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31st International Summer Workshop for Teachers of English, Japan.

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Puan Harbans was offered a scholarship to attend this workshop from 6 - 14 August 1999. The Language Institute of Japan, (LIOJ) which sponsored her trip, organized the workshop. She represented MELTA and was one of the six Asian scholars. This workshop has been an annual event since 1968 and this is the first time Malaysia has been given the honor to attend.

According to Puan Harbans, the workshop was "very inspiring, informative and educational". She presented two papers; "The Teaching of English in the Malaysian Context" and "The Use of Activities to Enhance Vocabulary". Among the presenters were prominent writers such as Alan Maley, Kathleen Kitao, Peter Watcyn-Jones, and Kathleen Graves.

Morning classes were held for the whole week. A wide variety of practical ideas and activities were shared. In total, there were 50 presentations. The highlight of the workshop was International Night which was attended by 75 Japanese teachers of English as well as foreign guest speakers. Booths exhibited interesting aspects of global cultures, performances and exciting places to visit. Puan Harbans manned the Malaysian booth which had a rich display of posters, and travel advertisements.

The pictures below show Puan Harbans with her Japanese hosts (1) with Kip Cates (2) and her Morning Class Group (3).



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The latest edition of englishtown.com (the free community for ESL students and teachers) is up and running beautifully. In the Countdown to the Year 2000 feature, there is a set of 5 awardwinning EF Millennium lessons you can download. These consist of 5 short extracts with questions for follow-up class discussion. On the teachers page, you will find guides for locating jobs, class email projects, language learning products, daily lesson materials, hosted chats, games, pen-pal listings and so forth. You are welcome to submit reviews, ideas or new listings and share the resources with your students and colleagues. The site is sponsored by EF <www.ef.com> and participation is free.

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Learning English - The international newsletter about learning English with BBC World Service

Learning English November 1999 issue 2 is out. It is loaded with articles, ideas and provides language teachers with useful support in the form of teachers' guides. There are at the moment, 1,000 + members in the BBC-ELT email discussion group. Why not encourage your students to join the network?

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Demo extract from The Internet and ELT by David Eastment

David Eastment's book has been highly recommended as a teacher training text for IT and ELT. The book addresses pertinent key issues of teacher training in this digital age. A 'demo' extract from the book can be downloaded free of charge from the publisher's website:

<http://www.summertown.co.uk>
You can also check out price quotations for the book and digital book from the website.