PREFACE

As one of the remarkable events of academic exchange in Vietnam in the year 2020 thriving on unprecedented lockdown and social distancing attributed to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the VietTESOL International Convention 2020 successfully took place under the co-organization of The VietTESOL Association (formerly named VietTESOL Community), The National Foreign Languages Project - Vietnam's MOET (NFLP) and University of Foreign Language Studies - The University of Danang on October 15th-16th, 2020. This is the very first time the Convention was held entirely on a virtual platform, yet great achievements have been yielded thanks to the resolve of stakeholders and state-of-the-art technical support.

Under the theme of "**Innovation and Globalization**" represented in three strands: Technology in Language Teaching and Learning, Teaching Methods and Applied Linguistics, and Professional Development, the two-day Convention featured online fascinating presentations and effervescent discussions of expertise and experience among specialists, lecturers, teachers and researchers in the field of English Language Teaching despite the fact that face-to-face meetings and direct interactions were impossible in the context of global concerns for such a ravaging epidemic.

The first day of the Convention witnessed the impressive demonstration of five zoom-based pre-Convention workshops organized by the host university - University of Foreign Languages Studies - The University of Danang with important topics of current interest: (1) Re-thinking teachers' digital competence as a factor for online teaching improvements; (2) Application of mind mapping techniques in EFL classrooms; (3) Initiatives in teaching and learning English for tourism at University of Foreign Language Studies - the University of Danang; (4) Innovations in teaching and learning ESP at University of Foreign Language Studies - the University of Danang; (5)

Testing and assessment in ESP teaching and learning at University of Foreign Language Studies - the University of Danang.

The second day of the Convention welcomed distinguished keynote speakers in the four livestream plenary sessions with excellent presentations: (1) Associate Professor Dr. Dongping Zheng, University of Hawaii, USA: Creating trans-language spaces for skilled linguistic actions; (2) Prof. Dr. Marry Wong, University of Azusa Pacific, USA: Enhancing English teaching by optimizing the use of Vietnamese in K-12 classroom using action research; (3) Dr. Julie Ciancio, University of Westcliff, USA: Reimagining English as an additional language: implications in the online global classroom; 4.) Dr. Nguyen Thi Thu Huong, University of Foreign Language Studies, the University of Danang, Vietnam: Teaching translation in a tertiary English major program – insights from professional translator training. In addition, 18 zoom-based workshops, 45 oral workshops, 140 pre-recorded sessions were successfully organized and broadcast via a firm web-based video-conferencing system technically supported by the Regional English Language Office, the US Embassy and Consulate in Vietnam, attracting more than 500 participants, including 50 foreign presenters, more than 200 Vietnamese presenters and more than 100 reviewers. Many participants, presenters and reviewers were English language professionals from various countries in the world like the USA, Australia, England, Japan, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, etc. Especially, a good number of primary and secondary English language schoolteachers all over Vietnam were sponsored to take part in the Convention. Such precious and practicable sponsorship for experts and grantees was provided by The Regional English Language Office - The US Embassy in Vietnam, Oxford University Press, Pearson Publication, My Bridge Education, IIG Vietnam, University of Languages and International Studies, Talk Online Language Center, Fullbright, USA Education and other educational organizations. This has made a significant contribution to the incredible success of the pioneering virtual VietTESOL International Convention 2020, which created deep and unforgettable impressions on the participants, who felt so touched that they did not want to bid farewell on the final moments of the closing ceremony.

With a view to recapturing and preserving the achievements of the Convention, the Editorial Board of the VietTESOL International Convention 2020 Proceedings have been working seriously to build up a collection of 26 full-text papers developed from the presentations by authors at various sessions of the VietTESOL Convention 2020 Proceedings. All the selected papers have passed strict procedures of blind review and edition via the Open Journal System (OJS). Each submission without information for author identification was carefully reviewed by two experienced academics, who worked independently on a voluntary basis to provide their feedback on both the form and the content of the papers based on detailed rubric schemes developed by the Editorial Board. Each initially accepted paper was then revised by the author(s) and proof-read as well as copyedited by an assigned editor until it satisfied the required standards.

The 26 selected full-text papers cover a wide array of topics reflecting both traditional and current interests in the field of English language teaching from the perspectives of both theory and practice. While a number of authors invested their research efforts in seeking more effective methods and techniques to enhance the quality of teaching and learning of the four practical skills, grammar, translation and literature to learners of different levels and conditions including autistic schoolchildren as well as penetrating into effective ways to integrate culture with English language teaching, some researchers attempted to build up strategies that could help learners meet the requirements of IELTS or VSTEP-formatted tests, others focused their attention on the application of information technology advances into teaching and learning activities in the tendency of increasing popularity for online teaching and learning with the assistance of web-based tools and video-conferencing platforms. All these initiatives and innovations were intended to further promote blended learning for the sake of sustainable progress and improvement in English language education.

We would like to sincerely thank the authors of the papers in this collection for their cooperation and patience throughout the whole editing process, and undoubtedly, for their contribution of novel and brilliant ideas to the cause of English language teaching. We would also like to express our deep gratitude to volunteer reviewers and editors for their sterling work and

valuable consultation necessary for the quality of the papers. Our heart-felt thanks go to the members of the technical team who have been working untiringly to provide professional support whenever it was needed. Especially, the publication of the VietTESOL Convention 2020 Proceedings owes its advent to the leadership of the Organizing Board whose members are from The VietTESOL Steering Committee - VietTESOL Association, The National Foreign Languages Project-Vietnam's MOET and University of Foreign Language Studies - The University of Danang.

We do hope that readers interested at home and abroad will find the VietTESOL International Convention 2020 Proceedings a source of useful, interesting information and lasting inspiration.

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