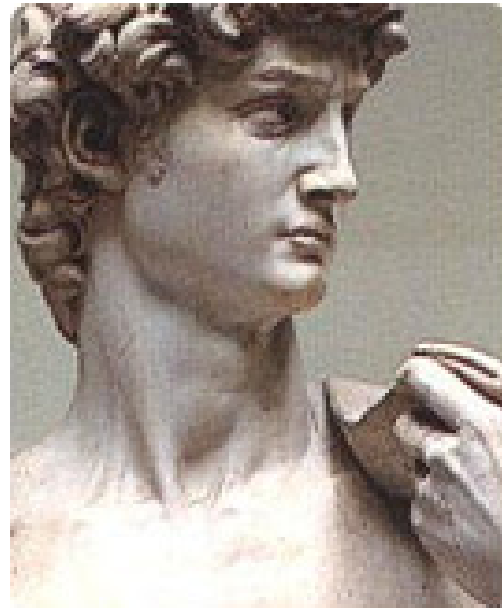


Creativity & Innovation 2009

ICC 16th Annual Conference 2009 in Florence, Italy



Conference Report

27-28 March 2009
centro linguistico italiano dante alighieri, Firenze

Exhibitors

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**MONDIALE
Testing**

telc
LANGUAGE TESTS

Hueber Freude an Sprachen

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THE LANGUAGE LEARNING ACCELERATOR

ICC Head Office: Berner Heerweg 183, 22159 Hamburg, Germany, info@icc-languages.eu,
www.icc-languages.eu

The International Certificate Conference e.V. (ICC) is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO)
with participatory status at the Council of Europe

The Conference Venue



The ICC 16th Annual Conference was held at Centro Linguistico Italiano Dante Alighieri (CLIDA), Piazza della Repubblica, 5, 50123 Florence, Italy.

Centro Linguistico Italiano Dante Alighieri (CLIDA), founded in 1965, is Italy's first private Italian language school specializing in the instruction of Italian language and culture to foreigners - both students and professionals alike. The school resides in a 19th-century building facing the Piazza della Repubblica, the heart of Florence's historic center

The directors of the CLIDA in Florence are Dr. Gabriella Accorti Materassi and Dr. Alberto Materassi. The husband-and-wife team founded the school and has been fully devoted to it throughout the years. Alberto, Gabriella, and their son, Stefano, ensure high academic standards are maintained while creating cultural courses and recreational activities that are both fun and beneficial. Thanks to them, CLIDA students and faculty can be considered one large family!

Text taken from: <http://www.clidante.com>



Conference & Exhibition

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

The **ICC Annual Conference** is the **key networking event** 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.

In the light of the European Year of Innovation and Creativity the 16th ICC Annual conference focused on those topics related to creativity and innovation in language teaching, language learning, and intercultural communication with examples of **BEST PRACTICE**.



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 language was mainly English. Some presentations were also held in Italian.

The conference provided good opportunities to exchange views on how language learning and teaching can contribute to meet challenges of rapid change and raise awareness for new and creative approaches in language teaching and learning in adult education, in the school system and in universities.

The conference was accompanied by an exhibition and demonstration area, where member organisations, publishing houses and suppliers of language tests and others presented their latest products and services. Our exhibitors this year were MONDIALE- Testing, Speedlingua, telc and ECML.

Conference participants were able to get information about current activities of the ECML (European Centre of Modern Languages), MONDIALE - Testing, Speedlingua, Hueber and Telc at the exhibition stands and tables and take some information material, note books and magazines.



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Additionally Speedlingua held presentations at the conference for interested participants



Conference Feedback

The majority of colleagues taking part in the feedback survey found the administrative side of the conference, the invitation information, conference programme and general organisation of this year's conference to be very good.

Quote: „I was very pleased with the organizing team prior to the conference. They responded to all emails in a timely fashion. All information was clear and distributed promptly. The conference program offered diverse viewpoints, and it was excellent to have speakers from so many countries. This conference offered a great avenue for professional networking. The location of the conference was outstanding.“

Due to some technical issues and delegate numbers per session during the conference the facilities got a mixed review, however the friendly and welcoming atmosphere was highly praised and provided a great platform for networking and exchange amongst participants.

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. We took on board comments from last year's conference where participants wished for more dialogue and 'hands on' involvement as well as further information on future developments, which is shown in the positive feedback from participants this year in regards to 'hands on' workshops and updates on developments.

Quote: „This was my first ICC conference and hopefully not the last. I found it very refreshing, both professionally and socially, to meet and talk with other teachers from around the world; it was also very important to compare what we are doing in Finland with the rest of the world and to share best practices and new ideas.“

One of the many highlights of this year's conference was our keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Sugata Mitra, Professor of Educational Technology at the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences, Newcastle University, UK.

Quote: “Dr Sugata Mitra's "Hole in the wall" stole the show for me“

Prof. Mitra works in the areas of Cognitive Science, Information Science and Educational Technology. He has been working on these areas as well as on Physics and Energy for more than 30 years.

His contributions include a number of inventions and first-time applications. Among other applications, he is credited with having started the database publishing industry (particularly the Yellow Page industry) in India and Bangladesh, as well as having implemented the first applications of digital multimedia and Internet based education in India. His experiments (often referred to as **“The Hole In The Wall”** experiments) with children and the Internet have been reported worldwide since 1999.

The overall evaluation of the conference was that this year's ICC Annual Conference was very worthwhile. Your views and suggestions were very helpful for us in our pursuit of constant improvement in offering new and exciting topics at the forthcoming conference.

Quote: „I will try to attend the next year conference too. This conference was well organized, and very informative.“

Hope to see you, too at our next conference!

The ICC Organising Team