

Getting Connected: つながりを求めて：東京

Tokyo Get-together Report

Ian Hurrell, Ken Ikeda, and James Underwood

For 2019 we aim to build on the momentum of 2018. As we have noticed a considerable drop in attendance, we have been trying to raise this by publicising the get-togethers on Facebook and Twitter. Many thanks to Gretchen for doing this and Hugh for updating the website. In the emails that we have sent out this year, we asked those attending to share a poster advertising the event with interested colleagues. We have also encouraged LD SIG members who are presenting this year at the many conferences to share their presentations informally. Another idea that was raised is to recruit a group of get-together core members. This idea is very tentative but as a core member, they will commit to join every get together, spread the word about upcoming events and encourage others to join and also bring issues to discuss. If you are interested in sharing your ideas, please get in contact!

So far three get-togethers have been held this year. In the first get-together that took place on January 21st, 4 people attended (Ian Hurrell, James Underwood, Ken Ikeda, Kio Iwai and Koki Tomita). For this we worked out the schedule for the get-togethers and brainstormed ways to increase participation. In the second get-together that was held on April 21st, 9 people attended (Blair Barr, Ian Hurrell, Colin Rundle, James Underwood, Ken Ikeda, Kio Iwai, Rob Morel, Sandy Chong (her first), and Tim Ashwell,) and we spent the first

half catching up with members as well as sharing our interests related to learner development in small groups. Then Blair Barr introduced "Active Learning" as the theme for the LD SIG forum at the JALT national conference. Following on from that, in the second half of the get-together, we focused on "Active Learning" as a whole group and discussed the relationship between it and learner development. In the third get-together that was held on May 26th, 4 people attended (Ian Hurrell, Ken Ikeda, Kio Iwai, and Natacha Sakamoto) and we shared each of our concerns on how to enable our students to develop as learners by expressing their opinions through their values, peer editing, communicative skills and helping students to develop their own Englishes.

In the next get-together that will be held on June 23rd, we will plan to hold a workshop on Active Learning in the second half of the get-together. In this hands-on workshop, we aim to first familiarise attendees with the key concepts of active learning before exploring the connections between it and learner development and offering various activities that can be applied to our classrooms.

Following on from this, there will be three more get-togethers that will be held on September 29th, October 27th and November 24th. In addition to these, we may hold the next Creating Community: Learning Together conference in December depending on the levels of attendance in the coming get-togethers.