

FOREWORD

The primary mission of every educational institution is to contribute to the growth of its learners and teachers. This implies a never-ending search for the more effective, a constant evaluation of courses and programs offered and a careful scrutiny of methods, techniques and materials in practice. It is our commitment to this principle that led us to set the theme of the 10th METU International ELT Convention as *Growth*.

Yet, *growth* transcends English Language Teaching and education at large. In fact, it encompasses every aspect of life. It summarizes every individual's attempt to continuously self-improve. It describes the never-ending process that individuals and organizations alike must undergo everyday to remain in the competitive circle called life.

In today's competitive world, survival depends on the ability and desire to grow and add to existing knowledge and skills. It depends on how quickly one can adapt to the endless changes that are taking place every day. There is no other way: either grow or perish.

As educationalists, we are obligated to grow because we are responsible for the growth of our learners. We must grow to cater for their needs, motivations and resources that constantly change. We need to grow in order to be able to renew our curricula, design and implement new programs whose goals and objectives are defined and re-defined in the light of the needs, characteristics and resources of our learners.

While doing so, we should constantly bear in mind that our purpose as educationalists is not only to enhance the learning of our students and to provide them with the knowledge that they need but to strengthen their independence of thought, contribute to their development as people with fair judgment; people with a strong sense of ethics, good social skills and a high sense of responsibility, not only for themselves, but also for the community they live in.

We hope that the *Proceedings of the 10th METU International ELT Convention* will provide readers with the opportunity to reflect on the concept of *Growth* in English language teaching from a variety of angles ranging from the growth of learners and teachers to the growth of approaches, methods and techniques currently in use and to gain insight into the changes that have taken place over the years, that are currently taking place, and that may potentially take place in the field.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our most sincere appreciation to our contributors for sharing their most valuable ideas and findings. We would also like to express our gratitude to Bülent Kandiller for his invaluable support and assistance during the preparation of the proceedings.

Sibel Tüzel Kandiller & A. Suzan Öviz
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