



# news

## For Immediate Release

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## TESOL International Association and the U.S. Department of State Join Efforts to Aid English Language Teaching Worldwide

Alexandria, Va., and Washington, DC (14 November 2011)—TESOL International Association (TESOL) and the U.S. Department of State announce a joint effort to connect teachers and resources in the United States with English language teaching (ELT) needs and opportunities outside the United States. The goal of the partnership is to utilize each institution's vast networks, expertise, and international resources to respond to the global demand for English language teaching and learning.

The partnership will focus primarily on building a multi-sector consortium focused on ELT, led by TESOL and the U.S. Department of State. With support from academic institutions, non-government organizations, private sector businesses, and other U.S. government agencies, this initiative seeks to:

- Provide quality information and networking opportunities for individuals and organizations in countries with growing needs for English language teaching and interest in accessing ELT expertise and cultural resources from the United States;
- Support the efforts of ELT institutions outside the United States in their pursuit of domestic strategies that promote effective English language learning and capacity building;
- Work in coordination with U.S. companies, universities, publishers, and other ELT stakeholders to enhance their international outreach and operations; and
- Expand countries' access to U.S.-based English language resources and expertise.

The initial consortium of U.S.-based groups will seek to extend collaboration with international organizations. Additional members can support the consortium and leverage resources to aid and advance ELT globally.

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*About the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State*

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries to promote friendly, and peaceful relations, as mandated by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961. ECA accomplishes its mission through a range of programs based on the benefits of mutual understanding, international educational and cultural exchange, and leadership development. We engage youth, students, educators, artists, athletes, and rising leaders in many fields in the United States and more than 160 countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges. Striving to reflect the diversity of the United States and global society, ECA programs, funding, and other activities encourage the involvement of American and international participants from traditionally underrepresented groups, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities.

*About TESOL International Association*

Founded in 1966, TESOL International Association (TESOL) is a professional community of educators, researchers, administrators and students committed to advancing excellence in English language teaching for speakers of other languages worldwide. With more than 12,000 members representing 156 countries, TESOL fosters the exchange of ideas, research and peer-to-peer knowledge, and provides expertise, resources, and a powerful voice on issues affecting the profession. Through professional development programs, its international conference, special interest groups, and publications, TESOL engages tens of thousands of professionals to collaborate globally and create a world of opportunity for millions of people of all ages who want to learn English.