Plenary Panel: Sustainable models for recruiting, training, and retaining MLE teachers

Teachers are crucial to the multilingual education (MLE) movement. Most MLE initiatives in Asia began with a small number of teachers and teacher’s assistants who received inservice training from international or local nongovernmental organizations. Now, as the MLE movement continues to grow, there is a need for MLE teacher training to become institutionalized in universities, teacher-training colleges, and government policies, so that teachers from minority-language backgrounds can be recruited, trained, and assigned to schools where the languages they speak are used and retained in long term, sustainable positions.

The purpose of this plenary panel is to examine various approaches to teacher recruitment, training, and retention in Asia and beyond, so that MLE practitioners, academics, and government officials can cooperate to develop plans and policies to supply schools with motivated, trained MLE teachers.

Key questions to be discussed include:

● What are the present practices for MLE teacher training?
● How can MLE teacher training be developed and incorporated as a teaching qualification in preservice and inservice teacher-training institutions?
● What components should be included in the teacher-training curriculum to equip teachers to be effective in MLE classrooms?
● What are some innovative pathways to provide certification to teachers who have not obtained their teaching qualifications by conventional means (universities, etc.)?
● How can the human resource systems of ministries of education be adjusted to place (and retain) teachers from minority-language backgrounds in MLE programs?
● What can be done to work with the local community to choose, train, and hold teachers accountable for the quality of their work?

This panel is coordinated and moderated by Kirk Person, SIL International

Panelists:

● H. E. Ton Sa Im, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia
● Jan Noorlander, CARE, Cambodia
● Kesiree Ladlia, Yala Rajabhat University, Thailand
● Carol Benson, Columbia University, United States
● H. E. Dulce de Jesus Soares, Vice Minister of Education, Timor-Leste