



**Balsamo Outreach for Learning and Teaching**  
*Co-Editors: Peter J. Wanner , Magnolia K. Wanner and Cicero E. Danseco*  
<http://boltoutreach.org>



*Bill Balsamo*  
*1943 - 2008*

**"Providing outreach programs, basic nutrition and health education as well as teacher training seminars or workshops that are relevant and practical for educators."**

*From Peter Wanner*  
*Founder BOLT*  
*November 2010*

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**Asian Youth Forum**  
**in August and September**  
**[AYF18 and AYF19, Vietnam and AYF20, Indonesia]**



**Asian Youth Forum**

August 2018 Balsamo Outreach for Learning and Teaching (BOLT) sponsored two Asian Youth Forum events in Vietnam in two different cities. The first event, AYF18, took place from August 1-6, 2018 in Hue, Vietnam. Hue is located halfway between Ha Noi City located in the North and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) located in the South of Vietnam. Asian Youth Forum is an event where students between the ages of 18-25 gather to discuss Human Security Issues and learn more about the various cultures they have not experienced through the eyes of youth from various perspective countries.



Some delegates traveled to these events by using the rail line was built from Ho Chi Minh City to Hue by the French while others arrived at the airport in Hue named Phu Bai where most of the overseas AYF18 Delegates arrived at.

AYF18 selected the location of the University of Foreign Languages, Hue University (HU-UFL) for the first AYF event in August through September. This first week long AYF event out of three AYF events was at HU-UFL, a college that was reorganized and given university status in 1988. The city of Hue is known for the Imperial Palace Grounds, Thien Mu Pagoda, the Temple of Literature and the tombs of the Nguyen rulers. The delegates of AYF18 visited the first three locations in line with the theme of AYF18, 'Language Education Sustainability.' Hue was classified as a UNESCO Historical Site in 1993 and since then it has had many tourists visit this beautiful city. However the main reason for AYF18 revolves around Language Sustainability issues an area of educational research that excels at the University of Language Studies, Hue University.

AYF18 had two plenary speakers, Mr. Eric Gondree, and Mr. Peter John Wanner. The first plenary talk highlighted the impact of technology on language education and how it is implemented in different parts of Asia. The second plenary talk discussed second language acquisition issues and the importance of maintaining more than one language in our world of globalization. Besides discussing the cultural aspects of communication, students also taught each other their respective native languages and built up speaking and leadership skills through conducting their own sessions. The delegates learned the rudimentary and basic communicative phrases of various Asian languages such as those used in introductions or giving thanks. Toward the end of AYF18 a strong bond was formed between many of the delegates. The small number of 30 delegates provided a unique opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and develop strong connections that would surely continue well after leaving AYF18.





AYF19 was held in Da Lat, Vietnam from August 10-15, 2018. The timing of this event made it more convenient for many international students who could not attend because of conflicts with their class schedules that did not end till August 6, 2018 as was the case in Japan. Ten students came from three different Japanese Universities to join AYF19 in Da Lat. Japanese Students from Kyoto and Sendai were very active in various activities and developed strong communication networks through this event. The theme for AYF19 was also Language Educational Sustainability. There was one plenary speaker, Dr. Chris Fulton from Macau, discussing how to maintain and keep language levels at the basic United Nations Reading levels suggested for all countries to have a sustainable life meeting all their various needs. The student breakout discussions that followed tended to discuss the difficulties with language testing systems and their validity for measuring individual writing, speaking, listening, and reading levels.

The next three days that followed consisted of three more keynote speakers, Dr. An Jing, Associate Professor Pong Chongchit, Dr. Tat Thang, and Mr. Diego Dardon. These guest speakers also shared their professional expertise in the area of language education or maintenance of extinct languages. The breakout sessions that followed these discussions were also filled with students' careful consideration of the implications it may have in their country. One day of the AYF19 event consisted of an excursion to Liang Biang Mountain and the delegates learned about the culture of the Vietnamese culture and historical events that lead to the current cultural status of Vietnam.





AYF20 took place on a Southeastern Island of Indonesia, Makassar, Indonesia. The event had an opening ceremony at Universitas Muslim Indonesia where the rest of the live seminars were accessible by internet for anyone interested in also viewing them. The guest speakers came from Philippines, Russia, Japan, and Indonesia. The theme of AYF20 was 'The Spirit of World Independence for the Younger Generation' and fit well into the time frame because it was at the same time as the celebration for the independence of Indonesia. Delegates at this event also did cultural presentations for each of their countries as well as their native languages where delegates learned basic expressions that are common in day to day exchanges. The last day consisted of an excursion to a national park with waterfalls, caves to explore, and various walking paths. Delegates enjoyed a day of interaction with free time to get to know each other better. At the end of this AYF event, the delegates were exchanging farewells and looking forward to future AYF events where they might meet in future travel excursions that would provide them with an opportunity to meet each other in their respective countries.



All three AYF events were highly successful. There are five AYF events scheduled for 2019 providing youth more opportunities that might fit into their schedule for the coming fiscal year. Please refer to the dates and times of these events at the BOLT homepage at <http://boltoutreach.org>. BOLT was very pleased with the successful completion of all three AYF events as this was the first time to have three AYF events so close to each other.



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