



Marrakech 1st International ICT Conference

**Moroccan Association of Teachers of English (MATE), IATEFL Learning Technologies SIG, and the British Council
08-11 February 2012
Marrakech, Morocco**

Opportunities, challenges and practical solutions for the integration of ICT in education

Announcement and Call for Papers

Background and Rationale

The British Council, MATE and IATEFL Learning Technologies Special Interest Group (LT-SIG) are pleased to announce the 1st International Conference of ICT in Education in Marrakech, Morocco from 08th-11th February 2012. With its expertise in education and established teacher training system, Morocco is uniquely placed in the region to develop its status as a leader in ICT. The conference will enable teachers and educational representatives from across the country to share best practices with colleagues around the world and to develop their skills in this rapidly developing and exciting area of education. International delegates have a unique opportunity to engage in international dialogue within the context of using ICT in education. Through these cultural connections and the expertise of their teachers, current learners will develop their skills and autonomy through their teachers.

The Learning Technologies (LT) SIG is one of the largest and the oldest of the IATEFL SIGs. It began as the Computers SIG in the mid-1980s and now has around 500 members. This reflects the growing interest in new technologies. The SIG is concerned with the applications of new technologies to English language learning. The SIG includes among its interests the use of corpora, multimedia, computer mediated communication, text-based software, authoring, the web, Interactive Whiteboards and also more technical issues.

For more than ten years, MATE strategy in disseminating IT culture has been to organise a national conference every year and conduct a number of ICT workshops across the country. This year, MATE has started a new venture in collaboration with IATEFL where the possibilities of maximising the use of ICT in language pedagogy are explored.

Unlike previous recent IATEFL Learning Technologies SIGs in Italy and China, the beautiful city of Marrakech itself emphasises the unique cultural experience of hosting the conference in Morocco. On the second day of the conference, local delegates will be invited to sign up to act as local guides. Overseas delegates will be paired off with a Moroccan colleague who volunteers to take the visitor around the sites of Marrakech. As well as allowing the visitor to become familiar with the city, this allows the two time to exchange professional and more personal experiences. Delegates who wish to attend an evening meal will then be treated to a selection of Moroccan cuisine accompanied by an evening of Moroccan entertainment.

Objectives

- To raise awareness among ELT professionals of the power of learning technologies to assist with language learning
- To contribute to the knowledge base as to how learning technologies can be used for English language learning
- To develop members' expertise in the myriad of uses of learning technologies with their language learners
- To tap into the knowledge of and network with international ICT in ELT specialists on areas of local concern
- To promote intercultural dialogue and connect cultures through a shared interest in realizing the objectives of the conference.

Conference theme

Opportunities, challenges and practical solutions for the integration of ICT in education

Subthemes

- ✓ ICT pedagogy
- ✓ Best practices in ICT integration in education
- ✓ ICT in contexts with limited resources
- ✓ Mobile learning and Web 2.0 tools in education
- ✓ ICT in Teacher education
- ✓ Using digital content in the classroom
- ✓ Online projects for teachers and learners
- ✓ IT materials development for language classes

- **Date** : 08-11 February 2012
- **Venue**: Hotel Zalagh Kasbah, Zone touristique Agdal, 40000, Marrakech
- **Speakers and participants**: International and national
- **Contact**: For further information, please contact: ictmarrakech@gmail.com

Participation fees

Registration fee for overseas IATEFL members	£35
Registration fee for overseas non-IATEFL members	£60

Programme:

The conference will feature:

- * 30-minute plenary sessions
- * 20-minute papers
- * Pecha kucha night
- * Round tables
- * 1-hour workshops
- * ICT successful experiences demonstrations

Potential speakers

Interested speakers are requested to submit their paper or workshop abstracts which have to include the following:

- An abstract (max 250 words).
- A short bio-data (max 150 words).
- A list of equipment needed.

Abstracts should be sent to: ictmarrakech@gmail.com no later than **16 December 2011**. A scientific committee will be in charge of making a final selection before contacting the speakers on **23 December 2011**.

Please apply using the Speaker Proposal form found on pages 5 – 8 of this document.

Participants

Because the ICT SIG includes practical sessions, the number of participants is limited to 250 distributed as follows: 100 Moroccan participants and 150 international participants.

Moroccan Participants and speakers

Interested participants and speakers are required to send their requests and abstracts before **Friday, 16 December, 2011**. Accepted participants and speakers will be notified by **Friday, 23 December 2011**. The participants will be selected according to the following criteria:

- having basic skills in ICT materials use and production
- geographical representativity
- willing to actively participate in a productive project during and after the conference
- being ready to cascade information and similar work with colleagues in their area
- first come, first served.

Non-Moroccan Participants and speakers

- Call for speakers is open until: **Friday 16 December, 2011**
- Accepted speakers will be informed on: **Friday, 23 December, 2011**
- Early bird registration deadline: **02 January, 2012**
- Registration online for non-Moroccans: <http://secure.iatefl.org/events/event.php?id=39>

Participants who wish to take part in the conference are requested to send a confirmation email to ictmarrakech@gmail.com no later than **Friday, 16 December, 2011** where the following is stated:

- Your full name
- The name of your institution, delegation and area, DOTI number (for Moroccans)
- The name of your institution, Country (for non-Moroccans)
- Your email address
- Your phone number.

£1 GBP = 12.9 MAD (Moroccan dirhams)

€1 EUR = 11.3 MAD

\$1 USD = 7.9 MAD

(rate on 28.10.2011)

Morocco's main international entry point is the **Mohammed V International Airport** (0522 539040), 30km southeast of Casablanca. From here, a 2nd-class train fare Casablanca to Marrakesh costs \$8.50 and takes three hours.

Flying direct to Marrakesh

The main point of arrival and departure is **Menara airport** (0524 447865), a 6km ride southwest of the Medina and Guéliz. Petits taxis (local taxis) cost around Dh60 by day or Dh80 at night, or an airport transfer arranged through your riad (guesthouse) or hotel will be Dh150 to Dh200.

(from <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/morocco/marrakesh/transport/getting-there-away>, accessed 03.08.2011)

Accommodation

We are offering a discounted rate at the 4* Hotel Zalagh Kasbah in Marrakech. The hotel offers a restaurant, bar, outdoor swimming pool and full wheelchair access. It is 10 minutes from the airport and 5 minutes from the medina (old city) by cab. There is a free shuttle bus service to Place Djemaa-al Fna.

Although there are other accommodation options in Marrakech to suit all budgets, we advise delegates to stay at the Hotel Zalagh Kasbah. The daily room rate (300 MAD = £23.40), including breakfast, is excellent for a hotel of this standard in Marrakech. For a 4* hotel in February in the city you'd usually expect to pay 500 – 700 MAD (£40 - £55). Furthermore, the conference is being held at the hotel, giving guests an excellent opportunity to socialise with colleagues and share their experiences outside of the conference sessions. Please visit www.tripadvisor.co.uk for more accommodation options.

During the conference, non-Moroccan delegates will be “buddied up” with a local delegate who will take them to see the sights of Marrakech. There will also be an evening of Moroccan entertainment, allowing delegates to enjoy what Marrakech has to offer.

Weather

In February you can expect temperatures of 20 °C to 25 °C by day and at least 10 °C by night, and light rainfall possible. Morocco has been described as “a cold country where the sun is hot”!

Sights

You can visit the world famous Djemaa-al Fna, “The Place of the Dead”, which is Africa's largest square. By night it seems the whole of the world converges here to listen to the storytellers telling tales unchanged in centuries, watching snake-charmers and street dentists, gazing at acrobats and enjoying the best and most varied street food you'll ever try.

The medina (*city* in Arabic), or old city, is an unforgettable experience; winding streets, an endless array of anything you can think of that's worth buying, and the best hagglers in the world offering to sell you things. If you have an

open mind, a smile and a great deal of patience you can have a great time buying Moroccan crafts, carpets and leather goods, all hand made in the city.

Morocco's national language is standard Arabic, although this is rarely spoken. Moroccan Arabic, or Derija (*dialect*) is the country's spoken language and is markedly different from other varieties of Arabic. French is the country's second language and is widely spoken. As Marrakesh is a tourist city, English is also widely spoken – although you shouldn't expect everyone to speak it. Learn a few phrases in Derija and your efforts will be gratefully recognised by Moroccans.

Hello – **Salaam Alaykum** (reply – **Waalaykum salaam**)

Goodbye – **Beslama**

How are you? (informal) – **La bas?**

Fine, thank you – **Bekhir, hamdullah.**

Thank you (very much) – **Shokran (bezzaf)**

My name's ... – **Smii ...**

Excuse me – **Smah lee**

No, thank you. – **La, shokran**

Come on! – **Yalla!**

Go away (lit. Shame on you) – **Hshuma!**

Visas

UK and EU nationals do not need a visa to visit Morocco for stays of under 90 days.

Please check with your country's foreign office if you need a visa to visit Morocco. If so and you require an invitation letter please contact ictmarrakech@gmail.com.

Travel Advice

Please refer to the following websites:

Security advice: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/middle-east-north-africa/morocco>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/morocco/marrakesh>

<http://www.roughguides.com/travel/africa-and-the-middle-east/morocco/marrakesh.aspx>