad, a Lecturer in English at Sylhet Cadet College, as the facilitator. Ahmad, who has been part of the teaching fraternity since 2010, is not only a life member of the BELTA Chittagong South chapter but also actively volunteers for Global Aid for Sustainable Development (GASD). His recent participation in a three-week in-person exchange program titled "Integrating Social Emotional Learning in the English Language Classroom," funded by the Department of State, USA, was a testament to his dedication and expertise in the field.

During the session, Ramij illuminated the significant benefits of integrating SEL in educational programs, highlighting the positive impacts on individuals, communities, and society at large. He shared research findings that suggest individuals with strong social and emotional competencies tend to exhibit better mental health, higher academic achievement, and more positive social relationships.

Furthermore, he discussed how SEL contributes to reducing the incidence of risky behaviors, such as substance abuse and violence, while simultaneously enhancing employability and career success. The webinar drew attention to the concepts of SEL and provided educators with theoretical knowledge and practical strategies for implementation in English language classrooms.

Ramij's insights encouraged educators to consider SEL as a fundamental component of their teaching methodologies to support the holistic development of students.

BELTA Webinar: 27 From BELTA to TESOL: An Upwardly Professional Journey by Pranab Kanti Deb

The Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) hosted its 27th webinar of BELTA Webinar Series on the evening of 19th August 2023, centered around the theme "From BELTA to TESOL: An Upwardly Professional Journey" using zoom platform. The event aimed to shed light on the significance of continuous professional development for educators and to explore the transformative journey from BELTA to TESOL.

The webinar was facilitated by Mr. Pranab Kanti Deb, coordinator of BELTA's Sylhet Chapter, who is an alumnus of the US Department of State and an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Sylhet International University. Dr. Atikur Rahman, Joint Secretary of BELTA, skillfully moderated the webinar. Following the moderator's invitation, the session commenced with a brief opening address by Mr. Takad Ahmed Chowdhury, an Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of Asia Pacific (UAP) and Executive Committee member of BELTA. Mr. Chowdhury warmly welcomed the distinguished participants, including BELTA President Prof. Ahmed Bashir, Vice President Prof. Dr. Tazin Aziz Choudhury, Secretary Md. Mohib Ullah, esteemed teachers, enthusiastic students, and dedicated ELT practitioners. He highlighted BELTA's initiatives in fostering continuous learning and professional growth in the ever-evolving field

of education. Mr. Chowdhury introduced the facilitator, Mr. Pranab Kanti Deb, and handed over the virtual floor to him.

WEBINAR SERIES 27
From BELTA to TESOL: A Tale of Upwardly Professional Journey

ABSTRACT
Teachers need to participate in ongoing professional development activities to keep up with current trends and changes in teaching. In this webinar, the speaker will share the learning and experiences gained from TESOL Intl. Convention 2023. In addition to emphasizing the significance of networking, he will provide updated perspectives on research and teaching-learning. On top of that, this session will point up the importance of attending conferences for English language teachers' professional development.

Facilitator
Pranab Kanti Deb, an alumnus of the US Department of State, is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Sylhet International University. He has got some of his papers published in different journals and also presented papers in different national and international seminars and conferences. He is the coordinator of BELTA, Sylhet Chapter.

19th August 2023
7:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Zoom ID: 6688717171
Passcode: 616161

During his engaging presentation, Mr. Deb shared his experiences and insights from the TESOL International Convention 2023. He highlighted the importance of networking in the field of English language education and how it can lead to enriching opportunities for growth and collaboration. He also provided updated perspectives on research methodologies and teaching-learning strategies, which can enhance the quality of education in our classrooms. His presentation was followed by a question and answer session where Prof. Ahmed Bashir, President of BELTA urged the participants of the webinar for deeper exploration of the ideas presented by Mr. Deb to promote an engaging exchange of knowledge.

As the webinar drew to a close, Mr. Takad Ahmed Chowdhury, on behalf of BELTA and the organizing team, extended sincere appreciation to all participants for their active involvement. He emphasized the importance of translating the insights gained from the session into actionable steps for personal and professional growth. The webinar concluded on a high note, leaving attendees inspired and equipped with fresh insights to apply in their educational endeavors.

BELTA Webinar: 28 Enhancing English Proficiency through Self-Regulation

The Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) conducted the 28th session of its webinar series at 7 pm on 30 September 2023. This educational event was facilitated by Dr Md Shaiful Islam, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB).



Entitled as "Development of Proficiency in Spoken English: Investigating the Influence of Self-Regulated Learning Strategies", the webinar focused on the importance of self-regulation by the English learners on learning language skills and competence. Self-regulated learning (SRL) has gained currency in research within academic and non-academic domains. However, Dr Islam shared that its application in developing English speaking skills has still not been widely explored.

Dr Islam employed S²RS-EFL scale developed by Sun (2022) to conduct a survey among 314 freshmen at IUB. Dr Islam also used other instruments, such as stimulated recalls, interviews, and reflective journals to gather data. The statistical analysis revealed a range from medium to high level of SRL strategy use by the students. The thematic analysis of qualitative data further reinforced the quantitative results.

Dr Islam's findings emphasized the importance of SRL strategy use to enhance students' English speaking proficiency. The pedagogical implications addressed by the study may be useful for the educators and learners alike.

BELTA Webinar: 29 Mixed-Ability Teaching Strategies

In an enriching session held on October 25th, 2023, the Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) hosted the 29th webinar in their ongoing series. The session titled "Effective Strategies for Teaching Mixed-Ability Class" was masterfully led by Martha J. Lady, an educator with a rich experience of over 25 years in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL).

WEBINAR SERIES 29

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING-MIXED ABILITY CLASS

Abstract: I chose the topic, Empowering Educators: Effective Strategies for Teaching- Mixed Ability Classes because of my own experience and what it has meant to be a versatile instructor with the ability to reach students of all levels in conscientious approach to their needs. Student level classification can have dubious sources and the informality to which enthusiastic learners of English adhere to, i.e. television, music, games, social media, might preclude objectivity on the part of teachers in general. One has to be open minded and realize that "false beginners", have a place in a classroom environment and deserve much attention in order for teachers to narrow the gaps in their learning. In my opinion, learning how to teach at all levels gives a teacher the advantage of recognizing where those gaps are.

Martha J. Lady
Masters of Education
Occupational Training Centre
English Language Fellow
US Department of State

“ I have taught ESL for over 25 years and was fortunate to have the entire gamut of student English learning proficiencies, both in the US and abroad. I find English to be one of the most gratifying experiences of my life. I became a learner as well, immersed in the culture of the people I taught. I am happy to be able to share what I've learned, with teachers in Bangladesh. I want to be able to cross the cultural divide and give them access to American culture through my teaching performance ”

DATE: 25TH OCTOBER 2023
TIME: 6:30 PM
ZOOM ID: 6688777171
PASSCODE: 616161

Martha, who holds a Masters of Education and is currently an English Language Fellow at the US Department of State, shared her insights and strategies for empowering educators to address the diverse needs of students in mixed-ability classrooms. She drew from her extensive experience and outlined the importance of being a versatile instructor who can identify and bridge the learning gaps of all students. Her conscientious approach to teaching has been shaped by her belief in the necessity of understanding the individual needs of each learner. The webinar discussed the challenges of student-level classification, noting how informal sources of learning English, such as television, music, games, and social media, can sometimes obscure objective assessment by educators. Martha emphasized the role of open-mindedness in recognizing "false beginners" and the significance of giving them due attention in the classroom environment.

Participants were particularly moved by Martha's personal narrative, where she described her journey in ESL teaching and the gratification it brought her. Not only has she taught English, but she also became a learner of the cultures of the people she taught. Martha's dedication to cross-cultural understanding was evident as she expressed her desire to bridge the cultural divide and provide Bangladeshi teachers with access to American culture through her teaching performance. The webinar concluded successfully with participants looking forward to implementing the discussed strategies in their classrooms.

BELTA Webinar: 30 A Dive into Writing Centers

The Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) proudly hosted its 30th webinar series event on November 22, 2023. The webinar, aptly titled "Introduction to Writing Centers," was a resounding success with educators and language professionals tuning in from various regions.

Prof. Ahmed Bashir, the President of BELTA, chaired the webinar, setting the stage with his opening remarks that underscored the significance of continuous professional development for educators in Bangladesh. The event also welcomed a special guest, Shaon Karmakar, the English Language Program Lead at the Public Engagement Unit of the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka.

WEBINAR SERIES-30
WEBINAR TYPE: TALK
TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO WRITING CENTERS

Chair
Prof. Ahmed Bashir
President
Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA)

Facilitator
Dr. Rida Akter
Regional Director
US Embassy, Dhaka

Chief Guest
Mr. Shaon Karmakar
Regional English Language Officer (RELO)
Embassy, Dhaka

Special Guest
Dr. Md. Saikat
Regional English Language Officer (RELO)
Embassy, Dhaka

Moderator
Dr. Rida Akter
Regional Director
US Embassy, Dhaka

ZOOM ID: 6688777171
Passcode: 616161
NOVEMBER 22, 2023
TIME: 6:30 PM
BANGLADESH ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (BELTA)

Dr. Molly Mcharg, an English Language Specialist from the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka, facilitated the session. Her adept discussions helped keep the webinar interactive and engaging. In her talk, she mentioned what writing center is, how to start a writing center, the challenges in setting up writing center and how to overcome them.

The webinar attendees also had the pleasure of hearing from Dr. MD. Mohib Ullah, the General Secretary of BELTA, who delivered the vote of thanks. His words not only acknowledged the speakers and participants but also highlighted the collective efforts made in organizing the event. Zakia Sultana, the Treasurer of BELTA, took on the role of moderator with finesse, ensuring that the webinar ran smoothly from start to finish.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, where participants were given the opportunity to engage directly with the experts. The webinar provided a platform for fruitful discussions and the exchange of ideas on the establishment and enhancement of writing centers, which are vital for fostering advanced language skills.

As the event wrapped up at 6:30 PM, participants left with valuable knowledge and strategies to implement in their educational practices. The BELTA webinar series continues to be a beacon of professional development for English language educators in Bangladesh, and the 30th edition was no exception.

BELTA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST COUNCIL MEETING OF BRLCN

BRLCN (Belt and Road Languages and Cultures Network) is a newly established network formed in October 2023 in Beijing by language educators from more than 50 countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative. One of the main objectives of the network is to break down language barriers and cultural misunderstandings on a global scale. Its headquarters are in Beijing. BELTA is a proud member of BRLCN.



BELTA President, Professor Ahmed Bashir, and Immediate Past President (IPP), Professor Rubina were invited by the host, China Daily, to attend the inaugural and the first council meeting of BRLCN. Both the president and the IPP of BELTA attended the events along with the 2023 Belt and Road Forum for Language Culture Collaboration, held in Beijing, China from Oct 15-17, 2023. The events are also participated by the presidents and representatives from English language teachers' associations around the globe, and universities across China.

The International Forum titled "Common Language, Shared Future" was held on 16 October 2023 at the Beijing International Convention Centre. Professor Bashir took part in a roundtable dialogue titled "Cultural Exchange and Regional Cooperation along the Belt and Road" in the Forum. The other participants of the roundtable were the presidents of TESOL Italy, Kazakhstan Teachers of English Association, English Language Teachers Association of Mongolia, BRAZ-TESOL, the Coordinator of TEFLIN, and the Dean of Training Research Assessment and Consultancy Department of SEAMEO Regional Language Centre, Singapore. The roundtable was moderated by Prof Lixian Jin, President of the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies. The speakers shared the challenges in intercultural interactions and collaborations from their own perspectives. They identified various cultural and language challenges in their respective national contexts. Finally, the roundtable highlighted the need for enhancing international collaboration, cooperation and cultural exchanges through establishing a bigger network involving more organizations and sharing information and resources among the members.



Ahmed Bashir With Other Panellists at the Roundtable

REPORTS ON CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY BELTA MEMBERS



Professor Dr. Rubina Khan attended the Belt and Road Forum for Language and Cultural Collaboration Forum and also the inaugural meeting of the BRLCN held by China Daily from October Beijing 15-17, 2023.



Dr. Rubina Khan with one of the winners of the Speaking Competition at Suzhou (China)

She was an external **Adjudicator** at the Belt and Road Youth English Speaking Competition (Suzhou) organized by China Daily from October 12-14, 2023.

Dr. Khan presented at the TESOL Spain, 3rd Online International conference: Building Bridges, Building Cooperation, held on 28th October, 2023. She talked about promoting culturally flavored reading materials for Bangladeshi learners.

Dr. Khan also participated in the MEXTESOL "Echoes from the 50th Anniversary" a virtual academic encounter Conference from 10th to 11th November 2023.

Dr. Khan was the **Keynote Speaker** at the BELTA National Conference 2023 at Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST), Jashore, 25th November 2023. The title of her talk was: Re-thinking CPD in Low-Resource Contexts.

Publication:

Kukulka-Hulme, A, Dawadi, A, Giri, R. A., Devkota, K. R & Khan, R (2023). Roles of Languages and Technology in Teaching in Marginalised Communities: Perspectives and Practices. *Prima Education*, 7:103-121. DOI: 10.17951/pe.2023.7.103-121.

Webinars and Publications by Dr. Prohdan Mahbub Ibna Seraj

Dr. Prohdan Mahbub Ibna Seraj, Executive member of BELTA has conducted 4 national and international webinars on the different aspects of research and publications from June-December, 2023. The webinars were organized by the Department of English, Koneru Lakshmaiah University, Hyderabad, India, Development Studies, Daffodil International University and ISS BD, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

Publications

Journals

- Abalkheel, A., Sourani, M., Othman, I., & Ibna Seraj, P. M. (2023). The Impact of Teachers' LoTI and ICT Integration Abilities on Students' L2 Writing Competency in the Context of TPACK Framework. *Bulletin of Advanced English Studies*, 8(1), 1–21.
<https://doi.org/10.31559/baes2023.8.1.1>
- Muthmainnah, Al Yakin, A., & Ibna Seraj, P. M. (2023). Impact of Metaverse Technology on Student Engagement and Academic Performance: The Mediating Role of Learning Motivation. *International Journal of Computations, Information and Manufacturing (IJCIM)*, 3(1), 10–18.
<https://doi.org/10.54489/ijcim.v3i1.234>
- Muthmainnah, Ibna Seraj, P. M., Yakin, A. Al, & Al-lateef, G. T. A. (2023). How Mr . Bean Film Influence Student ' s Engagement in Learning Tenses. *ENGLISH FRANCA*, 7(2), 449–466.
<https://doi.org/10.29240/efv621.5242>
- Rahman, K. A., Rukanuddin, M., Sabrina, M. Y. C., Ahmed, S., & Ibna Seraj, P. M. (2023). Recognizing Stakeholders and Factors Mediating Washback in Language Testing. *Education Research International*, 2023.
<https://doi.org/10.1155/2023/5548723>

Book Chapter

- Khang, A., Muthmainnah, M., Ibna Seraj, P. M., Al Yakin, A., & Obaid, A. J. (2023). AI-aided teaching model in education 5.0. In *Handbook of Research on AI-Based Technologies and Applications in the Era of the Metaverse* (Issue June, pp83–104).
<https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-6684-8851-5.ch004>

DAY 3 21st December, 2023 (Thursday)



Session 5: 06:00pm-07:00pm
Topic: Challenges of Publishing Research papers in the age of AI
Moderator: Ms. Alisha Baglari, Department of English, KL University
Dr. Prodhon Mahbob Ibna Seraj, Associate Professor, Department of English

Session 6: 07:00PM-08:30PM
Dr. Hippu Salk Kristie Nathan, Department of Social Sciences, Institute of Rera
Topic: Writing a Research Paper in the Age of AI: Do's and Don't
Moderator: Ms. Alisha Baglari, Department of English, KL University

Webinar On 

Scientific Paper Writing and Publishing Strategies for High Impact Journal



Program Chair: Md Fouad Hossain Sarkar, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Development Studies, Daffodil International University, Bangladesh

Key Note Speaker: Dr. Prodhon Mahbob Ibna Seraj, Associate Professor, English Language Institute, United International University (UIU)

Moderator: Md. Salmaan Suhail, Lecturer and Research Chairman, Department of Development Studies, Daffodil International University, Bangladesh

online:  zoom

23 Nov (Thursday) 8:00 PM

Organized by Dept. Of Development Studies, Daffodil International University

WEBINAR

HOW TO PUBLISH A RESEARCH PAPER?
 ESTABLISHING RESEARCH GAPS PREPARING TEMPLATES SUBMITTING TO A JOURNAL

Objectives:

- Identifying research gaps
- Identifying the research gap
- Identifying and submitting to a journal
- Preparing templates for writing a research paper

SPEAKER:
DR. PRODHON MAHBUB IBNA SERAJ

EDUCATION BACKGROUND:

PhD in Education, University of Malaya (UM)

MA in Applied Linguistics (TEFL), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

PhD in Education, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

PhD in Education, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)



Scan QR to Register
 Due Date: 28 October 2023
 Time: 8:00 PM

28 OCTOBER 2023
 8:00 PM

*Malaysian Time Zone (GMT+8)
 UTM Mail & E-Certificate will be provided

Keynote Speech Delivered by Dr. Atik, BELTA Joint Secretary



Dr. Kh Atikur Rahman, Associate Professor in the Department of English at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Maritime University and current Joint Secretary to BELTA, was invited to be a keynote speaker at the 6th CAPCDR International Conference-2023 (virtual). Dr. Atik was joined by two other keynote speakers: Professor Dr Zaleskaia Olga from Blagoveshchensk State Pedagogical University (Russia) and Professor Dr Sapna Sainath from Christ University (India). His keynote speech was on “*University to Work Transition: Employers’ Expectations and Roles of Universities*”.

Paper Presentation and Conference Participation by Takad Ahmed Chowdhury



Mr. Takad Ahmed Chowdhury, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Asia Pacific (UAP) and Member, Executive Committee, BELTA, presented a paper at the two-day international conference on “Teaching English Literature and Interdisciplinarity” organized by East West University (EWU) and the Association of Teachers of Literatures in English, Bangladesh (ATLEB) on July 28 and 29, 2023. It was co-authored by Mr. Sabbir Ahmed Dibbo, Lecturer, Department of English, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), and Member, Executive Committee, BELTA.

The paper was titled Teaching English Literature at Bangladeshi Private Universities: Challenges and Opportunities. Drawing upon the long and illustrious history of English literature education in Bangladesh, the study attempted to examine the challenges faced by English literature teachers in Bangladeshi private universities and suggest appropriate strategies to overcome them.

Mr. Takad Ahmed Chowdhury was also invited to chair a session at the same conference.

Mr. Takad Ahmed Chowdhury also attended the two-day international conference on "Mapping Gendered Spaces in Language, Literature and Culture", another high-profile international conference organized by the Department of English, University of Dhaka on May 4 and 5 and chaired an important session on the day two of the event.

Paper Presentation by Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana

Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana, Executive member, BELTA, presented a paper titled ‘Assessing the Impact of Google Classroom on the Learning Experience: Perspectives from Students’ at the National Conference on Foreign Language and Culture, organized by the Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka on November 4, 2023.

BELTA Representative at the International Conference ELTAI

Nujhat Nuari Islam, ICCR Research Scholar, EFL University, Hyderabad

BELTA EC Member 2017-2019

Organizing an annual international conference is a common practice of the English Language Teachers Association of India (ELTAI). Last year was not an exception as well. As a research scholar, Nujhat Nuari Islam has attended ELTAI International Conferences three times in a row. The 2023 Conference was different for her as she attended the conference as a BELTA representative. Hence, she participated in one session as a Chair, one session as a panelist, and also she had presented an academic paper as well. With the theme of "English for Global Citizenship: Multiple Teaching Acts and Learning Experiences" the conference was graced by more than 400 paper presenters and participants from all over the world. As a venue, Uttaranchal University Dehradun was one of the best universities so far. The organizers divided the sessions in four days starting from 11 October and ending on 14 October 2023. There were five plenary sessions with the speakers from five different countries: Thailand, Nepal, Malaysia, India, and Indonesia.

Besides this, there was one panel discussion, one lightning talk session, one symposium, and one interview session. There were four parallel paper presentation sessions with more than 200 paper presenters from different parts of the world. As a bonus, the organizers also arranged transports to visit the tourist places for the participants. It was overall a thought-provoking experience for her.



SUCCESS STORIES OF BELTANS Attainment of Ph.D. Degree by Md. Mohib Ullah, General Secretary, BELTA



Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah, the General Secretary of BELTA, has recently been conferred with a Ph.D. from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). This remarkable accomplishment was officially endorsed in the Senate Graduation Committee Meeting No. 122 on 29 September 2023.

Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah's dissertation, titled "Critical Pedagogy in an Undergraduate EFL Reading Class to Raise Learners' Awareness of Social Justice in Bangladesh," explores the vital intersection of education and social justice. Under the guidance of Professor Dr. Ratnawati Mohd Asraf, former Dean of the Faculty of Education and Center for Postgraduate Studies (CPS), and former Director of the Research Management Center (RMC) at IIUM, Dr. Mohib has made a significant contribution to the field.

An alumnus of both the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) program in the United States, Dr. Mohib currently serves as a senior Assistant Professor at the Department of English Language and Literature, International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC). His dedication to academic excellence and commitment to societal betterment are further evidenced by his role as the President of Global Aid for Sustainable Development (GASD), a voluntary initiative of US Exchange Alums.

Attainment of Ph.D. Degree by Afroza Aziz Suchana, BELTA EC Member



BELTA executive member Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana obtained her Ph.D. degree on September 27, 2023 from the Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka. The title of her dissertation was “Representation Gender in English Language Textbooks at the Primary Level of Education in Bangladesh”.

Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana currently serves as an Associate Professor at the Department of English, University of Asia Pacific. With a robust focus on gender equity in textbooks, materials evaluation, and the integration of technology in education, alongside an exploration into code-switching, she has both published and presented her findings in these significant domains.

Dr. Mohib, BELTA General Secretary Sets out on a Transformative Educational Journey Through IVLP

In a testament to the commitment to advancing English language education in Bangladesh, Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah, the General Secretary of the Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA), recently concluded a transformative educational journey as part of the International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP), a prestigious professional exchange sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.



IVLP Participants from Bangladesh at Capitol Hill, Washington, USA

Dr. Mohib's participation in the single-country project titled "Integrating Technology and Inquiry-based Learning Methods in the Classroom" exemplifies his dedication to staying at the forefront of innovative teaching practices. The IVLP journey took him and his fellow educators to key states across the United States- Washington, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. Throughout the program, Dr. Mohib engaged in enlightening view-exchange sessions and meetings with prominent institutions and organizations at the forefront of integrating technology and inquiry-based methods in classrooms. The collaborative discussions involved interactions with the U.S. Department of Education, state universities, leading educational organizations, as well as schools and colleges pioneering these transformative approaches.

The immersive experience offered Dr. Mohib valuable insights into the latest advancements in educational technology and the application of inquiry-based methods. The exchanges with American counterparts facilitated the sharing of best practices, innovative strategies, and successful case studies. Dr. Mohib had the opportunity to witness firsthand how these methods are being effectively implemented in diverse educational settings in the USA. The visit included observations and discussions at various levels. The exposure to cutting-edge practices and the collaborative spirit of the IVLP journey will undoubtedly contribute to the enhancement of English language teaching methodologies in Bangladesh.

Upon his return, Dr. Mohib expressed gratitude for the enriching experience and emphasized the importance of adapting global best practices to the local context. BELTA looks forward to incorporating the gained knowledge into its ongoing efforts to elevate the quality of English language education in Bangladesh.

**Research Articles by
Dr. Atik (BELTA Joint Secretary)
Accepted for Publication**

Two research articles led by Dr. Kh Atikur Rahman, Joint Secretary to BELTA have been accepted for publication (in January 2024). One of these articles titled “Recognizing stakeholders and factors mediating washback in language testing” will be available in a Scopus-indexed journal, Educational Research International, while the other titled “Language barriers, miscommunication and marine accidents” will be found in Bangladesh Maritime Journal.

**BELTA Member Nawsheen Ahsan’s
Participation in the Access Community
of Practice (COP) Programme**



Nawsheen Ahsan had the opportunity to be selected by the FHI 360 (ACCESS Team) U.S. State Department to take part in the prestigious COP (Community Of Practice program). She was nominated by the American Centre and after she had applied, she was selected by the ACCESS team.

It is a pilot program for the selected ACCESS Teachers (English ACCESS Microscholarship Program) worldwide. It was a virtual program and ACCESS Teachers from 30 countries took part in the program . It was a 10 weeks program organized by FHI 360 (ACCESS Team) US State department

ACCESS teachers from around 80 countries took part in the virtual program where different learning and sharing ideas were involved. ACCESS teachers reviewed a given lesson plan about art and advocacy and shared ideas and

some teachers also implemented the lesson plan in their ACCESS classes.

ACCESS teachers from 80 countries engaged themselves in various collaborative activities. It was a great platform for the ACCESS teachers worldwide to participate in the program and

Nawsheen as an ACCESS teacher represented Bangladesh in the global platform and also had a great experience and acquired knowledge and various ideas for teaching in her ACCESS classes.

BELTA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

BELTA Chittagong South Hosts Successful Teacher Training Workshop on Metacognition in English Education

Chittagong, November 2, 2023: In a collaborative effort, BELTA Chittagong South, American Corner Chattogram, and Global Aid for Sustainable Development (GASD) orchestrated a highly impactful teacher training workshop titled "Metacognition in Action: Applying Metacognitive Strategies in Learning and Teaching English." The event, held on November 2, 2023, saw the participation of distinguished guests and experts in the field of English language education.

Mr. Roger Cohen, Regional English Language Officer (RELO) from Kathmandu, Nepal, graced the occasion as the chief guest, delivering insightful opening remarks. Special guest Mr. Shaon Karmakar, English Language Program Lead at the US Embassy in Dhaka, added to the prestige of the event.

Moderated by Dr. Azran Azmee, Associate Professor at the Department of English, Islamic University Kushtia, and an alum of the US Department of State's OPEN Program, the workshop is facilitated by Ms. Kelly Royester, an English Language Fellow from the US Department of State.



Participants with certificates posing with Molly after Workshop on Metacognition held in Chattogram

Expressing gratitude on behalf of the organizers, Ms. Sayeda Fatema, Fulbright Teaching Achievement and Excellence (TEA) Alum and Co-founder of GASD, delivered the vote of thanks. The certificate award ceremony was skillfully moderated by Mr. Ramij Ahmad, an alum of the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program in 2023 from the US Department of State, and Head of Communications at GASD. The workshop provided a platform for English educators to delve into metacognitive strategies, fostering an enriched learning and teaching experience.

A Workshop for English Language Teachers in Collaboration with BELTA Rajshahi Chapter

On a fine afternoon of October 18, 2023, a workshop for English Language Teachers was held in collaboration with U.S Embassy Dhaka, Global Aid for Sustainable Development, BELTA Chittagong South Chapter, and BELTA Rajshahi chapter at American Corner, Rajshahi. The Chief guest of the program was Mr. Roger Cohen, Regional English Language Officer (RELO) , Kathmandu, Nepal. The special guests were Mr. Bishaw Gautam, Regional English Language Officer (RELO), Kathmandu, Nepal, and Mr. Shaon Karmakar, English Language Program, Lead, Public Engagement Unit, US Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh.



RELO's session in Rajshahi

The workshop had two sessions where the first session titled "Hands-On Activities for Learner's Engagement" was conducted by Mr. Roger Cohen, Regional English Language Officer (RELO), Kathmandu, Nepal and the second Session was titled "Teaching Grammar Communicatively" was conducted by Mr. Bishaw Gautam, (RELO) and Program Specialist, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Over 70 teachers and Educators from various renowned Schools and Colleges of Rajshahi attended the workshop enthusiastically and made the sessions more effective and engaging.

The collaboration of the Facilitators and the attendees/participants was very engaging and learning-sharing oriented which would certainly benefit the educators to make their future classes more effective and learner-oriented.

The facilitators provided clear examples of how a teaching-learning situation/environment can be more engaging and therefore effective.

BELTA Chapter Rajshahi hopes to be a part of this kind of program and arrange more of this kind of program shortly. At the end of the program the Chair, Ms. Mahbuba Hasina, Associate Professor, Department of English, Rajshahi University, gave the vote of thanks, and the program ended with taking several group photos, conversations among the Educators over tea and with the hope for attending more of this kind of workshops.

MEETINGS WITH THE AMERICAN CENTER AND THE BRITISH COUNCIL

BELTA Representatives Meeting with U.S. RELO Kathmandu, NEPAL at the American Center, U.S. Embassy, Dhaka

On the 11th of October 2023, a significant meeting was held at the American Center, US Embassy, Dhaka, where delegates from the Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) came together with representatives from the U.S. Regional English Language Office (RELO) in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting aimed to explore future collaborative opportunities between BELTA and the RELO, focusing on the enhancement of English language education in Bangladesh.

The BELTA delegation was led by the President Prof. Ahmed Bashir and included key members Prof. Dr. Tazin Aziz Chaudhury, Vice-President, Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah, General Secretary, Moshir Rahman, Organising Secretary, and Zakia Sultana, Treasurer, BELTA. Their presence underscored the organisation's commitment to promoting international partnerships for the development of English language teaching and learning.

Representing the RELO were Mr. Roger Cohen, the U.S. Regional English Language Officer along with Mr Bishwa Raj Gautam RELO Specialist, US Embassy, Nepal; Mr. Shaon Karmakar, the English Language Program Lead and Ms. Rubayiat Tasmia, the English Language Program Coordinator, US Embassy, Dhaka. Their participation highlighted the U.S. government's support for educational initiatives in the region.

The meeting focused on presenting and discussing BELTA's ongoing projects and future plans. The dialogue opened up potential avenues for collaboration, particularly in areas such as teacher training, resource development, and enhancing English language proficiency among educators and learners in Bangladesh.

This interaction between BELTA and the RELO not only marked a promising step towards mutual cooperation but also demonstrated the shared vision of both organisations in advancing English language education. The engagement serves as a testament to BELTA's proactive approach in seeking international collaborations to further its mission of improving English language education, showcasing its ongoing commitment to excellence and innovation in the field.



BELTA representatives with RELO and US Embassy, Dhaka Officials at American Center

BELTA Representatives Meeting with the Officials of British Council, Bangladesh

On October 2, 2023, an important meeting between BELTA and the British Council, Bangladesh, took place at the British Council's premises on Fuller Road, Dhaka. This meeting aimed at fostering a collaborative relationship between BELTA and the British Council.

Led by BELTA President, Prof. Ahmed Bashir, the team included Prof. Dr. Arifa Rahman; Advisor; Prof. Dr. Rubina Khan, the Immediate Past President; Prof. Dr. Tazin Aziz Chaudhury and Dr. Qumrul Hasan Chowdhury, both Vice-Presidents; and Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah, the General Secretary. This meeting of esteemed educators and leaders underscored BELTA's commitment to enhancing English language teaching and learning in Bangladesh.

The meeting discussion was comprehensive. It focused on BELTA's ongoing projects and its strategic vision for the future. Mr. David Knox, Director Programmes, Mr. Imran Saifur, Sr. Academic Manager, British Council South Asia, and Ms Tahnee Yeasmin, Coordinator, English Programmes of the British Council, added valuable insights and contributions to the discussions by having fruitful conversations about potential areas of collaboration. It was not just a discussion of mutual interests but a step forward in establishing a partnership that promises to bring about significant advancements in the field of English language education in Bangladesh. The emphasis was on sharing BELTA's strategic plan, which outlines the organization's objectives and initiatives aimed at not only enhancing the skills of English language teachers but also improving the quality of English language education across the country.

The meeting concluded with a positive outlook towards future collaborations. The two organisations look forward to the potential for joint efforts in research, teacher training, and resource development. This event is a step forward in BELTA's journey towards achieving excellence in English language teaching and learning, with the support and partnership of the British Council.



BELTA representatives with British Council officials on its premises

BELTA Representatives Meeting with English Language Fellows at the Department of English, University of Dhaka

The Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) organised a meeting with representatives from the US Embassy and the recently arrived English Language Fellows, in a noteworthy move intended to promote educational cooperation and exchange. The discussion, which was held at Dhaka University's Department of English, was a significant turning point in the continuous attempts to improve English language instruction and cross-cultural understanding between Bangladesh and the US.

The meeting was graced by the presence of distinguished BELTA officials, including Prof. Ahmed Bashir, President, BELTA; Prof. Dr. Tazin Aziz Chaudhury and Dr. Qumrul Hasan Chowdhury, Vice-Presidents of BELTA; and Dr. Aitkur Rahman, the Joint Secretary of BELTA. Their participation underscored the organization's commitment to leveraging international partnerships to advance the English language teaching landscape in Bangladesh. The English Language Fellows, Kelly Royester, Susan Mast, and Martha Lady were warmly welcomed as they embarked on their mission to contribute to English language teaching and learning initiatives in Bangladesh.

The meeting facilitated a productive dialogue on collaborative efforts and educational exchanges that could potentially enhance the quality of English language education in Bangladesh. Mr. Shaon Karmakar, the English Language Program Lead, and Ms. Rubaiyat Tasmia played instrumental roles in outlining the strategic vision for these collaborations, emphasizing the importance of building strong educational ties and sharing best practices between the two nations. This event marks a significant step towards strengthening the professional development of English language teachers in Bangladesh and promoting cultural exchange. The discussions and outcomes of the meeting are expected to pave the way for fruitful educational initiatives and partnerships, reinforcing BELTA's mission to enhance the English language teaching and learning ecosystem in Bangladesh.



BELTA Representatives with English Language Fellows at the Department of English, University of Dhaka

U.S. RELO Mr. Roger Cohen Inspires Educators at Chittagong Teacher Training Workshop in BELTA

In a landmark event, Mr. Roger Cohen, the newly appointed U.S. Regional English Language Officer (RELO) for Kathmandu, Nepal, made his inaugural visit to Chittagong on October 16, 2023. To commemorate this occasion, the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, American Corner Chittagong, Global Aid for Sustainable Development, and the

Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) collaboratively organized a transformative teachers' training workshop.



Participants doing an activity in the workshop

The workshop, held from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on October 16, 2023, featured two insightful sessions on innovative teaching methodologies. Mr. Cohen conducted a session on "Hands-on Activities for Learner Engagement," while RELO Program Specialist Bishwa Gautam shared expertise on "Teaching Grammar Communicatively." A diverse audience of forty-two educators from various educational institutions actively participated in the engaging sessions.

Takwa Siddika skillfully moderated the proceedings, ensuring a dynamic exchange of ideas and experiences among the attendees. The teacher training workshops culminated with a note of gratitude delivered by Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah, the General Secretary of BELTA, acknowledging the valuable contributions of both Mr. Roger Cohen and Mr. Bishwa Gautam.

The workshop not only provided a platform for professional development but also fostered a sense of collaboration and knowledge-sharing among educators. The insights gained from the sessions promise to have a lasting impact on English language teaching practices in the region.

BELTA IN PHOTOS

BELTA AGM 2023





First Meeting of BELTA Executive Committee 2023-25 at Army Golf Club





BELTA President and IPP at the Council meeting of BRLCN in Beijing



Delegates at the Inaugural Meeting of BRLCN



Delegates at the Speaking Competition



Rubina Khan and Ahmed Bashir with Ms Jenny from China Daily & BRLCN Secretariate

BELTA National Conference 2023



Rubina Khan and Ahmed Bashir with members of SPELT, MELTA & NELTA



Dr. Munibur Presenting a Crest to BELTA President



Ahmed Bashir with members of Thai TESOL, NELTA, Azerbaijan and Singapore



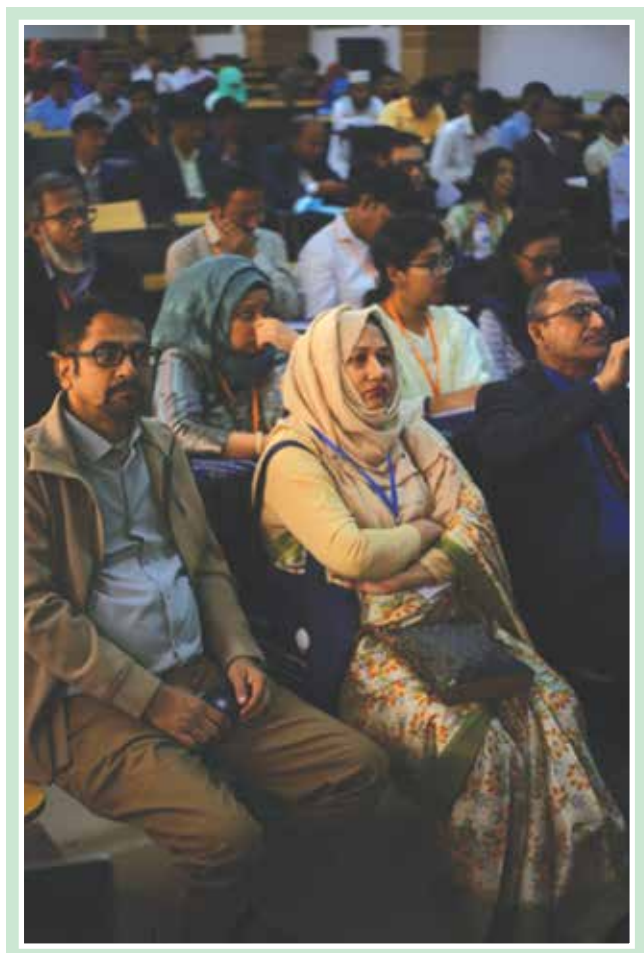
Dr. Rubina Khan with Dr. Sabreena and Dr. Mohib @ Workshop by Dr. Sabreena



With members from China Daily and TELLSI







BELTA-UAP-THT Teacher Development Conference



Prof. Dr. Qumrul Ahsan, Vice Chancellor of UAP is delivering his speech



EDITORS

Dr. Zakia Ahmad
Prof. Ahmed Bashir
Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah
Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana

GENERAL INFORMATION

BELTA newsletter primarily aims at all the members of BELTA. It is not a refereed journal, rather a newsletter that contains various news items including brief reports on events organized by BELTA and its chapters, and seminars and conferences participated by its members. It also contains short write-ups on any topics related to ELT, Applied Linguistics and Education in general. Besides, the newsletter welcomes any write-ups about your teaching and learning experiences or any tips on teaching and learning. Please send your contributions to BELTA Newsletter as a Word file in 350-500 words. We accept contributions throughout the year.

WHERE TO SEND

Send your write-ups to belta.newsletter@gmail.com

Cc to

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Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah: mohib.luminous@gmail.com

Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana: suchanadu@gmail.com

BELTA website
www.belta-bd.org