



Message

Director, Teacher Education Division

Welcome to the English Language Teaching Centre's inaugural symposium on Assessment for Language Learning.

Assessment is integral to the education process and much effort and time is invested by sponsors of education in ensuring that it is fair and equitable, that it is reliable and valid, and that the results of assessment can be reliably used for the purposes for which assessment is carried out.

Individuals and agencies entrusted with assessing learning have a heavy responsibility and are acutely aware of the far-reaching consequences of their work. They are also exposed to public scrutiny and this may result in some measure of conservatism in their assessment practices. However, to be fair, it is evident that concerted efforts are being made by the testing and assessment fraternity to explore alternative strategies and testing modes that are intended to ensure that such assessment practices have a positive effect on both teaching and learning.

The exploration of such alternative assessment procedures and processes is an ongoing endeavour and a forum such as this helps to raise issues and throws into focus, challenges and concerns that can be discussed in a objective and professional manner. Such discussion should showcase studies and experiences, germinate ideas and point towards possibilities and potential directions for further work and research.

I hope the colloquia and the workshops will serve to stimulate soul-searching and reflection and also point towards future directions in assessment at both the micro and macro levels of Malaysian education in general and English language teaching and learning in particular.

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