

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE INSPECTOR FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION, SOUTHERN REGION

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Distinguished speakers from home and abroad, the ETAI Conference Convening Committee, fellow inspectors from the Ministry of Education, presenters and, of course, participating teachers and student teachers: Kindly allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Tziona Levy on her recent appointment as Chief Inspector for English Language Instruction in Israel. I wish Tziona every success and know that her varied teaching experience coupled with her rich research background will ensure this. I would also like to thank the Ashkelon Pisga for their help in organizing the gmul that teachers attending the entire conference and completing an assignment will receive.

As the Southern Region Inspector of English for the Ministry of Education, I have the privilege of making the closing address at this outstanding International ETAI conference. I believe this is the first time the international conference is being held in the South and this is definitely a milestone event. Thank you, Eleanor, Leo, Michele, Susan, Mitzi and other ETAI volunteers. I greatly appreciate and admire the dedication and hard work that has gone into making these three days exceptional, and I mean truly exceptional; you have certainly “engaged, enhanced and energized” the attendees by offering such a plethora of lectures, forums, workshops and various other activities all designed to assist teachers in their quest to advance and promote students in their study of English and to become global citizens of the 21st century.

During these three days, our knowledge of new and slightly less new technology that enhances classroom teaching has expanded to further attract and engage students in the process of learning English. Other discussions have included traditionally tried and tested ways to facilitate and enable our students to ameliorate their second language skills. Cooperation, as well as contextualization and meaningfulness continue to be key elements throughout the language acquisition process.

Yet the human touch in education cannot be overlooked and I believe that nothing can replace it. Face-to-face meetings and the coming together of professionals to exchange ideas and strategies, like at this conference, is even more important in this digital age when it has become so easy to sit in front of a screen and search “the net” for answers. Even more so the human experience and the personal touch that a teacher offers her pupils are the cornerstone of a well-rounded education based on infusing a pupil with the self-esteem and self-confidence needed to become competent in a foreign language.

So ETAI, thank you for providing the lovely venue, the enlightening program and engaging opportunity to enhance face-to-face learning in an enjoyable social environment.

Wishing you all a most restful summer vacation and thank you all for attending the conference.

I just wanted to say that I very much enjoyed the conference.

I had a group of 14 teachers to discuss special needs in my “unworkshop.” We all shared our backgrounds and I set up an email list. We have already started to send each other material.

Because it was a discussion there was not much to share. I sent the group a chart of accommodations for students with special educational needs.

Again, yaasher koach gadol,
Sharon

