

# Etag e-Newsletter

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## 5<sup>th</sup> South Caucasus English Language teachers' Conference

*"New Educational Horizons in English Language Teaching"* was held in May 15-17 in Gudauri, a mountain resort of Georgia. The conference was sponsored by the U.S. department of State and the British Council. The conference had 98 participants, out of which 5 were speakers from the USA and 1 from the UK. Please, see the conference program attached.



## Opening Ceremony

The participants were welcomed by the representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, the British Council, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and English Teachers' Associations in South Caucasus.



## Getting to know each other

*Thomas Santos*, Regional English Language Officer, U.S. Department of State conducted warm up activities encouraging the conference participants to get acquainted with each other. Everyone in the Conference Hall was involved in the activities and had fun.



**Plenary:**  
*Tapping the power of the web for English Language*

Sean Conley, U.S. Department of State keynote speaker held a session on how to integrate technology into language teaching and how the web can be integrated into listening classes. The speaker presented the web-based resources that can be used to help students improve their writing. Thus, the session explored practical ways to take advantage of web-based materials and web-based technologies that can be integrated into a curriculum or individual classes in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.



**Plenary:**  
*Breaking bad habits without breaking Spirits*

Jennifer M. Herrin, English Language Specialist, U.S. Department of State presented several ways to help students draw attention to their mistakes. "We want our students to be fluent, so we strive to create interesting meaning-focused activities for them to practice real-world language", she says.



**Plenary:**  
*The International Language Assessment:  
Developing a new placement test for the British Council*

Susan Sheehan, Manager of Learning and Teaching at British Council spoke about a new placement test, the International Language Assessment (ILA), that has recently been launched by the British Council. The speaker described how the ILA was developed and then broadened the discussion concerning the increasing importance of testing to English Language teaching and beyond.



**Donations by U.S. Embassy**

On the closing ceremony of the Conference donations were made by U.S. Embassy in Georgia. Personal computers were presented to the English Teachers' Associations of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan for their productive work.



## Raffle

The last stage of the closing ceremony was a raffle. The participants of the conference were given *donations made by: the English Book in Georgia and CAC Books* representatives.



## Good-bye until the Next Conference

The three days of the Conference and productive seminars passed very quickly and all of us had to leave the professional and friendly environment and return to our home countries to share the gained experience and impressions to our colleagues and students.

Below are some photos depicting the working process during the seminars:





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*ETAG is taking summer holidays and will be renewing Saturday meetings in September 26.*

*Wish you spending wonderful summer time!!!*

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