

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

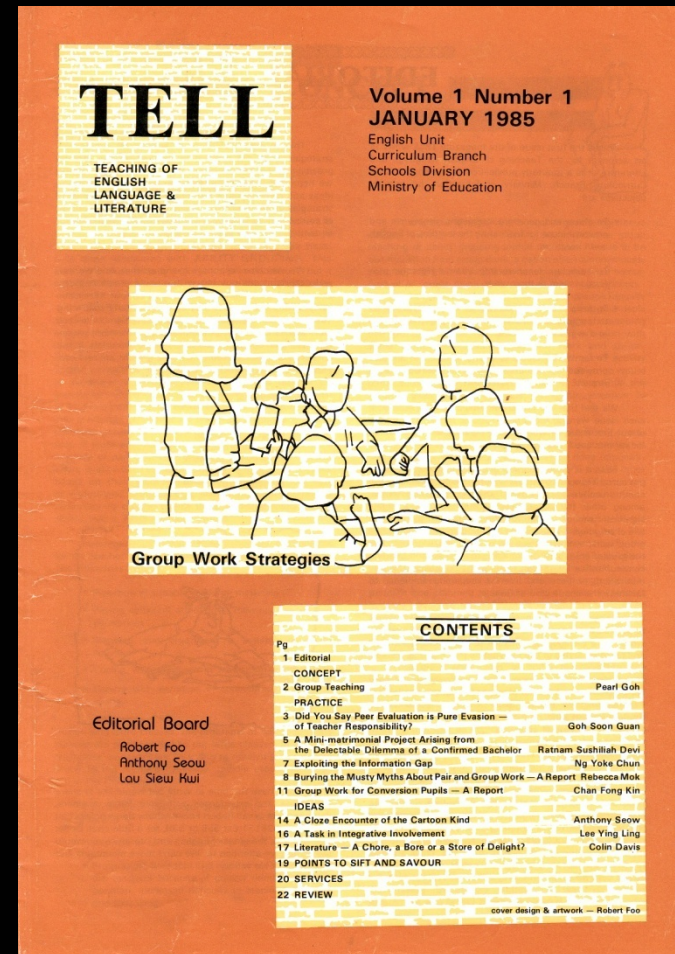
It is hereby certified that

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

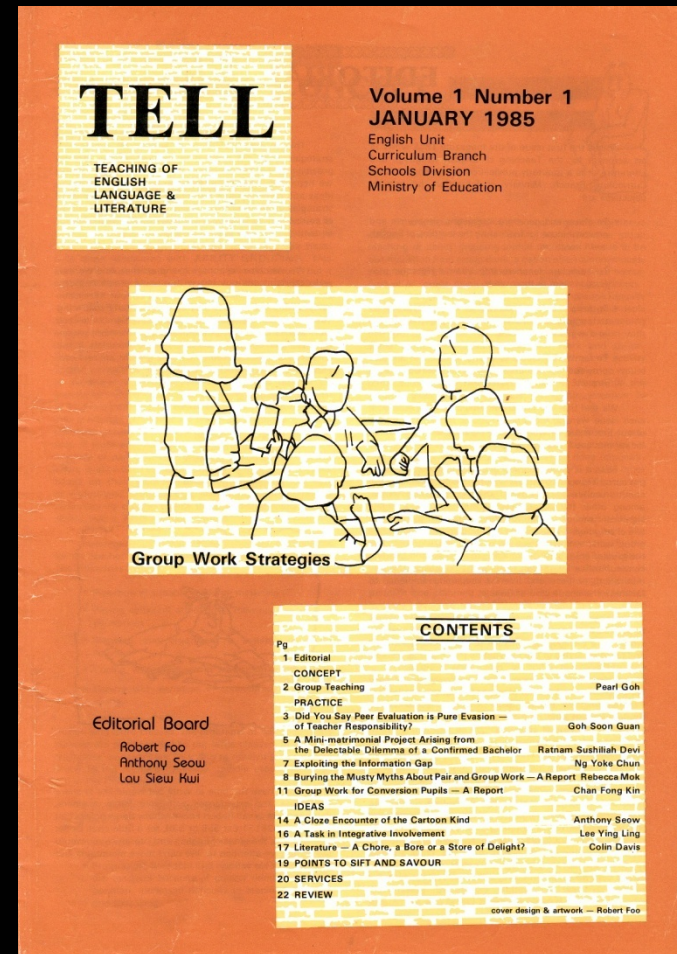
Queensway Secondary School

- **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



Queensway Secondary School

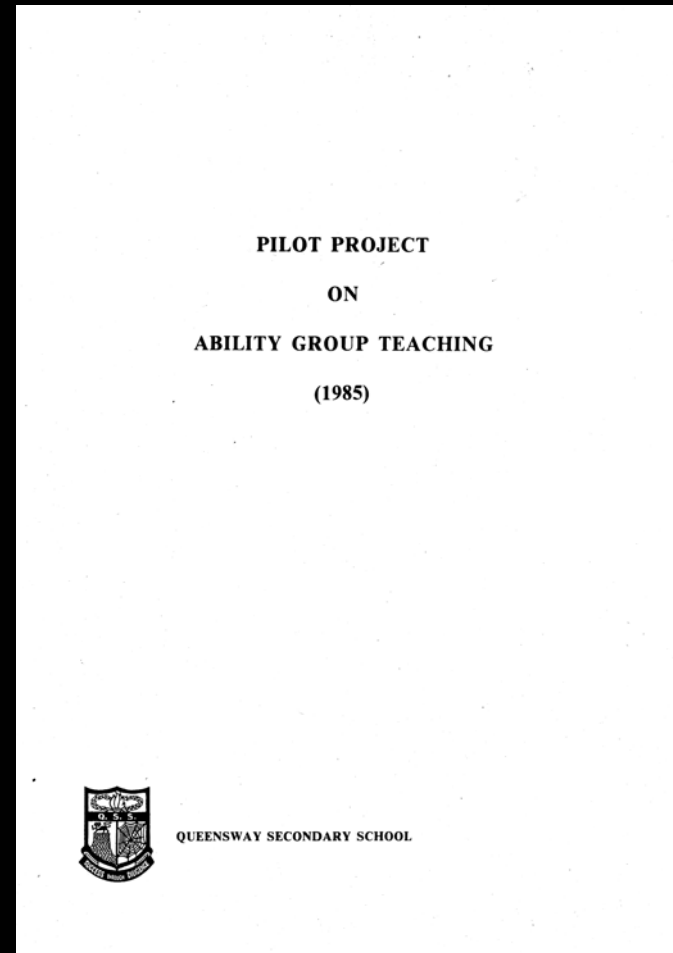
- **Involvement in School-based Project: Ability Grouping**
 - Identify the advantages of communicative ELT
 - Make ELT more interesting
 - Teach language skills in an integrated program





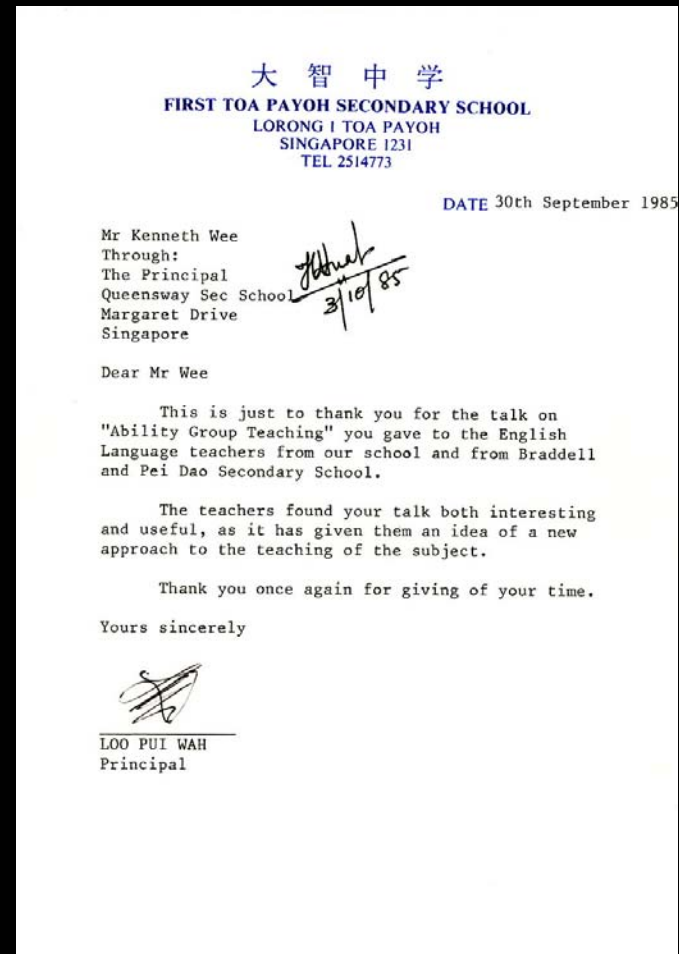
Queensway Secondary School

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



Queensway Secondary School

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



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)

MEMORANDUM

From The Ministry of Education
Kay Siang Road
Singapore 1024

Your reference
Our reference

To Mr Kenneth Wee

Thru' The Principal
Queensway Sec School
Margaret Dr
Singapore (0314)

Date 29 Aug 85

PRESENTATION OF INNOVATIVE PROJECTS IN
SECONDARY SCHOOLS

1 We would like to place on record our sincere appreciation for your fine contribution at the presentation of the Pilot Project on Ability Group Teaching on 24 and 26 Jul 85 at the RELC Auditorium for principals, vice-principals and senior teachers of secondary schools. It was certainly very encouraging for all present.

ANG WAI HOONG (MRS)
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (CURRICULUM)
CURRICULUM BRANCH
SCHOOLS DIVISION

cc Personal File

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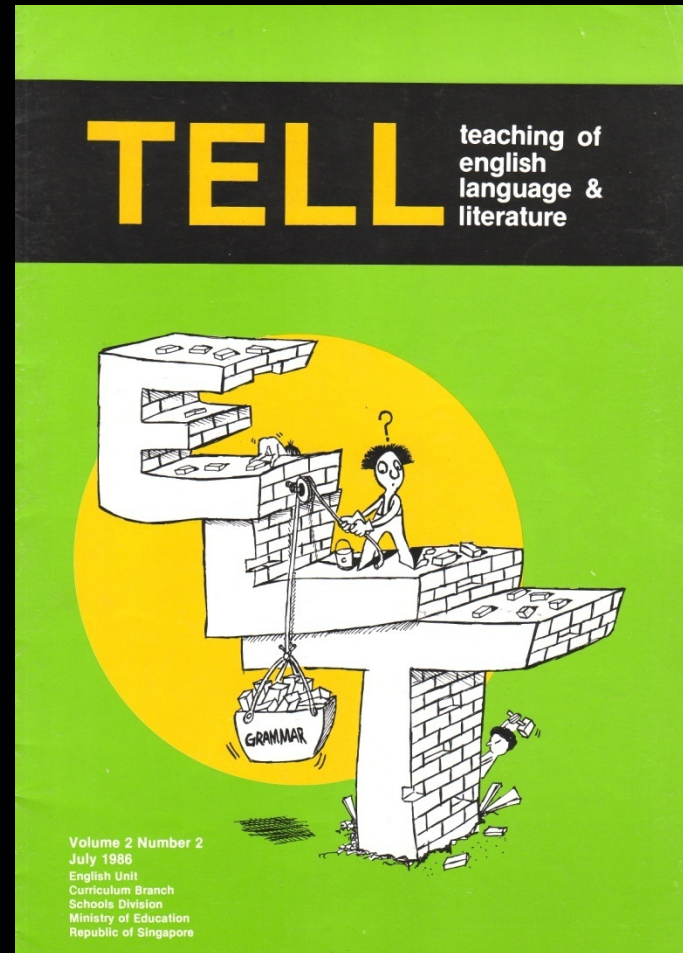
Queensway Secondary School

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



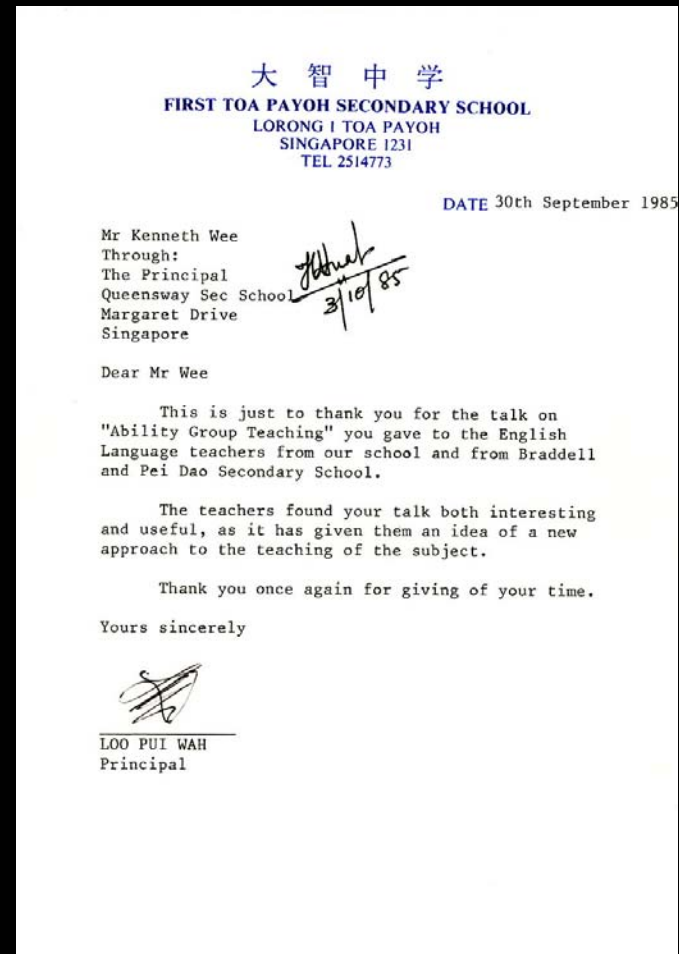
Queensway Secondary School

- **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)

MEMORANDUM	
From	Ministry of Education Kay Siang Road Singapore 1024
Your reference	
Our reference	Edun 107-11-038
To	Mr Kenneth Wee Thru: The Principal Queensway Secondary School Margaret Drive Singapore
Date	13 Mar 86

PRESENTATION OF EFFECTIVE PROGRAMME ON ABILITY GROUP TEACHING
AT SHN TEACHERS' MEETING, 12 MAR 86

We wish to thank you for your interesting presentation of your school's effective programme at Hua Yi Sec School on 12 Mar 86. I have no doubt that all those present have learnt much from you.

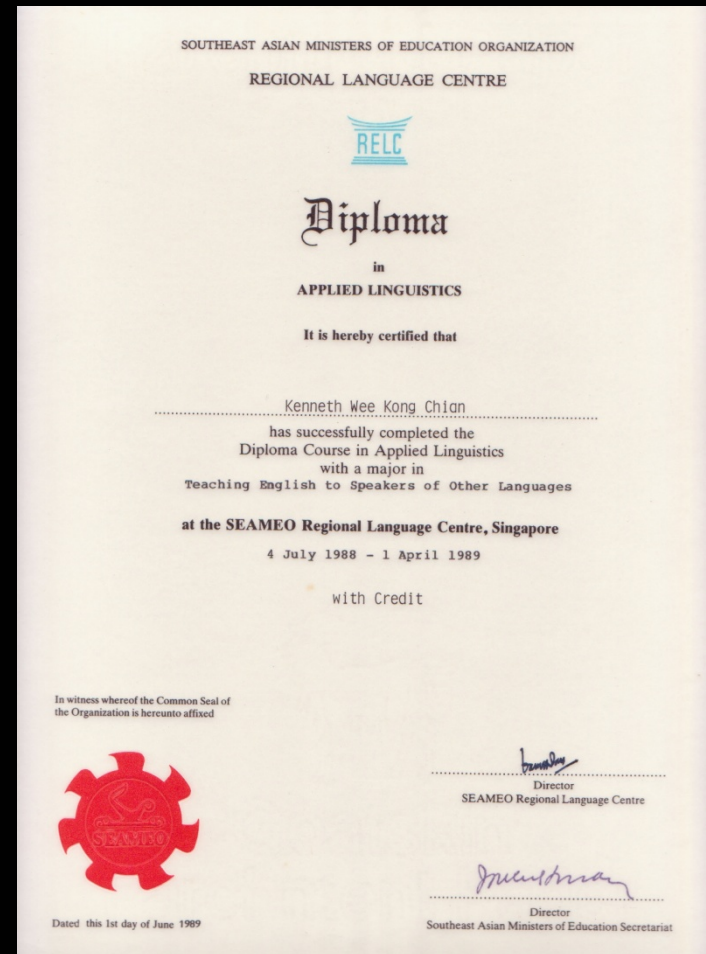
2 Keep up the good work.

Chan Fong Hin
CHAN FONG HIN (MISS)
SPECIALIST INSPECTOR/ENGLISH
CURRICULUM BRANCH
SCHOOLS DIVISION

G29 - Supplies (1/85)

Regional Language Centre

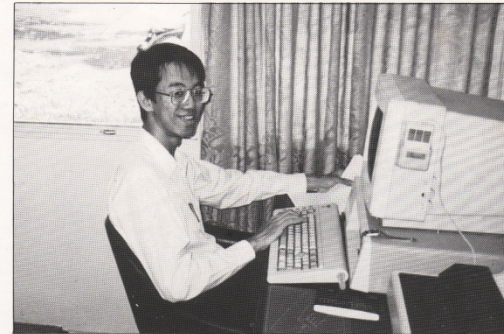
- **Scholarship:
Diploma in Applied
Linguistics (1988-
1988)**



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**


OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
Publishing Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT is made this eighteenth day of November in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-two between

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS PTE LTD of Unit 221, Ubi Avenue 4, Singapore 1440 (hereinafter called 'the Publisher') on behalf of itself and its successors in business and assigns of the one part and

Kenneth Wee
81k 716, Jurong West Street 71
#09-77
Singapore 2264

(hereinafter called 'the Author') on behalf of himself and his executors administrators and assigns of the other part

concerning the publication of a work provisionally entitled

Movie Vision: An English Integrated Skills Workbook for Upper Secondary Students
Book 1 and Book 2

(hereinafter called 'the Work')

WHEREBY IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED as follows

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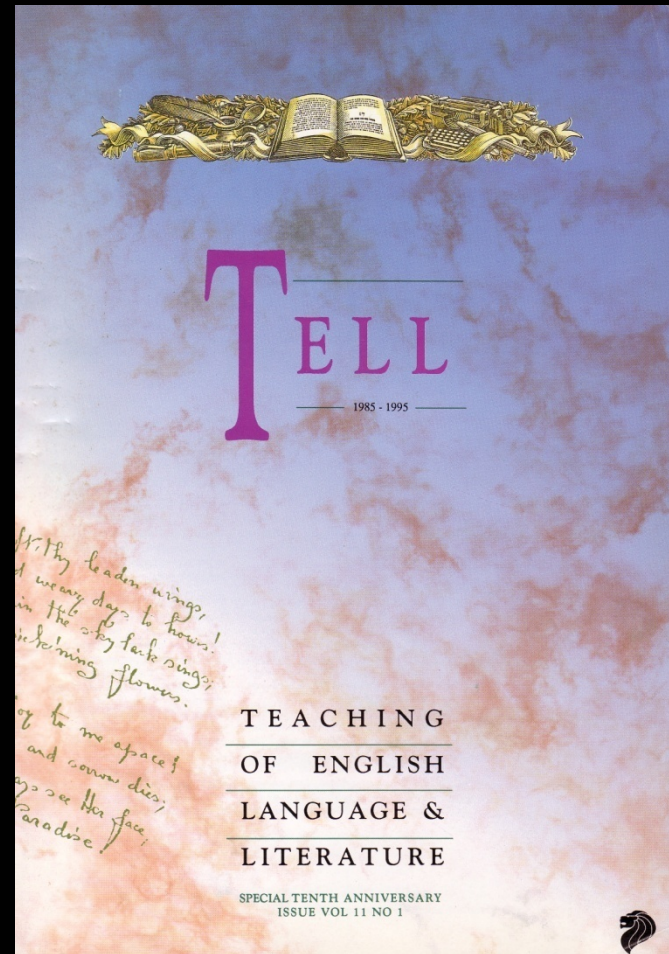
4 DELIVERY, ACCEPTANCE

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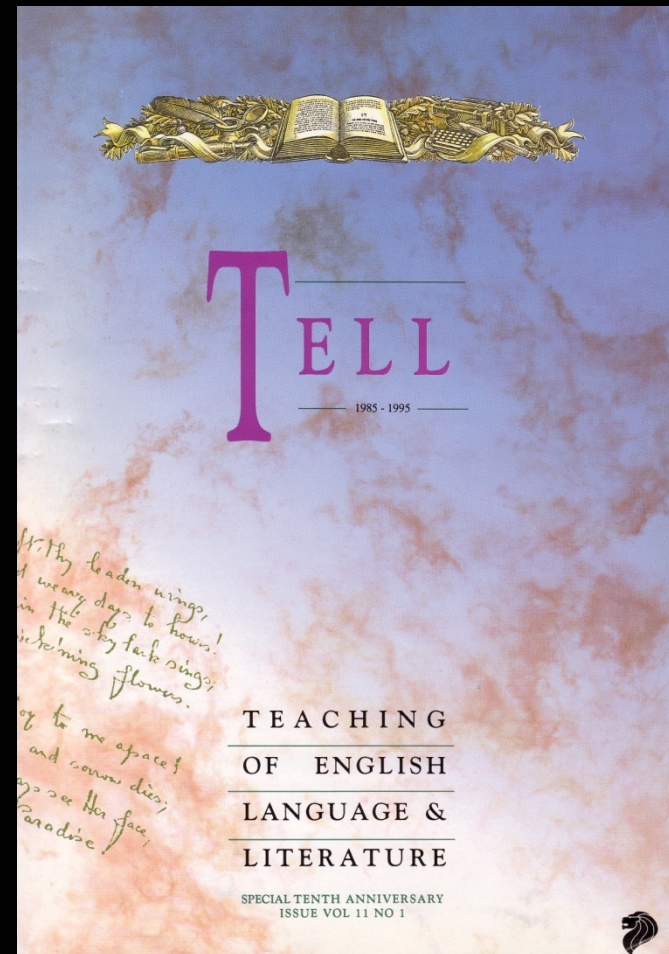
Swiss Cottage Secondary School

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



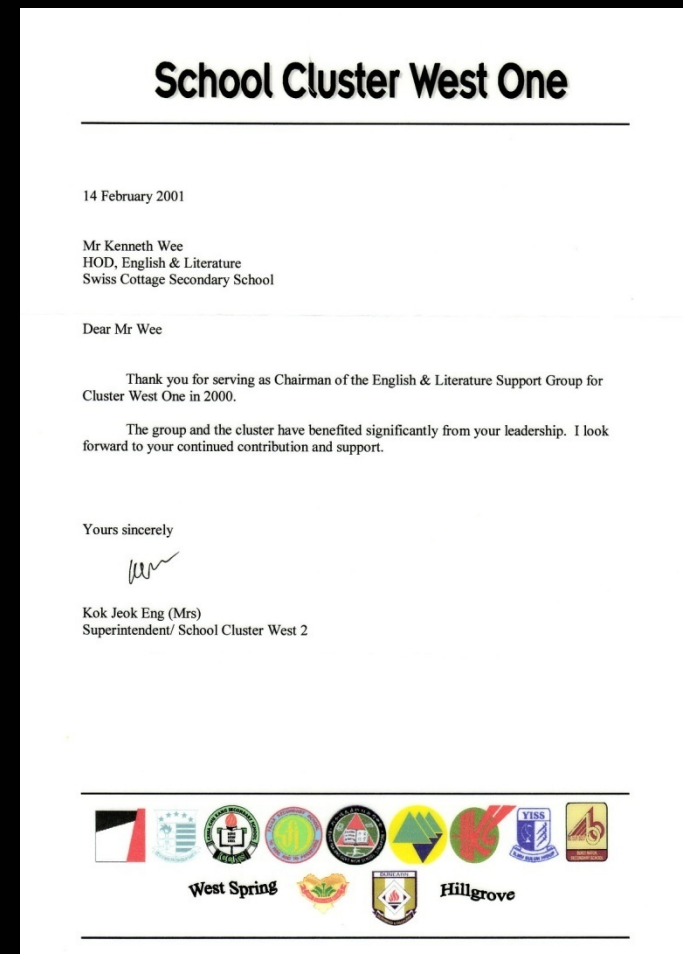
Swiss Cottage Secondary School

- 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)



Westwood Secondary School

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

WESTWOOD

Westwood Secondary School

heart beat

Soaring New Heights

Kok Lee Kwang
Principal

As technology marches furiously to new milestones and knowledge explodes at an unprecedented rate on the computer screen, how can Westwood educators firmly root our pupils to soar in the new world?

At the Staff Seminar in September 2000, Westwood staff analyzed social, economic, technological and political scenarios in the new millennium and beyond, seeking educational implications. We debated on the CORE Values, Skills/Competencies and Attitudes that Westwood pupils would need to embrace in the new world.

The culmination of the strategic planning exercise resulted in identification of the following CORES that will be Westwood's focus in the next four years:

CORE VALUES


1. Integrity
2. Care, Concern & Compassion

CORE SKILLS/COMPETENCIES

1. Communication and Language
2. Information Technology
3. Thinking Skills & Creativity

CORE ATTITUDES

1. Open-mindedness
2. Continual Learning
3. Risk-taking & Adaptability




Teachers Charting The Path to Achieving New Heights

Based on the CORES, the school has launched *Westwood Bytes*; morning bytes of 15-20 minutes of student-centred activities ranging from pastoral care to staying connected globally.


To build and raise language capacity, Westwood teachers together with consultant EL groups have worked with pupils across the various courses. New I.T. training is also in the pipe-line to take pupils to a higher level of I.T. competency after undergoing the Beyond-the-Basics I.T. Programme. The target is also to provide all students with Internet access for research work by Semester II this year.

The fruits of teachers' and students' labour are gradually becoming evident. Barely into our second year, Westwood has tasted sweet victory. Both our CL & EL Lower Secondary debating teams have scored wins over Upper Secondary teams. We even walked away with the Best Speaker title at one of the EL debates in spite of the tough competition. Our students have also gleaned new learning experiences from their participation in various I.T. competitions held by polytechnics and other organizations. These small successes augur well for Westwoodians who unflinchingly have already set their sights on soaring new heights! Root and Soar, all Westwoodians!



*Creating Confident Speakers:
Kevin Low (centre) Named Best Speaker*

June 2001 Issue



Rooted To Soar

Inside this Issue:

Westwood Bytes	2
Continual Learning	4
Our New Premises	6
Co-curricular Activities 2001	8
Students' Contributions	10
Information Technology @ Westwood	11
Announcements	12

Zhenghua Secondary School

- Head of Department (2002 -)
- Integration of ICT in ELT
 - *Zhenghua Expressions* (renamed *ENCORE* in 2007)
 - Use of Video



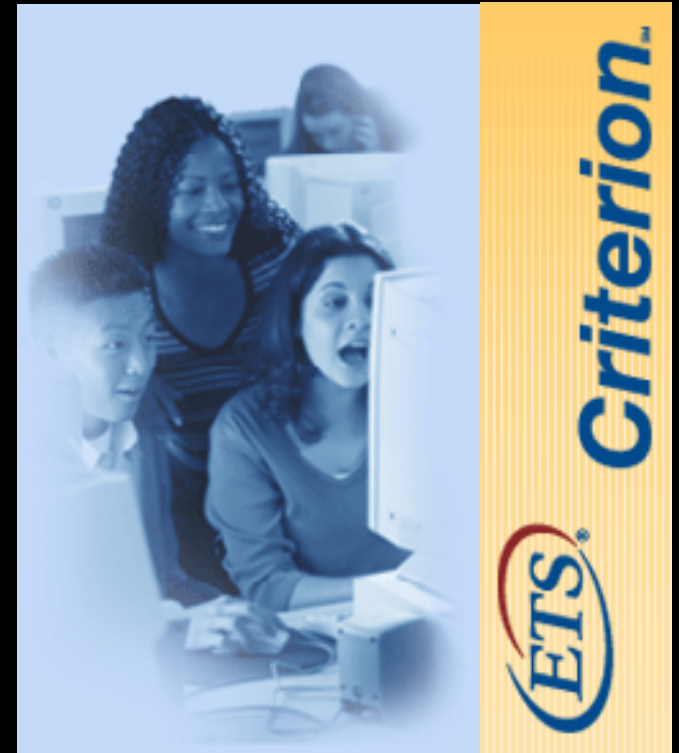
Zhenghua Secondary School

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



Zhenghua Secondary School

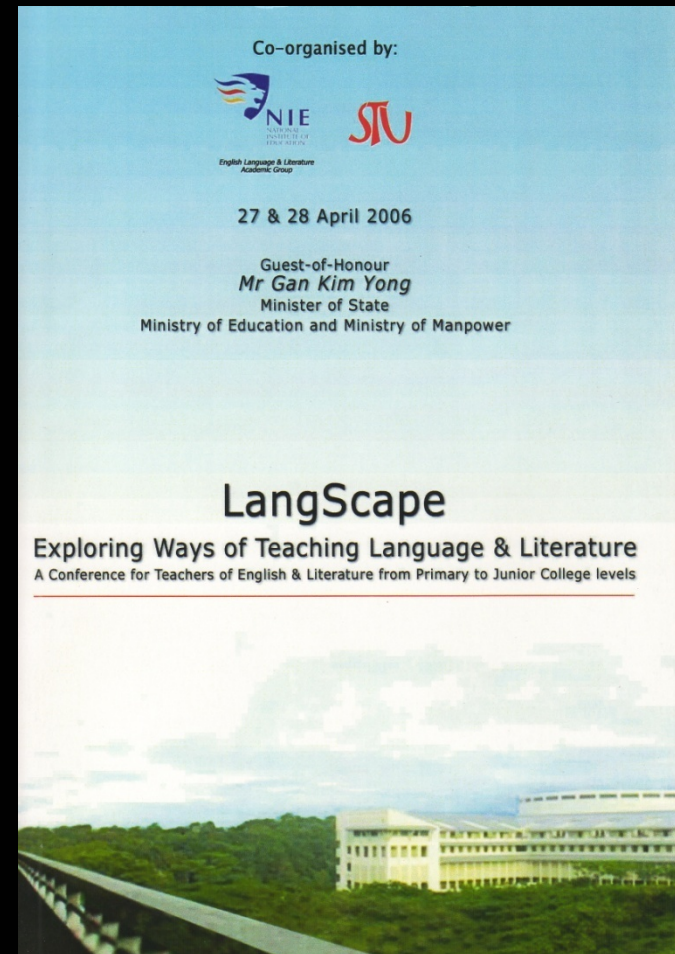
- Integration of ICT in ELT
 - Use of the *Criterion* Online Writing Evaluation Facility
 - Use of the *Multiply* Web Communities
 - Accelerated Reading Program
 - Podcasting



MULTIPLY™

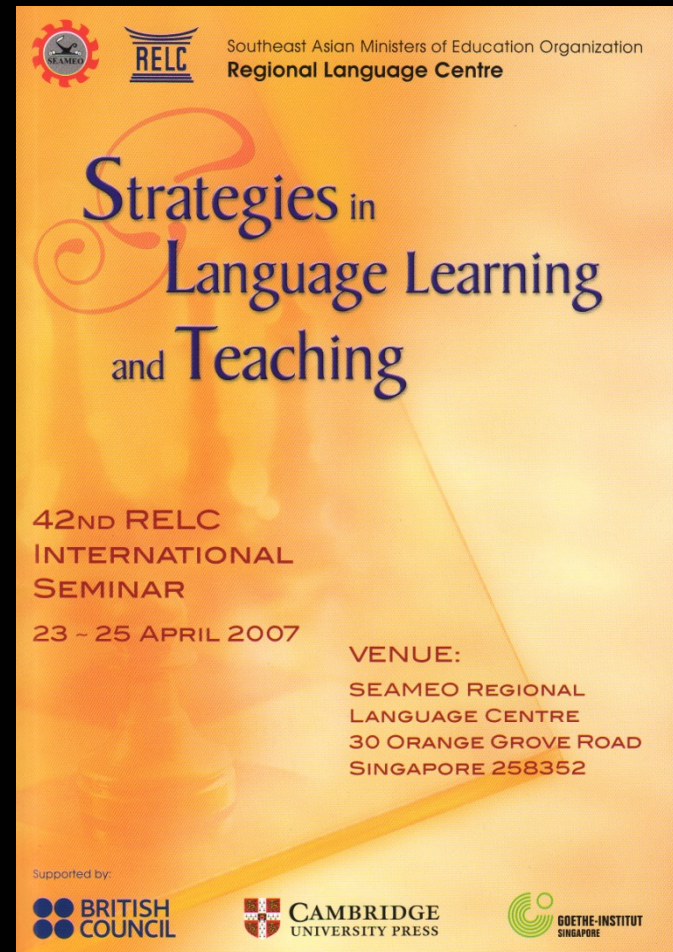
Zhenghua Secondary School

- *Use of Video in ELT* was presented at the following occasions:
 - *Cluster West 6 EL Support Group Sharing (2003, 2004)*
 - *Langscape Conference (May 2006)*



Zhenghua Secondary School

- ***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)



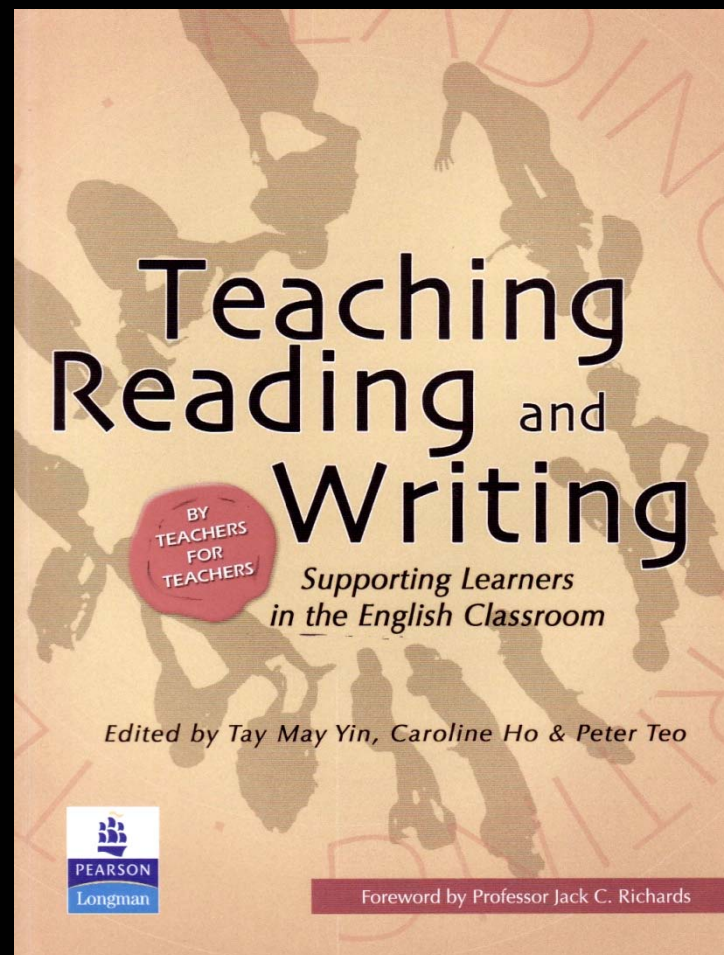
Zhenghua Secondary School

- *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)



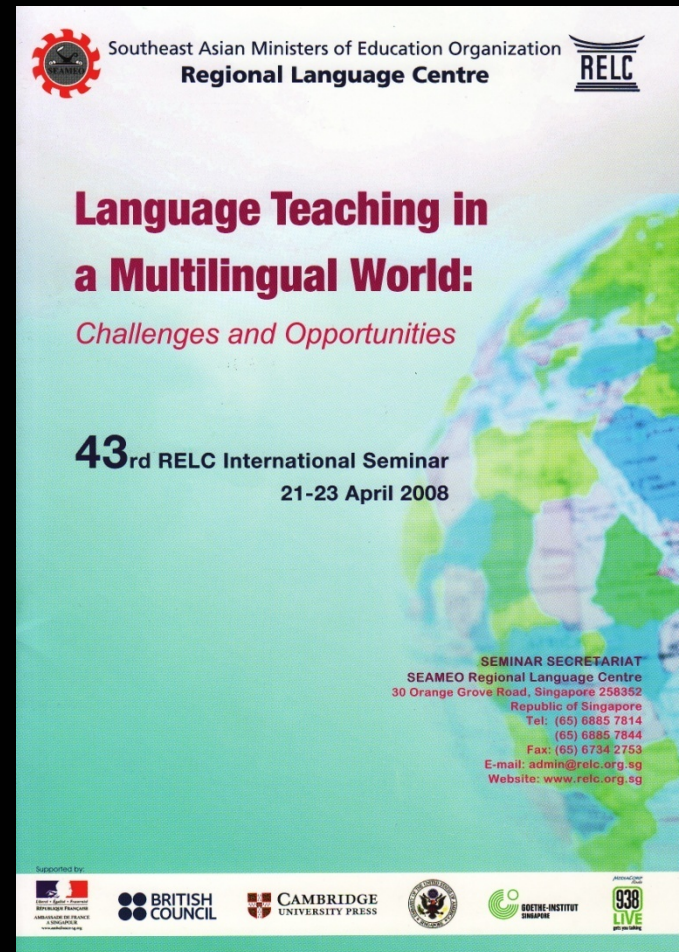
Zhenghua Secondary School

- **Contributed “Teaching Vocabulary and the Simple Past Tense with Video” to the book “Teaching Reading and Writing” (Singapore, Pearson, 2008)**



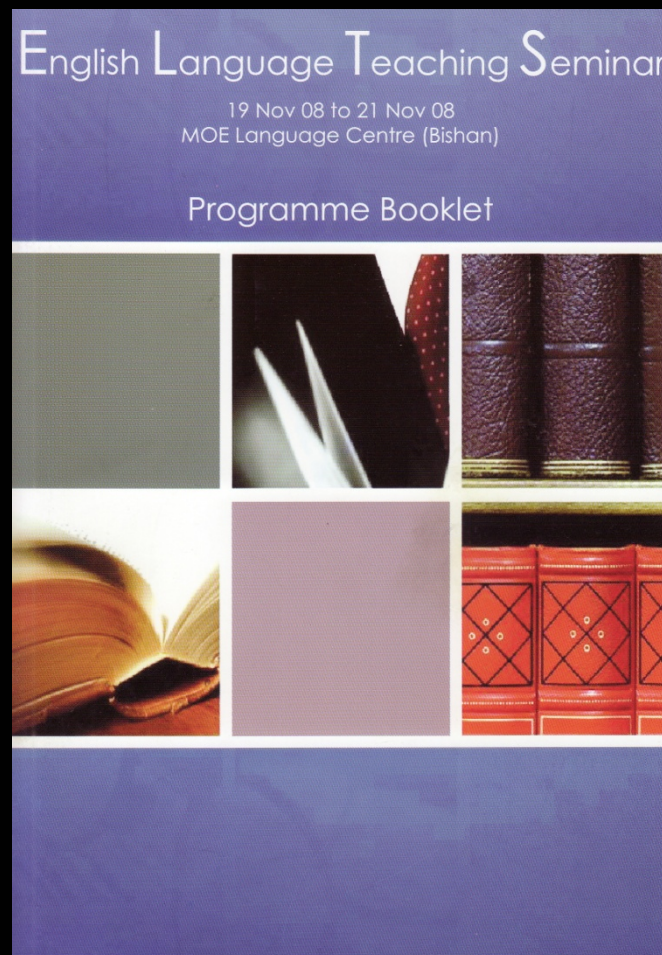
Zhenghua Secondary School

- **The Online Writing Evaluation and Language Learning Workshop was conducted at the 43rd RELC International Seminar (21-23 April 2008)**



Zhenghua Secondary School

- **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

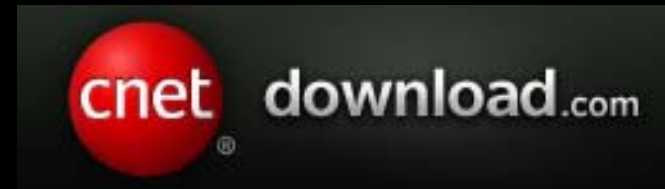
- **The *Use of the Multiply Web Communities for Educational Purposes* (renamed MULTIPLY: *Designing Your Free E-Learning and Digital Resource Sharing Portal*) shall be presented at the 44th RELC International Seminar (20-22 April 2009)**



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.

