
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 12 NOVEMBER 2010

Obama's language skills charm Indonesians

US President Barack Obama showed off some of his Indonesian-language skills during his 19-hour visit to the country he lived in as a child, drawing laughter and cheers from the locals. Opening his speech at the University of Indonesia Wednesday, Obama said: 'Assalamulaikum. Salam sejahtera' (Peace be upon you. Happy prosperity), to applause from the academic audience. He sparked a chorus of laughter when he said: 'Pulang kampung, nih,' slang for 'I'm back in my village,' in a flawless local accent.

Language Scores Validate Afghan Air Force English Immersion Lab

The Afghan Air Force's English Immersion Lab, known as the Thunder Lab, received exciting news from Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, Texas on Nov 10. Three of the first seven lieutenants in America achieved the minimum English Comprehension Language (ECL) score to advance to USAF fixed-wing pilot training. They accomplished this in an average of 24 days. Previously, Afghan officers took an average of 405 days to reach proficiency.

Sikh soldier completes US Army training with turban on

Twenty six year old Simran Preet Singh Lamba became the first enlisted Sikh soldier in the US army in more two decades to complete basic training without shedding his turban and other articles of faith. Recruited by the Army in 2009 through the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) programme for his language skills in Punjabi and Hindi, Lamba completed basic training with his turban and unshorn hair at Fort Jackson outside Columbia and became a US citizen. "I am thrilled to serve with my fellow soldiers and serve the United States of America," Lamba said.

Jefferson's Army Of Nation Builders (New York Times)...Dominic Tierney

Today, some officers warn that an army of nation-builders would lose its edge at conventional warfare. But in keeping with the founders' belief that the soldier's role was to build, not just to destroy, we need our own multipurpose military — an Army and Marine Corps with duties that extend far beyond winning tank battles or artillery duels against enemy states, or even fighting at all. And just as in Jefferson's time, West Point in the 21st century should supply a nation-builder's education, and we should encourage its efforts to emphasize in its curriculum the study of foreign languages and cultures.

CyraCom International Awarded Multiple Million Dollar Contracts with US Military

CyraCom International, Inc., a leading provider of language services, announced the receipt of two contracts with the United States Military worth over \$2,000,000. Based on the highly successful first phase of the Translation and Interpretation Testing and Training Capabilities project, the U.S. Army Contracting Command in Seaside, California entered into two contracts with CyraCom International to continue the collaboration between CyraCom and the Defense Language Institute (DLI) on the next phase of the project. This will include introductory translation and interpretation training for military linguists in multiple critical languages followed by a "Train the Trainer" program for DLI faculty.

SAIC Expands Human Language Technology Offerings for Federal and Commercial Customers

SAIC announced today it has acquired technology, intellectual property and related assets from three firms that develop human language technologies: [AppTek Partners, LLC](#); [Applications Technology, Inc.](#); and [MediaMind, LLC](#). As part of the deal, [SAIC](#) will acquire a complete suite of products for text and speech (voice) processing, including machine translation, knowledge management and automated speech recognition tools for more than 30 languages. Federal government and commercial customers use these tools to automatically translate and transcribe large volumes of data and significantly reduce the amount of time needed to edit and finalize translated output.

Businesses seeking employees with foreign language skills

Jobseekers can improve their employment prospects by honing their foreign language skills, according to the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). Gerwyn Davies, public policy advisor at the HR organisation, noted that languages spoken in developing countries such as Brazil, Russia, India and China are proving highly attractive to UK businesses at present.

College Board Brings Back AP Italian Language And Culture Program

The College Board [announced](#) it would reinstate its Advanced Placement (AP) Italian Language and Culture program next fall and its AP Italian exam in May 2012. According to [The Washington Post](#), College Board has continuously offered foreign language programs in Spanish, French, German, Latin, Chinese and Japanese. However, in the 2008-09 school year, the organization decided to eliminate its AP programs in Italian, Latin language, French literature and computer science because of poor enrollment and, thus, lack of funding. As [The Wall Street Journal](#) pointed out, AP Italian saw a steady increase since its first test in 2006; however, headcount was far from the College Board's target of 5,000 a year. Because of this, the organization was losing \$1.5 million a year.

Australian targets better skills with new visa criteria

All skilled migrants – applying for any skilled [visa for Australia](#) – will have to pass a new points-based test designed to target migrants more closely suited to Australia's needs. According to Australia's immigration department, the changes will “focus on better English language skills, more extensive skilled work experience, higher level qualifications obtained in Australia and overseas and different age ranges.”

Japan plans US teacher training scheme

A new scheme could enable Japanese teachers to travel abroad to improve their English language skills. Prime minister Naoto Kan is set to agree a new initiative with president Barack Obama that will give teachers the opportunity to visit the US, reports the Guardian. The two governments are expected to confirm the new plans during a forthcoming visit from the president to Japan and it is likely that the scheme will cover primary, middle and secondary school teachers who have recently qualified. They could remain in the US for up to two years learning new language and teaching skills.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands program builds relationships

The Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands program is designed to help coalition forces build lasting relationships with locals by providing each member with the skills to communicate and understand the people they are around. The members of the program go through language and cultural training before deploying, giving them the ability to speak the language and understand the cultural differences in the region. “We train the Afghan national security forces in a variety of subjects,” said Lt. Col. Marcus Williams, the director of Joint Security Academy Southwest and a member of the AF PAK Hands program.

Language shapes our attitudes

For years, psychologists have explored the surprising ways in which people's attitudes about race and gender are shaped by unconscious biases. New research suggests that the language people speak may influence what they think, too. Using positive and negative words in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic, Harvard researchers tested bilingual people's implicit preferences for people of different nationalities. What they found is that much is lost in translation: people's attitudes about a given ethnic group shift depending on what language they take the test in. Putting feelings into words, it seems, may actually influence the feelings. One possibility is that “attitudes aren't stable things we have over time,” said Oludamini Ogunnaike, a graduate student at Harvard who led the work. “Attitudes are constructed on the spot in response to a given stimuli... One of the factors that goes into generating this response is language.”

Even with voter approval, SQ 751 remains controversial

International students and non-English speakers soon could see a drop in bilingual services offered by Oklahoma's government following the move to make English the state's official language. "When all these services are suddenly not available, I think it will come as a bit of a shock to (non-English) speakers," said Tony Terry, director of The Language Company's Shawnee location, which offers English-as-a-second-language classes. "And abroad, people who hear about this might see Oklahoma as a backward place that is not interested in the general international community."

Confucius Institute of KU to expand teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language

For the 2010-2011 school year the Confucius Institute of The University of Kansas (CIKU) will offer K-12 foreign language instruction in Chinese in 19 high school classes and 30 elementary school classes in Kansas, Missouri, and Ohio via interactive distance learning (IDL) videoconferencing. Students at remote sites will connect to CIKU instructors in Overland Park, KS, to interact and learn Chinese. Students and teachers see and hear each other to interact as if they were in the same classroom. One teacher can provide instruction to students in many different schools throughout the school day, and IDL instruction allows the local schools to schedule Chinese foreign language classes within their normal school day schedules.

Aligning Language and Culture Learning with Non-Language Majors through Study Abroad

One of the challenges in the field of second language education is making foreign languages and intercultural knowledge and skills relevant to all parts of a student's academic and postgraduate life. Many institutions approach this challenge from a "seat time" or "cafeteria" perspective -- trying to ensure basic global competency by either (1) establishing minimum foreign language requirements, or (2) encouraging students to study abroad. While these efforts may play a part in fostering intercultural competence, they tend to fall short unless second-language knowledge is woven into the rest of a student's academic and pre-professional career. Students derive global competence from a variety of disparate experiences. As educators it is our responsibility to help them connect the dots of this global education puzzle because without a sense of the interrelationships within the larger educational context, student learning in a global sense is compromised. The Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC) consortium (clacconsortium.org) advances a comprehensive dialogue as well as provides specific strategies for addressing these issues.

Foreign Language Classes for Adults Grow in Popularity

Dozens of adults in our area are going back to school -- not to learn a new trade or job but a new language. It's a growing trend among local businesses to have their employees become bilingual for work. "Bano, bano, crenotare, crenotare," a class recites. It's an Italian class -- basic Italian -- for adults offered at St. Norbert College in De Pere. Nearly 100 people are learning a dozen different languages right now -- some for fun or to learn family heritage, but a growing number of students, like Andrew Bomstad, are doing it for work. "A lot of times people I work with through Georgia Pacific don't always speak English as their first language. Sometimes when we travel, it's to a country where English isn't the primary language," Bomstad said.

Budget cuts to schools hurt health, business

Cuts in school funding and pressure to boost standardized test scores are changing K-12 education in ways that could eventually undermine the nation's health and economic well-being. School districts across the country have been cutting back physical education programs to allow more time for core academic subjects for many years. More recently, foreign language programs have fallen victim to the budget axe. These are worrisome trends, and they are accelerating.

Performed Culture and Overseas Study: Beyond the Obligatory Temple Visit

Individuals aspiring to achieve expertise in any field must be practitioners of that field: football players must play football for years before they can play professionally; football coaches do not need to have played football themselves, but they must have coached for years if they hope to be successful. Students of foreign languages and cultures are no different. In order for someone to say they "know" Chinese language or culture, they must be able to demonstrate that knowledge through action, and action is learned through participation in the target culture. During the summer of 2010, 32 students from five US

universities participated in the Chinese community through an Ohio State University-managed overseas study program.

Paktika PRT meets with new women's affairs director

The Paktika Provincial Reconstruction Team's female engagement team conducted their first meeting with Hala Hushawa, Paktika's new director of women's affairs, here Sunday, Nov, 7. Through questions, explanations and laughter, members of the FET established a relationship with Hushawa and learned how the PRT can assist her in meeting the needs of Paktika's females. "At first it will be hard to do work here," Hushawa said. "I need your help. You came from a foreign country to help us, and we will do everything we can."

Campaigners argue for German to be adopted as the official language

A petition is being taken to the German Parliament on Tuesday to try to persuade the government to adopt German as the official language of Germany. However migrant groups are following the debate with unease.

Foreign language day speaks to students

More than 500 students, teachers and parents were on campus last Thursday, Nov. 4, for the 35th annual Foreign Language Day. This year's theme was "Opening Minds through Languages," and SVSU's Department of Modern Foreign Languages hosted the event for mid- Michigan high school students to show off their language skills. "We wanted to get high school students who have been studying foreign languages to perform and show off their language skills," she said. "We are hoping that they might want to consider studying foreign language in college."

New portal launches that breaks down language

A new property portal has launched that enables estate agents to advertise properties in front of a worldwide audience in 20 languages. Agents can input information about a property in any language, and this information is automatically translated into the other 19.

Sprague school's Italian course a rare breed

While his students cut out pictures of a chicken — "la gallina" in Italian — Claudio Scarpelli ran around his classroom at Sayles School like a chicken with its head cut off. "I'm the only one who is allowed to touch the glue," a hand-waving Scarpelli said in a thick accent. "If I let them have it, they'd all be sticking together." His second-graders pasted cutouts of animals, learned their Italian names and sang in Italian to keep the language in their heads. The Italian program, for 350 kindergarten through eighth-grade students at Sayles, is one of the few of its kind in the state. Since Connecticut does not mandate the study of a foreign language and budgets are tight, foreign language programs for younger students slowly are becoming extinct.

Entrepreneur Launches Vocabulary-Driven Learning Program, "LanguageTutor"

LanguageTutor, a highly flexible foreign language program, was launched today by moreVocabulary, LLC. The application concentrates on real-life vocabulary organized in more than 50 lessons and focuses on difficult words until the student is familiar with them. LanguageTutor is available in three combinations (English/Spanish, French/English and Spanish/French) and provides nearly 10,000 words and short expressions in multiple contexts. The interactive program utilizes spaced repetition, a learning technique that takes advantage of the brain's ability to remember facts better when they are repeatedly presented in intervals.

DEFENSE.GOV NEWS ARTICLE: DEPSECDEF LYNN HONORS DOD'S BEST EMPLOYEES

On November 4, 2010, Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn III paid tribute to eight people who distinguished themselves among more than 700,000 others in winning the Defense Department's annual top civilian employee awards. The Distinguished Civilian Service Award was created 55 years ago to recognize a small number of employees whose careers reflect exceptional devotion to duty and extremely significant contributions in policy, science, technology and administrative fields. Congratulations to:

Mr. Glenn H. Nordin
Foreign Language and Foreign Area Advisor
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence

ROSETTA STONE CEO WANTS TO TEACH THE WORLD TO TALK - USATODAY.COM

Rosetta Stone's approach to learning a second or even third language is simple: Instead of having students stare at a blackboard and memorize grammar, it uses images of real-life situations to convey meaning and trigger understanding, the natural method that helped most of us pick up our first language. The idea for Rosetta Stone's interactive language program didn't begin with Adams, who's been CEO there since 2003. But his life experience and leadership have helped propel the company from \$10 million in revenue to nearly \$300 million in less than a decade.

MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT AT CARNEGIE MELLON TO OFFER A NEW MASTER'S DEGREE

The department of modern languages announced a new master's degree in applied second language acquisition. As one of only two graduate degrees offered by the department of modern languages, according to its website, the master's in applied second language acquisition (MA in applied SLA) "draws on strengths of the department of modern languages at Carnegie Mellon." The year-long program is oriented towards preparing students for careers teaching second languages. According to the website, the program is aimed towards both U.S. and international students and highlights "second-language acquisition, cultural studies, pedagogy, and technology-enhanced learning." The MA in applied SLA is a professionally oriented degree, which will allow graduates to pursue employment at the secondary or university level. Candidates should intend to teach one of the five languages that the program offers: English as a second language, French, German, Chinese, or Japanese.

NORTH GEORGIA COLLEGE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS FEATURED ON NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

North Georgia College and State University is the place to be in Georgia if you want to become fluent in Chinese or Arabic. You can also learn Korean or Russian. The language training there is made in part by the Department of Defense. North Georgia commissions 75 officers a year and the U.S. Army is looking for more Soldiers fluent in languages that are considered strategic.