

Reference: Yoshiko Uchida. *Journey to Topaz*. Yamaguchi Shoten.

More information on SIETAR available from: Yumiko Kiguchi, Yamasaki High School, 9-1453-1, Yamasaki-cho, Machida, Tokyo. 194-01. Tel: 0427-92-2891; Fax: 0427-94-0440.

LIOJ Thailand-Japan Team Teaching Exchange

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This summer, Japanese teachers of English (JTEs) will be paired with Thai teachers of English (TTEs) in a two week homestay and team teaching exchange program in Thailand. JTE participants will also have the opportunity to host a homestay for the same Thai teacher and team teach together in their own schools in Japan in October.

This program represents a new kind of team teaching for Thailand and Japan. First, there is no native speaker of English in the partnership. The TTE and JTE can demonstrate, and students can use, English as a truly international language. Teachers may, upon mutual agreement, arrange to team teach a simple Japanese lesson for Thai students, or a Thai lesson for Japanese students, thereby giving each teacher the chance to play the role of a native speaker in the team taught classroom. Second, because of the short-term nature of the program and relative freedom in scheduling, teachers can design interesting lessons for team teaching without relying heavily on curriculum items. Classes can make the most of the unique Thai-Japanese partnership.

The goals of the Thailand/Japan Team Teaching Exchange are as follows:

1. to foster among Japanese and Thai participants a greater awareness of the education, culture and language of each other's country;
2. to provide participants with alternative perspectives on Thai and Japanese societies thereby breaking down existing stereotypes of Japan and Thailand and the people of both countries;

3. to encourage the use of English as a means for promoting international understanding and goodwill between Japanese and Thais;
4. to promote professional development among participants by encouraging the exchange of ideas and techniques in the field of communicative language teaching;
5. to provide the opportunity for participants to share their perspectives as non-native English teachers;
6. to introduce TTEs to the team teaching approach and to provide the opportunity for JTEs to experience team teaching from the perspective of the visiting teacher;
7. to provide the opportunity for JTEs and TTEs to team teach together and host each other in their homes.

The program, run by the Language Institute of Japan (LIOJ) and Srinakharinwirot University (SWU), includes an English-only orientation for JTEs in Odawara, and a similar orientation for TTEs in Bangkok prior to the JTEs' departure for Thailand. During their orientation session, JTE participants will explore issues in team teaching. Thai language lessons will also be conducted using an interactive approach to team teaching. There will also be an introduction to Thai culture and education. JTEs will also have the opportunity to prepare English presentations for Japanese culture classes.

Teachers interested in learning more about this project should contact: Thailand/Japan Team Teaching Exchange, LIOJ-Asia Centre. 4-14-1 Shiroyama, Odawara, Kanagawa. 250. Tel: 0465-23-1677; 0465-23-1688.

*** Regional Reports ***

A Brief Look at AJET and Team Teaching in Aomori

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From April 1990-1991 I served as the AJET Prefectural Representative for Aomori Prefecture. Immediately following this appointment, I was