

Sri Lankan English Language Teacher Educator Conference 2020

5 and 6 March 2020



Opening ceremony, lighting the traditional oil lamp



Welcome speech by British Council Country Director, Gill Caldicott



A section of the audience inside the auditorium



A section of teacher educators in one of the breakout room sessions



Competition winner



Group photograph after closing ceremony

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Background

The Sri Lankan English Language Teacher Educator Conference (SLELTEC) was held on 5 and 6 March 2020 in MAS Athena in Thulhiriya, Sri Lanka. It grew out of our work with teacher educators, both pre and in-service, in the state sector in Sri Lanka. From 2017 the Improving Teacher Education in Sri Lanka (iTESL) Project has been running. Materials were developed based on the needs of both sectors. Teacher educator courses were delivered to over 100 teacher educators in the National Colleges of Education, teacher Training Colleges and Teacher Centres and mentoring and ELT methodology courses were delivered to over 200 in-service advisors and senior teachers. A Community of Practice (COP) was initiated to assist these teacher educators to share best practices and to give them a forum to collaborate. One of the events that the COP were keen to run was a conference in Sri Lanka specifically for English language teacher educators. Although there have been many conferences run by the Sri Lankan English Language Teachers Association (SLELTA) for English teachers, there has never been one for English teacher educators. The conference was the ideal venue for showcasing and sharing the work of both local pre and in-service teacher educators and for providing a platform to showcase and share the work of other non-project teacher educators both in the country and in the region. This conference was jointly hosted and funded by the Ministry of Education and the British Council.

Event format

The conference was held over two days and included:

A keynote speech by Dr Shashikala Assella, Senior Lecturer, Dept of English, University of Kelaniya on *Teaching Literature in Today's Classrooms*

Plenary sessions by

- **Karen Waterston**, E-learning Consultant, British Council Edinburgh on *Current trends in digital with a practical application in Sri Lanka*
- **Dr Bimali Indrarathne**, Lecturer, University of York, UK on *The speaking and listening challenge*
- **Psyche Kennett**, Consultant in Education and English, UK, on *Widening the scope of effective observation and feedback*

A panel discussion on *Current issues and future directions in teacher education* chaired by Dr Lesley Dick, ELT Projects Manager, British Council, Colombo, and featuring:

- **Dr Bimali Indrarathne**, Lecturer, University of York, UK;
- **Dr Sreemali Herath**, Senior Lecturer, Open University PGIE, Colombo;
- **Hasantha Kurruppu**, Assistant Commissioner Dept of Exams MoE;
- **Sanath Jayalath**, Deputy Director, English and Foreign Languages Branch, MoE

Papers, workshops and posters on the 4 themes of the conference. There were 4 parallel sessions on each morning and afternoon. The full programme can be found in Appendix 1.

Event objectives and themes

Objectives were agreed prior to the event, as follows.

1. To demonstrate and share best practice in teacher educator course delivery locally
2. To demonstrate and share best practice in teacher educator course delivery regionally
3. To showcase the best practice in lesson and session planning from the nationwide competition
4. To compile a conference publication showcasing local and regional best practice

The overall theme was *English language teacher education in the 21st Century*. Papers, workshops and poster presentations were delivered on the following sub themes below:

1. Digital trends
 - Using technology to enhance language learning inside and outside the classroom
 - The use of mobiles to enhance teacher education
 - Using IWBs/ e-learning in the classroom
 - Digital literacy
2. Observation and feedback methods and techniques
 - Using web / mobile based tools for observing teachers
 - Giving constructive feedback
 - Oral and written feedback formats
 - Monitoring / mentoring / coaching teachers
3. Empowering teachers to teach literature
 - Training teachers to teach literature for the O and A level assessment
 - Literary texts and how to exploit them for language and literature
 - Drama in the language classroom
 - Teaching songs and rhymes for the primary classroom
4. The speaking and listening challenge
 - Training English teachers in developing listening and speaking skills
 - Developing the speaking and listening competencies
 - Exploiting the coursebooks to develop speaking and listening
 - Assessing speaking and listening skills

Attendance

A varied audience including policy makers, government officials, academics and teachers were invited to participate.

The conference was inaugurated by Ms Gill Caldicott, Country Director, British Council, Sri Lanka and Ms Maheshi Weerasuriya, Director English and Foreign Languages Branch, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka.

The conference was advertised in November 2019 on the British Council and the Ministry of education websites. In addition information was sent out to other British Councils in the region requesting them to advertise the event. Participants had to register on the website and this was followed up with assistance in booking accommodation and paying fees. The British Council and the Ministry of Education worked closely on the event, sponsoring teachers and teacher educators who had been involved in the Improving Teacher Education in Sri Lanka Project.

A total of **350** people registered to attend, with **141** people finally participating. Tables 1 and 2 outline the number of attendees according to stakeholder group and gender.

Table 1: Stakeholder groups attending the event

Stakeholder group	
Teachers	50
Teacher educators (Trainers)	58
Presidents (NCoEs)	4
Government leaders (officials)	4
University academics	3
NGO	1
Ministry of Education officials	8
British Council staff	13

Table 2: Gender of event participants

Gender	
Male	48
Female	93

** Totals not including the project team or British Council staff*

Table 3 Nationality of event presenters and participants

Nationality	
Sri Lankan	127
Nepalese	4
Afghan	1
British	7
American	2

Event feedback

Achievement of objectives

3 out of 4 objectives were achieved through the event itself. One objective was to demonstrate and share best practice in teacher educator course delivery locally and one was regionally. The mix of nationalities of presenters and participants and their enthusiasm to discuss their contexts led to a vibrant exchange of ideas on best practice in teacher educator course delivery in the presentations and workshops as well as the plenary sessions. Achievement three - to showcase the best practice in lesson and session planning from the nationwide competition – was partly achieved in the celebration of the winners of the competition and the awarding of prizes. This will be followed up post event by the online publication and dissemination through the Ministry of Education Moodle platform of the winning plans. Achievement four - to compile a conference publication showcasing local and regional best practice – is in the planning stages. A call for contributions to the proceedings has been put out and 22 abstracts have been received. These will be selected from and they plus the plenary speaker contributions will be published online by July 2020.

Participant feedback: quantitative

A survey monkey questionnaire was written and sent out to all participants the week after the conference. A total of 52 feedback forms were collected – approximately a third of the total in attendance. The findings are given below

Participant information:

Of the total participants 35.59% were attached to institutes from the Western Province, while 13.56% were attached to Central Province, 11.86% from North Central, 10.17% from Northern, 6.78% from North Western (Wayamba), 5.08% from Southern, 3.39% from Eastern and Uva province each, and 1.69% from Sabaragamuwa. 8.47 % were attached to institutions based overseas. 40.68% took part as presenters while the remaining 59.32% were participants. 96.61% of the participant attended the conference on both days, while 1.69% participated on Thursday 05 March and 1.69% on Friday 06 March. 88.14% of the participants were Sri Lankan nationals. 6.78% were Nepalese while 1.69% was Afghan. The 3.39% specified as others included British and US nationals.

Feedback

Participants were asked to rate on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good) the following areas relating to the conference content.

- The conference overall: 59.32% said the conference overall was very good, while 38.98% said it was good. 1.69% it was very poor.
- The keynote speaker: 50.85% said the keynote speaker was very good, while 40.68% said she was good, 6.78% were neutral and 1.69% said she was very poor.
- The plenary speakers overall: 54.24% said the plenary speakers overall were very good, while 37.29% said good. 5.08% were neutral and 1.69% said very poor.
- The workshops: 49.15% said the workshops were good while 38.98% said they were very good. 8.47% were neutral while 1.69% said they were poor and 1.69% said very poor.
- The papers that were presented: 67.8% thought the papers that were presented were good while 23.73% thought they were very good. 8.47% were neutral.
- The cultural show: 35.59% said the cultural show organized in the evening of the first day was good and 15.25% said it was very good. 27.12% were neutral while 10.17% thought it was poor and 6.78% thought it was very poor. 5.08% thought it was not applicable.
- Knowledge gained from the conference: 57.63% said the knowledge gained from the conference was very good while 42.37% said it was good.
- Relevance and usefulness of content discussed at the conference (conference papers, workshops, plenary sessions): 69.49% thought the relevance and usefulness of content discussed at the conference was very good, while 28.81% thought it was good.

67.80% of participants stayed in the dormitory, while 11.86% stayed in NIKE rooms and 8.47% in the executive residencies. 11.86% said they didn't need accommodation. Participants were asked to rate on a scale of 1 (very poor/low) to 5 (very good/high) the following areas relating to the conference venue:

- Their accommodation: 10.17% thought the accommodation arranged was very good, while 38.98% thought it was good, 25.42% were neutral, 8.47% thought it was poor and 6.78% said very poor. 10.17% said not applicable.
- The food: 52.54% thought the food was very good and 38.98% said good, 6.78% were neutral and 1.69% said poor.
- The auditorium and parallel workshop rooms: 62.71% thought the auditorium and parallel workshop rooms were very good, while 32.20% thought they were good, 1.69% were neutral and 1.69% said very poor. 1.69% said not applicable.

Participant feedback: qualitative

Participants were asked to add anything else that they would like to tell the organisers or any suggestions they had or changes they would make if we were to hold the same event next year. These are categorised into positive, negative and recommendations, the complete set of comments is in Appendix Three. Some highlights from each section are given below

Positives included a lot of praise for the conference and a lot of requests for another conference next year from both local and regional participants and presenters. Participants commented that they had already started to share the knowledge they had gained with their trainees and teachers. One commented “The conference was an eye opener for the audience as well as a platform for the presenters” and called the British Council “a trendsetter [that] initiated dissemination of new knowledge among an academic community”.

The negatives were mostly focused on not being able to attend all the workshops that they wanted to because the size of some of the rooms limited capacity and the fact that there were 4 parallel sessions at any one time. Also the dormitory accommodation came under fire as did the cultural show on the evening of the first day. Some commented on the inferior quality of occasional presentations. One commented on the lack of the Minister of Education and of foreign consultants such as Dr Rita Green who had recently worked on assessment in Sri Lanka. Senior ministry officials had been invited but had had to withdraw at the last minute when the President called a meeting in Colombo a few days before this event. The initial plan was to invite more foreign consultants; however with a budget cut in Quarter 4, this was something that had to be dropped.

Recommendations included some that will be taken on board if the event is repeated. These include:-

- Suitable dress code – a formal dress code had been stipulated by the MoE but perhaps this could be relaxed somewhat
- Parallel workshops meant that not everyone could see all workshops. Recording them may be the way forward here.
- Awareness of audience prior to a workshop especially if technology needs to be downloaded for it – this had resulted in a lot of time being wasted to download an app in one workshop
- More foreign representation
- More microphones for Q and A sessions
- Poster presentations need to be better advertised and presenters need a chance to present them
- Have a ceremony for awarding certificates to the presenters rather than just being given out at a desk (this had been done in the interests of time but is a fair point)

Some recommendations were made due to either a lack of understanding or knowledge. These include

- selection of papers one thought was not thorough; however the selection and been done by a team representing BC and MOE with clear criteria;

- access to venue was difficult ; it had been chosen based on being in the centre of the country to give equal travel time to all;
- lack of accommodation for one competition winner ; this was a mistake as accommodation had been provided but the reception desk seemed unaware of it;
- some commented that only some ITESL participants were invited whereas in fact all had been made aware of it and all had the opportunity to register for the conference;
- some commented that some teacher educators and teachers did not know about it and that it should have been advertised in the Sinhala and Tamil newspapers as well. This will be considered next time; however it was advertised in English newspaper and ads were sent out to all institutions and provincial education offices that were involved in ITESL
- involvement of British Council, Jaffna – one BC Jaffna teacher had submitted 3 abstracts and was accepted; however she pulled out at the last minute

Media and communications

There was considerable press coverage. Please see table below for a summary of the coverage. Please see appendix 2 for the articles.

Social media

Twitter and Facebook were the main social media platforms used during the event. As shown in Figure 1, this amounted to a reach of 8201 and engagement of 391. On Twitter there was a reach of 1158 and engagement of 26. The inauguration ceremony was streamed live through Facebook Live events. Over the period March 4 to May 5, the audience comprised 59% women and 35% men with the highest age group being 35-44 and second highest 25 to 34. 7 out of 9 provinces engaged with the ceremony with the longest engagement being in the Western province. Riyadh in Saudi Arabia and the UK also engaged. For Facebook stories and posts, the audience breakdown is shown in Figure 2. Some samples of visuals posted are included here as well. The engagement by gender was almost equal with 48% women engaging and 52% men. Across age groups the highest figures were 40% for the 18-24 age group and 35% for the 25–34 age group.

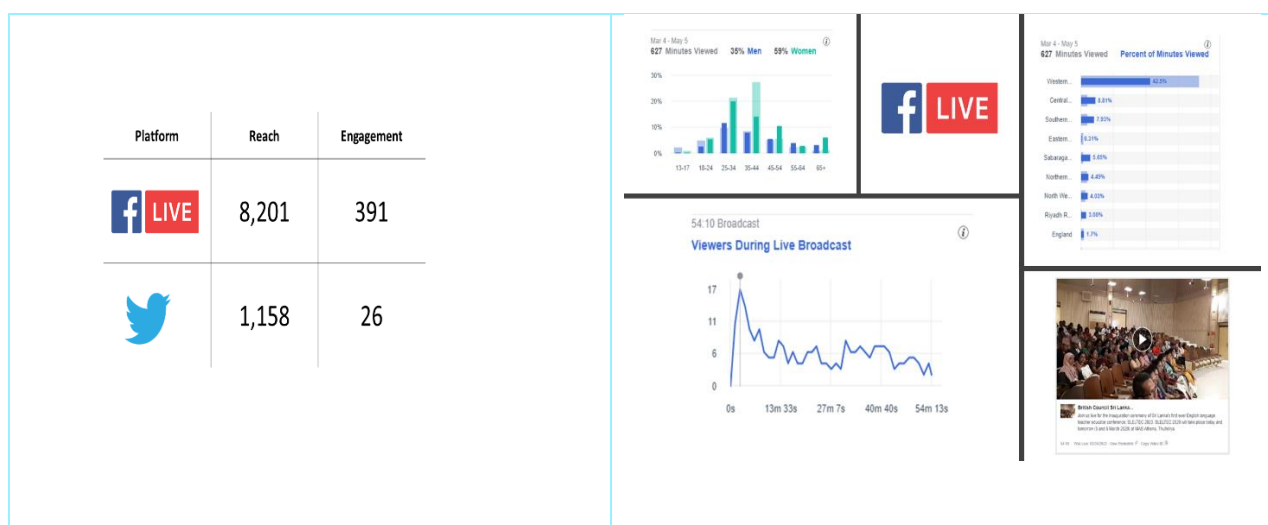


Figure 1: social media

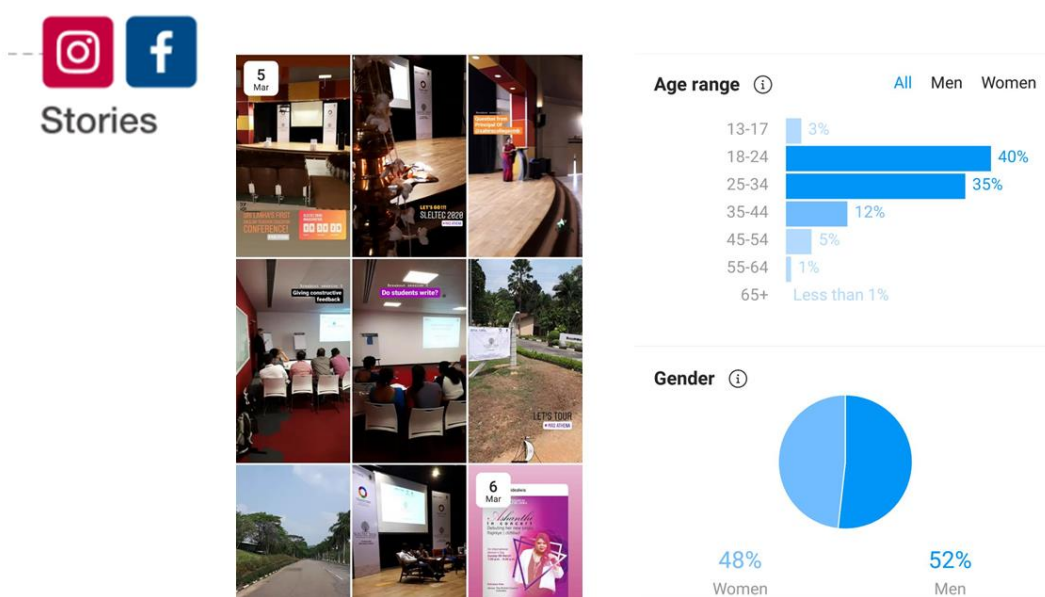


Figure 2: social media audience breakdown

Finance

Table 4 below outlines the costs incurred for the event by the British Council and the Ministry of Education

Budget	British Council	Ministry of Education
advertising	259,962	
transport	98,875	
printing	286,350	
venue hire	870,912	
accommodation	875,448	118,000
gift	5,000	
notebooks	25,000	
conference bags	112,500	
stationery	20,000	
	2,554,047 LKR	118,000LKR

Table 4

Event follow-up

Several activities are being completed in follow-up to the event:

- Conference proceedings to be collated and published online.
- Press release on conference proceedings drafted and submitted for consideration by various publications.
- Final project report to be uploaded to British Council and Ministry of Education websites
- Meetings with key officials in Colombo in June to share the conference proceedings and summary copies of the report.

Appendix 1: Conference Schedule - Thursday 5 March 2020

Time	Activity	Title and presenter(s)
-		
8.30	Registration and refreshments	
	Poster presentations	<i>The impact of Integrating language skills on achieving objectives</i> A. Jayalath Basnagoda Senior Lecturer, Mahawaeli National College of Education, Polgolla
		<i>The cascade effect of the journey which enwraps the school and community project facilitated by the National College of Education</i> W.M.M.R. Wewagama and S.A.W.M.M.E. Sooriyampola Teacher Educators, Mahaweli National College of Education, Polgolla
		<i>Using technology to enhance language learning inside and outside the classroom</i> I.B.K. Malka N. Wickramasinghe Teacher Educator, Mahaweli National College of Education, Polgolla
		<i>Improving reading and writing through creating newspapers</i> D.M. Shiromi Upulaneththa Teacher Educator, Mahaweli National College of Education, Polgolla
9.00-9.30	Opening ceremony	Chief guest
9.30-10.00	Keynote speech	<i>English literature: New avenues and challenges in today's classrooms</i> Dr Shashikala Assella Senior Lecturer, Department of English, University of Kelaniya
10.00-10.30	Tea break	

10.30-12.00	<p>Parallel sessions (papers):</p> <p>Speaking and listening</p> <p>Facilitator: S.A. Kularathne (Lecturer, Yakarawatta Teaching Centre)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Julia Kallinikou</p>	<p><i>An investigation into how far the A-Level General English curriculum contributes to the development of speaking skills for the world of work</i></p> <p>I. H. C. Damayanthi</p> <p>Lecturer, Siyane National College of Education</p>
		<p><i>Exploiting course-books to develop listening and speaking: A study carried out at the Open University at Polgolla</i></p> <p>Amarajeewa Jayalath Basnagoda</p> <p>Senior Lecturer, Mahaweli National College of Education</p>
		<p><i>'Building confidence to speak English': A course based on the principle of habituation to overcome English learners' lack of confidence</i></p> <p>Asantha U. Attanayake</p> <p>Senior Lecturer, Department of English Language Teaching, University of Colombo</p>
		<p><i>Using smart phones to enhance English language teacher candidates' autonomy as ESL learners</i></p> <p>Dulani Rathnayake</p> <p>Lecturer, Pasdunrata National College of Education</p>
	<p>Parallel sessions (papers): Observation and feedback</p> <p>Facilitator: Ian Smith (Training Consultant, British Council Sri Lanka)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Hasantha Kuruppu</p>	<p><i>How feedback is given by most teacher educators at present and what the most effective way is to give feedback to trainees</i></p> <p>S.N.K. Nanayakkara</p> <p>Deputy Principal, Teacher Training College, Unawatuna</p>
		<p><i>Observations: Problems and solutions</i></p> <p>Norma Swyngedauw</p> <p>Training consultant, British Council Sri Lanka</p>
		<p><i>Giving feedback so that the teacher has an accurate picture and knows what needs to be done to perform to the required standard</i></p> <p>I.B.K. Malka N. Wickramasinghe</p>

		Teacher Educator, Mahaweli National College of Education
		<i>Ways to make feedback more effective, constructive and action-orientated</i> Ishwor Prasad Kadel Teacher Educator British Council Nepal
	Parallel sessions (papers): Literature and language Facilitator: Thanuja Michael (In-Service Adviser, Ministry of Education) Rapporteur: Sajani Somathunga	<i>Incorporating literature into English language teaching with a focus on the role played by teachers in the learning and teaching process</i> Noorul Azra Mohamed Lecturer, Sri Lanka Teacher Educator Service, Mahaweli National College of Education, Polgolla
		<i>‘Students don’t write, right?’: How micro-writing can play a key part in helping learners develop writing sub-skills</i> Anya Shaw and Shamali Jayarathne Training Consultant and Master Trainer, British Council Sri Lanka and Zonal Education Office, Kandy
		<i>Creative and culturally inclusive understandings of teacher identity in language teacher education</i> Sreemali Herath Senior Lecturer, Open University Post Graduate Institute of English, Colombo
	Parallel sessions (workshop): Speaking and listening Facilitator / Rapporteur: R. M. D. Rohan (Lecturer, Pasdunrata National College of Education)	<i>Training teachers in developing speaking and listening in the classroom</i> Chulani C. Nilaweera Teacher Trainer, Regional English Support Centre, Trincomalee
12.00-1.00	Lunch	
1.00-2.00	Panel discussion – plenary	<i>Current issues and future directions in teacher education</i>

	<p>Facilitator: Lesley Dick (ELT Projects Manager, British Council Sri Lanka)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Norma Swyngedauw</p>	<p>Bimali Indrarathne, Lecturer, University of York, United Kingdom; Sreemali Herath, Senior Lecturer, Open University Post Graduate Institute of Education, Colombo; Hasantha Kurruppu, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Exams, Ministry of Education; Darshana Samaraweera, Director, Department of English, National Institute of Education, Colombo; Sanath Jayalath, Deputy Director, Department of English and Foreign Languages, Ministry of Education</p>
2.00-3.30	<p>Parallel sessions (workshop): Digital</p> <p>Facilitator / Rapporteur: Norma Swyngedauw (Training Consultant, British Council Sri Lanka)</p>	<p><i>'Kahoot conquers the highest peaks in the classroom through interest and attention': Using the Kahoot game-based learning platform to enhance teacher education</i></p> <p>Dr Sujeewa Polgampala English Lecturer, Siyane National College of Education, Pattalagedera</p>
	<p>Parallel sessions (workshop): Speaking and listening</p> <p>Facilitator / Rapporteur: Julia Kallinikou (Training Consultant, British Council Sri Lanka)</p>	<p><i>Adaptation of textbooks for interactive speaking and listening classes using different pair-work, prediction, role-play and other activities</i></p> <p>Reecha Regmi, Teacher and Teacher Educator, Scholar's Destination, Kathmandu</p>
	<p>Parallel sessions (workshop): Observation and feedback</p> <p>Facilitator / Rapporteur: Lesley Dick (ELT Projects Manager, British Council Sri Lanka)</p>	<p><i>Using the United National Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) in teacher training and CLIL language teaching</i></p> <p>Shannon Smith English Language Fellow, Uva Wellassa University, Badulla</p>

	Parallel sessions (workshop): Literature Facilitator / Rapporteur: S. A. Kularathne (Lecturer, Yakarawatta Teaching Centre)	<i>Three approaches to adopting literary texts for the classroom</i> Ian Smith Training Consultant, British Council Sri Lanka
3.30-4.00	Tea break	
4.00-5.00	Plenary – digital Facilitator: Sanath Jayalath (Deputy Director, Department of English and Foreign Languages, Ministry of Education)	<i>Current trends in digital with a practical application in Sri Lanka</i> Karen Waterston E-learning Consultant, British Council Edinburgh
5.00-6.00	Cultural event	
6.00-7.00	Break (poster presentations and bookstalls)	See above for description of posters
7.00-8.30	Dinner	

Friday 6 March 2020

Time	Activity	Title and presenter(s)
9.00-10.00	Plenary Facilitator: Hasantha Kuruppu (Assistant Commissioner, Department of Exams, Ministry of Education)	<i>The speaking and listening challenge</i> Dr Bimali Indrarathne Lecturer, University of York, United Kingdom
10.00-10.30	Tea break	
10.30-12.00	Parallel sessions (workshop): Digital Facilitator / Rapporteur: Norma Swyngedauw (Training Consultant, British Council Sri Lanka)	<i>Digital resources for teachers and students</i> Anna Wierstra Teacher Trainer, British Council Sri Lanka

	<p>Parallel sessions (papers): Observation and feedback</p> <p>Facilitator: Sajani Somathunga (iTESL Coordinator, Department of English and Foreign Languages, Ministry of Education)</p> <p>Rapporteur: RMD Rohan</p>	<p><i>The importance of using reflective journals in bridging the gap between pre-service teachers' theoretical knowledge and practical application in the language classroom</i></p> <p>S.A.W.M.M.E. Sooriyampola Lecturer, Mahaweli National College of Education</p>
		<p><i>Mentoring teachers whilst being mentored oneself: A journey in becoming a mentor while mentoring ten teachers carrying out exploratory action-research under the British Council's Aptis Action Research Mentoring Scheme</i></p> <p>Lok Bahadur Khatri Teacher and Teacher Educator, Shree Krishna Sanskrit and General Secondary School and the Provincial Education Training Centre, Karnali State, Nepal</p>
		<p><i>Observation: A development and evaluation tool in the ITESL Project</i></p> <p>Lesley Dick ELT Projects Manager, British Council, Colombo</p>
	<p>Parallel session (workshop): Observation and feedback</p> <p>Facilitator / Rapporteur: Thanuja Michael (In-Service Advisor, Ministry of Education)</p>	<p><i>Features of and techniques for group observation and feedback</i></p> <p>Ian Smith Training Consultant, British Council Sri Lanka</p>
	<p>Parallel sessions (papers): Digital</p> <p>Facilitator: P.N. Ilapperuma (Director Information and Communications Technology, Ministry of Education)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Shamali Jayarathne</p>	<p><i>The Google Classroom mobile application as a learning tool in English language teaching for pre-service teachers</i></p> <p>Jayani Pearl Gurunada Teacher Educator and Lecturer, Pasdunrata National College of Education</p>
		<p><i>Improving writing skills of English-language learners through web blogs</i></p> <p>M. Tharangi Madushika Sirisena Visiting Lecturer, Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka, Colombo</p>
		<p><i>Different digital tools and techniques by which teachers can improve their teaching quality</i></p> <p>Ali Ahmad Gharji Teacher of English, British Council Kabul</p>

		<p><i>The use of video recordings for the presentation skills of pre-service teacher candidates in National Colleges of Education in Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>W.M. Menik R. Wewegama</p> <p>English Teacher Educator, Mahaweli National College of Education, Polgolla</p>
12.00-1.00	Lunch	
1.00-2.00	<p>Plenary</p> <p>Facilitator: Lesley Dick (ELT Projects Manager, British Council Sri Lanka)</p>	<p><i>Widening the scope of effective observation and feedback</i></p> <p>Psyche Kennett</p> <p>Consultant in Education and English, United Kingdom</p>
2.00-3.30	<p>Parallel sessions (workshop): Speaking and listening</p> <p>Facilitator / Rapporteur: Julia Kallinikou (Training Consultant, British Council Sri Lanka)</p>	<p><i>Opportunities in the Grade 9 syllabus and course-book to improve speaking and listening skills</i></p> <p>T.H.S.N. De Silva</p> <p>Assistant Director of Education (English), Zonal Education Office, Anuradhapura</p>
	<p>Parallel sessions (workshop): Speaking and listening</p> <p>Facilitator / Rapporteur Ian Smith (Training Consultant, British Council Sri Lanka)</p>	<p><i>‘Your guide but not your master’: Adapting the textbook to increase learning and motivation, including in speaking and listening</i></p> <p>Anya Shaw and Shamali Jayarathne</p> <p>Training Consultant, British Council Sri Lanka, and Master Trainer, Zonal Education Office, Kandy</p>
		<p><i>Identification and correction of the erroneous use of verbs in written texts by tertiary level students</i></p> <p>H.A. Erandi Harischandra</p> <p>Lecturer, National Institute of Business Management, Colombo</p>
	<p>Parallel sessions (papers):</p> <p>Facilitator: R.M.D. Rohan (Lecturer, Pasdunrata National College of Education)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Sajani Somathunga</p>	<p><i>Improving the English writing skills of pre-service teacher trainees through e-portfolios</i></p> <p>D.M. Shiromi Upulaneththa</p> <p>Teacher Educator, Mahaweli National College of Education, Polgolla</p>
		<p><i>The impact of an extensive reading programme on improving speaking and listening skills among prospective teachers at National Colleges of Education</i></p> <p>Padmini de Silva</p> <p>Senior lecturer, Hapitigama National College of Education</p>

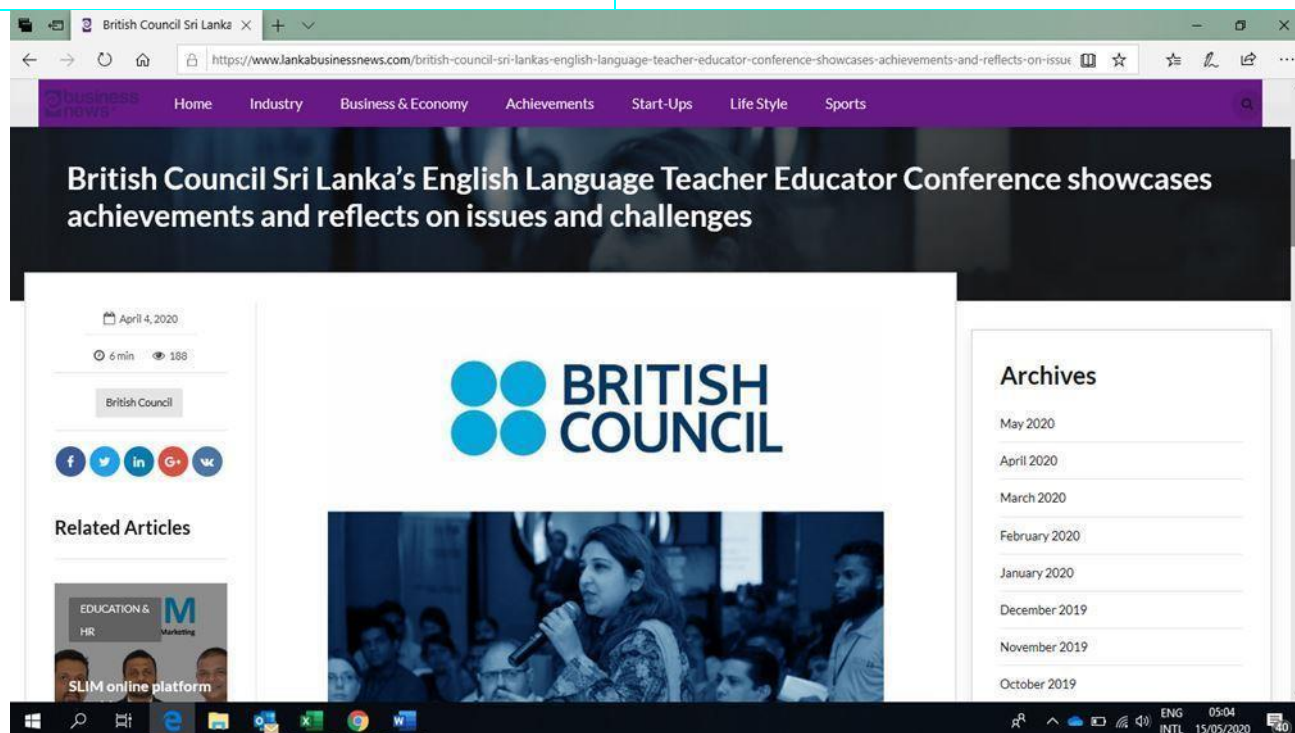
	<p>Parallel sessions (workshop): Literature</p> <p>Facilitator / Rapporteur: S.A. Kularathne (Lecturer, Yakarawatta Teaching Centre)</p>	<p><i>Literature in the language classroom for interaction and motivation</i></p> <p>Dharmendra Bhattarai Teacher and Teacher Educator, Nepal English Language Teachers' Association, Jhapa</p>
3.30-4.00	Tea break	
4.00-5.00	Closing ceremony	Competitions awards announcement and certificates

Appendix 2: Press clippings

Web articles

Web article name: Lanka Business News

Published date: April 4, 2020



Source: <https://www.lankabusinessnews.com/british-council-sri-lankas-english-language-teacher-educator-conference-showcases-achievements-and-reflects-on-issues-and-challenges/>

Customized shorter web link: <https://bit.ly/360SPz7>

Web article name: Business Cafe

Published date: April 5, 2020

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying an article on the BusinessCafe website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <https://businesscafe.lk/business-news/education/item/5732-british-council-sri-lanka-s-english-language-teacher-educator-conference-showcases-achievements-and-reflects-on-issues-and-challenges>. The website's navigation bar includes links for HOME, BUSINESS NEWS, VIDEOS, ADVERTISE WITH US, and CONTACT US. The article title is "British Council Sri Lanka's English Language Teacher Educator Conference showcases achievements and reflects on issues and challenges". Below the title are social media sharing buttons for Facebook, Like (15), Tweet, and LinkedIn. The article is dated "Sunday, 05 April 2020 04:37". The main content area features a large orange square with four white circles, followed by the text: "The British Council, Sri Lanka organised the Sri Lanka English Language Teacher Educator Conference (SLELTEC) 2020 in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, to showcase the achievements of English teacher educators in the country and reflect on current issues and possible future challenges locally and regionally." Below this, it states: "Held during the first week of March at the MAS Athena in Thulhiriya, participants included English teacher educators in the state sector, lecturers at the National Colleges of Education, Teacher Training Colleges and Teacher Centres, Regional English Support Centres and in-service advisors from the provinces." and "Among the regional participants were teacher educators from Nepal and Afghanistan." The right sidebar shows a "Popular" section with links to "IBM Looks to Empower Businesses Accelerate Recovery and Digital Transformation", "Saaraketha Lifestyle, the hailing of a new world order post COVID - 19", "Community Standards Enforcement Report, May 2020 Edition", and "Mastercard Names Rajesh Mani Country Manager for Sri Lanka Maldives". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 05:03 on 15/05/2020.

Source: <https://businesscafe.lk/business-news/education/item/5732-british-council-sri-lanka-s-english-language-teacher-educator-conference-showcases-achievements-and-reflects-on-issues-and-challenges>

Customized shorter web link: <https://bit.ly/2Z10JHv>

Web article name: Ceylon Business Reporter

Published date: April 5, 2020

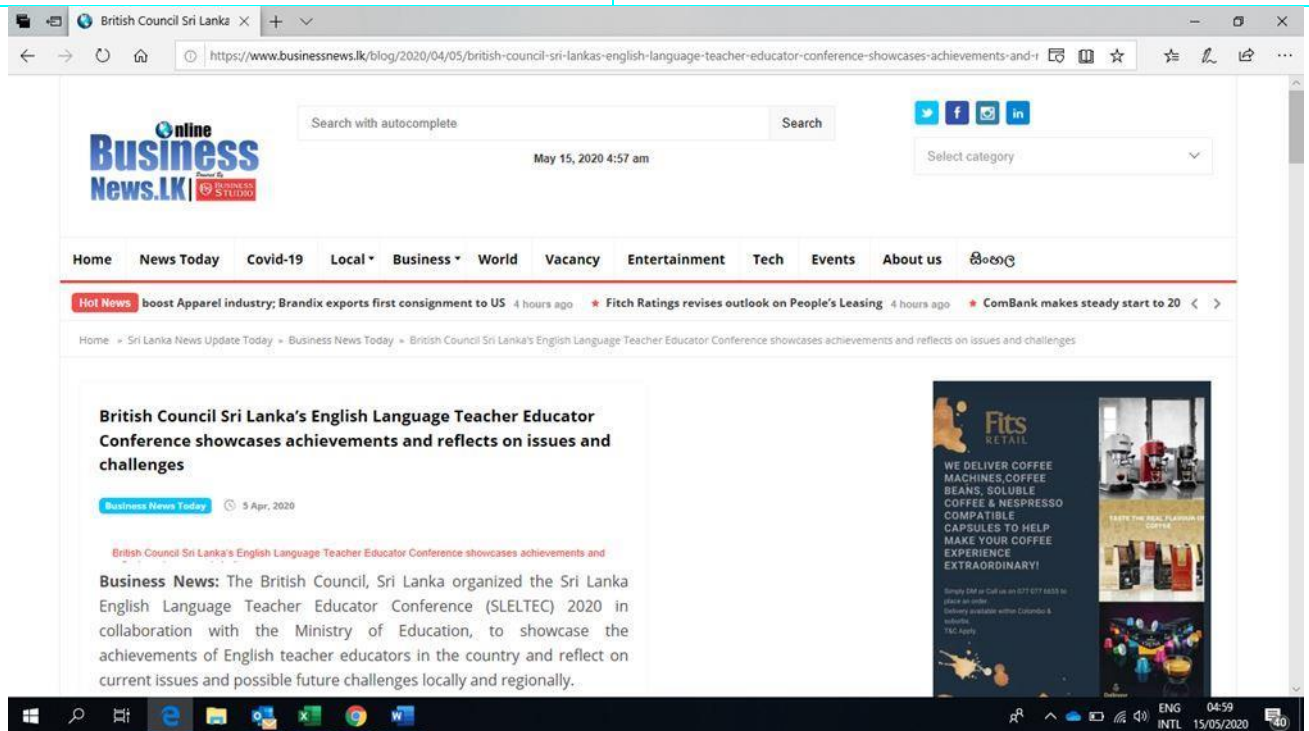


Source: <https://cbr.lk/education/british-council-sri-lankas-english-language-teacher-educator-conference-showcases-achievements-reflects-issues-challenges/>

Customized shorter web link: <https://bit.ly/2T8sJVL>

Web article name: Business News.LK

Published date: April 5, 2020



Source: <https://www.businessnews.lk/blog/2020/04/05/british-council-sri-lankas-english-language-teacher-educator-conference-showcases-achievements-and-reflects-on-issues-and-challenges/>

Customized shorter web link: <https://bit.ly/2zDTToTs>

Web article name: Daily News (e-paper)

Published date: April 11, 2020

The screenshot shows the Daily News e-paper website. The header includes the 'Daily News' logo, 'E-PAPER' and 'Live' buttons, a search bar, and a navigation menu with categories like Local, Political, Finance, Editorial, World, Law & Order, Entertainment, Features, T & C, Sports, Obituaries, and More. The date '5:17:27 May 15, 2020' is displayed in the top right. The main article is titled 'British Council hosts English Language Teacher Educator Conference' and is dated 'Saturday, April 11, 2020 - 01:00'. The article text states: 'The British Council, Sri Lanka organised the Sri Lanka English Language Teacher Educator Conference (SLELTEC) 2020 in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, to showcase the achievements of English teacher educators in the country and to reflect on current issues and possible future challenges locally and regionally.' It further mentions that the conference was held during the first week of March at the MAS Athena in Thulhiriya, with participants including English teacher educators in the state sector, lecturers at the National Colleges of Education, Teacher Training Colleges and Teacher Centres, Regional English Support Centres and in-service advisors from the provinces. A 'Print Edition' button is visible next to the article title. On the right side, there is an advertisement for 'ADVERTISE IN OUR E-PAPERS' with a list of categories: Obituary, Notice, Acknowledgement, Matrimonial, and Classified or any other category. At the bottom of the advertisement, contact information is provided: '+ (94) 077 220 2225', '+ (94) 077 296 6502', '+ (011) 242 9326', and 'webmarketing@lakehouse.lk'. A 'Meet a doctor online' banner is visible at the bottom of the article content area. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating '05:17' on '15/05/2020'.

Source: <http://www.dailynews.lk/2020/04/11/finance/216342/british-council-hosts-english-language-teacher-educator-conference>

Customized shorter web link: <https://bit.ly/2WVH6Oq>

Unable to access Sunday Times online edition for 12 April 2020 education section


Web article name: The Island

Published date: April 15, 2020

NAVIGATE : [Home](#) » » [British Council Sri Lanka's English Language Teacher Educator Conference showcases achievements and reflects on issues and challenges](#)

British Council Sri Lanka's English Language Teacher Educator Conference showcases achievements and reflects on issues and challenges

April 15, 2020, 8:17 pm


 The British Council, Sri Lanka organised the Sri Lanka English Language Teacher Educator Conference (SLELTEC) 2020 in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, to showcase the achievements of English teacher educators in the country and reflect on current issues and possible future challenges locally and regionally.



Held during the first week of March at the MAS Athena in Thulhiriya, participants included English teacher educators in the state sector, lecturers at the National Colleges of Education, Teacher Training Colleges and Teacher Centres, Regional English Support Centres and in-service advisors from the provinces. Among the regional participants were teacher educators from Nepal and Afghanistan.

Gracing this special occasion were several officers of the Ministry of Education including Ms Maheshi Weerariya, Director English and Foreign Languages Branch, Ministry of Education, Mr Sanath Jayalath, Deputy Director of the same branch, Dr Darshana Samaraweera, Director, Department of English, National Institute of Education, Presidents of the National Colleges of Education, Provincial English Coordinators and representatives from the Regional English Support Centres

The overall theme of the conference was 'English language teacher education in the 21st century' and explored challenges faced by teachers and the techniques, tools and methodologies that need to be deployed to support and assist the teachers.

The Teacher Educator Conference grew out of the British Council's work with teacher educators, both pre and in-service, in the state sector in Sri Lanka. Although there have been many conferences run

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Web article name: Tamil Mirror

Published date: April 15, 2020

HOME / வணிகம் / பிரிட்டிஷ் கவுன்சிலின் ஆங்கில மொழி போதனை பயிற்றுவிப்பு மாநாடு

பிரிட்டிஷ் கவுன்சிலின் ஆங்கில மொழி போதனை பயிற்றுவிப்பு மாநாடு

Editorial / 2020 ஏப்ரல் 15, பி.பி. 12:15 0 - 21

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14 May 2020

மே மாத கொடுப்பனவுக்கு அமைச்சரவை அனுமதி
14 May 2020

தொற்றாளர்களின் எண்ணிக்கை அதிகரிப்பு
14 May 2020

ஊரடங்கு உத்தரவு தொடர்பில் வெளியான அறிவித்தல்
14 May 2020

Source: <http://www.tamilmirror.lk/வணிகம்/பரட்டஷ்-கவனசலன-ஆங்கல-மழ-பதன-பயற்றவபப-மநட/47-248583>

Customized shorter web link: <https://bit.ly/2XbykMr>

Web article name: Ada Derana Tamil

Published date: April 16, 2020

இலங்கை பிரிட்டிஷ் கவுன்சிலின் ஆங்கிலமொழி ஆசிரியர் பயிற்றுவிப்பாளர் மாநாட்டினூடாக சாதனைகள் வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்டதுடன் சவால்கள் பிரதிபலிப்பு



இலங்கை பிரிட்டிஷ் கவுன்சிலின் ஆங்கிலமொழி ஆசிரியர் பயிற்றுவிப்பாளர் மாநாட்டினூடாக சாதனைகள் வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்டதுடன் சவால்கள் பிரதிபலிப்பு

http://www.tamilmirror.lk/செய்திகள்/திறுளரகள்ள-எண்ணகக-அதகரப்ப/175-250273

HTTP 404 error
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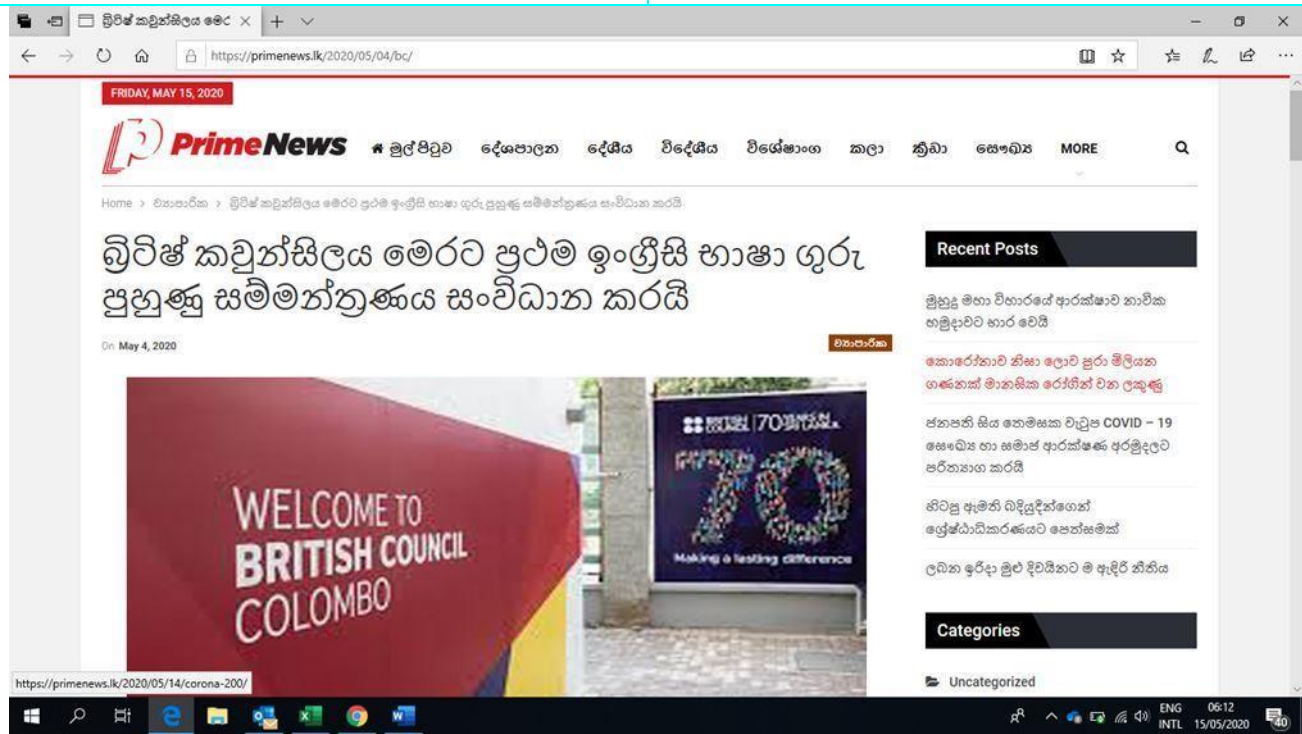
Source: <http://tamil.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=127864>

Customized shorter web link: <https://bit.ly/2LvStas>

Unable to access Virakesari Tamil online edition for 20 April 2020

Web article name: Prime News (Sinhala)

Published date: May 4, 2020



Source: <https://primenews.lk/2020/05/04/bc/>

Customized shorter web link: <https://bit.ly/2Z5hnFG>

Appendix 3: Feedback comments from participants and presenters

The following are taken directly from the Survey Monkey questionnaire. Some have been slightly edited.

Positive

- Thank you so much for gathering us to provide and opportunities.
- It was a wonderful conference and hope you will organize this type of conferences in the future as well.
- I have already started sharing the knowledge I gained with my pre-service teacher trainees and in-service teachers in remote areas. Waiting for the second conference. Thank you.
- Well organised and we gained many things thanks for giving me the opportunity. Well done
- It was wonderful conference for TE. A lot of sharing from experience teacher educators. Lots of thanks to entire SLELTEC team for making the conference a grand and fruitful. Thanks a lot for providing me an opportunity as a presenter. Thanks to Rizley for your tireless communication and support and British Council Nepal and Sri Lanka. I want this to be continued in the future and I will share my experiences to my fellow colleagues and concern authority to organize such wonderful conference. Thank you once again for everything.
- Had a wonderful experience with many takeaways. Thank you all for the opportunity once again.
- As some of the parallel sessions were not repeated, I happened to miss one or two. Anyway well done! Keep it up. Bravo.....
- Thank you very much for organising it and for sponsorship.
- I highly appreciate the BC contribution & commitment in organizing the first ever conference of this kind in SL. A very special heartiest thank you to Lesley and Sharon for their Brilliant work. And appreciate the friendly helping staff of the BC for their dedication. The conference was an eye opener for the audience as well as a platform for the presenters. Therefore, the BC as a trendsetter initiated dissemination of new knowledge among an academic community like in other countries. The BC came forward to fill the vacuum on behalf of the Education Authorities in the country who must have done this kind of thing decades ago. Next time let's invite a Language Testing Expert like Dr. Luke Harding (Lancaster University) or Dr. Rita Green. Next time, let's have at least the Secretary to the Ministry of Education present at the conference.
- Great effort continue this in future
- Thank you very much for organizing such a great event and look forward to the

2021 conference.

Negative

- Though we wanted to attend certain workshops couldn't attend due to lack of space.
- Poor cultural show was disgusting
- The cosy of dormitory was insufficient. The inside of the rooms were very hot..Non operating A/C was available there. The cultural show was rather bored. Ocassionally it made less enthusiasm. Most of the persons were moved in accomadation or had dinner while the show was going on. I think the auditorium should be full with all. If not the entertainers will be disgusted. It is better if u can provide a copy of group photo with all for each one.
- Many if the presenters did their work well. (Anya, Ian, Shamalee, Dr. Bimali,etc) yet some people's research papers are not that beneficial as there was nothing new

Recommendations/tips

- Before the conference, please make sure to go through the workshop plans and evaluate.
- To bring in more teacher educators for the conference rather than teachers, & to have topics more related to teacher education, as well as ELT
- We hope that every year we can have this type of conference. We need workshops regarding how do paper presentations.
- Since the Conference finished late & also held a @ Thulhiriya we couldn't catch a bus to Kandy with seats. We had to stand in the crowded bus for two hours with our heavy bags.
- It's much better if you can provide transport to Kandy for those who travel via Kandy.
- I am pleased to share my opinions regarding the conference. It was a great opportunity for me to get exposure to the massive knowledge on ELT. However, I think it better provide opportunity to everyone to take part in the parallel sessions in rotating manner. I was so curious in gathering knowledge. I missed some. Anyway thank you very much for this massive organization and conference. British Council! Your service is warmly welcome to Sri Lanka. Wish you good luck.
- Everything was good.. but even though we (competition winners) requested and confirmed our accommodation, no accommodation was arranged for us. I came to MAS Athena at 4a.m on 5th and had to wait at reception until 6.30 a.m. Anyhow Sharon mam arranged accommodation for me. So, please consider this in future. Otherwise, it's a great opportunity for me and I gained a lot. Thank you so much to made those days very precious.
- Actually I am very happy about this first and ever ELTE conference. Really great ❤️ ❤️ . I hadn't a good knowledge about the events to participate as a presenter. It is OK... I will try next time... No worries. These are my suggestions : *Should give more publicity about this event using Sinhala & Tamil newspapers. *The booklet was

difficult to handle. Make it SMART next time. *Please give more information about the poster presentation. *Should give more opportunities to the teachers in pre-service & in-service. *pay ur attention to award Short - listed lesson / session plans certificates at the closing ceremony.

- It is good if you had an award ceremony on the last day to all presenters so that it would motivate them more rather than just giving the certificate by a British Council employee.
- We had no chance of presenting our posters to a bigger audience. The value of the poster presentation was felt by very few. Overall, the conference was great and hope this would be made an annual event. Thanks everybody who took much pain in organizing an event of this nature.
- It would have been more beneficial for the experienced audience if papers selected for presentations had been subject to through selection criterion as certain papers were based on quite known facts in ELT and nothing to be researched what so ever.
- It is essential to suggest that when you mentioned the conference for the Teacher Educator of English, I hoped all the teacher educators of English who have participated in iTESL would have given chances. But it was not so. Anyhow the conference was meaningful and fruitful. It is much better to consider them too in future.
- We must get the chance to participate in all the parallel session because I missed all the others while I was engaging with one. The participants or the presenters must be rotated.
- Some of the university people you have invited except the key note speaker do not have any experience handling teacher education in Sri Lanka yet they were making fleeting comments about it. Please see that the outsiders you bring into teacher education conferences know what they are talking about and they are not just saying them to gain benefits from third parties. In Sri Lanka, universities do not handle teacher education so they have no right to criticize what we do with all governmental restrictions without getting the full picture.
- Perhaps try to vary content of workshops a little more. Have microphones for Q and A sessions after papers/plenary
- When workshops are conducted using technology, kindly make sure that the audience is made aware of the requirements. One workshop you needed to download an app which took a lot of time because of lack of data and no technical support,
- It would be better if you would inform about a suitable dress code next time. Most convenient dress is casual, as we travel from far. Thanks.
- I personally thank British Council for sponsorship. The Workshops were so good. I found it very difficult to select. The message of conference had not reached many of the teacher educators & teachers. It was uncomfortable to stay in dormitory due to heat.

- Please assess the papers and presentations and bring more variety through more foreign exposure Thanks for the opportunity If the plenary sessions were rotated enabling the participants to participate in all it would be much better.
- The access to the venue is difficult due to the distance though the place is very good. I prefer a place we can easily reach next time. My heartfelt gratitude to your team.
- Thanks very much for an interesting conference. It was a great opportunity for the teacher educators to come together. It was especially interesting to have some regional teacher educators present from Nepal and Afghanistan. It would be great to have more representation of teacher educators at the conference from the north. Perhaps closer involvement of staff from British Council Jaffna in the conference could help make this a possibility