

Project Title : Hong Kong Continuing Professional Development Hub (HKCPD Hub)

Leading University : The University of Hong Kong

Participating UGC-funded University(ies) : City University of Hong Kong, The Education University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Project Leader(s) : Dr Lillian L C WONG, Senior Lecturer and Chair of Research and Professional Development Committee, Centre for Applied English Studies, Faculty of Arts, The University of Hong Kong

Summary of Proposal

This proposal is for a collaborative project among five English Language Centres in Hong Kong universities to develop a Hong Kong Continuing Professional Development Hub (HKCPD Hub) to strengthen English teaching efforts and improve student learning outcomes. The HKCPD Hub will provide a framework for English teachers in the Hong Kong tertiary sector to engage in communities of practice and professional learning, to collaborate and share expertise. The HKCPD Hub will organize and encourage continuing professional development activities including seminars, forums, workshops, symposia and an international conference. Local scholars and international experts will be invited to conduct workshops and lead seminars on innovation in English teaching and research. Colleagues from different English Language Centres will also share best practices and research findings in English teaching and learning.

A HKCPD Hub dedicated website will be created to provide an online community to support English Language Centre colleagues' continuing professional development needs and interests. The website will showcase best practices and innovative projects as well as share resources. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in key areas of English language teaching and learning will be formed to offer collaborative communities of practice for colleagues to share insights and best practices, exchange ideas and knowledge, solicit professional development support and work on projects together to explore innovation in English teaching and learning.

This project is important because it will provide a systematic and supportive framework for continuing professional development that fosters active participation of English Language Centre colleagues across institutions in learning, discussion, sharing, collaboration and contribution for the advancement of English teaching and learning in Hong Kong universities.

Summary of Final Report

The Hong Kong Continuing Professional Development Hub (HKCPD Hub), a collaborative project among five Hong Kong universities led by The University of Hong Kong, has successfully attained its goal in providing a framework of communities of practice to promote collaboration and sharing of expertise among language centres in Hong Kong universities to strengthen professional development of university English language teachers. Through various *activities* which have generated fruitful *outcomes*, the Hub has accomplished its *objectives*, hence exerting *impacts* on higher education.

Colleagues from different language centres met regularly to discuss and explore critical issues in English teaching, learning and research. The activities and events examined and shared best practices and innovation in pedagogy, teaching and research, curriculum development, instructional technologies, and assessment practices in English for Academic Purposes/English for Special Purposes contexts. The innovative, practical, timely and research-grounded topics in different areas of interest have informed teaching and research. To promote interest-specific exploration, five Communities have also been established for colleagues with similar interests in teaching and/or research to network, learn, mentor and collaborate. They have led colloquia and developed websites for in-depth sharing and discussions.

In total, 57 events (17 seminars/webinars, 13 workshops, 4 colloquia, 20 sharing and discussion sessions, 2 symposia and 1 virtual international conference) were organised to foster active engagement of colleagues in learning, sharing and contribution. Both face-to-face and online events offered ample opportunities for sharing expertise, discussing practices, exchanging knowledge, networking, and exploring collaboration opportunities. These events brought together 493 local and international presenters to showcase new ideas, practices and research. The abundant sharing and discussion opportunities engaged 3 045 participants from Hong Kong and around the world.

The HKCPD Hub websites and social media have encouraged and facilitated the sharing of resources, ideas, practices and projects among many local and international

teachers. Interinstitutional projects have emerged from close interaction and sharing of expertise among language centres. The edited book, *Best practices in English teaching and learning in higher education: Lessons from Hong Kong for global practice*, to be published by Routledge, is a pioneering outcome contributed by over 30 colleagues from across Hong Kong universities.

The HKCPD Hub has promoted sharing of expertise, collaboration, and networking among language centres across the eight UGC-funded universities and beyond. The innovation and practices shared have refined and reformed English teaching, learning and research in higher education. By actively developing teaching competence and scholarship, university English language teachers' professional development has been sustained and strengthened.