

The LLL SIG Newsletter

JALT 2011 National Conference Report

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I hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits. It has been a difficult year for Japan and the LLL SIG, and this is reflected in this brief report about the JALT 2011 National Conference, which was held in Tokyo in November.

1) Difficulties in Japan as the theme for the LLL SIG forum

At the LLL-SIG forum at JALT2011, four presenters spoke about the effect that the March 11th earthquake and tsunami, and the subsequent nuclear disaster had on a variety of teaching settings.

Topics ranged from psychological first aid training, to student- and teacher-inspired action for earthquake relief, and classroom activities that involved critical consideration of the reporting on the incidents.

I reported on how badly the nuclear disaster hit my English classes in an international cultural exchange program and the creative solutions I came up with to cope with this challenge.

Tamiko Hanaoka (Aoyama Gakuin University) introduced a classroom activity in which students compared articles on the tsunami, earthquake and nuclear plant accident, and wrote reports based on an analysis of the differences, similarities and biases they uncovered in the articles.

Jim Goddard (Kitasato University) described some relief work he engaged in to help people in one of the areas badly affected by the earthquake and tsunami. He also discussed the influence of the disaster on the Sanriku (Iwate) Campus of Kitasato University.

Joseph Dias (Aoyama Gakuin University) reported on the role of the Tokyo English Life Line in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, and some psychological first aid courses they hosted to support those in the worse-affected areas.

There were a number of questions from interested participants and the forum was a great success.

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2) Difficulties for LLL SIG

After a discussion at the November Executive Board Meeting (EBM) of JALT, held at the National Conference, it was decided that LLL SIG's status would be changed. The original motion, proposed at the June EBM, was postponed due to the efforts of Julia Harper, Publications Chair, but was re-introduced in the November meeting.

MOTION 2011-2-3: A change of status of the Lifelong Learning SIG (LLL SIG) was proposed by Hugh Nicoll, SIG Representative Liaison, and Buzz Green, Director of Membership. It was moved that the Lifelong Learning SIG (LLL SIG), at that time a full SIG, be re-categorized as an affiliate SIG, with the rights and responsibilities of affiliate status special interest groups in JALT.

Rationale: The LLL SIG was recognized as a full SIG in October 2005. Unfortunately the SIG has had continuing difficulties in maintaining the required 50 members for full SIG status. They currently have 36 members, and should therefore be reassigned to affiliate status until such time as they are able to rebuild and sustain a full SIG membership quota.

Addendum: LLL SIG has had fewer than 50 members since July 2006. As of 31 October, 2011, the SIG had 40 members.

Discussion: The LLL SIG representative suggested the membership number be counted as of the end of the national conference and, if necessary, a change of status proposed at the February meeting. However, the motion to change LLL SIG's status passed.

Motion to change status passed 33-3-5

NOTE: At this point, LLL SIG became an affiliate SIG and is no longer a voting member. (EBM voting members = 58, current meeting 37 + 4 proxy votes.)

For your information, three JALT members joined the LLL SIG during the conference. I hope we will be able to rebuild and sustain a full SIG membership quota soon.