

Enhancing English Teacher Language Proficiency: The Malaysian Experience

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Great concern in Government and Civil Society about English language proficiency and it is reflected in ...



GTP 2.0 (Government Transformation Programme)

2 of 7 education initiatives are related to English:

- LINUS 2.0 – ensuring basic literacy in English among Year 1 – 3 pupils
- Enhancing the Quality of English Language Teachers



Malaysia Education Blueprint

- Shift 2: Ensure Every Child Is Proficient In Bahasa Malaysia and English Language

Malaysian students face tremendous challenges in attaining English proficiency ...



English is students' weakest core subject in national assessments

- **25% fail at UPSR (Yr 6)**
- **23% fail at PMR (Yr 9)**
- **22% fail at SPM (Yr 11)**



Malaysian students perform poorly in international English exams

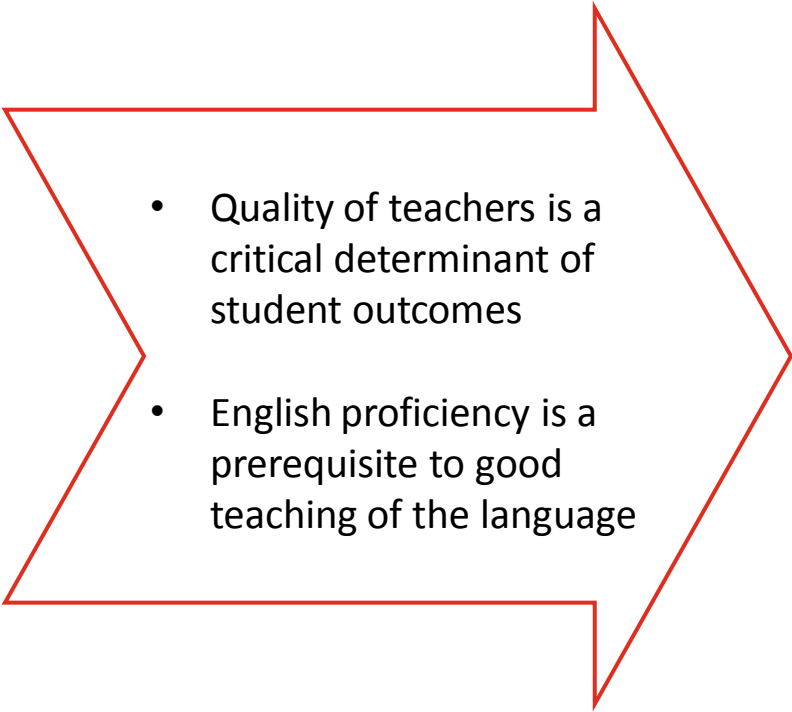
- **50% fail 1119 (Yr 11)**



Students lose out in employment – lack requisite proficiency

- **52% in MUET bands 1&2**
- **48% of employers rejected students due to poor English**

There is a slate of initiatives designed to improve student outcomes in English.
Two initiatives for English language teachers, ...

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- A large red outline of an arrow pointing from left to right, containing two bullet points.
- Quality of teachers is a critical determinant of student outcomes
 - English proficiency is a prerequisite to good teaching of the language

1

English Teacher language proficiency testing

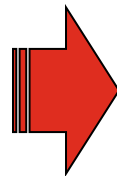
2

Intensive English proficiency up-skilling

The objective was to assess the proficiency levels of all English language teachers

1 English Teacher language proficiency testing

**Cambridge
Placement Test
(CPT)* was
administered to
61,000 English
language teachers**



- To obtain a profile of English language teachers' proficiency levels
- To map the proficiency of Malaysian teachers to an internationally recognized metric for describing language proficiency
- To develop a framework of continuous professional development based on teachers' needs

The Results

	Pri	Sec
C2	3.9%	14.7%
C1	21.1%	36.7%
B2	42.5%	36%
B1	28.3%	11.7%
A2	4.0%	0.9%
A1	0.2%	0%

* CPT is calibrated to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

CPT results indicated more support and training is required to further enhance proficiency levels

2

Intensive English proficiency up-skilling

In syndication with ELT experts, we ...

... set proficiency targets

- C1 for secondary
- B2 for primary

(14 240 English teachers to be up-skilled between Nov 2012 and Dec 2014)



... and established the design features

- Duration
480 hour intensive language up-skilling
- Mode
Blended mode – face-to-face and digital / online component
- Surrender Value
Focus on enhancing proficiency but training materials and training context drawn from pedagogy



...which underpinned the training programme ...

... Professional Up-skilling of English Language Teachers (Pro-ELT)

We did these right ...

- the right provider
- fit-for-purpose
- on-boarding
- incentivizing

... but we could have done this better

- messaging



Thank you