

PRESS RELEASE
15 November 2014

Kuen Cheng High School First to Adopt TOEFL Junior Test in Malaysia

Mandatory English Proficiency Assessment Required for Junior One Starting 2015

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (15 November 2014) — Kuen Cheng High School, a premier Chinese Independent Secondary School, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Eshia & Associates Sdn Bhd as the first school in the country to adopt the *TOEFL Junior*[®] Standard test, part of the *TOEFL*[®] Young Students Series, for all its Junior One incoming students.



Tan Sri Dato' Lee Shin Cheng and Ezani Amir exchanging the MOU documents signed.

It will be mandatory for all Junior One students who wish to enter Kuen Cheng in 2016 to sit for this test. As of 2015, we will make this test available to our Junior 1 to 3 students for the school management to assess their English proficiency in order to set the standard required.

Developed by Educational Testing Service (ETS), the TOEFL Junior Standard test is an objective, paper-based test that measures listening comprehension, reading comprehension, and language form and meaning. It is a reliable English proficiency measurement tool for students ages 11+.

The test scores are also mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), in line with the Government's Education Blueprint 2013 – 2025, thus allowing students, parents and teachers to gauge the achievement of the students against an international standard.

“We are proud to adopt this international standard of English proficiency for our school,” said Tan Sri Dato’ Lee Shin Cheng, the school Chairman. Kuen Cheng has been successful for the last 106 years is because we believe in outstanding and quality education. The TOEFL Junior Standard Test will enable the school to screen students through a globally accepted test process that is fair, valid and reliable right at the beginning and allow our teaching professionals to guide them to achieve the desired results over time”.

English language learning for young learners is an important foundation for the success of the students’ in the future, and the ability to provide meaningful interpretation on the scores of the students is equally important.

According to Mr Ezani Amir, Managing Director of Eshia & Associates, the country representative of ETS in Malaysia, “Kuen Cheng is a testimony of a progressive and visionary school and we are proud to announce this collaboration. The TOEFL Junior Standard test serves as a comprehensive measurement tool that will be used to help support the placement of students into programs designed to increase their English proficiency levels.” He adds, “Parents will also benefit from this test as the score report has descriptors that they can use to further assist their children in understanding the areas of strengths and improvement.”

As part of this understanding, Kuen Cheng High School will also be a test center for TOEFL Junior Standard test and the TOEFL ITP test in Malaysia. Quarterly tests will be held at the school for any students who wish to take the tests.

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“We would like to thank Eshia for allowing us to be a test center for the TOEFL Junior Standard test and TOEFL ITP test as this is a great marketing opportunity for us to promote the school to a wider audience,” said Tan Sri Dato’ Lee Shin Cheng.

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About Kuen Cheng High School [www.kuencheng.edu.my]

Kuen Cheng High School is a private Independent Chinese School with a rich history of 106 years and is actively supported by the school Board of Directors who work closely with the Principal, Mdm Gooi Swee Gaik, the management & academic teams as well as the teaching staff. From such a humble beginning, the school has had a phenomenal growth. Kuen Cheng High School started its journey as a Girls school in 1908 by our founders Mdm Wu and Mr Zhong to provide secondary education for the Chinese Primary school leavers and serve as a linking bridge to tertiary education. This is also to cherish and propagate Chinese culture and to safeguard mother-tongue education. It was converted to a co-educational secondary school in 2008 to mark its centennial anniversary.

Our pupils follow a *flexible educational progress route* in which the pupils follow multiple programme stages, that is, the government course units (PT3 and SPM)-termed as Form 1 to Form 5 as well as the Chinese Unified exams, termed as JUES-Junior 1 to 3 and SUEC-senior 1 to 3, at the same time. All certificates offered are well accepted by many recognized colleges and universities locally and worldwide. Therefore, the school, is concerned with the laying a good English foundation for the students.

About the TOEFL® Young Students Series

Designed to set the foundation for the successful development of English-language skills, the TOEFL® Young Students Series features age-appropriate assessments, products and services — including the TOEFL Junior® and TOEFL® Primary™ tests — to help guide younger students to the next steps of learning.

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About ETS [www.ets.org]

ETS focuses on advancing quality and equity in education for people worldwide by creating assessments based on rigorous research. ETS serves individuals, educational institutions and government agencies by providing customized solutions for teacher certification, English language learning, and elementary, secondary and post-secondary education, as well as conducting education research, analysis and policy studies. Founded as a nonprofit in 1947, ETS develops, administers and scores more than 50 million tests annually — including the TOEFL and *TOEIC*® tests, the *GRE*® tests and *The Praxis Series*™ assessments — in more than 180 countries, at over 9,000 locations worldwide.

About Eshia & Associates [www.testcenter.my]

Eshia & Associates consults, markets and delivers premier products and services in Malaysia. Eshia & Associates has been appointed to promote, market and administer the TOEIC and TOEFL tests for the Malaysian market.

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