



Message

Director General of Education Malaysia

It is my pleasure to welcome all speakers and participants to the English Language Teaching Centre's inaugural symposium on "Assessment for Language Learning". I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate ELTC for organizing this symposium. It is extremely courageous of ELTC to take on this task given that it is only about 10 months old and has only minimal infrastructure in place. This is, however, not the first time that ELTC has so boldly undertaken tasks of such magnitude.

The symposium's theme "Assessment for Language Learning" is apt and is in line with our current focus on student-centered learning. Tests and examinations have traditionally been the bane of students. Teachers, parents, administrators and society have frequently used test and examination results as a criterion of achievement. The focus has always been on assessment of learning. This has led to an overly strong focus on examinations, resulting in stressed and burnt-out students, teachers and parents. This symposium, I hope, will be able to examine the critical issues involved in assessment of learning and assessment for learning, especially, in the context of the teaching and learning of English.

While we are all concerned with ways of ensuring the validity and reliability of tests and examinations, we must also not lose sight of how we can maximize the positive impact of tests on student learning. I hope this symposium will be able to come up with fruitful ideas on how we can make tests less threatening and more learning-focused. With this I wish all participants and ELTC every success in this inaugural symposium.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Datu' Abdul Rafie Bin Mahat'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

DATU' ABDUL RAFIE BIN MAHAT

