

Eighth EALTA Annual General Meeting
Saturday, 7 May 2011 – 16:00
Università per Stranieri di Siena, Siena, Italy

Present: Conference participants who are Individual and Associate members of EALTA – European Association for Language Testing and Assessment.

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes from the 2010 AGM
3. President's report on EALTA activities and progress in 2010
4. Membership Committee report
5. Presentation of EALTA accounts for 2010
6. Appointment of the auditor for 2011
7. Appointment of a nomination group for the elections 2012 (EALTA Secretary and EALTA Treasurer)
8. 2012 Conference venue and dates
9. Date of the next Annual General Meeting
10. Discussion about EALTA membership, publications and policy issues
11. AOB

The meeting was called to order by John H.A.L. De Jong (JdJ), President of EALTA.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The suggested agenda for the Meeting was approved. Two additional issues (AOBs) were announced (see item 11).

2. Approval of minutes from the 2010 AGM

Since no changes or clarifications were requested, the minutes from the Annual General Meeting 2010 were approved.

3-5. President's and Executive Committee's report on EALTA activities and progress in 2010

- JDJ commented on the 2011 conference, attended by more than 300 people, and thanked Monica Barni (MB) and her team at the Università per Stranieri di Siena, and Claudia Becceroni (CB), Trinity Italy, for excellent preparation and hosting of the event. He also expressed EALTA's gratitude to the sponsors for their support (*Università per Stranieri di Siena, Trinity, Banfi, British Council, Cambridge Michigan Language Assessments, ECML, ETS, Guerra Edizioni, Hellenic American Union, IELTS, Pearson, TestDaF, Terre di Siena and University of Gothenburg*). Moreover, JdJ acknowledged the generous contributions of the pre-conference workshop leaders (Claudia Harsch, Sauli Takala & Neus Figueras, Carla Bagni & Sabrina Machetti) and the three invited keynote speakers (Alan Davies, Wim van der Linden and Elana Shohamy).
- JdJ reported on a very high number of proposals for the 2011 conference. The fact that many proposals had to be turned down may lead to changes to future programmes, so that the number of sessions can be increased.
- 2010 was a very active year for EALTA with a number of events, which were briefly presented (further information and materials to be found on the EALTA website/Resources, <http://www.ealta.eu.org/resources.htm#Events>)

Neus Figueras (NF) reported on EALTA's first Summer School, held at York University, the Norwegian Study Centre, 28 June to 2 July 2010. The Summer School was attended by fifteen participants from nine countries, representing EALTA's three main membership categories: teachers, teacher educators and test developers/researchers. The theme was *Good Practice in Language Testing and Assessment: An educational perspective*, and the activities were coordinated by Angela Hasselgreen and NF.

NF also reported on the joint IATEFL/EALTA conference in Barcelona 29-30 October 2010 with the theme *Putting the CEFR to Good Use*. Conference proceedings will be published on the IATEFL and EALTA websites during the summer of 2011.

Short reports were given from two conferences organized by two of EALTA's Special Interest Groups (SIGs), one focusing on Classroom-Based Language Assessment, one on the assessment of Writing.

JdJ reported that EALTA currently has four active Special Interest Groups, with a fifth to be launched during the summer of 2011. A special link for SIGs has been included on the EALTA website. The groups are the following (coordinators' names and e-mail addresses included):

Classroom-based Language Assessment

Dina Tsagari, University of Cyprus (tsagari.konstantia@ucy.ac.cy)

Assessing Writing

Claudia Harsch, University of Warwick, UK (C.Harsch@warwick.ac.uk)

Translation and Interpretation

Roelof van Deemter, Leiden University, The Netherlands
(R.van.Deemter@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

Language testing in the military

Ülle Türk, University of Tartu, Estonia (ulle.turk@ut.ee)

To be launched during the summer of 2011

Academic purposes

Peter Holt, Sabanci University, Turkey (pholt@sabanciuniv.edu)

In accordance with a decision made at the 2010 AGM, meetings were held in all SIGs on Thursday afternoon May 5, before the opening of the EALTA conference. Warm thanks were conveyed to the SIG leaders for organising these meetings.

- Gudrun Erickson (GE) reported briefly on a meeting of the Professional Network Forum at the European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz, held in January 2011 (information at www.ecml.at). The short presentation of EALTA used during the meeting has been placed on <http://www.ealta.eu.org/resources.htm> and will be updated annually.
- Between the 2010 and 2011 Annual General Meetings the EALTA Membership Committee received 2 inquiries and 1 application for Expert Membership; the application was approved. Concerning Institutional Membership, there were 14 inquiries and 9 applications, of which 6 were successful.

The EALTA membership numbers at the time of the conference were the following, with the corresponding numbers for the previous year in parentheses:

Individual members: 1 324 / 40 countries (1 068/41)

Associate members: 161 / 34 countries (120/29)

Expert members: 16 / 7 countries (16/7)
Institutional members: 55 / 18 countries (52/18)

As compared to last year's numbers, this means an increase of 256 Individual, 41 Associate and 3 Institutional members.

- EALTA's Treasurer Nigel Downey (ND) reported on the EALTA accounts for 2010 (balance sheet included in the AGM papers, verified by the 2010 EALTA Auditor, Ildikó Csépes). ND commented briefly on incomes and expenditures (the latter almost exclusively related to different EALTA events during 2010) and the balance in the EALTA bank account on 31 December 2010: 30,538.44 Euros. The accounts were approved by the AGM.
6. **Appointment of the auditor for 2011**
The meeting approved the appointment of Monica Barni as the auditor for 2011. JDJ thanked MB for accepting the task.
 7. **Appointment of a nomination group**
A Nomination Group was appointed to prepare for the 2012 elections (EALTA Secretary and EALTA Treasurer). The group will have three members, namely Norman Verhelst (Chair), Eli Moe and Peter Holt. The group will contact the membership in good time before the elections that will take place during the 2012 AGM.
 8. **2012 Conference venue and dates**
The 2012 EALTA Conference will take place on 31 May to 3 June in Innsbruck, Austria, with pre-conference activities scheduled for 29-31 May and a welcome reception for the evening of Thursday 31 May. The conference host and venue will be the University of Innsbruck. Carol Spoettl and her organizing team gave a short welcome address. Further information about the conference will be given in due course, via the EALTA website and electronic membership list.

JDJ encouraged proposals to the Executive Committee for future conference venues and organisation.
 9. **Date of the next Annual General Meeting**
The next AGM will be held during the 2012 EALTA conference at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, on Saturday 2 June.
 10. **Discussion about EALTA membership, publications and policy issues**
After a short discussion about various EALTA issues that need to be analysed, the following two groups were set up:
Membership issues (chaired by Sauli Takala)
EALTA has been in existence for seven years and the association is growing fast. Due to this there is a need to look into a number of membership issues. The range of issues is wide, comprising for example rules and criteria for Institutional and Expert membership as well as questions about membership fees and special rights for members.
ST will contact members to discuss these issues and report back to the AGM in Innsbruck 2012.
Policy Issues (chaired by Neus Figueras)
Over the past year there have been lively discussions in the language testing community about the responsibility of professional organizations to guide test users

and to serve the community at large with their expertise. Test users have queries about tests, their appropriateness for particular purposes or the robustness of assertions from test providers. One possibility that has been suggested is that test providers voluntarily submit their products to a professional organization to obtain reviewing of claims they make about their products. Whether or not EALTA should take on such responsibility is a matter of policy.

NF will form a committee and report back to the AGM in Innsbruck 2012.

Reports on uses of the GGP

Angela Hasselgreen has agreed to receive and send on studies by members reporting on usage or applications of the EALTA Guidelines for Good Practice to two Expert Members, who will evaluate the suitability of the reports for inclusion on the EALTA GGP website.

The Executive Committee and the participants at the AGM thanked Sauli Takala, Neus Figueras and Angela Hasselgreen for their willingness to take on the different tasks.

11. Any Other Business

Plans for an EALTA Summer School 2012

A second EALTA Summer School is planned for 2012. The tentative theme is *Good Practice in Language Testing and Assessment: A Psychometric Perspective*. The venue will be the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and the preliminary time the first half of August. Information will be published on the EALTA list and website during the autumn of 2011.

Change of EALTA Treasurer

Due to new tax and banking regulations in Greece, Nigel Downey has advised the Executive committee to move the EALTA account out of Greece. Tony Green at University of Bedfordshire, UK, has agreed to take over the task of Treasurer until the AGM in Innsbruck in 2012, when regular elections will be held. The Executive committee and the participants at the AGM thanked Nigel Downey for his services between 2009 and 2011, and Tony Green for his willingness to step in as interim Treasurer until the next AGM.

Between the 2011 and 2012 AGMs, the EALTA Executive Committee will have the following members:

John de Jong – *President*

Guðrun Erickson – *Secretary*

Tony Green – *Treasurer (ad interim)*

Claudia Beccheroni – *2011 Conference organiser representative*

Carol Spoettl – *2012 Conference organiser representative*

Angela Hasselgreen – *Chair of the Membership Committee*

12. Closing of the AGM

Before the closing of the AGM, the Executive Committee and the participants at the meeting expressed their gratitude to Evelyn Reichard, 2010 Conference Organizer, and Ildikó Csépes, Auditor 2011, for their work for EALTA.