

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the end-of-year edition of the Journal of Research, Policy & Practice of Teachers & Teacher Education (JRPPTTE). We are pleased to announce that JRPPTTE has been accepted to be included into Taylor & Francis' Educational Research Abstracts online (ERA). Educational Research Abstracts Online (ERA) is a comprehensive database comprising fully indexed abstracts which cover the current international research in education. ERA is supported by a fully-flexible search engine, and comprises links to the full-text online versions of articles to over 25 specialist datasets representing all the key areas of educational research. We are very proud to be part of this database.

In this edition, JRPPTTE offers a multi-disciplinary analysis of issues concerning the education arena and combines academic research with professional relevance and a strong technology focus. We hope to fill the gap between the perspective and the approach of the various educational disciplines focusing on assessment, teaching for critical thinking, using the internet as a teaching tool and the use of technology in the classrooms. This edition also welcomes the first *Bahasa Melayu* (Malay Language) article. As usual, the journal strives to provide a forum for an educational disciplinary dialogue.

The opening article by, Murray Fastier and Niuma Mohamed, discusses the place of formative assessment in the Maldivian primary classrooms. According to the authors, the key future focus involves promoting the use of formative assessment in classroom practices. For Maldivian teachers who have traditionally placed emphasis on summative assessment, the transition towards developing a more balanced assessment approach will prove to be challenging.

From the primary education classrooms, the next article by Sabri Mohd Salleh, Eng Tek Ong, and Mohmad Noor Mohmad Taib moved to the secondary education classrooms. The researchers conducted an ex-post facto study to determine teacher practices that could promote critical thinking among secondary school students. The researchers found that experiences with regard to teacher practices in the classrooms differed significantly between the high and the low student performers. Implications of the study, particularly on ways to teach better to promote critical thinking, were discussed.

The third article, by Ribut Wahyudi, takes the readers to the use of internet as a tool to assist EFL teachers. However, rather from a research perspective, this is a self-critical reflection as a practitioner himself on the use of internet for the sake of teaching resources, research purposes, expansion of social network and professional development.

Interactive whiteboard (IWB) has become an important teaching tool in the classroom. This is the stance taken by Kuan Nien Tan, Chia Ying Lin, Tien Tien Lee, Kung-Teck Wong and Wee Hoe Tan. Their article reviews related literature on the effectiveness of the use of IWB for teaching and learning in the Chinese language classrooms. They assert that currently, there are only sporadic uses of IWB in the classrooms as a teaching tool through a lack of an understanding of its effectiveness. Through a thorough review, the authors hope will provide a better understanding of the use of IWB for teaching the Chinese language.

The final article written in *Bahasa Melayu* (Malay Language) is by Sathish Rao Appalanaidu who is a recipient of the *Anugerah Pelajaran DiRaja UPSI 2015* (Royal Gold Education Award). His study looks at the moral consciousness and moral judgement of students with disciplinary issues in school. The moral consciousness and judgement of these students could be affected by factors such as socio-economic status and students' immaturity. The article provided implications for moral education in schools.

For any journal and publication to be successful, a team of committed and dedicated people is indispensable. We are grateful to the support of the Faculty of Education and Human Development and to Madam Nor Suzana Abd Rahim for the work in maintaining the high standards and expectations of this journal. We are also indebted to the many readers, reviewers and article contributors for their continuous support.

Pauline Swee Choo Goh
Nagendralingan Ratnavadivel
Sultan Idris Education University, Malaysia