

What a Great International Summer Workshop!

by *Sutthirat Srisathian*

As soon as I heard that I had won the scholarship of Thai TESOL to attend the international summer workshop at LIOJ (Language Institute of Japan) in Japan, I felt extremely excited because I had never thought before that I could have got this invaluable opportunity; moreover, I felt so proud because in that summer

workshop I acted as a representative of Thai TESOL to present my own work which was selected by the Scholarship Selection Committee at the 13th Annual Thai TESOL Convention.

The workshop at LIOJ was similar to our convention in that it was given for the main purpose of helping enhance the English teacher's abilities in teaching English as a second or foreign language. It was the international summer workshop for English teachers, so it is not surprising that a lot of famous guest speakers from overseas were invited to attend together with their interesting presentation. For example, Alan Maley, a senior Fellow at the National University of Singapore, who used to work for the British Council and be Director General of the Bell Educational Trust. In this workshop---he gave a presentation on "Repetition Re-examined, Ten Generalizable Procedures for Materials Development". Victoria Kimbrough, a freelance ESL materials writer and consultant and coordinator of the English Language Teaching Certificate programme at the



"Sutthirat with Dr. Sumako Kimizuka, a founder of the LIOJ workshop, at the International Night"



"Sutthirat with Alan Maley in front of ASIA CENTER"

new school for social research, made a presentation on "Games-Learning and Having Fun" and "Using Authentic Video Material". Alex Sharma from Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec presented something on "Challenges of Inter-cultural Education, Self-development for Teachers". I had a chance to exchange my ideas about methodologies in teaching English as a second or foreign language and discuss other interesting topics with Japanese teachers from junior and senior high schools in Japan and with teachers of English from other countries such as from Hongkong, South Korea, and the Philippines.

All of the participants attending the workshop were required to use English to communicate to the others and I found that everyone followed this regulation exactly. When the Japanese met they used English to communicate. During the workshop everyone had to attend one of the "Regular Language or Special Focus" classes taught by LIOJ staff from 8.45-11.45/



"Sutthirat with Masabido Shibusawa (right), Executive Director, MRA Foundation"

9.00-12.00 and also attend the classes presented by featured speakers and by international scholars from 1.30-8.30. From attending the classes I obtained a lot of ideas about teaching English in Communicative ways; for example, how to use team teaching in the classroom which I think is worthwhile for primary or secondary school teachers of English with limited experience. This was presented by Jim Kahny and

Mary Ann Maynard.

This year LIOJ held a special event-"An International Night" where participants were asked to bring some items from home which could be used to introduce their countries to the workshop participants. It was a great night. Some of the participants demonstrated folk dance and some of them demonstrated how to cook their national dishes. I would like to express, **my gratitude to Thai TESOL and LIOJ** for giving this chance to me.

I am sure that if you attend the international summer workshop organized by LIOJ, you will be able to gain invaluable experience from it. This can happen if you send your abstract for a presentation to Thai TESOL. LIOJ are looking forward to seeing you.



During Thai TESOL's 13th Annual Convention in January 1993, Mrs Mayuree Asawapoom, a teacher of Naree Nukul School, Ubon Ratchabani was awarded one of the A.U.A scholarships to study an Intensive Course at A.U.A, Bangkok. She successfully finished the course and got the certificates as shown above

Thai TESOL would like to express its sincere thanks to A.U.A for the scholarships and also for its continuous support for Thai TESOL!