

Coordinator's Address

ASAO Kojiro

Thank you very much Professor Nakamura. I'm Asao Kojiro, chair of this meeting. I'm also a member of this research group that organized this conference. I'd like to extend our warmest welcome to everybody gathered here to participate in this conference. Also, I'd like to thank the two distinguished guests who traveled all the way to Japan from Korea to and China.

We have three speakers this afternoon, representing each country, Japan, China and Korea. Our first speaker is Liu Yongjun sensei. Liu Yongjun sensei graduated from Shan-xi Normal University. After graduating, he continued to pursue advanced studies in English linguistics at Beijing Normal University. He also started his teaching carrier as an English instructor at the same university. Currently, he is a vice-editor of the newspaper called *English Weekly*, published weekly and circulated nationwide in China. It has a wide audience, aimed at both young readers and advanced level learners, including college students and English teachers. He is going to talk about how English is being taught in his country under the title "Current Situation and Issues of the Teaching of English in China."

Our next speaker is Dr. Kwon Oryang. Kwon sensei is a professor at Seoul National University. Kwon sensei graduated from Seoul National University. After graduating, he continued his advanced studies at the same school. He also studied at Brigham Young University in the United States. After that, he went to University of Texas at Austin, where he obtained his Ph. D. Kwon sensei is currently chair of the Department of English Language Education at Seoul National University. He is one of the most famous scholars in Korea and is currently a reputed member of the editorial board of *Language Testing*, an internationally renowned academic journal. He also served as president of many associations related to English language teaching in Korea.

Our last speaker this afternoon is Yamaoka Kenji sensei. Yamaoka sensei is a colleague of ours, professor at Ritsumeikan University. He has a long experience as a high school English teacher. He at Maibara High School, one of the first Super English Language High Schools, where he made a great achievement. After he started to teach there, the school was completely changed and the abilities of the students greatly improved, resulting in a remarkable progress in English ranking. He is currently serving as a member of the Central Council for Education, which is responsible for drafting the new English course of study, which shocked most of the teachers in this country because in this new course of study, English teaching classes are finally intended to be taught in English. Yamaoka sensei has been the author of many dictionaries and English textbooks authorized by the Ministry of Education.

This afternoon, we are going to have two sections. In the first part, we are going to have two speakers to speak. After the recess, we are going to have a session for Mr. Yamaoka and after that, we are going to have one hour for general discussion. Each speaker is going to speak for 40 to 45 minutes and after that we are going to have a brief question and answer period. Also, at the end of the session, we are going to have one hour for general discussion. In the meantime, we are circulating some pieces of paper for your questions and comments. So if you wish to ask questions or make comments in writing, please do so. We will collect those pieces of paper during the recess.

Now, the first speaker this afternoon is Liu Youngjun sensei from China. Liu sensei, please.