

English In Georgia



September-October
2007
ISSUE N° 59

ETAG is an associate of IATEFL and an affiliate of TESOL

New Pre-Service Textbook for Teachers-to-be

RUSUDAN TKEMALADZE
British Council ELT development manager

British Council together with ETAG and Ilia Chavchavadze State University is coordinating the project: "A pre-service Teacher Training Course for Higher Education". The outcome of the project

The outcome of the project will be a full university course in theoretical and practical methodology.

will be a full university course in theoretical and practical methodology. The practical part of the course (developing classroom observation sheets) will be implemented in schools N 43 and 53. School teachers Katie Gedevanishvili and Marika Darchia together with six 4th year students and Barrie Watson, the consultant, will be working together to create materials for practicing teachers as well as for those students who have one year school practice. ETAG newsletter will further report on the development of the project.



Analysing the results of piloting of the methodological course-book

CONGRATULATIONS

to the ETAG new heads:

Marina Chalauri in Gori,
Maia Abdelani in Telavi
and Nelly Kukhaleishvili in
Batumi

Let's wish them a high
productivity and a great
success!

Editorial

Dear teachers,

Congratulations with the beginning of the new school year. May this year bring new and interesting experience to you and let it be walked through hand in hand with ETAG. We have three new branch heads in Gori, Telavi and Batumi. In this issue you will read about the updates on ETAG projects, training courses, branch news as usual and teaching business English. We have some funny jokes on page 4 for you to relax and crack a smile after a long day. Good Reading!

*Tamuna Mardaleishvili
Editor-in-Chief*

Contents

New pre-service textbook for teachers-to-be 1

The new US Public Affairs Officer visits ETAG.....1

Trainings at ETAG.....2

ETAG Branches make difference.....2

Teaching business English a daunting experience 3

Case Studies in Business English 4

Have FUN with English.....4

The New US Public Affairs Officer Visits ETAG



On Tuesday, 9 October, ETAG officially welcomed the U. S. Embassy's new Public Affairs Officer (PAO), Cynthia Whittlesey to Georgia. Rusiko Tkemaladze, ETAG's national director, explained the

organization's mission statement, its active role in the professional development of English teaching throughout Georgia, its current membership of over 700 Georgian professionals and some of the goals it hopes to achieve in 2007-2008. Cynthia, with her PA assistant Sophie Bzishvili, spoke of the ongoing cooperation and assistance the embassy will provide for ETAG to accomplish its aims.

Also, in attendance were ETAG's Tbilisi head, Nana Shavishvili, ETAG manager Tsisana Tsiskaridze, ETAG trainer Manana Rusieshvili, head of English department Rusiko Enukidze and English Fellow John Scafidi.

Trainings at ETAG

Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT)

ETAG and British Council have developed a new 20 hrs. in-service teacher training course in Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT). Train the Trainer Course will take place on November 17, 18, 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 15.30 p.m. in Tbilisi ETAG office. The to-be-trainers of the course should be either school teachers or those who conduct methodology courses of the universities. A 20-hour NQT in-service training course is for all who wants to develop and grow. It aims to honor the teacher you are and help you to become the teacher you want to be.

Third Wave of TKT (Cambridge Test for English Teachers)

A preparation course for British Council-ETAG joint project Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT) starts on 3 November and will run until 1 Dec 2007.

40 Hour Training Course

ETAG also makes an announcement on its regular 40-hour training courses to be run on 22 September-23 December 2007. These courses are available to all ETAG members.

Business English (BE)

22, 23, 29, 30 Sep 10.00-15-30
6, 7, 13, 14 Oct 10.00-15.30

Modern English Language Teaching (MELT)

6,7,13,14 Oct 10.00-15-30
20,21,27,28 Oct 10.00-15-30

Developing Writing Skills (DWS)

3,4,10,11 Nov 10.00-15-30
17,18,24, 25 Nov 10.00-15-30

Language Development for English Language Teachers (LDELTA)

1, 2, 8, 9 Dec 10.00-15-30
15,16,21,22,23 Dec 10.00-15-30


More Learning Less Teaching (MLLT)

1, 2, 8, 9 Dec 10.00-15-30
15,16,22,23 Dec 10.00-15-30

To book your place on any of these courses, please speak to the ETAG National Courses Coordinator: Lali Mdinardze. ETAG Central Office. Tel: 995 32 25 08 56 working days: Monday & Thursday. Working hours: 1.30 p.m.-6.00 p. m. University Bldg 5; 36 Chavchavadze Ave.


ETAG Branches make difference

Telavi


 ETAG Telavi Branch has renewed its traditional Saturday meetings from 22 September. The topics have been chosen according to the members' interests and needs.


Currently, we have 46 members and lots of new faces are eager to join us and participate in workshops and Teacher Training Courses. Our members are both from Telavi and different village schools.

Gori


 ETAG Gori renewed its Saturday meetings on 22 September. ETAG office was full of members. Everyone was glad to see each other and have chance to exchange new ideas and discuss them. After a warm opening Marina Terterovi TEA winner shared her American experiences with Gori teachers. She spoke about coursework and intensive training in teaching methodologies, curriculum writing, teaching strategies she attended.


It was encouraging for many young teachers to use the opportunity and take part in the program.


 On August 31 Marina Chalauri, ETAG Gori Head met with the Head of Gori Resource Centre Giorgi Sosiashvili. She outlined the structure of the ETAG organization, the training courses and the work it is doing to assist English teachers. Mr. Sosiashvili promised to inform newly elected school directors about ETAG and encourage their teachers to become its active members. The issue of involvement of ETAG Gori branch in Resource Centre work was also discussed. The idea seemed interesting to Giorgi Sosishvili. He mentioned that the centre is working on some projects and would apply to Gori branch for cooperation.


 Two English language schools were established in Samachablo Zone, in the villages of Achabeti and Eredvi. Four native teachers attended a 20

hour MLLT training course in ETAG Gori branch. Training was held on September 11-14 and was conducted by MLLT trainer Nana Begiashvili.

 In order to inform more teachers about ETAG activities Khashuri Resource Centre Head Manana Kapanadze and Kaspi Resource Centre Head Elza Dabrundashvili will inform local school directors about the benefits of being an ETAG member.

 Peace Corps volunteer Maritza Carmona answered the request of ETAG Gori to participate in Saturday meetings, start up a conversational English club for ETAG members, visit schools of ETAG Gori teachers and give classes to school students.

 On October 6 Nana Begiashvili conducted a meeting "Writing a Paragraph Using Contrast".

 On October 20 Nino Tlashadze spoke about the "Project Making for Intermediate Level".

Teaching Business English - a Daunting Experience?

MAYA ROGAVA

BETT course writer and coordinator

Today, the demand for Business English is greater than ever. And with the increasingly globalised world of international business, it sets to keep on growing. As a result, the teaching and learning of Business English is playing an increasingly important role in Business studies and everyday corporate life.

We all know that teachers of English sometimes find teaching Business English a daunting experience. They may be anxious about their level of knowledge of the business world, lack of specific vocabulary, and little or no experience in communication skills.

What is BETT ?

Business English Teacher Training (BETT) is the first attempt to produce a course specific to the objectives, needs and problems of Georgian teachers of English. We aim at providing the maximum support for all the teachers who are willing to challenge this exciting and demanding area of ELT.

BETT is a English for Business learning course which covers a range of common business topics and some of the useful business communication skills. It is an integrated course aiming at the following:

a) to provide practicing EFL teachers with the background knowledge to teach Business English;

b) to raise their awareness of some core business topics;

c) to extend their knowledge and practice using vocabulary, functional language around the topics;

d) to develop and practice business communication skills of writing, presentations, meetings.

By and large, BETT is a language development course. It sets out to improve the confidence of teachers in their use of Business English. It is not a course in teaching methodology, and does not aim to change the way teachers conduct learning activities in their classes. However, it is hoped that the participants will enjoy the language learning activities they experience during the course, and these will, indirectly, influence their own classroom teaching.

The approach, and the materials, used on the course are interactive and communicative, task-based and hands-on, flexible and easily adaptable. Particular emphasis is made on vocabulary needed for teachers to feel comfortable while running a Business English course themselves.

Who is BETT for?

The trainees should have at least intermediate level of English. Business English teaching experience is not required, though, if owned, can serve handy. This course is for adventurers, entrepreneurial ELT professionals who wish to expand the area of their performance.

The Trainers

The following trainers have been given official approval by Director of ETAG to conduct BETT

1. Maya Rogava (course writer and coordinator)
2. Manana Rusieshvili (course writer)
3. John Scafidì (course writer)

What has been done so far?

This summer (23-30 June, 2006) the BETT team had a wonderful chance to pilot the course with a group of 14 teachers from different regions of Georgia. Eight consecutive days, five hours plus every day, we worked with a fantastic group of teachers from Gori (1), Batumi (3), Telavi (2), Kutaisi (3), Zugdidi (2), Tbilisi (1) and Akhaltsikhe (2) in the format of Train the Trainer. The objectives were to prepare them as BE teacher trainers to afterwards teach the same course in their own regions. Based on our, course designers', and course participants' impressions and feedback the course was a success, they found it informative, useful and fun. Several co-trainers were identified and they will deliver the same course in their regions together with the course designers.

What are the plans?

We, the course designers, are proud to say that BETT course is included in the list of ETAG teacher training courses and we are planning to run it before the end of this year.

ETAG Batumi Branch has a New Head

ETAG Batumi office Head gets elected every two years. On the 15th September, 2007 meeting Batumi branch members nominated and elected their new Head, who is Nelly Kukhaleishvili, an experienced university teacher and trainer.

Before elections and nominating for the new candidate, the former Head of ETAG Batumi branch Tamar Mgeladze expressed her thanks and gratitude to all of the members who had worked hard to make ETAG promoted and contributed to ETAG development. She made a summary of the achievements, enlisted the most important and successful events that happened in ETAG and outlined the difficulties to avoid them further.

The new candidate Nelly Kukhaleishvili introduced her program to the participants. She spoke about ETAG's strategies and pointed out ETAG's priorities for the year 2007-2008: improving communications with members and current products and services or advance toward quality, increasing membership and the influence of ETAG, improving links with the educational institutions, other associations

and branches.

The candidate also presented the challenges of ETAG and shared her authority with the ETAG trainers and active members. She appointed people responsible for different things: deputy heads, media reach, monitoring TT courses, networking, ETAG promotion.

Kukhaleishvili was elected for her huge commitment to ETAG activities and to the development of the Ajara branch.

ETAG Batumi team is looking forward to successful and fruitful years with the new Head and wishes her to be strong to face many challenges.



Nelly Kukhaleishvili and Tamar Mgeladze

CASE STUDIES IN BUSINESS ENGLISH



Case studies in Business English

On 29 September Marina Tevzaia held a workshop at ETAG concerning the importance of case studies in teaching business English. The workshop was interesting for the participants as using case studies is an integral part of business English classroom, it enables learners to practice their language and communication skills via discussion of real business problems and issues. ETAG workshop participants were familiarized with certain teaching tips that help when using case studies. The second part of the workshop was dedicated to the practical application of a case study. The participants were in the role of students discussing an issue and reaching solutions.

QUOTES ABOUT TEACHING

- ✓ "Housework is a breeze. Cooking is a pleasant diversion. Putting up a retaining wall is a lark. But teaching is like climbing a mountain."
- ✓ "Example isn't another way to teach, it is the only way to teach." 'Education is the ability to meet life's situations.'
- ✓ "A teacher affects eternity; no one can tell where the influence stops."
- ✓ "Good teaching is one-fourth preparation and three-fourth theater."
- ✓ "Education is the ability to meet life's situations".

Funniest Classroom Moments

I was teaching English 7 at an elementary school. Back in those days, we still had recess and snack time. My students regularly shared snacks. One day of my students named Gerald brought peanuts for the entire class. Now, Gerald came from a very poor family, so in my mind, I was questioning--how in the world could he afford to give peanuts to the entire class. The class was busily munching when I walked over to Gerald and casually remarked, "Gerald, that was certainly nice of you to supply peanuts for the class. Where did you get them?"

Gerald happily answered, "From the dump, you can find some good stuff at that dump."

Meanwhile, the rest of my class were gagging and, needless to say, sick to their stomachs the rest of the day.

Sandra Benson, Virginia

Can you think of funny moment in your class? Please share it with us.

Send them to

etag_newsletter@yahoo.com

Let's have fun together!

ETAG Tbilisi Invites You to Traditional Saturday Meetings

Where? In ETAG central office, Tbilisi

36 Chavchavadze Ave. University 5-th Building 2nd Floor, Room 8

When? 12:30 p.m. --- 2:00 p.m

November 10	Business Across Cultures	Manana Rusieshvili
November 24	Teachers Certification Test Meeting with Resource Center Representatives	Rusiko Tkemaladze
December 8	Learning strategies	Rusiko Tsitsishvili
December 22	Merry Christmas Win Your Prize	

All teachers of English are welcome to join ETAG and attend Saturday Meetings

Mzia Khubulava, ETAG Zugdidi Head was nominated to become a TESOL member on behalf of ETAG in 2007-2008. Congratulations Mzia and do keep us in the loop of TESOL news!

Tamuna Mardaleishvili - Editor-in-chief

Eka Tkavashvili - Assistant editor

Naniko Gilauri - Assistant Editor

Rusudan Tkemaladze - Editorial advisor

Comments, suggestions and contributions to this publications should be sent at etag_newsletter@yahoo.com, or delivered to your local branch office.

ETAG Central office: Chavchavadze Ave. 36, University 5th building, 2nd floor, r. 8. Tbilisi, Georgia

Office Hours 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tel: 25 08 56 e-mail: etag.tbilisi@caucasus.net

Website: www.etag.ge