

Dear CLANZ friends

សូមស្វាគមន៍, Welkom, أهلا وسهلا, স্বাগতম, 歡迎, Kia Orana 歡迎光臨, Willkommen, Καλώς
ορίσται, ברוך הבא, 환영합니다, Добре дојдовте, Haere mai, خوش آمدید, Witamy, ਜੀ ਆਇਆ ਤੂੰ,
Добро пожаловать, Malo e lelei, Добро дошли, Soo dhowow, Hoan nghênh, Dobrodošli,
Welcome, Talofa lava

International Mother Language Day!

Did you know that Saturday, February 21st is International Mother Language Day. Some Libraries are supporting this event so it's worth checking to see if anything is happening in your area.

If you do anything at your language school to celebrate International Mother Language Day we'd love to hear about it. Send us pictures, or an account of the event and we'll put them on the CLANZ website to inspire others.

CLESOL

In October 2008 CLANZ participated in the CLESOL conference, held this year in Auckland at King's College in Otahuhu. It was a great conference and a great venue: we'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Auckland CLESOL organising committee who did such a wonderful job.

At CLESOL CLANZ held a session on *Community Languages and Government Policy*. This session was generously supported by Language Line who enabled it to be facilitated by Wong Liu Shueng. Four main areas were discussed.

- Why we and others support community languages
- Research into community languages needs
- The new Languages strand in the curriculum
- Developing CLANZ as organisation that represents community languages in the national context

Why we and others support community languages

- Community languages are important because they express a sense of:
 - National identity
 - Government /community partnership
 - Social cohesion
- and play a vital role in New Zealand's
- Economic transformation and trade on Asia/Pacific rim

Community language maintenance in New Zealand is

- Supported by Human Rights Commission Statement on Language Policy
- Supported by Ministry of Education Languages in the Curriculum
- Supported by the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Associations
- Supported by the Office of Ethnic Affairs Language Online

Research into community languages needs

It is important that Community Language policy covers the whole spectrum of students - including preschool, compulsory schooling and tertiary. It would be good if some research could be done in this area.

CLANZ should consider sending out a questionnaire to community organisations that are involved in community language maintenance so that we have a better idea about what is happening in this area in New Zealand and what the needs are.

The new Languages strand in the curriculum

- The new emphasis on languages in the primary and secondary schools is a welcome development.

- Overseas governments could be approached to see if they would provide resources that could be used in the community language classroom. (There are some governments who already do this)
- Resources available on-line from Australian programmes could be explored.
- Reading in Languages Other Than English (LOTE). A meeting/dialogue could be set up with libraries for establishing a swap table of LOTE material as a way to offer reading material.
- CLANZ and perhaps other organisations might like to offer encouragement for LOTE speakers to write in LOTE and have their work published – both children's reading material, and books for the youth market.

Developing CLANZ as organisation that represents community languages in the national context

- There is a need for more publicity for CLANZ, this could be offered in two ways – Some publicity through someone who has publicity training; and some way of contacting as many community groups as possible.
- CLANZ needs to continue working with government and other agencies and extend the range of agencies it works with.

The committee will use the results of this session to guide us over the next two years.

If you are interested in following up any of the matters discussed above here is some suggested reading and some online links.

Suggested reading

People who were really interested in learning more about influencing policy development could read Chapter 11 'The role of interest groups in Public Policy' in Eichbaum, C., and Shaw, R., *Public Policy in New Zealand: Institutions, processes and outcomes*, New Zealand, Pearson/Prentice Hall 2005.

Links

The New Zealand Curriculum: Learning Languages

http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/the_new_zealand_curriculum/learning_areas/learning_languages

Human Rights Commission Statement on Language Policy

http://www.hrc.co.nz/hrc_new/hrc/cms/files/documents/14-Feb-2008_12-31-36_Language_Policy_Feb_08_V4.pdf

New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils

<http://www.nzfec.org.nz/page/default.aspx?page=objectives>

Aussie educator web page (gives lots of Languages Other Than English links)

http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/aussieed/education_lote.htm

Languages Online (supports French, German, Indonesian and Italian but gives you lots of ideas for making exercises) <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/>

We would like to thank Wong Liu Shueng for facilitating this session and the Office of Ethnic Affairs for making it possible for her to do so.

Collaboration with Office of Ethnic Affairs

The Office of Ethnic Affairs collaborated with CLANZ in a small but exciting pilot project looking at the viability of a pilot project for a visiting immersion teacher.

15 pre-schools in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch were contacted to carry out a situational analysis and 10 selected for pilot.

We are thrilled that the Office Ethnic Affairs has offered us this support and it is a strong and positive note on which to start the new year. The report will be available on the CLANZ website at <http://www.clanz.co.nz>.

Wishing you all the best for the 2009.

Sunita and Mary