

Intercultural Dialog 2008

ICC 15th Annual Conference 2008



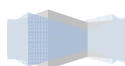
Conference Report

14-16 March 2008

University of Westminster, London

1

Conference sponsors



The Conference Venue

The ICC 15th Annual Conference was held at the University of Westminster, Department of Diplomacy and Applied Languages, 309 Regent Street, W1B 2UW London.

The University of Westminster is situated in the heart of London, the campus stretching from central to north-west London, teach more than 23,800 students undertaking degrees, Masters, research, professional programmes and short courses.



Since its foundation in 1838 as Britain's first polytechnic, the University has been closely involved in the business, professional and academic life of London.

The University of Westminster's "outstanding achievement" in overseas trade has been recognised by two consecutive 'Queen's Awards for Enterprise'.

Text taken from the University of Westminster website <http://www.wmin.ac.uk/>



Conference Participants

Over 100 participants from Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Ukraine took part at the conference.



The **ICC Annual Conference** is the **key networking venue** for member and non member organisations. It offers language practitioners, course developers and decision makers from all over Europe and beyond to exchange their expertise. The Conference provided good opportunities to exchange views on how language learning and teaching can contribute to the fulfilment of the intercultural dialogue in adult education, in the school system and in universities. The conference also contributed to the experience of intercultural exchange.

Conference participants were able to get information about current activities of the ECML (European Centre of Modern Languages), Mondiale Testsysteme, International House London, Abacus Learning Systems, Spotlight Business Verlag, Cornelsen, Hueber and Telc at the exhibition stands and tables and take some information material, note books and



Official Opening & Welcome

The official opening and welcome was introduced by **Jack Lonergan**, President of the ICC, **Christel Schneider**, Director of the ICC, **Rob Williams** from the University of Westminster, Professor **Nabil Ayad**, *Director- Diplomatic Academy of London (DAL), University of Westminster*, **Professor Geoffrey Petts**, *Vice-Chancellor and Rector – University of Westminster* and **Waldemar Martyniuk**, *Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, Language Policy Division, Council of Europe until 2007*.



Rob Williams, *University of Westminster*

Jack Lonergan

President ICC - European Language Network



Christel Schneider Dipl.-Päd, FlinstML

Director ICC - European Language Network



Professor Nabil Ayad,
*Director- Diplomatic
Academy of London (DAL),
University of Westminster*



4

Waldemar Martyniuk,

*Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland,
Language Policy Division, Council of Europe
until 2007*

Comments

Isolde Tauschitz

... 'Es war wirklich eine gelungene Konferenz und ich möchte euch für eure unermüdliche Arbeit danken. Freue mich auf weitere Vorhaben von ICC. '...

Sabrina Ploch

'Dear ICC, Thank you for the well organized conference.' ...

Jurek Czyzowski

'I enjoyed the conference. ... The paper version of the programme, booklet, content and style for the conference were best ever. Congratulations, I realize what it takes to prepare such things.' ...

Questions to participants of the conference:

The Conference

The conference included plenary sessions with international experts, smaller presentations and special focus sessions, practical demonstrations and debates on specific topics, as well as various informal networking opportunities where practitioners shared their experiences, ideas, new information and perspectives.



The conference programme consisted of four themes: Teaching and Learning, New Technologies, Assessment and Good Practice.

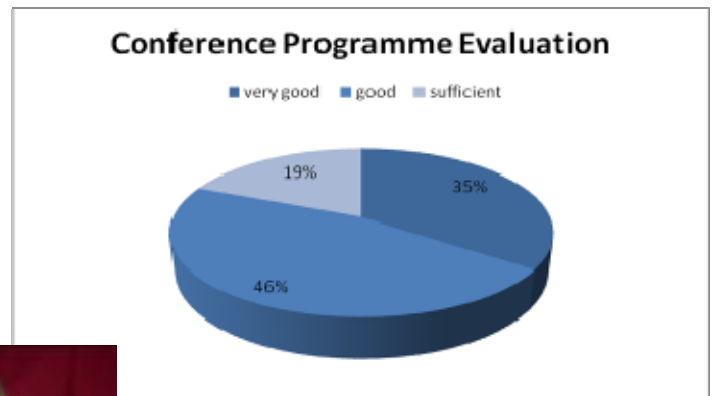
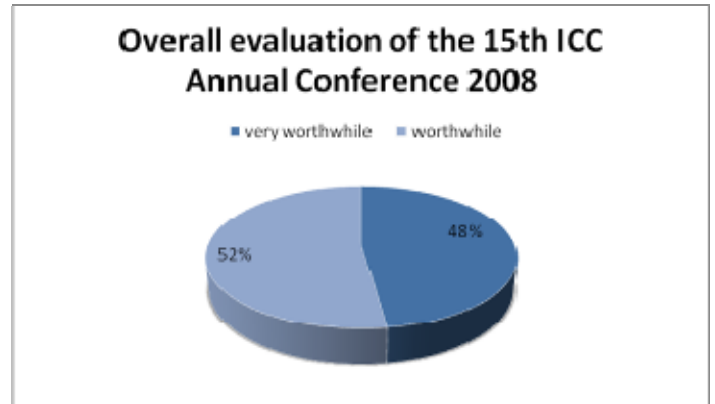
Each theme was discussed in seminars and workshops from a wide variety of perspectives, ranging from an overall view to the details of specific issues.



Amongst many others our keynote speakers were mentioned in our evaluation questionnaire as **'Best session attended'!**



Keynote speakers at the conference were *Martina Ní Cheallaigh, Geoff Tranter, Barry Tomalin, Professor Nigel Holden Director, and Professor Albert Raasch.*



Conference Feedback

The majority of colleagues taking part in the feedback survey expressed that they found this year's conference worthwhile or even very worthwhile. From the comments given in the feedback it was noticeable how views differed on what some thought was an excellent contribution whereas others considered the same as not relevant or worthwhile. We know it is not always an easy task to serve everyone right; however the different views and suggestions help us in our pursuit of constant improvement offering new and exciting topics at the forthcoming conference with something of interest for everyone.

We were pleased that the great majority felt happy with the administrative side of the conference. The invitation information, conference programme and the general organisation prior to the event was viewed as very good.

The organisation during the conference however the choice of venue, the venue's exhibition area an essential point to be considered for the next conference.

In spite of that positive feedback the Mondiale Testsysteme exhibition.

In general some delegates appreciated a more 'fun' atmosphere, music, entertainment and certainly be taken up for 16th

*Dear Christel and Claudia,
... "Just a quick note to thank both of you for such a brilliant organisation of this year's conference." ... "I truly enjoyed it, both as a delegate and as a speaker and am already looking forward to next year!"
...
Regards,
Gerry P.*

conference got a mixed review, rooms and facilities were praised. The venue was considered as poor, which is taken up for the next

comments were made about the stand as well as the photo

commented that they had enjoyed the atmosphere, perhaps with some cultural programme. This will be taken up for the next ICC annual conference in Florence.

In our conference feedback we had asked to name the sessions people particularly enjoyed. The list is very long and demonstrates that there was a well balanced choice of speakers who were all very popular amongst the delegates.

Overall most delegates enjoyed the sessions and the atmosphere, but would like some more dialogue and involvement (hands on) in some of the sessions as well as more information about future developments. Suggestion on the format will be taken into consideration for our forthcoming event even though the comments were very oppositional. For example some found that there were too many sessions scheduled into the programme where others commented on a limited programme.

Conference Feedback

The questions if people will attend next year's conference is mainly depending on the programme and topic of next year's conference and for some it depends on funding.

The topic for next year's conference will be ***Creativity and Innovation***. Comments and ideas are much appreciated.

Suggestions we received regarding the contents or the organisation of the next conference were mainly on the technical part and the food, both equally important. We will ensure to have more IT staff on hand and maybe the location speaks for itself when it comes to food.

The students who helped out at the conference were specially mentioned by numerous respondents as having been very helpful and kind.

All comments and suggestions from the conference delegates have been very helpful and will certainly be taken on board by our organising team for next year's conference in Florence.

Hope to see you there!

The ICC Organising Team

The conference was held in English and included:

- plenary sessions with international experts
- smaller presentation and special focus sessions
- practical demonstrations
- informal networking opportunities
- a forum to share experiences, new information and ideas
- experiences, new information and ideas