



## **TESOL Turkey**

*(İngiliz Dili Öğretimi ve Mesleki Gelişim Derneği)*

### **Newsletter 2019**

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## 1. ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TESOL Turkey's ultimate goal based on its mission and vision statements is to become an international association trusted for knowledge and expertise in English language teaching, teacher education and in-service professional learning. Aware that the achievement of this goal depends heavily on the establishment of international networks, which will open the door to a vast array of learning and sharing, this year, the Board of

Directors focused its efforts on becoming an Affiliate of TESOL International and an Associate of IATEFL.

Following months of hard work and correspondence with TESOL International, TESOL Turkey officially became an Affiliate of TESOL on 27 February 2019. The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity extend its heartfelt thanks to Donald Staub for his most valuable feedback during the process.



Advancing Excellence in  
English Language Teaching

27 February 2019

Bahar Gün  
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Blok No: 4/1 D:5  
Lider Centrio Bayraklı – İZMİR  
Turkey

Dear Bahar:

With great pleasure I write to inform you that the application for affiliate status for TESOL Turkey has been approved. Enclosed is an Affiliate Agreement form. Please sign and return the document. Your affiliation will be official the day the signed Agreement is received by TESOL International Association.

The relationship of affiliates to TESOL is one of mutual interest and support. The enclosed information and a subsequent communication from Valerie Novick, Senior Membership Manager, will explain the resources available to you through TESOL, including professional support and mechanisms for communication with the Affiliate Network Professional Council and other affiliates.

TESOL looks forward to working with you and other leaders of TESOL Turkey in supporting the professional endeavors of those working in the field of English language teaching in Turkey. Welcome.

Sincerely,

Christopher Powers  
Executive Director

More good news followed on 19 September 2019, thanks to the diligence of the Affiliate Network Council, when TESOL Turkey received news that the Association had also been recognized by IATEFL as an Associate.



Becoming an Affiliate of TESOL International and an Associate of IATEFL will have multiple gains for TESOL Turkey and its members, some being:

- joint SIG events that include speakers from TESOL International and/or IATEFL,
- the ability to expand international partnerships through a presence at the Annual TESOL Convention and Annual IATEFL Conference,
- access for both researchers and practitioners to the wealth of resources offered through TESOL International and IATEFL,
- a level of legitimacy in the ELT community,
- increased opportunity for joint research projects.

Other tasks completed by the Board of Directors this year were (1) the preparation of the Association's Internal Bylaw to institutionalize the way in which various bodies of the Association function and establish a standard for numerous procedures being carried out, and (2) the completion of the Bylaw for Special Interest Groups, which will serve as a guideline for the establishment and management of hopefully several SIGS to be proposed to the Board of Directors by the members in 2020. Both documents will soon be available on the TESOL Turkey website.

## **2. ACTIVITIES OF THE PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS**

### **2.1. Affiliate Network Council**

This year, the Affiliate Network Council achieved its ultimate aim of connecting the community of professionals involved in English Language Teaching and establishing relationships and partnerships with international associations dedicated to excellence in the field of ELT. Working in cooperation with Bahar Gün and Sibel Tüzel Kandiller, council members Funda Akgül, İlkey Özdemir, Onur Ergünay, Özge Coşkun Aysal and Burcu Tügen began communication with IATEFL and successfully completed the procedures to become an IATEFL Associate. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, TESOL Turkey members have now joined a global community of ELT professionals in over 120 countries and can enjoy numerous benefits including but not limited to reduced membership cost (£22 instead of £65.) and discounted rates for the Annual IATEFL Conference

## 2.2. The Events Planning Council

The main responsibility of the Events Planning Council (EPC) is to ensure that the annual conference, local events and roadshows are planned effectively in collaboration with other Professional Councils and the Board of Directors. This year, upon the request of the EPC Board Liaison Beril Yücel, the Board of Directors sent out a call to recruit new members to the council so as to provide sufficient membership for the council to carry out its duties and responsibilities. Aslı Yılmaz Ercan, Christina Mirela Gültekin, Damla Pınar Yapar, Metin Esen and Şebnem Öztürk responded, joining İlknur Kuntasal, Mehmet Durmaz, Nesibe Bilgiç, Sinem Atamsoy Koşar and Songül Tömek. Together the council planned and organized the following events.

### 2.2.1. Roadshows

On 11 and 14 February 2019, Bahar Gün, Sibel Tüzel Kandiller and Kenan Dikilitaş visited Dokuz Eylül University School of Foreign Languages in İzmir. Issues discussed with the management, faculty and CPD Unit members were the importance and impact of professional development, alternative means of individual and collaborative professional development and the steps for setting up an effective CPDU.



The second Roadshow of 2019, which was to take place in October, unfortunately, did not materialize.

However, with the support of the US Embassy, three roadshows took place in November in the scope of the EL Specialist Visit to Turkey. The first was to Bursa Uludağ University School of Foreign Languages on 19-20 November. Dr. Susan Barduhn, consultant for the US State Department and Sibel Tüzel Kandiller, TESOL Turkey board member, spent two wonderful days with the CPDU members, management, testing unit members and faculty discussing continuous professional development, curriculum and testing.



*Dokuz Eylül University School of Foreign Languages*



*Bursa Uludağ University School of Foreign Languages*

The second visit on 21-22 November was to Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, where Professor Barduhn spent two whole days with the entire faculty of the School of Foreign languages working on observation and reflection.



*Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University*

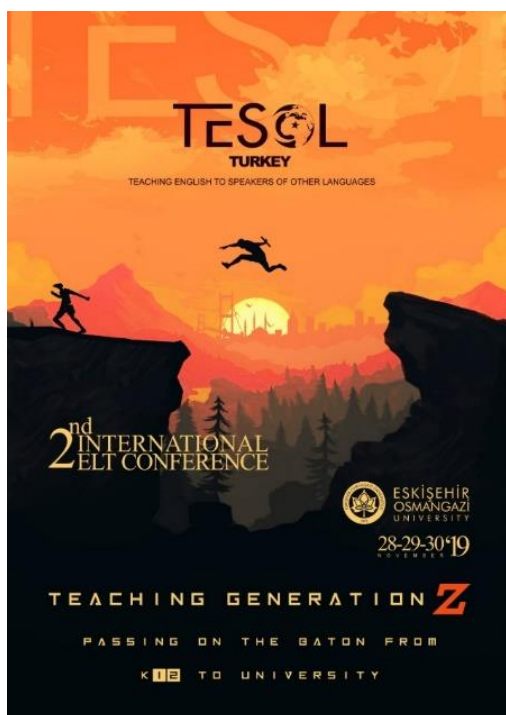


The last visit was made to Eskişehir Osmangazi University Department of Foreign languages on 27-27 November. Again, Dr. Susan Barduhn and Sibel Tüzel Kandiller collaborated to work on continuous professional development with CPDU members, management and faculty.



*Eskişehir Osmangazi University*

### 2.2.2. Annual Conference

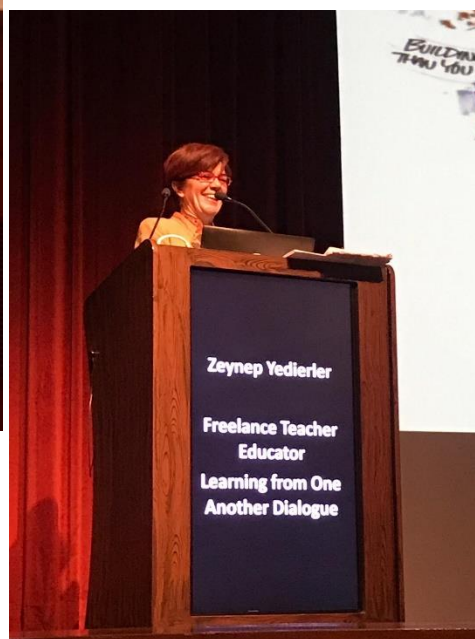
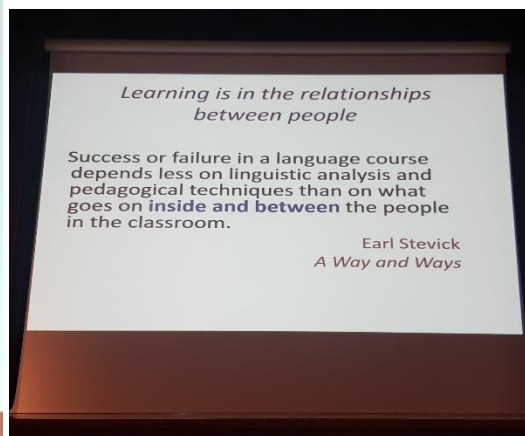
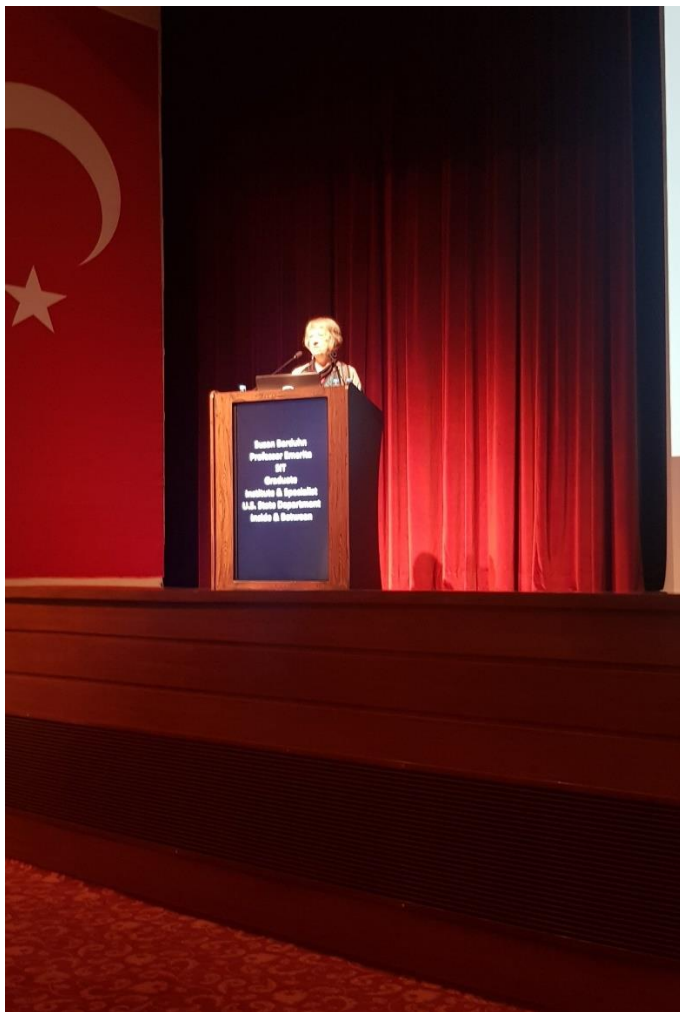


*TESOL Turkey extends its most sincere gratitude to Derviş Saltık for the design of the conference poster.*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> TESOL TURKEY International ELT Conference took place on 29-30 November 2019 and was hosted by Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Turkey.

This year's conference theme was set as "Teaching Generation Z: Passing on the baton from K12 to University" in reference to the new digital generation of learners with outstanding multitasking skills; learners who can process and absorb information within mere seconds and yet possess the shortest attention span ever. The theme also aimed at drawing attention to the gap between K12 and higher education and discussing ways in which this gap could be bridged through closer collaboration.

The conference was attended by approximately 200 delegates from Turkey and abroad, 110 of whom shared their valuable ideas pertaining to theme. Keynote speakers of the event were Professor Emerita Susan Barduhn and Zeynep Yedierler.



This year's conference was preceded by a one-day Pre-Conference Event titled "Worst of me: Lessons learned from mistakes". 45 teacher trainers from various institutions got together to share insights gained from mistakes or weaknesses.



### 2.3. The Promotion Council

Working in close contact with Sibel Tüzel Kandiller, Promotion Council members Hande Kefeli Çalık, Melis Akdoğan, Sibel Taşkın Şimşek, Şıla Yosulçay and Yaprak Güleç Öğütçü were also busy this year. In addition to the amendments that had to be made to the current website following the change in the Association's name from TESOL in Turkey to TESOL Turkey, new promotional products bearing the Association's new name and logo had to be prepared. In the meantime, council members Hande Kefeli Çalık and Şıla Yosulçay took charge of the social media and disseminated information regarding upcoming TESOL Turkey events and the calendar for these. Melis Akdoğan worked in close cooperation with Derviş Saltık, to whom we owe a big thank you, in the design and preparation of TESOL Turkey's brand new website, which will be launched by the end of the year. Sibel Taşkın Şimşek, editor of



*Professional ELT Magazine Online (PEMO)*, prepared and published two new issues of *PEMO* since the publication of last year's Annual Newsletter. The second issue was published online in December 2018 and the third issue in June 2019. The fourth issue will be published in December 2019 and contributions are welcome. The preparation of the Annual Newsletter Online to share information regarding the association's endeavors in 2019 as well as plans for 2020 was also prepared by the Promotion Council.

#### **2.4. Research Professional Council**

The Research Professional Council, comprising Board Liaison Yasemin Yelbay Yılmaz, Aslı Yılmaz Ercan, Duygu Erdoğan, Hande Işıl Işık Mengü, Suzan Özgelen and Nesrin Oruç Ertürk, was dissolved early this year in the hope that it would re-emerge stronger as a Special Interest Group next year. TESOL Turkey thanks the members of this council for their support and hopes that they will lead the process for the establishment of the Research SIG

### **3. PROJECTS**

#### **3.1. The FSME Project (Fostering Student Motivation and Engagement)**

The goal of this project, funded by the U.S. Embassy in Ankara and carried out by TESOL Turkey in collaboration with University of Oregon, is to create an online course for teachers that will later become a MOOC. The project kick-off meeting was held in İzmir in June 2018. Present at this meeting were TESOL Turkey board members Bahar Gün and Yasemin Yelbay Yılmaz, TESOL Turkey members Aslı Yılmaz Ercan and Burcu Tüğen, Dr. Leslie Opp Beckman from University of Oregon and Regional Language Officer David Fay, as well as two colleagues from Jordan, Haneen Arikat and Laila Abu Qattos.

The project was comprised of four important stages. The first stage was about designing the online training courses titled "Fostering Student Motivation and Engagement" with the team mentioned above. The team worked both face-to-face and online with Dr. Opp-Beckmann and provided input and feedback for the course design. The second phase was the piloting of the online course, which was performed simultaneously with 30 participants from both Turkey and Jordan. Universities that participated in the project were, Hacettepe University, Gaziantep University, İzmir Economy University, Marmara University and Yaşar University. The project team and the 15 participating lecturers from Turkey held two feedback meetings with the participating lecturers, which were held in Ankara and Gaziantep. The collected feedback served the improvement of the course content for the MOOC version. The last stage of the project will also mark the end of the project when the 15 participating lecturers present their experience at the 2<sup>nd</sup> TESOL Turkey International ELT Conference in Eskişehir.



This course is now open as a MOOC and the participating lecturers from various Turkish universities will become the FSME course alumni facilitators, helping other colleagues all over the world make the most of the course.

#### **4. MEMBERSHIPS**

As the number of TESOL Turkey members continues to grow having reached 113 since September 2018, when the number was 82, and the prospect of active TESOL Turkey members taking advantage of reduced membership cost to IATEFL takes shape, membership issues are now more importance than ever. Yeşim Eraslan and Duygu Erdoğan are working together to ensure that members are notified of soon-to-expire memberships and that new membership applications are processed as quickly as possible. Members who wish to become IATEFL members at a reduced cost will need to contact TESOL Turkey via email to receive the relevant application form. Responding to this request will be among the responsibilities of the duo.