JALT CEFR & LP SIG

Newsletter No. 40 – February 2024



Dear members of CEFR & LP SIG,

It is already February, and the plum blossoms are blooming. This time the newsletter will look forward to the next few months.

First will be a SIG organized **CEFR Reflection Meeting** on March 5th, 2024, from 2:30 pm to 4 pm, with the opportunity to discuss two themes from the report of the Reflection Day (held on June 15th, 2023).

See below more details on page 2

Second, a Call for participation for SIG members (until March 4th, 2024) to be part of the CEFR & LP SIG Forum at PanSIG 2024 (May 25-26, 2024). See below on page 2

Third, the announcement of the CEFR-J Symposium on March 23rd, 2024- See below page 3

Following are some reports related to JALT and the CEFR & LP SIG.

And this Newsletter will include a short report on the AGM and the survey for voting. Thank you for your cooperation. And it includes the self-evaluation of the CEFR LP SIG for the year 2023, submitted in mid-December 2023.

See on pages 3 - 10

Finally, announcements of various conferences upcoming and in 2024. see more on page 11-.

Please have a look at the events overview for 2024. There might be something for you too.

If you have any news that might be of interest to other members, it would be wonderful if you could share it.

Gabriela Schmidt

SIG President behalf of all officers of CEFR & LP SIG

At the JALT EBM in Ogaki on February 17th and 18th, 2024, a discussion started about if SIG coordinator is the right term and if "coordinators" should be called "presidents" like the Chapter presidents. A survey among coordinators showed a tendency towards changing the title. After several intensive discussion sessions, a motion was proposed to the EBM, voted on, and passed finally. This led to the change. In JALT the Japanese term for chapter president is 支部長 and for SIGs 部会代表.

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WANTED – Call for case study presentations from SIG members

PanSIG 2024 CEFR LP SIG Forum

PAN SIG 2024 CEFR LP SIG Forum proposal abstract

Title: Initiating Action Research: Transforming Current Practices with CEFR Key Concepts

Presenters: Maria Gabriela Schmidt, Greg Birch, Noriko Nagai, Jack Bower, Engel Villareal, + Anyone who make case study presentations

Abstract

This forum seeks to cultivate a discourse among both novice and experienced practitionerresearchers concerning the implementation of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) within diverse local contexts. The forum begins with a concise exposition of the fundamental philosophical underpinnings of the CEFR, exerting a pervasive influence on all facets of language pedagogy. Emphasis is placed on the conceptualization of the learner as a social agent and the adoption of an action-oriented approach. Then, the forum attempts to elucidate a series of case studies wherein the CEFR has been tailored to accommodate distinct domains of language instruction within various local contexts. This exploration is intended to provide participants with practical insights into the versatile application of the CEFR across different educational settings. Finally, the forum engages in an in-depth examination of the challenges associated with the implementation of the CEFR by novice practitioner-researchers in their pedagogical endeavors. Deliberations encompass potential difficulties and issues that may arise during the adaptation of the CEFR into teaching practices. Furthermore, the forum proffers discerning perspectives on overcoming these challenges, offering essential guidance to facilitate the seamless integration of the CEFR within varied educational environments. (192 words)

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March 5th (Tue), 2024 14:30-16:00 Online, CEFR & LP SIG – CEFR Reflection Meeting

First will be a SIG organized **CEFR Reflection Meeting** on March 5th, 2024, from 2:30 pm to 4 pm on

At the meeting we will discuss the report of the **CEFR Reflection Day**: *The CEFR Companion Volume: Enhancing engagement in language education. Reflection Day*. held on June 15th, 2023. We will focus on theme 3 and 4, with a general discussion at the end.

- Theme 3: How do action-orientation, mediation and plurilingualism, interrelate and align with recent developments in language education
- Theme 4: How can the CEFRCV support the creation of (digitally-mediated) collaborative learning environments in the post-Covid context?

Further topics of the discussion could be: Assessment for Learning. Mediation. How to

integrate CEFR concepts into the actual classes we teach. How to use CEFR ideas in our classes for improving our classes, and for the students improving their language learning.

The other suggestion is to learn and hear more about real-world applications of CEFR tools and materials with first-hand accounts and best practices on how educators are using them to enhance teaching, learning, and assessment at all levels.

This is a very good suggestion and fits with the plans we actually have for 2024, starting a webinar series, with each webinar focusing on a specific area or tool at a particular CEFR level. Let's meet on March 5th and discuss the next steps.

ANNOUNCEMENT

CEFR – J Symposium March 23rd, 2024

東京外国語大学投野由紀夫研究室です。

今年度も恒例の CEFR-J Symposium を開催します。

CEFR-J の入門、活用ワークショップ、科研の中間報告、企業プレゼン、一般公募発表などで、1日皆さんと一緒に CEFR-J の活用や進化する AI の時代の英語教育を考えてみたいと思います。今年度は新たに文部科学省の補助金および委託事業で東京外大で出した計画が採択され、教員研修用の「CEFR と学習指導要領」に関する動画コンテンツを科研メンバーを中心にシリーズで整備しました。さらに、「CEFR-J Can Do タスク集」も文科省の委託事業で公開予定です。その概要もご紹介する予定です。

シンポジウムは原則対面実施で企画しています(今のところハイフレックスの予定はありません)。多くの皆さまのご参加をお待ちしています。

投野由紀夫 (東京外国語大学)

■ 開催日時・プログラム Program

日時: **2024年3月23日**(土) **10:00~17:0**0 March 23rd, 2024 (Sat)

場所:東京外国語大学研究講義棟 101 教室(300 名収容) limited to 300 people

参加費:無料 free of charge

午前: Morning sessions

CEFR-J 活用ワークショップ

※CEFR 入門からリソースの活用法、各技能別のワークショップを複数ご提供します。内容の詳細についてはプログラムが決まり次第ご案内します。

午後: Afternoon sessions

- ・開会式(101 教室)
- ・個別研究発表+企業プレゼン(各教室)
- · 科研報告(約 120 分)
 - ※京都プロジェクト、さいたま市プロジェクトの中間報告
- ・全体質疑応答・ディスカッション
- ・簡単な茶話会(予定)

■ 発表募集 Call for Presentations

以下の枠組で、CEFR、CEFR-Jを用いた英語(外国語)教育の取り組みに関する事例研究、教材開発、商品紹介、個別研究発表などを募集します:

- A. 自治体・学校での CEFR 利用の取り組み (15 分発表+ QA 5 分) 15+5 Min Q&A
- B. 企業での CEFR 利用の取り組み (15 分発表+ QA 5 分)
- C. 個別研究発表(研究者、教員、大学院生の発表募集、15 分発表+ QA 5 分)
- 申込方法: 以下のフォームに必要事項を書いてお送りください:
- A. 一般参加登録受付フォーム (締切 : 登録 300 名になり次第) Regular participation, limited to 300 people : https://forms.gle/FvrHUV8wbq4C188p8

B. 個別研究発表申込フォーム (申込締切: 2024年2月23日(金)): Individual presentations https://forms.gle/RVuAm5aY1V4v54787

■【協賛企業募集】 Sponsoring

CEFR-J Symposium に協賛してくださる出版社・企業を募集します。 協賛企業の方には、当日、展示ブースの設営、個別研究発表での発表枠を提供します。 協賛いただける方は下記フォームより登録をお願いいたします。 https://forms.gle/sNB67WB6fHZKbq6d9

東京外国語大学投野由紀夫・根岸雅史研究室

押領司 智子

〒183-8534 東京都府中市朝日町 3-11-1 (研究講義棟 632・527)

E-mail: tonolab.tufs@gmail.com

Reports on CEFR & LP SIG activities and events in 2023

Looking back on 2023 there were especially the CEFR Journal Snapshot event in May, the SIG Forums at PanSIG conference and at JALT International conference visible but not so much visible was the work of the editors of the CEFR Journal – Research and Practice volume 5 with an unforeseen amount of 38 submissions - a huge surprise and enterprise for the editors -. Volume 6 is about to be ready for publication soon. And the Kaken project started in 2020 coming to its final stage in a book publication submitted to the publisher in September 2023. What was really wonderful is to see that the 12 contributors are 11 members of JALT, 10 members of CEFR & LP SIG and 1 international scholar.

The Best of JALT of CEFR & LP SIG 2022 was awarded in 2023 to Takanori Omura. Congratulations. The ceremony was held on Sat Nov. 25th, from 7:30-8.30 pm in the multipurpose hall.



CEFR LP SIG Best of JALT 2022, awarded in 2023 to Takanori Omura (right).

On the left: Wayne Malcolm (Conference manager),

In the middle: Claire Kaneko (JALT President)

Preparing the Best of JALT out of the CEFR LP SIG related presentations in 2023, nominated in 2024:

Out of the events in 2023, which were:

CEFR Journal SnapShot Talk on May 5th, 2023, the PanSIG 2023 conference in Kyoto, the joint event with Akita Chapter on May 20th, 2023, the "Share your CEFR-Tool - Open discussion meeting" on Sunday, July 23rd, 2023 and the CEFR related presentations at JALT 2023

The following presentations are suggested for voting on the Best of JALT of CEFR LP SIG delivered in 2023, nominated in 2024:

Rebecca Schmidt *CEFR Mediation Activities, CLIL Classes and a Notebook* SUN 10:25 AM - 10:50 AM, Room: 202B

Mathew Porter *The Place of Foreign Languages in Japanese Nursing Programs* SAT 12:10 PM - 12:35 PM, Room: 405A

Koki Tomita - Soka University: **A Literature Review on Foundational Theories for CEFR-Aligned Curriculum Evaluation** SAT 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM, Room: 403

Tyson Rode *A 21st-Century Skills Program for Pre-service Teachers* - Meikai University MON 9:15 AM - 9:40 AM, Room: 405A

Please feel free to nominate any other CEFR or portfolio related presentations held at JALT

events in 2023.

Other CEFR related presentations, which are not eligible because the presenters were already rewarded as Best of JALT of CEFR & LP SIG
Yukie Saito was awarded in 2018
Colin Thompson was awarded in 2020.
Jack Bower was awarded in 2017?

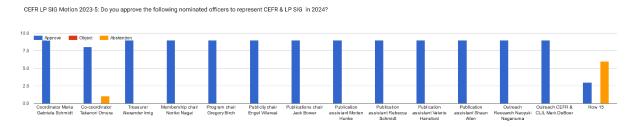
If you want to add a report on an event you attended, please let me know.

Reports on the AGM, voting and the survey. Thank you for your cooperation.

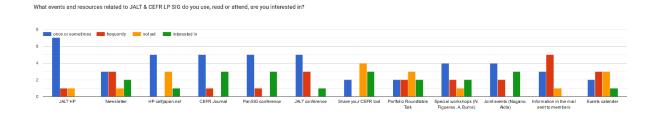
The SIG AGM was held this year online apart from the JALT conference with the voting and the AGM. The AGM was held on Friday, December 8th, 2023 and was recorded and if you are a member and want to see the recording, please contact the coordinator for access to the recording.

The result of the voting is the following:

Voting of members - Results from the survey in December 2023 9 responses in total



All officers have been approved for 2024. Thank you very much for voting. New in the team is Engel Villareal as Publicity chair who will take especially care of our social media.



Q: What would be a topic for the coming year you are interested in? What can CEFR & LP SIG do for you? What can you offer CEFR & LP SIG? Do you have any questions, worries, suggestions; to make CEFR & LP SIG more useful for you? Is there something we should take into consideration?

Answer 1: Assessment for Learning. Mediation. I've been busy this year and still am, due to

editing the Learner Development journal for LD SIG. My school has some challenges with mixed ability classes and CEFR scales and tools look appealing for me in the light of this.

Answer 2: I'm interested in how to integrate CEFR concepts into the actual class we teach. It would be so much more efficient if we were trained how to use CEFR ideas in our class for improving our class, and for the students improving their language learning.

Answer 3: I would be interested to learn and hear more about real-world applications of CEFR tools and materials. Specifically, first-hand accounts and best practices on how educators are using them to enhance teaching, learning, and assessment at all levels. For example, this can be in the form of a webinar series, with each webinar focusing on a specific area or tool at a particular CEFR level.

Answer 4: Again for 2024: the three suggestions from 2022 concerning activities of 'proven value' for online sessions, namely, (a) the format 'workshops with pre-session tasks and discussion'; (b) the format 'group reading of journal articles and discussion'; and (c) the topic area 'accounts of real-world implementations using CEFR/Portfolio'. Some possible topics for (c) were mentioned in the discussion following the annual meeting on 8th December 2023. *If necessary, SIG officers could help to prepare a separate survey listing the ideas gathered so far and inviting members to prioritize them and comment.

Q2. Is there something you would like to share?

Answer 1: Thank you, the CEFR and CEFR SIG always have good and clear approaches so I am still coming along when I can.

Answer 2: Thank you for everything, especially your support.

Answer 3: Thank you, the CEFR and CEFR SIG always have good and clear approaches so I am still coming along when I can.

Answer 4: I will start PhD study next year, April, so I might have to engage in the study a lot. But I will try my best to manage my time for the sig. Thanks Gabriela and all have to engage in

That's all for the voting and the results from the questionnaire. There are quite important topics mentioned. To address some of the suggestions right away we will hold a meeting on

CEFR LP SIG 2023 Self-Assessment (submitted on

Your name: *Maria Gabriela Schmidt

Which SIG are you representing? * CEFR & LP SIG

What sort of <u>ialt.org</u> <u>Website Status</u> did your SIG have in 2023? (Note that not all JALT members or members of the public use Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, etc, so a regular website that can be found in a web search is desirable.) * in total 10 points

Logo (2 points)

Up to date officer list (2 points)

Contact email (2 points)

Recent activities posted under events page (2 points)

Minimum 100 word SIG description (2 points)

For purposes of Monthly Communications how many messages did your SIG send out to your members

and the public via email, SNS, or otherwise, disseminated in a timely manner to publicize events and other group activities? The same or similar message sent out at about the same time on various platforms counts as one, but sending repeated reminders at various times (such as a reminder a month before and then two weeks before an event, etc.) count as one each time. Below are the benchmarks. Please add your score according. Maximum score is 36. * 20 points

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1 message (2 points per message)
2-5 (up to 10 points)
6-10 (up to 20 points)
11-17 (up to 34 points)
18+ (36 points)
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How many public <u>events</u> did your SIG hold in 2023, including both individually sponsored and cosponsored ones? (This includes professional development meetings as well as social events, with 1 "event" being counted as 1 hour and worth 4 points, so a 2 hour event would be 8 points). Can be independent or collaborative with chapters too. Since this is not a primary mission of SIGs, the point weighting is different than for chapters. Maximum points allowed for a day event is 24 and over the year it is 48 points maximum.

Add your total and list it under "other." * 44 points

Additional Officers (1 point for each one)

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1 hour event (4 points)
2 hour event (8 points)
3 hour event (12 points)
4 hour event (16 points)
5 hour event (20 points)
6 hour event (24 points)
Sonstiges: 1 x 4 + 5 x 8 = 44 points
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How many <u>publications</u>, if any, did your SIG produce in 2023? Please remember that the maximum points allowed is 25 for officer reviewed and 30 for peer reviewed. (Newsletters can be archived postings on your website, etc. that announce events and other SIG activities.) * 30 points

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1 officer reviewed (5 points per publication)

2 officer reviewed (10 points)

3 officer reviewed (15 points)

4 officer reviewed (20 points)

5 officer reviewed (25 points)

1 peer reviewed (10 points per publication)

2 peer reviewed (20 points)

3 peer reviewed (30 points)

How many officers did you have this year? * 25 points

Coordinator and Treasurer (5 points)

Program Chair (5 points)

Membership Chair (5 points)

Publicity (5 points)
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How many EBMs did your SIG send a representative to in 2023? (face to face or online count) *6 points

None or only the Conference EBM (0 points)

1 other than the Conference EBM (2 points)

2, possibly including the Conference EBM (4 points)

All 3: Feb, June, and Conference EBMs (6 points)

Did your SIG complete its <u>annual self-assessment report</u> on time and plan to report it to your members early in 2023? *7 points

Self-assessment not completed by Jan 31 (0 points)

Self-assessment completed by Jan 15 (4 points)

Self-assessment completed by Dec 31 (7 points)

Sonstiges:

By your count and your estimation, how many total points should your SIG get this year from the above data? (100 or more = voting, 80^9 = non-voting, less than 80 = probation) * 127

Bonus Section: What else should be considered? Please submit here for the SRL to consider. Twenty points is the maximum a SIG can earn. Logic here is that if a SIG is below 80 points to begin with, there must be a more fundamental problem and that just giving out bonus points would not fix it.

Most parts have been considered above and the points for the CEFR LP SIG are good to pass. CEFR & LP SIG tries to reach out to other CEFR related groups in Japan and internationally and to inform SIG members about such activities. This seems to be very welcome. Our members were kept in the loop, but the shortcoming was our social media channels to reach out beyond the SIG members, this will be addressed in 2024.

Does your SIG have any agreements with other organizations? *

No direct agreement, but when we (two officers of CEFR LP SIG) attended the EALTA conference in Helsinki in June 2023, we presented at the EALTA CEFR SIG (coordinator Neus Figueras) and we agreed to continue in a friendly mutual relationship. No details were specified. Through the CEFR Journal - Research and Practice the SIG gets a lot of international attention.

In general, how was 2023 for your SIG? Any specific challenges or successes you'd like to share here with everyone? Do you have any other feedback related to this rubric or anything else you think is relevant to mention here for the historical record for everyone to consider?

2023 was a good year in total. CEFR & LP SIG engaged in PanSIG 2023 actively and we had several joint events. Yet, due to an unforeseen workload, the newsletters and some communications were delayed, and the coordinator feels sorry about that. The HP has been technically updated in December 2023. The CEFR Journal became suddenly very popular, and we had 38 submissions for volume 6 compared to 5-10 submissions before. This was a real challenge for the editors. This time there were very few submissions from Japan and from JALT. One of the major activities of the SIG was to finalize by September 2023 the outcome of the Kaken research project where the SIG was involved in since 2020. This will become an international book publication and out of the 12 authors involved who have been at the same time co-researchers of the project 11 are JALT members, and 10 are CEFR & LP SIG members and one is an international scholar. We are looking forward to the 5th book publication of the SIG. The membership of the SIG declined in 2023, and we are wondering what the reasons are. One reason might be that it looks like the CEFR lost momentum in Japan, but there are so many promising implementations too which are inspiring and encouraging. We have to shed more light on them as good practice examples. We worked hard on research and to keep our members in the loop, but publicity beyond the SIG towards JALT was the weakest part I guess. The communication beyond our SIG on the social media channels and the publicity will be addressed in 2024.

Let's finish on a positive note. While this year has been difficult for many of us, we have all risen to the challenge. What has been a positive JALT experience for you this year? Additionally, what changed this year that your SIG will continue to use/ invest in/ work on in the future?

Looking forward, through the outcome of the research project and the involvement of more than one fifth of our members, we saw a good learning curve in their professional development. Even when the CEFR loses momentum in the educational policies in Japan it is an important tool to approach and investigate our own teaching and reflect on it. Hopefully in 2024 we can bear some fruits from our years of engagement and reach out to our members helping them to improve their teaching towards sustainability and wellbeing including JALT members and the publicity. It would be nice to cooperate with other groups in JALT and others too. There are a lot of shared topics. We are all volunteers. Being a member of a volunteer group it is not only about what I can get but as well what can I offer, give, take and share, learning from each other brings, gives and creates the real value.

End of self-evaluation report for JALT CEFR & LP SIG submitted in December 2023.



The Japanese Translation of the CEFR and trends on the CEFR in Japan

On the Japanese translation of the CEFR/CV: 言語の学習、教授、評価のための ヨーロッパ 共通参照枠 随伴版 (suihan-ban), which has been finalized in August and submitted to be published on the COE HP. Yet, some suggestions for rewording were uttered and there will be a slightly updated version coming in 2024. We will keep you updated. Please check regularly on www.coe.int/lang-cefr

On **November 5th, 2023** (Sun: 1-5 pm, Keio, Hiyoshi), was workshop organized by the Goethe-Institute Tokyo related to the CEFR/CV, held in Japanese and German.

The CEFR LP SIG coordinator Maria Gabriela Schmidt was one of the invited speakers at the workshop.

If you interested to attend the workshop, see:

(Japanese) https://www.goethe.de/ins/jp/ja/ver.cfm?event_id=25084998 (German) https://www.goethe.de/ins/jp/ja/ver.cfm?event_id=25084998

Reports in Japanese and German will be available soon.

A larger conference is planned in 2024, I will keep you updated.

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J A L T International Conference 2023 - What was your take away?

At JALT 2023 in Tsukuba there were various presentations with CEFR or portfolio related presentations, and from CEFR & LP SIG members. See Newsletter no. 39 with a selection of presentations.

What is your takeaway?

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Reports on conferences - related to the CEFR

On September 29th, 2023 was held an hybrid colloquium hosted by CRELLA, University of Bedfordshire, in Luton. The theme was *Aligning language education with the CEFR*. *A colloquium report was* kindly compiled by David Little. You will be able to access the report at https://ukalta.org/events/

2024 – Coming up Conferences, Colloquia, Events in 2024

JALT 2024 submissions are open until March 10th, 2024, see more details at https://jalt.org/conference/call-proposals

March 5th, 2024: 14:30-16:00 Online, CEFR & LP SIG – CEFR Reflection Meeting

SIG members will receive a link, non-SIG members are asked to sign up at

March 10th, 2024: JACET Language Expo 言語教育エキスポ 2024 in person, planned at Chuo University, Myogadani Campus, to sign up

March 10th, 2024: JACTFL 12th Symposium at Sophia University, Yotsuya Campus, https://www.jactfl.or.jp/?page_id=3366

March 23rd, 2024 (Sat) CEFR-J Symposium, TUFS, see details in this newsletter

March 23rd, 2024 (Sat) JACET 11th English Language Seminar at Bunkyo University, Koshigaya Campus, CfP until Jan. 31st (Wed), 2024, https://jacet.org/ees/

April 20th, 2024 ICLHE *East Asia Regional Group*, **Symposium** in Niigata, https://iclhe-eastasia.mystrikingly.com/

April 27-28, 2024 KOTESOL, Seoul, South-Korea

May – June CEFR Journal Snapshot meeting, Online - date TBA

May 11-12, 2024 DIELE International Hybrid Conference 2024, Diversity and Inclusion in English Language Education, at Soka University, Tokyo, Japan

May 17-19, 2024 JALT CALL, at Meijo University in Nagoya, https://jaltcall.org/jaltcall-2024/

May 24-26, 2024 PanSIG 2024, at the Fukui University of Technology in Fukui. CfP open until January 15th, 2024, See for details: https://pansig.org/ The Shinkansen to Fukui will open in March 2024.

June 4-9, 2024 EALTA in Belfast (Northern Ireland) on *Taking stock — Looking at the past, present, and future of language assessment in Europe and beyond*. https://www.qub.ac.uk/events/whats-on/listing/ealtaconference2024.html

July 5-6, 2024: TBLT in Asia 2024, Nagoya, Meijo University, Cfp March 15th, 2024 www.tblsig.org/conference

August 11-17, 2024 AILA 2024 conference in Kuala Lumpur, see https://aila2024.com/

August 28-30, 2024 JACET International Convention, at Aichi University, Nagoya Campus, on *Positioning ELT in Higher Education*, CfP from Jan. 8th – Feb. 8th, 2024, https://www.jacet.org/convention/2024-2/

September 12 - 14, 2024 CercleS conference "Multilingualism & the Anglosphere", Durham, Great Britain, https://www.dur.ac.uk/departments/centres/foreign-language-study/cercles-2024/call-for-papers/

October 18–19, 2024: Responding to the CEFR Alignment Handbook, Sharing experience of alignment activities and reflecting on lessons learned, Blanquerna – Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona, Call until April 30th, 2024, see more details at https://www.alte.org/event-5582918

November 15-18, 2024 JALT International 50th Conference 2024 in Shizuoka (Granship), ttps://jalt.org/conference

Call for presentations open until March 10th, 2024, see more details at ttps://jalt.org/conference/call-proposals

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Dates to keep an eye on:

Future JALT international conferences are planned as follows:

Nov 15-18, 2024 in Shizuoka - JALT 50th conference Nov 21-24, 2025 in Nagoya – JALT 51st conference Nov 6-7(8), 2026 in Fukuoka – JALT 52nd conference

Future PanSIG conferences are planned as follows:

May 24-26, 2024, in Fukui , https://pansig.org/
CALL FOR PAPERS is OPEN until January 15th, 2024!!!
May 2025 in Chiba, KUIS
May 2026 in Morioka, Iwate

CEFF Journal – Research and Practice, volume 6 about to be ready!

For events, please visit: https://cefrjapan.net/events

CEFR & LP SIG: https://cefrjapan.net

CEFR Journal: https://cefrjapan.net/journal

JALT: https://jalt.org/

Language Portfolio for Japanese University, bilingual (English/Japanese):

https://cefrjapan.net/cefr-lp-sig/language-portfolio

Call for submission CEFR & LP SIG Newsletter no.41 by April 10th, 2024