A Critical and Reflective Commentary of Learning

Dominic Kenneth Wee

Personal Philosophy

- **ICT has the potential of playing a huge role in facilitating English Language Learning and Teaching**

Background

- **In the 80s, students were distracted by television, hence the use of video in ELT**
- **In the mid 90s right up to the present, computers and the internet have become the prime attention grabbers**

Background

- **The best way to get the attention of our tech-savvy charges is to communicate with them in the media they feel most comfortable in.**

- **That way, half the battle is won.**

Background

- **In order to bring about changes in ELT, one has to be the change factor and to walk the talk.**

Prologue

- **The journey began in 1984 after graduating from the Institute of Education**
- **First posting was Queensway Secondary School**

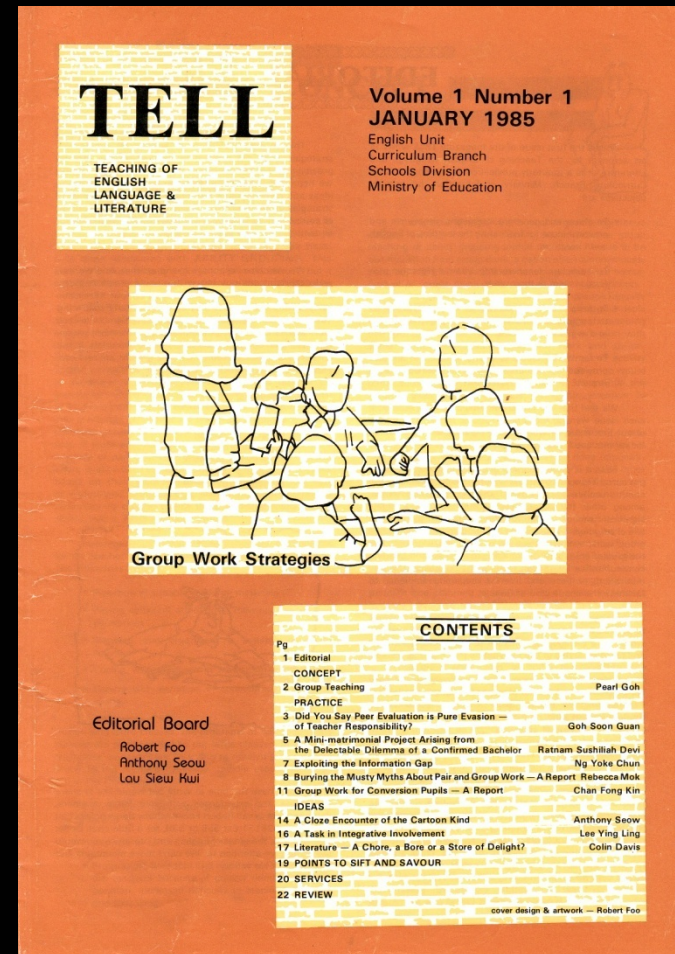THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION

It is hereby certified that

Wee Kong Chian Kenneth

of the Singapore Institute of Education having completed the course of study conducted by the Institute under arrangements approved by the National University of Singapore Senate and having satisfied the requirements prescribed by
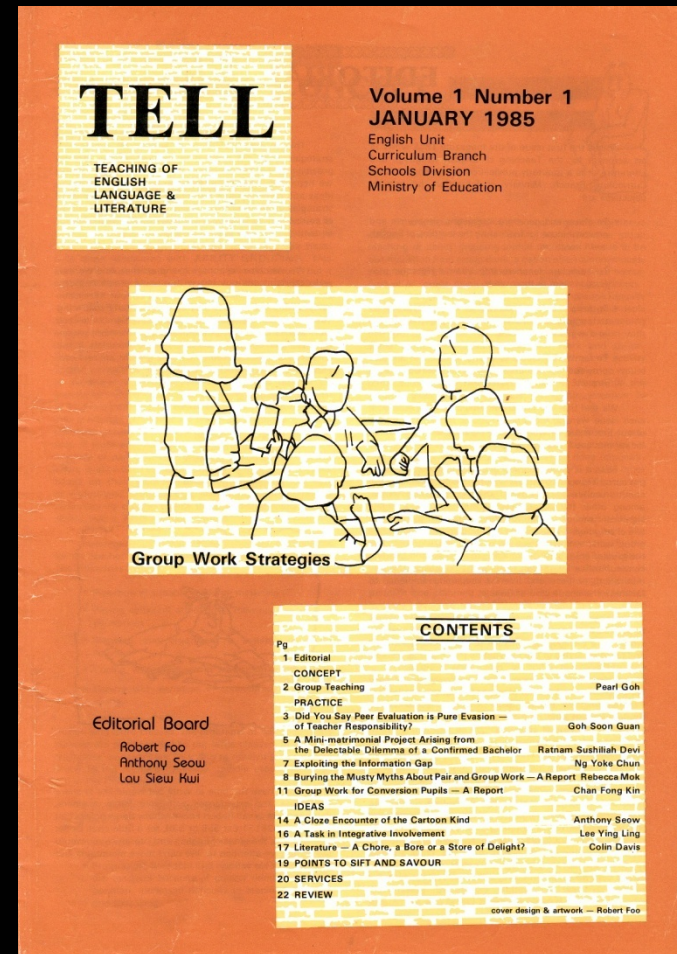
Queensway Secondary School

- **Beginning Teacher (1984-1988)**
- **Involvement in School-based Project: Ability Grouping**
  - Assess the effectiveness of ability-grouping in ELT
  - Maximize T-P and P-P interaction

TELL

TEACHING OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Volume 1 Number 1
JANUARY 1985
English Unit
Curriculum Branch
Schools Division
Ministry of Education

Group Work Strategies

Editorial Board
Robert Foo
Anthony Seow
Lau Siew Kwi

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cover design & artwork — Robert Foo

Queensway Secondary School

- **Involvement in School-based Project: Ability Grouping**
  - Identify the advantages of communicative ELT
  - Make ELT more interesting
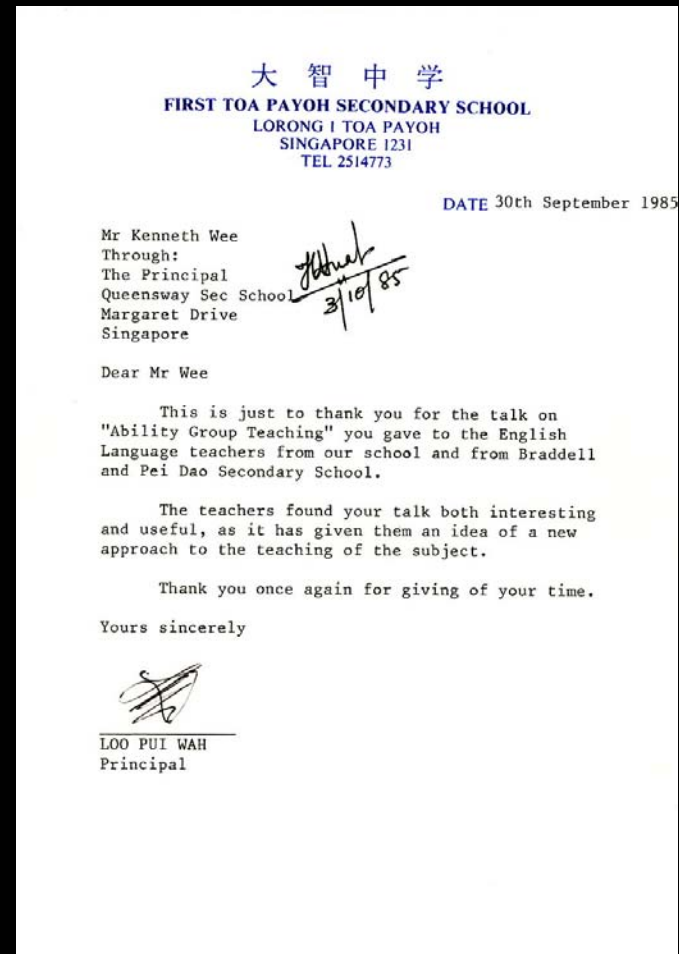 - Teach language skills in an integrated program

Queensway Secondary School

- **Strategies**
  - Graded exercises
  - Regulated workloads
  - Rotation system
  - Project work
  - Video in ELT
  - Pop-songs in ELT

PILOT PROJECT

ON

ABILITY GROUP TEACHING

(1985)

QUEENSWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL
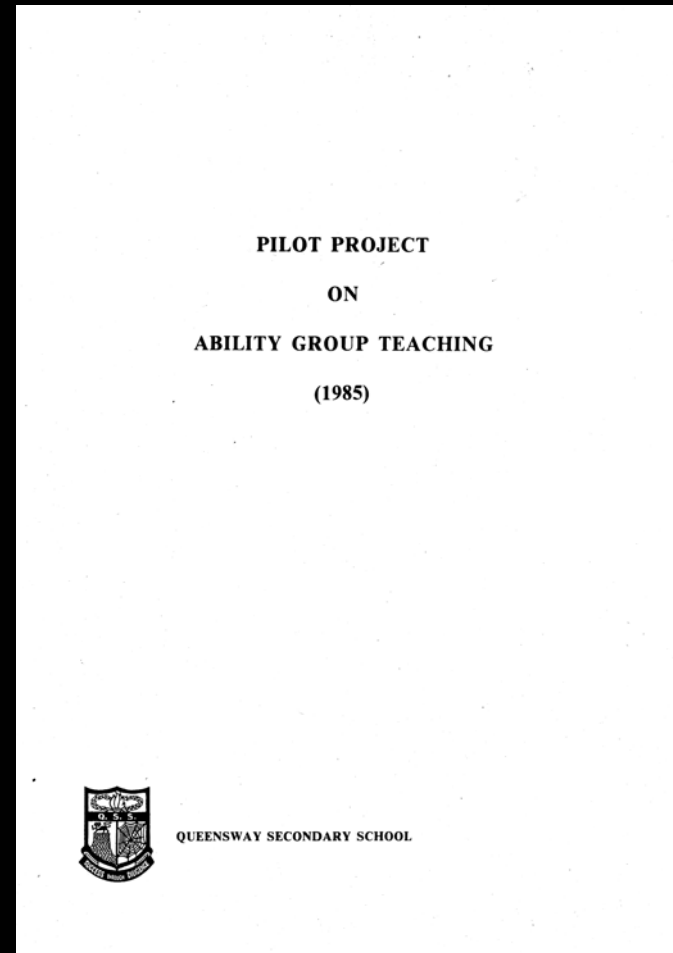
Queensway Secondary School

- **Problems**
  - Noise
  - Inadequate textbook
  - Initial lack of supplementary materials
  - Heavy but challenging workload

大 智 中 学
FIRST TOA PAYOH SECONDARY SCHOOL
LORONG I TOA PAYOH
SINGAPORE 1231
TEL 2514773

DATE 30th September 1985

Mr Kenneth Wee
Through:
The Principal
Queensway Sec School
Margaret Drive
Singapore

Dear Mr Wee

This is just to thank you for the talk on "Ability Group Teaching" you gave to the English Language teachers from our school and from Braddell and Pei Dao Secondary School.

The teachers found your talk both interesting and useful, as it has given them an idea of a new approach to the teaching of the subject.

Thank you once again for giving of your time.

Yours sincerely

LOO PUI WAH
Principal

Queensway Secondary School

- **Learning Points**
  - Noise reduction measures
  - Flexibility in EL Program
  - Enhanced range of ELT materials
  - Mobilization of students (e.g. peer-teaching; peer-marking)

Queensway Secondary School

- **Project presentation to Schools Council 2/86**

Queensway Secondary School

- **TELL Magazine** (July 1986)
  - School-based Project: Ability Grouping
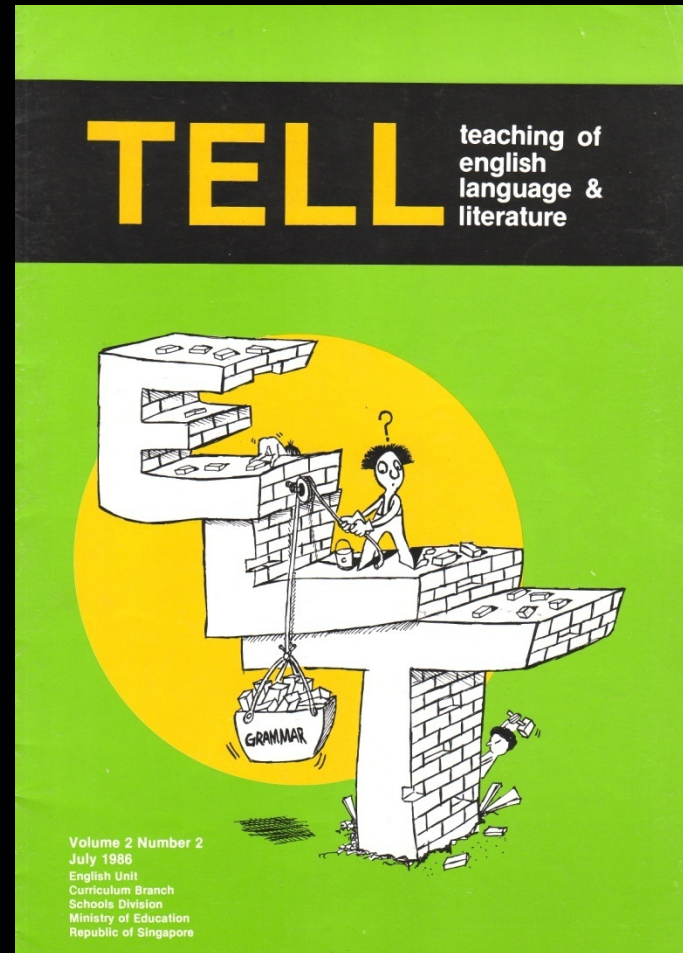
Queensway Secondary School

- **Presentation on Ability-Grouping at First Toa Payoh Secondary School** (combined with staff from Braddell and Pei Dao - 28 September 1985)
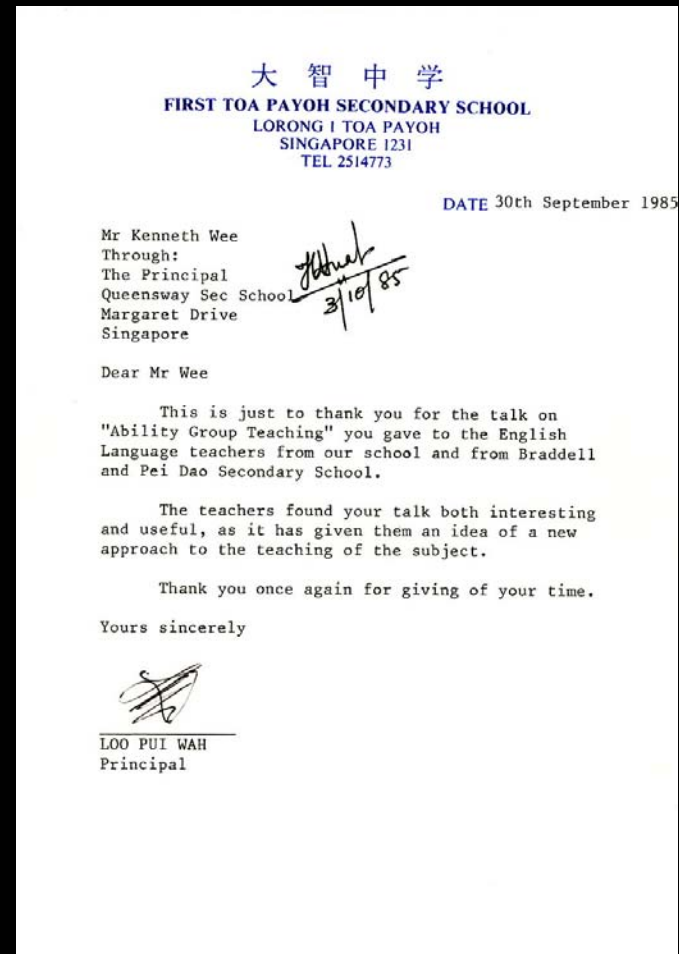
Queensway Secondary School

- **Presentation on Ability-Grouping at Hua Yi Secondary School** (12 March 1986)

Regional Language Centre

- **Scholarship: Diploma in Applied Linguistics** (1988-1988)

SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL LANGUAGE CENTRE

RELC

Diploma

in

APPLIED LINGUISTICS

It is hereby certified that

Kenneth Wee Kong Chian

has successfully completed the
Diploma Course in Applied Linguistics
with a major in
Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

at the SEAMEO Regional Language Centre, Singapore

4 July 1988 – 1 April 1989

with Credit

In witness whereof the Common Seal of
the Organization is hereunto affixed

Director
SEAMEO Regional Language Centre

Dated this 1st day of June 1989

Director
Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Secretariat

Language Proficiency Centre

- **Tutor and Course Coordinator** (1989-1993)
  - Essential English
  - First Certificate English
  - Certificate of Proficiency in English
  - Grammar Workshop

LPC STAFF NEWS
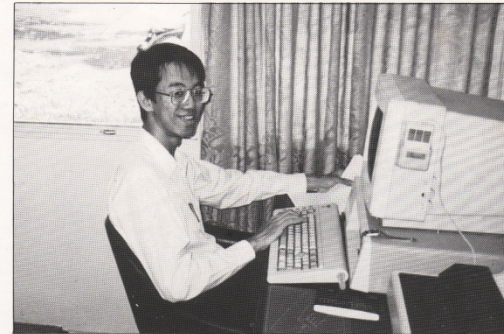
Mr Kenneth Wee, shown at the LPC's computer, joined the Centre in April 1989. One of the first things he did was to co-ordinate the English Refresher Course, which helped Heads of Department prepare for further study at the Institute of Education. Along with a B.A., and the Diploma in Education, Mr Wee holds the Diploma in Applied Linguistics (RELC).

Language Proficiency Centre

- **Movie Vision (1):** *An English Integrated Skills Workbook For Upper Secondary Students (Oxford University Press)*

- **Use of Tim John's Concordance**

Swiss Cottage Secondary School

- **Teacher** (1993)
- **Head of Department** (1994 – 2000)
- **TELL Magazine** (June 1995)
  - Using Videos in the English Language Classroom
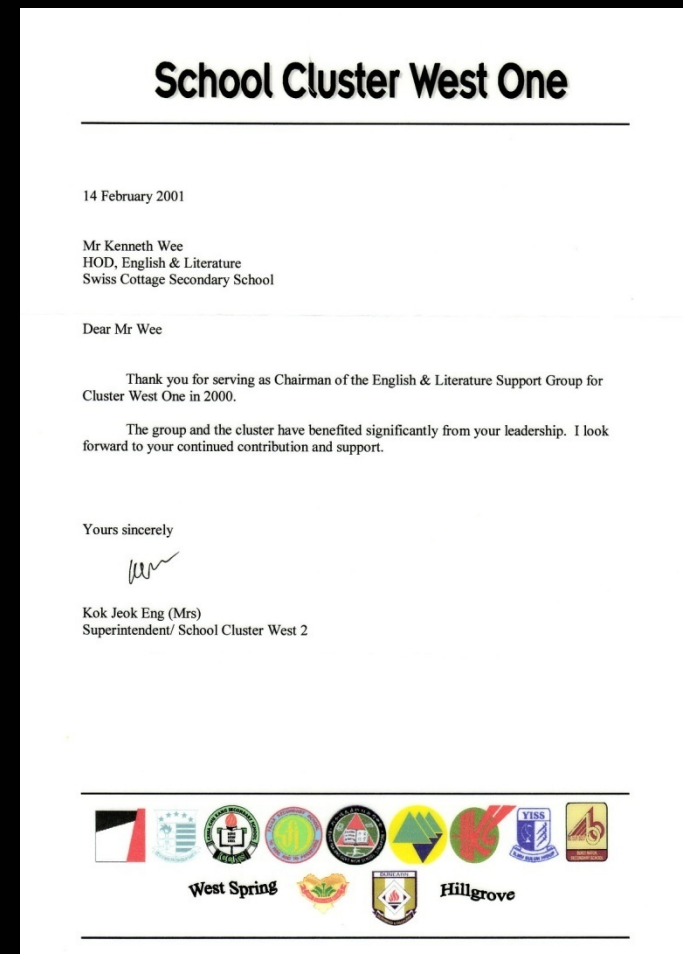- **Publication of School Magazines**
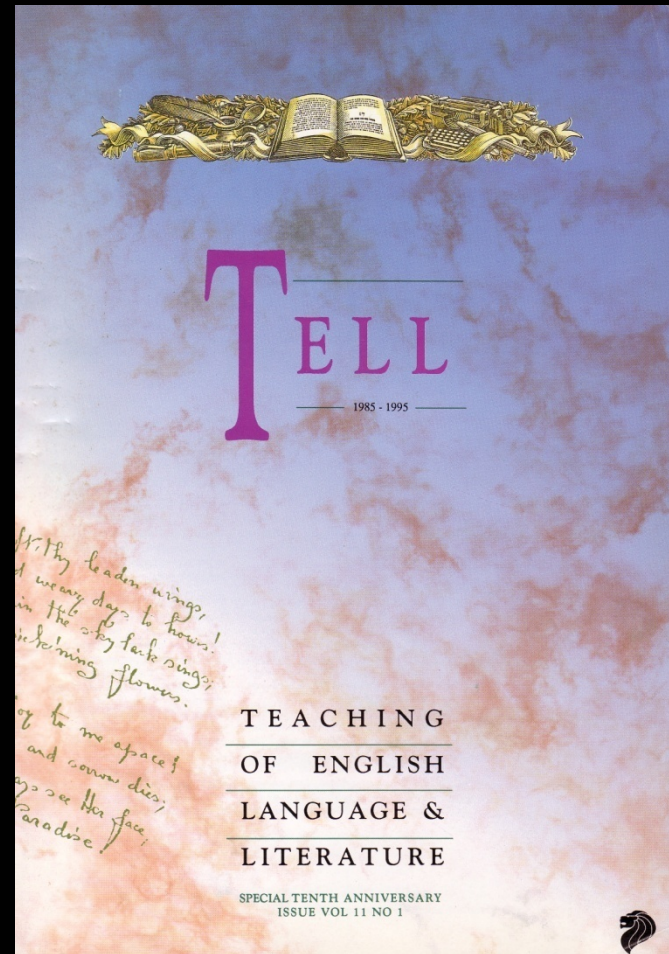
Swiss Cottage Secondary School

- **Further Professional Diploma in Education** (1997)

- **Staff Workshop on the Use of the Internet for ELT** (1997)

- **Use of *MSN Web Communities* for ELT** (2001)
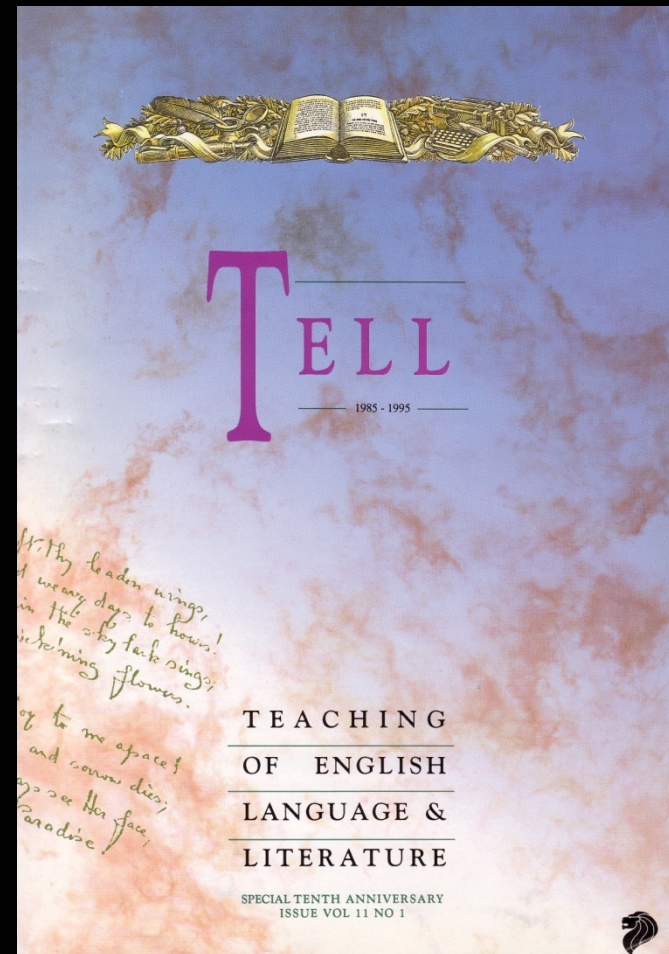
Swiss Cottage Secondary School

- **Cluster Support Group Chairman (EL)** (1998-2000)
  - Use of Video in ELT Workshop
  - Compilation of O-Level English Language Paper 2 Keys in PowerPoint Format (CD-ROM)

School Cluster West One

14 February 2001

Mr Kenneth Wee
HOD, English & Literature
Swiss Cottage Secondary School

Dear Mr Wee

Thank you for serving as Chairman of the English & Literature Support Group for Cluster West One in 2000.

The group and the cluster have benefited significantly from your leadership. I look forward to your continued contribution and support.

Yours sincerely

Kok Jeok Eng (Mrs)
Superintendent/ School Cluster West 2

West Spring   Hillgrove

Westwood Secondary School

- **Cluster Support Group Chairman (2001-2002)**
  - Workshop on Developing Task Chains Incorporating Video in the EL Classroom
- **Publication of School Newsletters**

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Head of Department (2002 -)**

- **Integration of ICT in ELT**
  - *Zhenghua Expressions* (renamed *ENCORE* in 2007)
  - Use of Video

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Integration of ICT in ELT**
  - Use of the *Markin* Software
  - Use of *Expert Crossword*
  - Use of the *Audacity* and *Lame* Freeware

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Integration of ICT in ELT**
  - Use of the *Criterion* Online Writing Evaluation Facility
  - Use of the *Multiply* Web Communities
  - Accelerated Reading Program
  - Podcasting
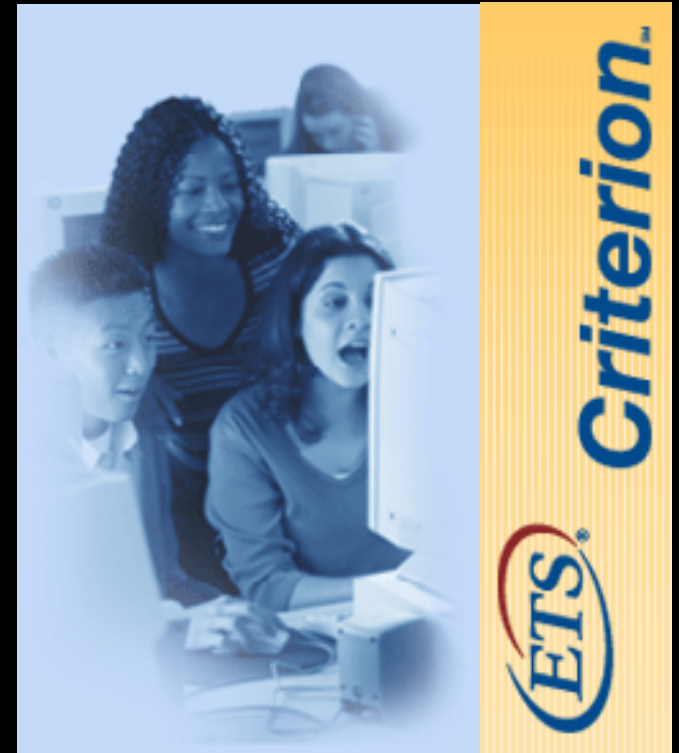
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- ***Use of Video in ELT*** **was presented at the following occasions:**
  - *Cluster West 6 EL Support Group Sharing (2003, 2004)*
  - *Langscape Conference (May 2006)*
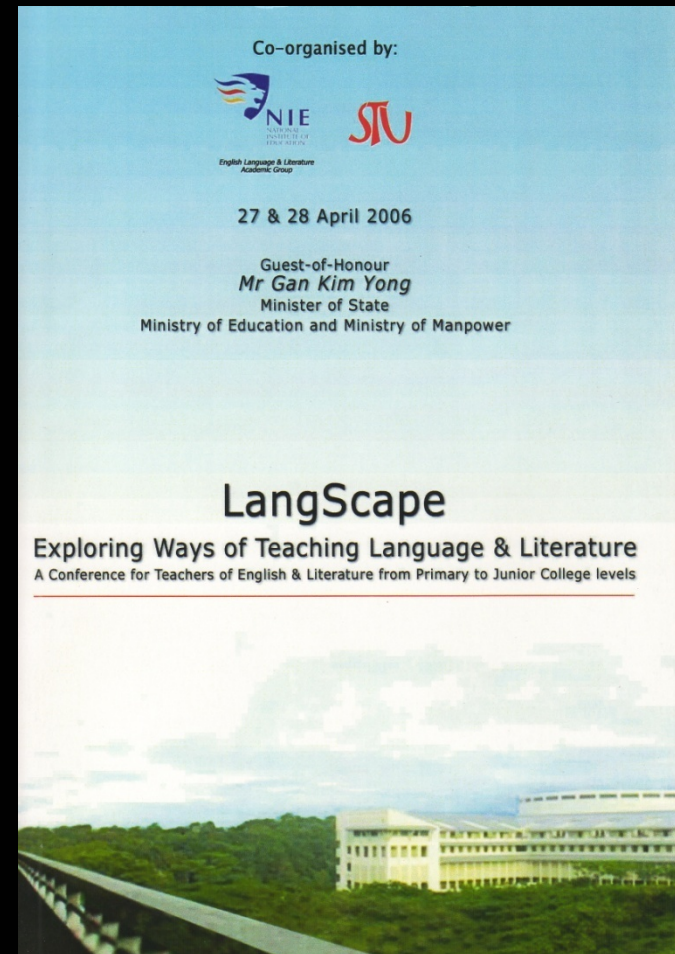
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- ***Use of Video in ELT** (renamed *Use of Information Technology in ELT*)* was also presented at the *42nd RELC International Seminar* (23-25 April 2007)
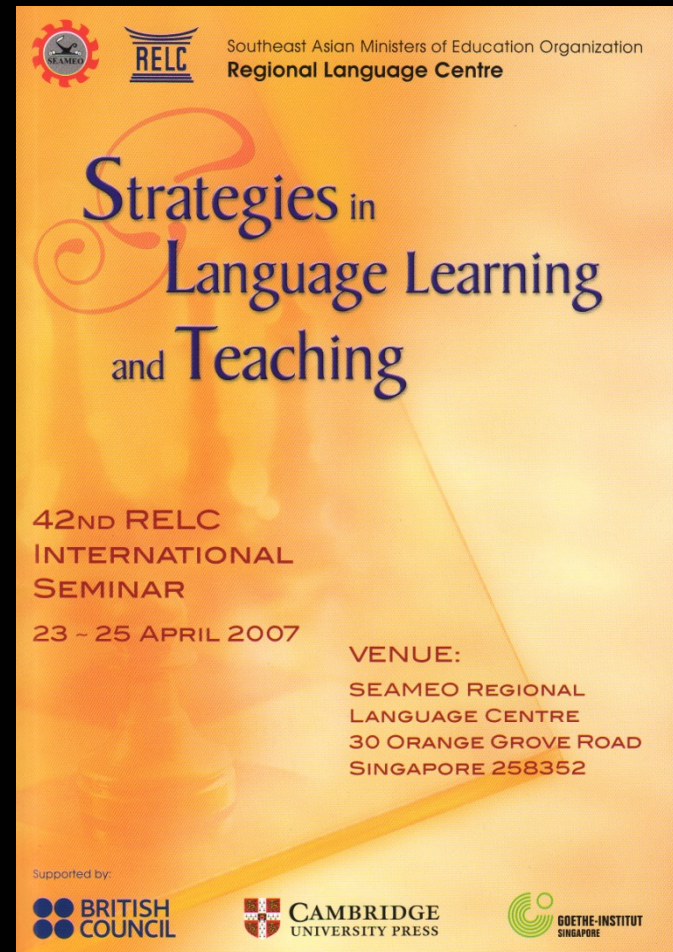
Zhenghua Secondary School

- *Use of Video in ELT* (renamed *Use of Information Technology in ELT*) was also presented in the Philippines at the *Pangasinan State University Eastern Cluster (December 2007)*

Zhenghua Secondary School

- *Contributed "Teaching Vocabulary and the Simple Past Tense with Video" to the book "Teaching Reading and Writing" (Singapore, Pearson, 2008)*
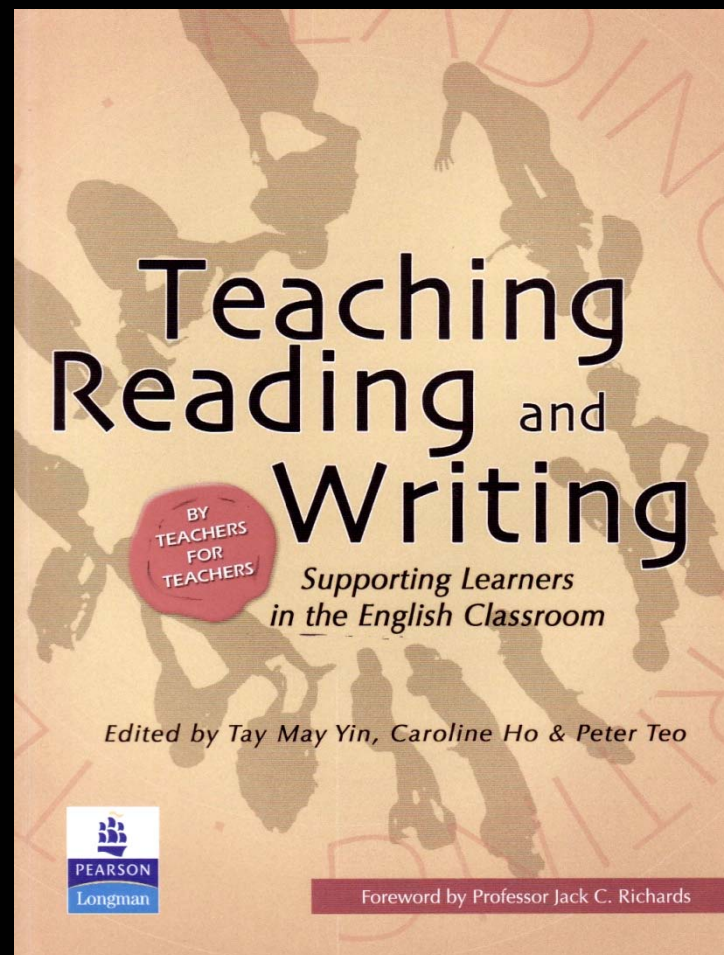
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- **The *Online Writing Evaluation and Language Learning Workshop* was conducted at the *43rd RELC International Seminar*** (21-23 April 2008)

Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization
Regional Language Centre
RELC

Language Teaching in a Multilingual World:
Challenges and Opportunities

43rd RELC International Seminar
21-23 April 2008

SEMINAR SECRETARIAT
SEAMEO Regional Language Centre
30 Orange Grove Road, Singapore 258352
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Fax: (65) 6734 2753
E-mail: admin@relc.org.sg
Website: www.relc.org.sg

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- **A similar workshop was also conducted at the *English Language Teaching Seminar*** (19-21 November 2008)
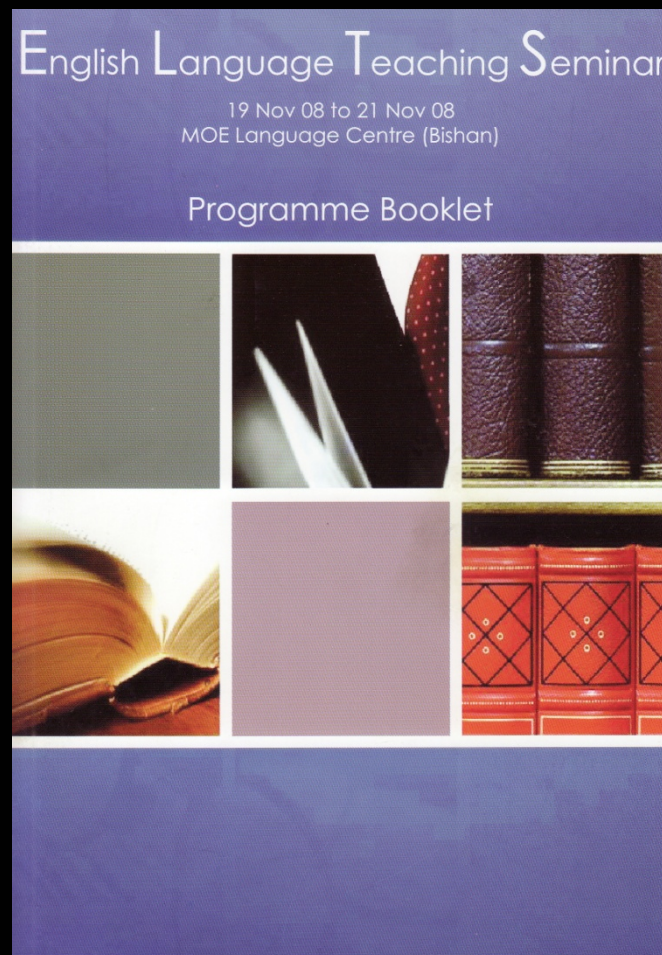
Zhenghua Secondary School

- **The *Use of the Multiply Web Communities for Educational Purposes* was presented at the school's *Create, Share and Innovate Day* (2008)**

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **The *Use of the Multiply Web Communities for Educational Purposes* (renamed MULTIPLY: *Designing Your Free E-Learning and Digital Resource Sharing Portal*) shall be presented at the 44th RELC International Seminar** (20-22 April 2009)

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Besides the regular *Microsoft* and other mainstream applications, other useful ICT tools include freeware such as**
  - *Cool Timer*
  - *The Hat*
  - *Gift Wiz*
  - *Survey Monkey*
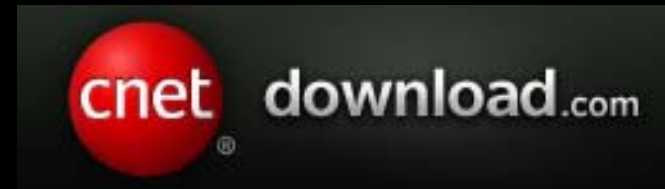
Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Conclusions**
  - There is a whole plethora of ICT tools that are available to assist in language teaching and learning
  - Some are even *free*

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Conclusions**
  - ICT gives a sense of novelty to lessons

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Conclusions**
  - ICT lowers students' stress levels and so enhance learning

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Conclusions**
  - ICT provides much help to students
    - video enables them to visualize

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Conclusions**
  - ICT provides much help to students
    - *Criterion* sharpens editing skills in a non-threatening manner

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Conclusions**
  - ICT provides much help to students
    - Dictionary CD/DVD-ROMS builds up their vocabulary

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Conclusions**
  - ICT is useful to teachers
    - *Cool Timer* keeps the time

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Conclusions**
  - ICT is useful to teachers
    - *The Hat* pairs off students for *Cooperative Learning*

Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Conclusions**
  - ICT is useful to teachers
    - *Survey Monkey* gathers feedback etc.