

Annual SEALC Stakeholders Report

The annual hybrid Stakeholder meeting is at AAS Seattle, March 14, 2024, 3:00—5:00 pm PDT.

The zoom link for the meeting is:

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/5363646399>

SEALC Steering Committee members:

Agustini, U. Michigan, representative from COTSEAL

Erlin Barnard, UW Madison, Pedagogy specialist

Abby Cohn, Cornell U., GETSEA liaison

Siddharth Chandra, Michigan State U, Director Asian Studies Center.

Precious Arao, U. Hawaii - Manoa, liaison member

Ellen Rafferty, UW Madison, SEALC project director

Bich-Ngoc Turner, U. Washington, liaison member

Beth Misco, UW Madison, SEALC project manager

Juliana Wijaya, UCLA, founding member of SEALC

Mary Jo Wilson, UW Madison, fiscal specialist

SEALC Activities 2023 to 2024

The *Southeast Asian Language Council* ([SEALC](#)) continues to offer professional development opportunities to language instructors, to develop curricular materials to improve classroom instruction, to award SEASSI and AY tuition scholarships to students studying SE Asian languages, and to promote accessibility of SE Asian language courses through the Virtual Language Institute. SEALC is in the 5th year of the Luce Foundation award and will convene a final Summative conference at Cornell U. September 20-22, 2024 to assess accomplishments and plan for the future. We plan to invite SE Asian language instructors as well as representative stakeholders to attend the summative conference in order to ensure good representation of constituencies as we plan for continuing support of SE Asian language programs nationally.

Workshops

1. Spring 2023: Reading materials development workshop

In the spring of 2023, SEALC offered two 3-day *Reading Materials Development workshops* that were co-led by Stephen L. Tschudi of the University of Hawaii and Erlin Barnard of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The first of these training workshops was held at

Chulalongkorn U in Bangkok on March 9-11 and the second at UW Madison on April 13-15. These workshops built on the understanding gained at the Reading Assessment workshops at NIU of the spring of 2022 and had the goal of designing reading lessons to improve reading proficiency at the intermediate and advanced levels. The in-person workshop Chulalongkorn U. had 26 participants representing 4 SE Asian languages (Filipino, Indonesian, Thai and Vietnamese) while the UW Madison workshop had 28 participants, representing 8 languages (Burmese, Filipino, Hmong, Khmer, Indonesian, Lao, Thai, & Vietnamese).

Over the summer, the participants, working in small groups, developed reading lessons at the intermediate and advanced levels and participated in peer review process as well as feed-back from the trainers.

2. September 2023: Symposium of the Reading Materials Development

SEALC sponsored the *Symposium of the Reading Materials Development* at UCLA on September 22-23, 2023 to conclude the Reading Materials Development project which was led by Stephen Tschudi of U Hawaii-Manoa and Erlin Barnard of U Wisconsin-Madison. This project built on the *Reading Assessment project* of AY 2022-23 and designed lessons in all 8 SE Asian languages (Burmese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese) for the teaching of reading proficiency. The UCLA symposium was a hybrid event bringing together the 28 US-based participants attending in person and the 26 SE Asia-based participants attending virtually. The joint symposium allowed for presentations of developed lessons and critique by the trainers and peer instructors. The constructive critique is an important indicator of the development of a community of practice in which collegial support and feedback is a strong indicator of the collaboration that SEALC promotes. Under this project 44 lessons at the intermediate and advanced levels were developed and are now publicly available on the SEALC website. The lessons serve as a working model of reading-lesson development based on authentic materials and are valuable curricular resources for instructors. They are publicly accessible on the SEALC website <https://sealc.wisc.edu/> under the *For Educators* tab. Clicking on a language in the following list will open a new browser tab showing the “Reading Proficiency Lessons” sub-page on the SEALC “For Educators” page of that language:

- [Burmese](#)
- [Filipino](#)
- [Hmong](#)
- [Indonesian](#)
- [Khmer](#)
- [Lao](#)
- [Thai](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)

US participants were from the following 12 institutions: Arizona State U., U. California Los Angeles, U California San Diego, Columbia U, Clarkson U., Cornell U., U Hawai'i Manoa, Johns Hopkins, U. Michigan, Northern Illinois U, Ohio U., U. Wisconsin-Madison.

SE Asian participants were from the following 9 institutions: National U. Singapore, State U. Malang, National U of Laos, Central Luzon U., Keio U, Japan, Chulalongkorn U, U Sains Malaysia, Vietnam National U, U of Hong Kong.

3. November 2023: ACTFL OPI Familiarization workshop

For the past three years, SEALC has sponsored the introductory *ACTFL OPI Familiarization workshop*, led by Cynthia Martin of the U of Maryland, to any SE Asian language instructor interested in learning about proficiency-based language teaching and assessment protocol. This virtual workshop, offered by ACTFL, combines synchronous and asynchronous sessions over a one-month period. There is no follow-up commitment to develop materials, but rather the workshop is intended to introduce new instructors to the proficiency-based approach to language testing and teaching. It is also a pre-requisite for attending future SEALC workshops.

In November 2023, SEALC had 25 participants representing:

- Five SE Asian languages: Filipino, Indonesian, Lao, Thai & Vietnamese.
- Six US institutions: U. Hawai'i - Mānoa, U. California San Diego, Portland State U., U. Arizona, U. California, Berkeley, U Wisconsin-Madison.
- Seven SE Asian institutions: Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific U. Japan; Keio U. Japan; Thu Duc College of Technology, Vietnam; Vietnam National U. Hanoi; State U. of Malang, Indonesia; Central Luzon State U., Philippines; Chiangmai U., Thailand.

January – June 2024 : Series of *Listening Assessment Design and Development workshops*.

During the spring of 2024 SEALC is sponsoring a series of *Listening Assessment Design and Development Workshops* led by Catherine Baumann and Ahmet Dursun of U. Chicago.

- 4. Pre-Listening Project workshop** is aimed at SE Asian language instructors with no prior training in the assessment of receptive skills (reading and listening). The two workshops were offered virtually to 32 participants.

Session 1 - Proficiency Familiarization

US time: Friday, January 12, 7:00PM – 10:30PM CST

Sessions 2 - Introduction to Language Assessment

US time: Friday, January 19, 7:00PM – 10:30PM CST /

5. Listening Assessment Design and Development Workshop 1:

Comprehension in the Context of Listening & Identifying Appropriate Listening

Inputs, synchronous virtual workshop with both N. American and SE Asian participants.

Session 1: Friday, January 26, 7:00PM – 10:30PM CST

Session 2: Saturday, January 27, 7:00PM – 10:30PM CST

Following workshop 1, the instructors, working in small groups, will find 3 intermediate and 3 advanced listening texts to bring to workshop 2.

6. Listening Assessment Design and Development Workshop 2:

- **Listening Assessment Development with N. American participants**

Friday & Saturday, March 8-9, 2024, 9 AM – 5 PM

In person at Arizona State University, Durham Hall

- **Listening Assessment Development with SE Asian participants**
March 11, 13, 15, 2024, 7:00 pm – 11 pm CST
Synchronous virtual workshop

Following the workshop, the instructors, working in small groups, will develop 2 listening assessment tests, one at the intermediate and one at the advanced level. Once the tests are developed, they will be reviewed by peers and then by the trainers. The small working groups will then revise the tests and make presentations on them at the May 31-June 1 Symposium.

7. **Symposium for the Listening Assessment test development** will be at the Big Ten Conference Center, in Chicago, Illinois, May 31 – June 1, 2024. It will be an in-person event for the N. American instructors and a virtual event for the SE Asian participants. At this joint session, instructors will present their Listening Assessment tests and discuss the challenges encountered during the development process. Both trainers and peers will critique the tests and make constructive suggestions for improving the assessment instruments. The constructive critique of this symposium is an important element in the process of creating consensus and will hopefully lead to the adoption of these assessment tools by the community. The Listening Assessment tests will be made available to instructors of these SE Asian languages by SEALC.

Tuition awards made by SEALC during 2023-24

1. **SEALC Tuition awards for study at SEASSI**

SEALC made 5 SEASSI tuition awards to graduate students from the following universities: Duke U., U. Minnesota, U. California-San Diego, U North Carolina, and Ohio U. They studied the following languages 2nd year Khmer, 1st year Vietnamese, 1st year Indonesian, and 2 students in 1st year Thai.

2. **SEALC- GETSEA Tuition awards for AY**

During AY 2023-24 there were 4 SEALC-GETSEA tuition awards to graduate students to continue their study of a SEA language via synchronous distance instruction at an institution other than at their home university. The awardees were from UC Berkeley, Midwestern State U, Texas, U Hawai'i-Manoa, and Tufts U. The languages taken were Burmese, Indonesian, and 2 students studying Thai.

In support of the *SEALC Virtual Language Institute* and in preparation for the *SEALC-GETSEA AY Tuition awards* each summer, SEALC sends out a survey requesting stakeholders to inform SEALC of their plans to offer any synchronous distance SE Asian language courses in which distance students can enroll and if so what the tuition charges will be. This survey facilitates the award making in the summer for students who want to continue their language study at an institution other than their home institution.

SEALC plans for a Summative conference

SEALC will convene a final **Summative conference** at Cornell U September 20-22, 2024 to assess the accomplishments of the 8 SE Asian language groups over the past 5 years with the Henry Luce award, to discuss the goals of the field of SE Asian language instructors and of COTSEAL over the next five years, to hear the challenges and interests of the SEALC stakeholders. We hope to find common ground as we move forward, shaping a national, collaborative plan to support the field of SE Asian language teaching.