

The 6th International Symposium on Oral Proficiency Interview

- In Memory of Dr. Kiril Radev -

Announcement

Date: Saturday, August 18 - Sunday, August 19, 2007

Place: The Consortium of Universities in Kyoto

(<http://www.consortium.or.jp/english/mission.html>)

Theme: Language Proficiency and Second Language Pedagogy

The term “language proficiency” is said to mean one’s “ability” or “competence” to use a second or foreign language, but what it really means is far from clear. Considering that it involves not only the so-called 4 language skills but also one’s ability to “understand” and “practice” “culture” behind language, makes it more difficult to grasp what “language proficiency” means.

The Venue for this year’s International J-OPI-Symposium is Kyoto, an ancient yet cosmopolitan city in Japan. At the opening of the symposium, Day 1, the keynote speaker, Prof. Kumiko Torikai, will discuss some issues on the relationship of language proficiency and communication. Two panel sessions will then follow to discuss these issues from various perspectives. On the morning of Day 2, there will be both Japanese and English OPI Familiarization sessions. In the afternoon, there will be a variety of programs such as paper presentations and poster sessions.

We look forward to meeting you all in Kyoto this summer for a lively discussion on this vital issue of language proficiency testing.

Organized by: Kansai OPI Study Circle

With the Cooperation of:

Japanese OPI Tokyo

The Society for Japanese OPI in Kyushu

J-OPI Korea

J-OPI-E Study Circle

With the support of:

The Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language

Kyoto University of Foreign Studies

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American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

The Registration Fee (including proceedings)

(1) Early Registration

Member of Each J-OPI Study Circle : 3,000 yen

Non-member :

General 5,000 yen Student 3,000 yen

*For the early registration, each applicant is requested to pay individually by a bank transfer by July 31, 2007 (due to NLT).

(2) On-site Registration

General 3,000 yen Student 2,000 yen (per day)

(3) OPI International Get Together

Member / Non-member :

General 7,000 yen Student 5,000 yen

Program

Saturday, August 18 Panel Session

Chair : Kikuko Yui (Professor, Kyoto University of Foreign Studies)

- 9:30-10:00 Opening Session
Welcoming Address
- 10:00-11:30 Keynote Speech
- Kumiko Torikai (Professor, Rikkyo University)
"Speaking in Second Language : Oral Proficiency and Communication"
- 11:30-13:00 Lunch
- 13:00-15:00 Panel Session I "Proficiency and Second Language Pedagogy"
Moderator: Kumiko Sakoda (Professor, Hiroshima University)
Panelists:
Osamu Kamada (Professor, Nanzan University)
"Oral Proficiency and ACTFL-OPI"
Masashi Negishi (Professor, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)
"Proficiency and English Pedagogy"
Ellen Nakamizu (Associate Professor, Kyoto University of Foreign Studies)
"Brazil-Portuguese and its Oral Proficiency Assessment"
Yoriko Yamada-Bochynek (Associate Professor, Freie Universitat Berlin)
"Proficiency in Common European Framework of Reference for Languages"
- 15:00-15:30 Break
- 15:30-17:30 Panel Session II "Proficiency and Japanese Language Pedagogy"
Moderator: Kazuko Shimada (Vice-President, East West Japanese Language Institute)
Panelists:
Ikuo Kawakami (Professor, Waseda University)
"Children Crossing Borders and JSL Bandscales"
Yasuaki Kaneda (Japan Foundation)
"Japanese Language Proficiency Test and Proficiency"
Naoko Hojo(JETRO)
"JETRO Business Japanese Proficiency Test and Proficiency"
Hiroyuki Yamauchi (Professor, Jissen Women's University)
"Weakness and Problems of ACTFL-OPI"
- 18:30- OPI International Get Together (with some entertainments)

Sunday, August 19 OPI Familiarization and Research Presentation

9:00-11:30 Section 1 ACTFL-OPI Familiarization*
Japanese: Seiichi Makino (Professor, Princeton University)
English: Tony Demko (ACTFL English OPI Trainer)

Section 4 ACTFL-OPI Tester Refresher Workshop**
Suwako Watanabe (Portland State University)

** If you have no experience with OPI and are interested in what OPI is, we suggest you to participate in this ACTFL-OPI Familiarization.*

*** This is held for those who are currently or were once certified as an ACTFL- OPI Tester or those who have once participated in OPI Workshops. A certificate will be issued to the participant as part of the renewal procedure of the tester certification. (Please see <http://opi.jp/> for more information.)*

11:30-13:00 Lunch

13:00-15:50 Research Presentations
Section 1 Individual Presentations
Section 2 Individual Presentations
Section 3 Individual Presentations
Section 4 ACTFL-OPI Demonstration (English)
(13:00-14:15 PART 1 14:30-15:45 PART 2)
Section 5 Poster Session (13:00-15:00)

15:50-16:00 Break

16:00-16:30 Commentator: Seiichi Makino (Professor, Princeton University)

16:30-16:40 Closing

*The content of the program is subject to change.

Deadline for Early Registration: July 31, 2007 (due to NLT)

※Please see the website below for more information on registration.

<http://opi.jp/kyoto2007/>

General inquiries about this symposium, also queries about membership, should be addressed to:

kyoto2007info_e@opi.jp

※We recommend that you make early arrangements for your accommodation and transportation as August is in the high season of the summer vacation.

Japan Travel Bureau (JTB) is able to offer you reasonably priced accommodation and a sightseeing plan for this symposium.

※Please see the website below for more information on this plan.

<http://opi.jp/kyoto2007/>