

19/08/2001

Make discoveries at ELS' first international education conference

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THE FIRST International Education Conference (IEC2001) organised by ICT Learning and ELS Language Centres will be held on Aug 27 and 28.

The theme of the conference scheduled to be held at the Petaling Jaya Hilton is "Reflections, Visions and Dreams of Practice."

There will be a total of 100 presentations at the conference which will attract about 500 teachers, administrators and academics.

The keynote speech will be delivered by the Director-General of Education, Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat.

Among the featured speakers are Gerry Smith, popularly known as the smart school guru.

Smith from Canada was Principal of the River Oaks Smart School which was so famous for its innovative curriculum that it hosted more than 20,000 people from all over the world.

Educators were curious to know of the mechanisms that made the River Oaks School a phenomenal success.

In 1997, Apple awarded the Apple Distinguished Teacher Award to Smith for his innovative contributions to digital learning.

Another featured speaker at the IEC2001 is Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, famous for her work on AIDS.

It will be interesting to find out how the AIDS epidemic would affect education especially in Malaysia in the years to come.

A unique feature of this conference is that there is the opportunity for retired teachers and principals to contribute to discussion.

Ted Miles who came as a teacher to Malaya in 1951 and who served as a teacher and Principal in Pahang will be presenting a paper on Historical Reflections.

Science teachers will benefit from the papers/workshops presented by Michael Jansen, a school teacher/material writer from Crescent School Canada, who is considered by his students as a wizard in chemistry classes.

Those interested in creativity will be entertained by Dr Yew Kam Keong, the man who conceptualised, planned and implemented Malaysia's National Science Centre Project.

A unique feature of the IEC2001 is that it also has speakers outside the field of education providing their views on the best ways to promote harmony within the field.

Yasmin Ahmad, creator of the Petronas corporate commercials (which include those featuring National Day and Hari Raya) will be there talking about the heart as the most powerful instrument ever in education.

Piotr Mroz and David Welch who created award winning software for learning will talk about the key features of producing learning software that create impact.

Discovery Channel (New York) and Lego Dacta (Denmark) will discuss their revolutionary learning systems.

Malaysian schools will also be well represented at this conference.

Two teachers Nazilah Mohd Yusof and Zurita Shamsuddin from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dengkil will be presenting a talk on the success of their school in incorporating digital learning within the curriculum, while Datin Amy-Jean Yee, the Principal of SRS Datuk Simon Fung in Sabah will disclose the secrets of her successful reading programmes.

For more information about the courses offered at ELS Malaysia, please

contact the centre at 14A, Lorong Utara A, Off Jalan Utara, 46200 Petaling
Jaya or tel: 03-79588530.

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