

Chairperson's Report on '2009 Drama Fest'

There has been a steady increase in the number of schools taking part in the Drama Fest over the past three years. Teachers and students think it is an interesting activity and a rewarding experience. We had 44 schools taking part in the 7 preliminary sessions in April. Our adjudicators were from our supporting organizations – Mr. Simon Tham from the NET Section of EDB, Dr. Peter Jordan from HKAPA, Mr. Ko Tin Lung from Chung Ying Theatre Company and Ms. Phoebe Chan and Ms Dora To from HK Art School and 12 of them were English teachers or NETs from participating schools. They are Mr. Stewart Carry and Ms. Christine Bennet from Queen's College, Dr Maureen Coulter and Mr. Jocelyn Gagnon from YMCA of HK Christian College, Ms. Helen Li and Miss Venus Yeung from Heep Yunn School, Ms Julien Hawthorne from St. Stephen's Girls' College, Ms. Kristina Janavicius from Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School, Miss Phoebe Lee from St Mark's School, Mr. Robert Haines from St. Stephen's College, Ms June Ho from Munsang College and Mr. David Johncock from Marymount Secondary School. Mr. Irving Koo, chairman of the HKEAA, Mr. Simon Tham, Head of the NET Section, and Ms. Julien Hawthorne, wrote some very useful comments for teachers and students which will be distributed today.

With the tremendous support from SCOLAR, this year we were able to offer 6 3-hour drama courses on 'Playbuilding' and 'Creative Voice Expression', provided by HK Art School, to 47 teachers in January. SCOLAR also arranged for 2 Drama Fest sessions to be held at Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre to give our participants the chance to perform on a real stage. SCOLAR also sponsored the Baptist University AC Hall rental for the Prize Presentation and Outstanding Performances in May. On our part, the AEMSS offered English Alliance primary schools a chance to see our dramas both in the preliminary sessions and in the final. English Alliance is a year-long drama course organized by SCOLAR for primary schools. We were happy that the primary school students enjoyed the dramas and had no difficulty understanding the English. In the coming year, we look forward to even greater collaboration with SCOLAR in the promotion of English drama. We welcome their new chairman Professor Cheng Kai Ming and appreciate his interest in our work and the support that SCOLAR will continue to give us.

For Drama Fest to have achieved so much success and received such positive response, the AEMSS has to thank not only the adjudicators and our supporting and sponsoring organizations, but also participating and host schools that spent so much time writing and rehearsing their plays, as well as organizing and holding the sessions in their school halls. Our host schools this year were True Light Girls' College, St. Stephen's Girls' College, Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School, Carmel Divine Grace Foundation Secondary School, Kiangsu-Chekiang College (Shatin), Heep Yunn School and Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School.

All EMI schools will receive a DVD of the 7 Outstanding Performances given by Shatin Pui Ying College, SKH Lui Ming Choi Secondary School, Carmel Divine Grace Foundation Secondary School, Queen's College, Belilios Public School, Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School and Maryknoll Convent School. Thanks to the principal of Kiangsu-Chekiang College (Shatin) and his staff, the DVDs have subtitles as we requested schools to submit their play scripts.

Mrs. Liliana Kung, who retired last year, continued to coordinate the whole Drama Fest with teachers from Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School designing the poster, banner and certificates, as well as rendering backstage support to schools at the final Outstanding Performances. Other committee members of the AEMSS gave their support in liaison work, photography, the ordering of trophies, videotaping and updating the Association's website at www.emi.edu.hk. I thank them all for their dedication and excellent teamwork.

We give our special thanks to Mr. Raymond Wong, Permanent Secretary for Education, who was our Guest of Honour at the Prize Presentation & Outstanding Performances on 16 May 2009. We also thank former chairman of SCOLAR, Mr. Michael Tien, for presenting some of the trophies on that day and for his continuous support to AEMSS. Not to be forgotten are those who worked behind the scenes – they are the SCOLAR Support Unit who helped to book the venues at the Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre and Baptist University. We also thank *Sing Tao Daily* for reporting the event.

The Drama Fest could not have achieved such success without the effort and contribution from each and every one of you. I take this opportunity to thank you all and hope to see you again in 2010!