

Formation of Asia-Pacific Island TESOL Association Suggested

Francis C. Johnson, Professor of English Language at the University of Papua and New Guinea, wrote the letter below. His address is Box 1144, P.O., Boroko, T.P.N.C., New Guinea.

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to you to obtain your reactions to the possibility of establishing some type of association of teachers of English as a second language in the Asia-Pacific area. Similar associations already exist in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and in our area we have committees and institutions concerned with co-operative teacher training and materials preparation across national boundaries. However, I believe that the formation of an association to act as a clearing house for the spread of information, experience, programmes and materials in our field would be of undoubted value to those of us who are working in the field of English as a second language.

One of the most persistent problems in our field is simply ignorance of

what other people are doing, of the successes and failures that they have and of the experimentation they undertake in the several areas of language, language learning and language teaching that we are concerned with.

At present I have no clear idea of what form such a professional association should take or how it might be financed, but if there are sufficient of our colleagues in the Asia-Pacific region who believe that the formation of such an association would be worthwhile, I am confident that we would be able to find support from Governments and from foundations and institutions who are concerned with problems of communication and education in our region.

I would appreciate it if you could give me your reactions to this proposal, indication whether or not you think it worthwhile to persist with the idea and giving me the names of any institutions, organizations or English language teaching specialists in your country or area who might be contacted for their reactions to such a proposal.

Yours sincerely,
(Francis C. Johnson)

TESL REPORTER

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