

Tokai University European Center (TUEC)

Japanese Language Education Workshop Fall 2014



A two-day Japanese language education workshop was held at TUEC on the weekend of November 1-2. The workshop was the tenth, so far, in TUEC's series of Japanese language education workshops aimed at Japanese language teachers in the Nordic countries, and held twice annually (in the spring and fall) since 2010. The workshop series targets institutions offering Japanese language education, with the primary focus being on universities with Japan studies programs.

The title of this tenth workshop was “*Rethinking Beginner Level Teaching Methodology*” and examined the dynamics and processes at this initial stage of learning. The theme was particularly relevant in a Nordic context, where a large portion of Japanese language education is performed at the beginner level, hence attracting an all-time high of 22 participants to the workshop. The record number of participants and the vigorous discussions generated was a fine way of marking the tenth workshop in this series.

Professor Emeritus Yoshikazu Kawaguchi of Waseda University was featured as main speaker and contributed with a lecture and two subsequent work sessions. The lecture presented examples of experience in applying the principles of “contextualization” and “individualization” to Japanese language education; a method which focuses on grammar as the essential subject at beginner level learning. In the first work session, the Silent Way method's *kana* introduction chart was presented and its function and use explained. The second work session consisted of exercises illustrating how “contextualization” and “individualization” could be applied to lessons in grammar and the honorific language system.

In addition to the featured lecture and its related work sessions, seven participants also contributed with presentations. Topics included ‘the use of the *Genki*-textbooks’, ‘an introduction to the Japanese language program at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology’, ‘the

use of social networks in intermediate and advanced level learning’, ‘a report on CEEJA’s¹ summer training course for teachers of Japanese in Europe’, ‘experience in teaching Japanese to children with Aspergers Syndrome and autism’, ‘Japanese language education at junior high school level in Sweden’, and ‘an outline of the Japan Studies program at Leiden University in the Netherlands’.

Attending the workshop were teachers from the University of Copenhagen and Copenhagen Business School in Denmark, Lund University and Stockholm University in Sweden, Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Norway, and Leiden University in the Netherlands. In addition, teachers from language schools, secondary educational institutions, specialized educational institutions, adult education centers, as well as freelance language teachers also attended.

TUEC is currently in the process of producing the workshop proceedings which will report in more detail on the content of the workshop (please direct any inquiries in this regard to TUEC). The proceedings will be made available on TUEC’s website upon completion (www.u-tokai.dk), alongside all previous Japanese language education workshop proceedings already available online.

TUEC’s fall 2014 Japanese language education workshop was supported by the Japan Foundation.



Professor Yoshikazu Kawaguchi.



Work Session.



Presentation.



All Workshop Participants.

¹ CEEJA: European Centre for Japanese Studies in Alsace.