

To Test or To Evaluate



The Foreign and Local Languages Unit organised a two-day testing and evaluation workshop for its staff members on 6 & 7 August 2010 at Novotel, Kota Kinabalu. The rest of PPIB's academic staff were invited to attend on the first day of the proceedings, which were conducted by Mr. Tommy Nollie, a lecturer at Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Kent, Tuaran. The workshop was also attended by four academic staff from PPIB, UMSKAL.

The guest speaker clarified four commonly confused terms, namely measurement, testing, assessment, and evaluation. Then he explained the different types of assessment and questions. He also provided guidelines on how to construct a test and write test items, especially multiple-choice questions. Furthermore, he guided the participants in drawing up a table of test item specifications based on Bloom's taxonomy of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor learning domains.

During the evening session, the unit staff reviewed the syllabuses of their respective languages as well as set questions for the final examination. The following morning, the staff finalised their examination questions. The workshop ended with the chairperson of each language course presenting the table of test item specifications for the final examination test paper.

Although this was a refresher course for the majority of the academic staff, they were grateful to Mr. Tommy Nollie for reminding them of the expediency of the test specifications table, as well as the tenets and steps of setting valid and reliable test questions. They also appreciated the initiative and effort taken by the workshop organising committee headed by Pn. Wardatul Akmam Din, the Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs and Internationalisation of PPIB.

