

## Call for Papers

### 6<sup>th</sup> British Council New Directions in English Language Assessment

New Directions in English Language Assessment is an annual conference organised by the British Council in East Asia, providing perspectives and insight on trends and approaches in English language assessment locally and internationally. Previous conferences were held in Beijing, Tokyo, Seoul, Hanoi and Shanghai.

The conference provides insight on trends in English language assessment and is a showcase for innovative approaches and research in the field, locally and internationally. New Directions is intended as a space in which regional and international policy makers, educational professionals, academics and teachers and assessment practitioners can interact, exchange information and keep abreast of the leading developments in the field.

#### **Theme of Conference: Standards in Learning Systems**

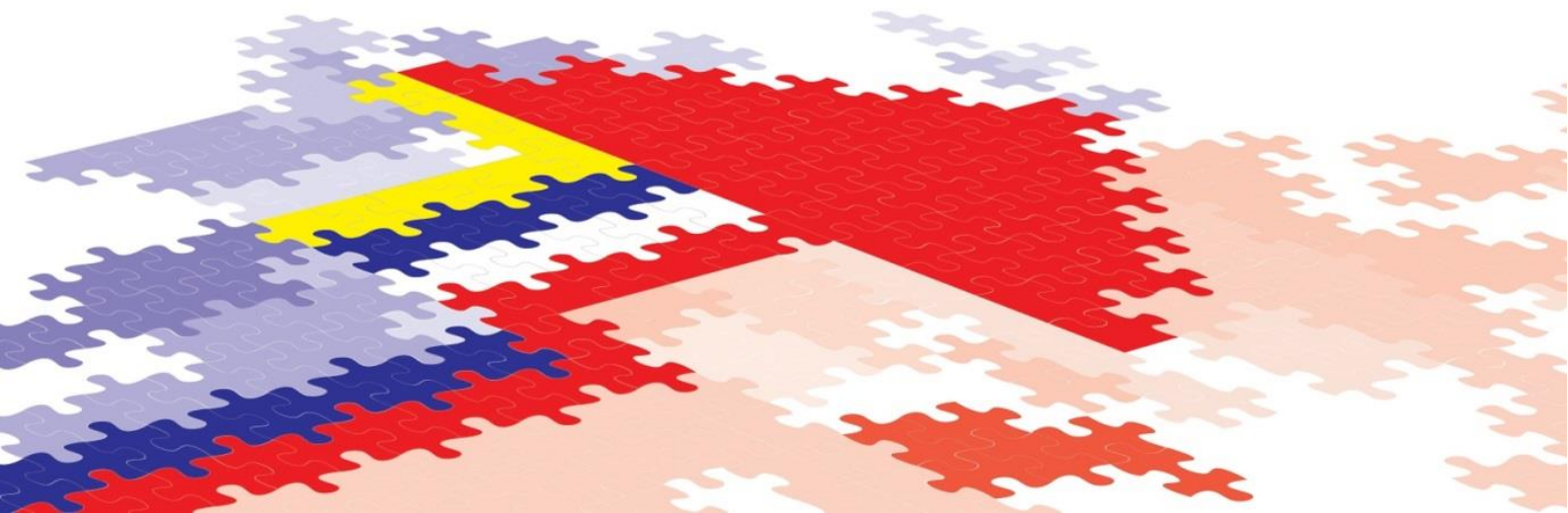
This year's New Directions conference invites proposals for papers on the following main theme:

*The design, use and implementation of language standards and proficiency frameworks in language testing and assessment, and the link between standards, assessment and the wider educational context, such as curriculum design.*

Proposals on the main theme or any of the following sub-themes are welcome.

#### **Subthemes**

- The alignment of existing tests to proficiency standards and the use of standards to inform the design and validation of new tests.
- The manner in which standards can inform classroom teaching and assessment.
- The impact of using standards to inform policy decisions and set assessment goals, either at a national or institutional level, on teaching and learning.
- The localisation of standards and proficiency frameworks: adapting large-scale national or international standards to a more fine-grained focus on local needs.
- The relationship between the rapid development of artificial intelligence and automated rating technology and assessments designed from and aligned to existing proficiency standards.



## **General Strand**

There will be a section of parallel sessions set aside for outstanding proposals on topics or innovative assessment research of general interest to the wider field of language testing and assessment which are not directly related to the main theme.

## **Background to this year's theme**

Language education and assessment reform projects increasingly make use of standards to inform assessment and curriculum design, and to set achievement goals. Although the term standards can have different meanings, in this context it is often used interchangeably with the concept of proficiency frameworks. These standards, or frameworks, have given educators and language test developers common definitions and a clearer description of proficiency to inform policy decisions, to allow teachers and learners to set appropriate goals, and to facilitate the evaluation and comparison of exams and qualifications. However, the rapid uptake of these standards, especially within national-level reform programs, has not been without criticism, challenges and issues.

There has often been a gap between the use of standards in testing and assessment, and at the policy level to set attainment targets, and the implementation of these standards in curriculum design, teacher training, and classroom materials. At the same time, we should also consider standards as quality – actual or perceived.

## **Location of Conference**

Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur, 12, Jalan Pinang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## **Conference Dates**

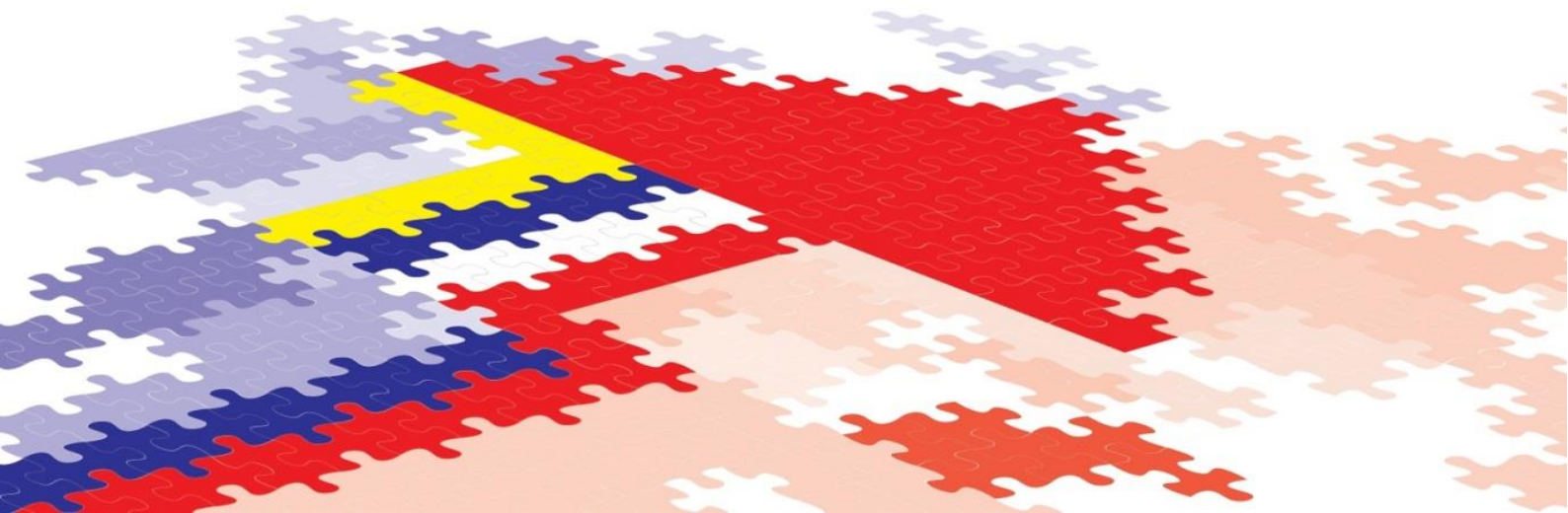
22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

## **Conference Workshops**

Date and venue to be announced in June 2018

## **Target Audience**

With a focus on language assessment within educational systems in East Asia, the conference seeks to attract education and testing practitioners, policy makers and implementers, and other stakeholders with an interest in the impact of assessment on education. It will also appeal to language testing academics wishing to gain insight into current research in the field as well as new directions in testing in practice in East Asia.



## Submission of Proposals

We invite proposals addressing the main and sub-themes of the conference and are particularly interested in those describing practical approaches, research case studies and innovative perspectives on challenges in language assessment in the East Asian context.

## Criteria for Submission of Abstracts

Proposals should be:

- 250 words or less in length
- reflective of at least one of the sub-themes of the conference
- relevant to the target audience
- of practical interest to members of the target audience
- relevant to the East Asian region or including a regional perspective on an international paper
- original and offering insight
- submitted in English
- submitted to [newdirectionseastasia@britishcouncil.org](mailto:newdirectionseastasia@britishcouncil.org)
- in Microsoft Word format to allow for 'blind' evaluation by the selection panel

Presentations should be:

- 20 minutes in length plus 10 minutes for Q&A
- in English

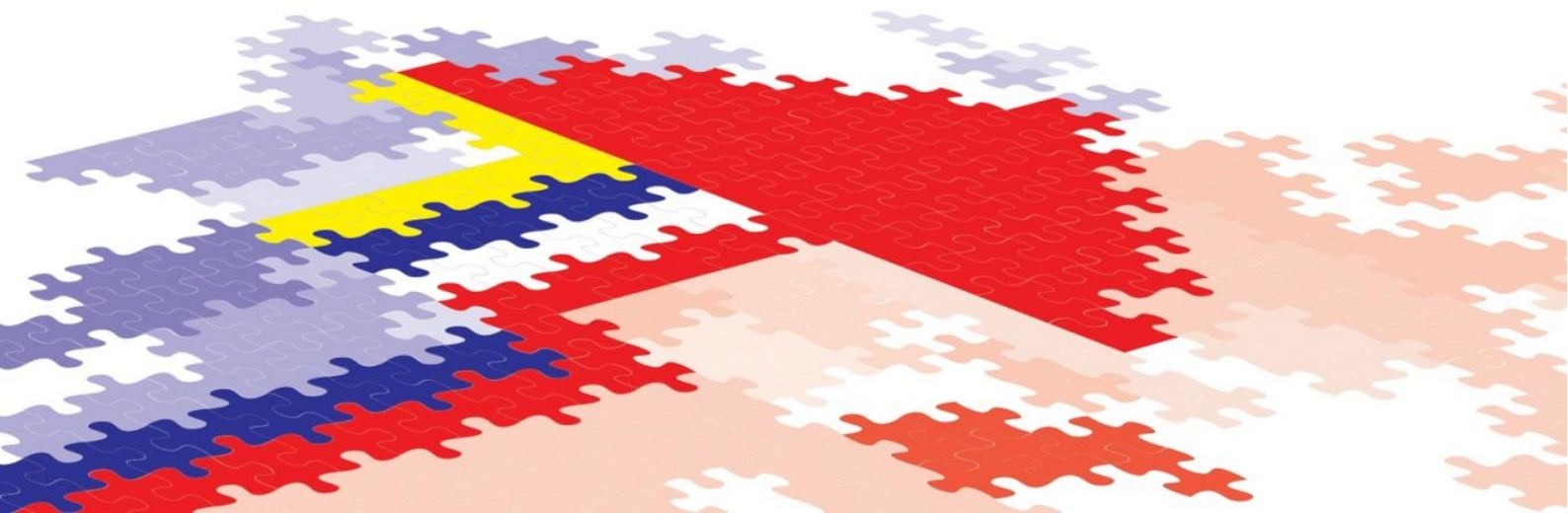
*Please note that the working language of the conference is English.*

## Timeline

Submission of proposal abstracts : **31 July 2018**  
Notification of acceptance : **21 August 2018**

## Submission Guidelines

We ask prospective presenters to fill in a proposal form and return it to:  
[newdirectionseastasia@britishcouncil.org](mailto:newdirectionseastasia@britishcouncil.org)



### **More Information**

The proposal form can be found at:

<https://www.britishcouncil.my/new-directions>

For further information about the conference, go to:

<https://www.britishcouncil.my/new-directions>

For any other questions, contact:

[newdirectionseastasia@britishcouncil.org](mailto:newdirectionseastasia@britishcouncil.org)

