

**Friday 5 June**

**10:00am - 10:40am**

Room: Block Y, Room Y403

**Workshop Title:** Integrating self-access into the curriculum: Our experience

<b>Presenter / Co-presenters:</b>	Gene Thompson, Kanda University of International Studies Lee Atkinson, Hiroshima Bunkyo Women's University
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<b>Theme:</b>	Autonomy in the classroom
<b>Presentation Type:</b>	Workshop

### **Abstract**

Linking self-access and classroom learning is a difficult and time-consuming business, but one which can see real rewards as students develop independent learning skills and assume greater responsibility for their learning. This workshop will outline the approach towards encouraging independent learning employed in the first year English language curriculum at Hiroshima Bunkyo Women's University in Japan. Three different means will be introduced: utilizing technology, employing project-based learning activities, and linking classroom activities with a Self-Access Learning Center. The curriculum materials design and materials encourage individualization in the learning, while the project-based and independent learning activities promote student responsibility and control of learning (Dickinson, 1987) through the utilization of the Self-Access Learning Center.

The workshop will focus on introducing specific examples of these three areas, and providing the audience with examples of successes and failures that have been faced by the curriculum design and self access team in attempting to create a curriculum which strongly promotes independent learning. It is hoped that through sharing these experiences, the audience will have a chance to gain some useful insights into the issues surrounding the encouragement of independent learning and how these can be tackled practically in a teaching situation.

Dickinson, L. (1987). Self-instruction in language learning. Cambridge: CUP.

### **Biodata**

Gene Thompson is from New Zealand. He has been working for Kanda University of International Studies since 2004. As a Language Education Consultant, he manages collaborative curriculum projects with national and private Universities in Japan, and maintains an interest in curriculum development, course evaluation, and assessment.

Lee Atkinson has taught English to speakers of other languages in Hong Kong, Australia and Japan. She is currently teaching English at Hiroshima Bunkyo Women's University in Japan. Her research areas of interest include: second language writing, autonomy and CALL. She has a Masters of Education in TESOL and is currently completing her Doctor of Education.