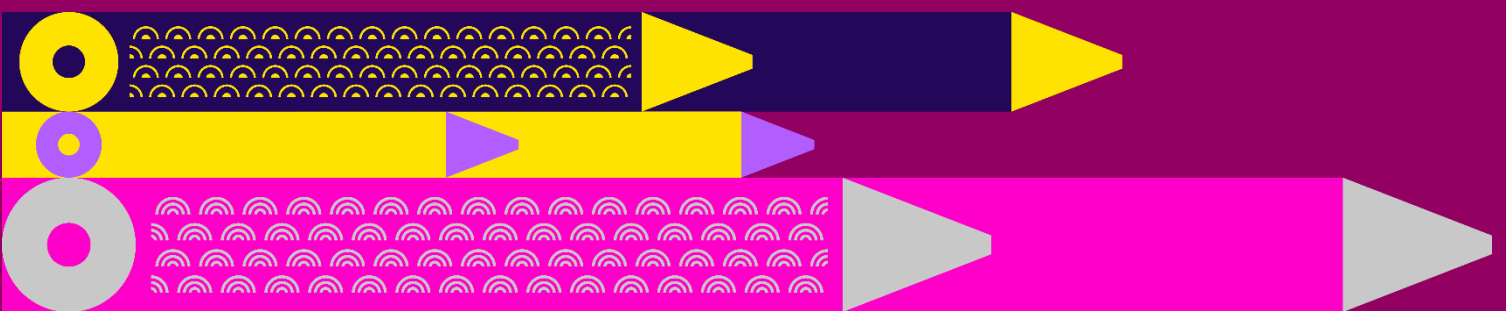


New Directions  
East Asia

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# Call For Paper Proposals



New Directions in Language  
Assessment Conference:  
East Asia edition 2024

**New Directions in Language Assessment** is the British Council's flagship language testing and assessment conference. The conference provides perspectives and insight on trends and approaches in English language assessment at a local, regional, and international level. Since being established in 2013, the conference has celebrated eleven editions, with the latest being held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in October 2023.

## The Power of Language Assessment on Individuals and Society

The British Council New Directions in Language Assessment East Asia conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 21-23 November, 2024. The conference works to bring together the language testing and wider educational communities in the East Asia region and beyond to engage in discussion on key topics and to share innovative solutions to challenges in testing and education.

This year's New Directions East Asia conference looks at the impact of language assessment policy at different levels. We look at how the learning environment can be positively shaped by policy reform, when conditions are created which strengthen the links between curriculum, teaching and assessment at the heart of effective systems. At the macro level, informed policy can be an effective tool for promoting sustainable social and economic progress leading to increased equality and well-being in communities overall. At the micro level, policy has the potential to improve accessibility and quality of education for individual learners, increasing life opportunities and ensuring they are prepared for the communication demands of a globalized and multilingual world. But policy also has the potential for negative outcomes, often unintended on both individuals and wider society. The conference aims to explore this impact, identifying where policy change has brought benefit and highlighting where lessons can be learned from policies bringing mixed results. The conference strands centre around different aspects of language policy, examining the role of English in the region and the integration of AI into learning systems.

We look forward to receiving proposals.

# Strands

## 1 English language policy, learning systems and assessment

The aim of this strand is to look at English language assessment requirements set by ministries of education, which can have an enormous impact not only on the curriculum, but also on people within the learning system, particularly teachers and learners. Papers are invited in this area describing studies where policy has resulted in positive outcomes on learners' communicative skills. Papers which provide lessons learned when policy change has been less successful than expected are also welcomed. Finally, presentations of research into learner age and English learning requirements are invited, particularly those which explore policy decisions around age of learning and assessment.

## 2 Policy and society

Language learning and assessment policy has the potential to promote economic growth, global connectivity and societal change, while English is seen as playing a substantial role in increasing social mobility and employment opportunities. Changes in policy related to English language learning and the different uses of assessment can have significant impact on both learners and wider society. In terms of migration, language requirements and the use of assessment control the flow of people between communities as part of policy agendas. Thus, assessment for migration may be seen as boosting the economy and creating individual opportunity for employment on the one hand, or as a barrier to social integration – a gatekeeper preventing all but the most qualified from entering. Papers are invited which address these issues of language learning and assessment policy and their impact on individuals and society as they relate to migration and to skills development for the workplace, exploring how they enable or hinder social mobility and integration.

## 3 English alongside other languages

The East Asia region constitutes a diverse and dynamic linguistic environment in which people use multiple languages according to different communication contexts. While English continues to serve as a lingua franca, promoting links and cultural exchange between communities, distinct local varieties of English have evolved alongside standard global forms. In addition, there is growing awareness of the importance of policies supporting national and local languages as well as English, which are reflected in local education systems. Given the changing role of English within societies, this theme explores how policies related to English learning and assessment impact other languages, and how English can more positively sit alongside other national and local

languages in the region. Of particular interest are papers showing to what extent different local varieties of English are acknowledged and are represented in teaching, learning and assessment.



## 4 Technology and AI: Policy, practice and implications

The use of artificial intelligence has rapidly become established in language learning and assessment, with discussion having progressed from whether AI should be used to how AI can be used most positively. The potential for AI to deliver assessment economically on a large scale could provide enormous benefit for learning systems and the personalization of the learning journey for individual learners. This is especially true for speaking and writing skills, which traditionally require significant teacher resources and can often be given less priority as a result. However, there are still questions over accessibility to AI-powered applications and the fairness of assessments which use them. In this strand, we invite papers that focus on the issue of equitable access in AI, digital learning and assessment, including access to the technology itself and the skills needed to use it, addressing the question of whether opportunities provided by AI are ultimately narrowed or widened for learners. We also invite papers specifically investigating the use of AI in the learning and assessment of productive skills, especially speaking.

## Conference dates

The conference will convene on 21-23 November, 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. Parallel sessions will take place on Friday and Saturday.

## Conference format

New Directions East Asia 2024 will take place as a face-to-face conference in Bangkok, Thailand, and will feature different themes with plenary talks or discussions on each of the topics. Sessions may be recorded and shared online a few weeks after the event.

Presenters who wish to be part of the conference will be required to present in person in Bangkok, Thailand, in parallel break-out sessions organised at the venue.

Speakers will have the opportunity to submit a self-recording of their presentation for dissemination on the New Directions social media channels following the event.

# Key dates

Call for papers opens:  
4 June 2024

Paper proposal submission deadline:  
21 July 2024 (11:59 PM Bangkok (ICT) time)

Notification of acceptance:  
23 August 2024

Speaker confirmation deadline:  
6 September 2024

# Guidelines for submission



We invite proposals that address the main theme of the conference, focusing in particular on the strands detailed above. Presentations are expected to be given in English, and will be 20 minutes in length, with an additional 10 minutes allocated for Q&A

## To submit a proposal:



- Head to our conference management system: <https://coms.app/NDEA2024>
- Create an account, following the instructions provided. You will need to do this even if you have submitted proposals for a New Directions conference in the past.
- Create and submit a proposal under 'Your submission/s'.
- Authors may submit more than one proposal.

## Proposals should be:



- 250-350 words in length.
- Reflective of at least one of the themes or strands of the conference.
- Of practical interest to the audience.
- Relevant to the East Asia region, and/or of interest to the international language testing community.
- Original and insightful.
- Submitted in English.

**Any proposals that do not meet these criteria will be automatically disqualified from the review process.**



# Contact



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<https://www.britishcouncil.or.th/en/programmes/new-directions-east-asia-2024>

