Excerpts from the Newcomers Session and Executive Board Meeting from LTRC2019

What do ILTA members and LTRC attendees say about their membership and conference experience?

Advantages of attending LTRC:
- Enjoy a strong sense of both professional and personal community in a small setting that fosters sense of inclusion
  - Professional networking opportunities
  - Connect with friends, new and old
- Professional development and training
  - Learn about the latest research directly from authors
  - Improve presentation skills and gain experience amongst peers
  - Receive constructive feedback on research and work
- Identify and engage emerging leaders in our field
  - Opportunity to introduce my students to scholars in our field
  - Encourage succession planning
- International collaborations and interdisciplinary research
  - Brainstorm and share information
  - Broaden perspectives
  - Seek professional support in a convenient and non-threatening space
- Recognition gained from award nomination and selection
- Experience world travel and local culture

Benefits of being an ILTA member:
- Sense of continuity in belonging to a formal, professional community
- Networking opportunities
- Strengthen professional and personal relationships among my peers
- Access to members-only resources
- Discussion on Listserv
- Opportunities to support the community, to contribute and to serve the profession
- Discounted conference fee
What you hope to gain from coming to LTRC in the future?

- Receive feedback on my research
- Learn about the latest development and research in our field
- More in-depth discussion on current pressing/hot topic/themes
- Access to special sessions
- Continue to build international collaborations
- Strengthen my network
- Engage with the next generation of colleagues
- Opportunities to hear perspectives of other professionals from outside the immediate language testing community
- Travel to new locations

Tell me what you hope to gain from continuing to be an ILTA member.

- Sense of belonging/community/cause
- Contributing to the ILTA community
- Continuity
- Motivation for doing first-hand research to present at LTRC
- Eligibility for grants/awards
- Expansion of ILTA services (e.g. newsletter, webinars)
- Opportunities to serve the community in various ways (e.g., sub committees)
- Cross-fertilization with other associations

Tell me some positive/key experiences you have had as a member of other organisations and/or from attending other conferences.

- Networking, brainstorming, old friends, professional development
- Videos/additional resources for members-only
- Invited to consider local testing issues and teacher perspectives/needs
- Smaller conferences address local issues
- Broader perspectives on language and policy related issues that language testers are not necessarily familiar with. As we advance in our professionalism and refine our language testing expertise, we are at risk of inflating our own importance at cutting ourselves off from outsider perspectives
- Circulate interesting information regularly including all latest contents of journals in the area of L2, as well as newsletters
- Engagement and encouragement of young researchers in the field by providing them with opportunities to participate in and present at international or regional conference; provide Graduate Student Committee
- Opportunities for graduate students to connect
- Breakfast with a scholarly address
- Informal networking opportunities (dinners)
- Summer schools, webinars, doctoral workshops
- Advice for getting published
- Job placement/internship announcements
- Mentoring sessions
- Post-conference publication to share ideas/findings/experiences
- Increase diversity of talks to include practitioner sessions, not just research paper
• Online familiarization with OPI
• More funding for graduate students
• More discussion on local issues
• Include complimentary activities