

Conference Name: TESOL China Assembly 2022

Date: July 28-31, 2022

Presenter: Xin Zhang

The four-day Global English Education Assembly was organized by China Daily in partnership with TESOL International Association from July 28 to 31, 2022. It was a high-level international English language teaching event in China, bringing together over 500 attendees, including practitioners and researchers from diverse backgrounds, to share their knowledge, successful practices, and the latest research findings, while discussing future trends in the field of TESOL. The theme of this year's event was "Mutual Connectivity and Win-win with Co-existence: Promoting and coordinating the development of foreign language education worldwide."

This conference aimed to promote scholarship and cross-cultural understanding among English educators in China and enhance dialogue between China's ELT professionals and their peers worldwide on an international, professional, and high-level communication platform. As a result, it invited leading scholars in the field of English language linguistics and education and delivered many cutting-edge and informative speeches, including several world-leading scholars such as David Nunan, David Crystal, Willy A. Renandya, Liu Jianda, and Wang Qiang.

I was particularly impressed by the thought-provoking speeches in the forum titled "Paths to Success in Professional Career Development in TESOL." Prof. Lawrence Jun Zhang (Auckland University), Prof. Wen Zhisheng (Macao Polytechnic University), and Dr. Fang Fan (Shantou University) shared their personal career development paths in terms of identity construction, research supervision, and joint publications. Dr. Fang Fan utilized an auto-ethnographic approach to portray and reflect on his career trajectory from a TESOL practitioner and novice researcher to an influential scholar. He mentioned that the abundant academic support he received from the ELC leadership paved the way for his success, including economic support for conference trips, professional development workshops, and international conferences held by ELC. His experience enlightened my vision about career development and encouraged me to reevaluate the resources we have and how they can be better utilized to facilitate my growth in the academic field within the new ecology of TESOL.

In addition to the keynote speeches, I also attended parallel sessions covering various themes, including academic research and publication, curriculum development and material design, digital learning and technologies, and language teaching methods and approaches.

In summary, attending this conference was a fruitful and rewarding experience. I left the assembly with useful pedagogical strategies as well as cutting-edge research-based ideas.

