

**PanSIG 2017**

Akita International University, Akita, May 19-21, 2017

<http://www.pansig.org/>

This year's Learner Development SIG forum gives participants a chance to expand their interests by focusing on a variety of topics related to student development. Focusing both on research and practice-based topics, the forum will highlight different aspects of autonomous learning, visual metaphors, meta-cognitive strategies and important non-cognitive factors in learning. Timed rounds of interactive presentations will be followed by a discussion circle, giving participants the opportunity to synthesize the information from the presentations with their own experiences assisting learner growth.

PanSIG 2017 LD Forum Presenters:

Arnold Arao, *Non-cognitive Factors in Student Development*Daniel Hooper, *Testing the waters: Gauging the viability of autonomous language learning in an eikaiwa*Robert Morel, *Student Responses to Learning Strategy Instruction*Matthew Porter, *Collaborative Reflection Using a Visual Metaphor***JALTCALL 2017**

Matsuyama University, Matsuyama, Shikoku, June 16-18, 2017

The theme for this year's conference is "Active Learning through CALL." Active learning is an essential part of language learning. JALTCALL 2017 will focus on how educational technology can encourage learners to take a more effective role in their study both inside and outside the classroom.

<http://conference2017.jaltcall.org/>**JALT 2017**

Epochal Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, November 17-20, 2017

This year's conference theme addresses the vital need for foreign language skills in our multicultural world and the special mission of classroom instructors to prepare students to survive and thrive in a global age. The theme highlights the increased contact that our learners have with foreign tourists, residents and co-workers from around the globe, the new communication technologies that enhance borderless language learning, and the need for language instructors to "think globally, teach locally."

<http://jalt.org/conference>

GET TOGETHERS

Tokyo Sunday, May 28, 2017

Rikkyo University (Ikebukuro campus), Building 7, Room 7204, 14:00-17:00

The Tokyo get-togethers aim to provide a flexible, supportive, and convivial environment for exploring learner development according to people's particular interests and concerns. At the May get-together we will be continuing to explore learner development interests, puzzles, and issues, as well as developing more specific plans together. You are always very welcome to join us (no worries if this is your first get-together of the year!). We welcome the participation of teachers from diverse teaching contexts—including elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, university, distance learning & graduate studies, and language school settings—and teachers teaching languages other than English.

Please check out more information about the event on our LD webpage: <http://ld-sig.org/tokyo-get-togethers/> . Feel free to contact the get-together organisers (Andy Barfield, Ian Hurrell, and Jenny Morgan) at ldsigtokyogettogethers@gmail.com .

Kansai Sunday, May 28, 2017

Sunday, May 28, 2017

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Sunday, July 23, 2017

For further information please contact Agnes Patko at ldkansaigettogethers@gmail.com

Hiroshima (Dates to be decided)

Hiroshima's Learner Development Get-togethers meet eight or nine times a year, every one or two months. One important role of our get-togethers is to support and promote teacher development, providing a sounding board, listening ear, and other sources of encouragement for each other. In the past year, quite a few teachers have joined us for the first time and some, thankfully, have gone on to become involved in roles within the LD Sig beyond local gatherings, including writing projects, grant applications, and LD-focused presentations.

While we have an active mailing list of about 20 people, our get-togethers are typically much smaller affairs where members share experiences and practices related to teacher and learner development. We often see many new faces at our gatherings, which sometimes makes it feel that every time is the first time! As such, it gives us a good opportunity to consider afresh both what learner development is and the roles that our get-togethers may play. On the other hand, the development of longer term projects has seemed hampered by this lack of continuity, and so far there has been no concerted effort (by me!) to work out the best way to proceed. Writing now, it seems clear that just as many other parts of the LD SIG are conducted very successfully without the luxury of regular face-to-face contact, longer term projects for the Hiroshima group, including plans for working on future publications, may be best conducted via email, Google Docs, or other such tools. This will involve more work, more time on the computer for more people—but it will also give more of us chances to be actively involved in working together on LD SIG-related projects. The next step, then, hopefully started by the time this is published, is to invite one or two people to be part of a Hiroshima LD Get-together planning committee. If you are interested, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact Jim Ronald, at jmronald@gmail.com and I will be more than happy to tell you more.