
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 22 MARCH 2011

Complex Mission Hampers U.S. Effort

In one sign of the stress as the nuclear crisis unfolded, an American official helping to coordinate activities with the Japanese Self Defense Forces grew teary-eyed when discussing these cooperative efforts. To be sure, that official said the two militaries were largely on the same wavelength. But other U.S. and Japanese military sources said language, protocol and cultural barriers had proved more daunting than expected, especially for two close allies.

Ham makes first visit to Africa as new commander

Ham also emphasized that he would like to see U.S. troops better trained in African cultures and languages. Ham is asking all AFRICOM personnel, himself included, to spend one hour each day studying a language. He said he would spend the long plane trips to and from the continent learning French with the help of the language-learning software Rosetta Stone. "That's my objective," he said. "We'll see how this plays out, to see if I am personally disciplined enough to do this."

UNC-system schools may be forced to cut foreign language programs

The ever-present burden of budget cuts is forcing UNC-system schools to follow a national trend of bidding "adieu" to foreign language programs. A report published by the University of California, Riverside said the number of universities offering undergraduate degree programs in European languages and literatures — Romance, Germanic and Slavic — declined steeply from 1971 to 2006.

Family Vacation – Unique Learning Family Travel Program Offered

New York City's highly regarded children's foreign language program, The Carousel of Languages, is currently accepting reservations for the 7th year of its popular Family Travel Program, a unique linguistic and cultural journey for children and their families. "Children participate in a week-long program exploring foreign language, culture, architecture, and art," explains Patrizia Saraceni Corman – who is a mother and the Founding Director of The Carousel of Languages (formerly known as Italian for Toddlers). "Each day children enjoy unique, fun-filled excursions and exciting customized adventures – while accompanied by trained teachers, professional tour guides."

STARTALK 2011 - Teacher Programs in DC

The George Washington University will hold a one-week, 40 hour, intensive summer institute -- "Arabic for Teachers of Arabic" -- in Washington, DC to be led by Dr. Muhammad Eissa of the University of Chicago. The purpose of this institute is to raise the awareness of Arabic K-12 teachers about the structures, morphology, and cultural content of the Arabic language in the context of teaching Arabic as a second language. By the end of the institute, teachers will have a refreshed, explicit understanding of the most important linguistic features of Arabic, and an understanding of how to teach them in context in a standards-based, communication-oriented classroom. The institute will accommodate 24 teachers and instructors of Arabic, of all grades and levels, native and non-native speakers, and teachers with more and less formal education about the Arabic language.

Language Translation Software Market Shares and Forecasts, Worldwide, 2011-2017

Hybrid machine translation is evolving more sophisticated software that actually works well enough to be useful; The hybrid systems provide dramatic improvement, creating the ability to use machine translation in a wide variety of situations. Hybrid machine translation combines the features of statistical and rules based approaches. Human language technology solution combines the strengths of rule-based and statistical systems. The term hybrid in this context means statistical MT (SMT) systems use examples and

apply statistical techniques to a large body of language data to perform translations combined with rules based approaches.

TCAPS Votes for Foreign Language Program

Traverse City Area Public School Board members voted last night to start teaching foreign languages in their elementary schools. In a six to one vote, the board elected to fully implement foreign languages in third, fourth and fifth grade despite a projected six million dollar budget deficit. Foreign language class will be taken out of regular classroom time. Schools will begin teaching the languages in the fall. The district will begin budget talks next month. Board members say they plan to talk in the future about implementing foreign languages in kindergarten through second grade.

Raising your child bilingually

You may be lucky to have the option to raise your child bilingually, but there may be fears and doubts. Is there a price to pay, and does the cost outweigh the benefits? A few years ago early bilingualism was rather not supported because it was thought to harm the development of the first language. This view is changing. Obvious opportunities for a bilingual education are living in a country where another language is spoken, having a partner speaking another language or having access to an educational system operating in another language or another caretaker. More than half of the world population is bilingual, so it is more the norm than an exception.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Virtual schools teaching states valuable lessons

A few years ago, when he was governor of West Virginia, Bob Wise attended a graduation ceremony at Pickens High School in Randolph County, a tiny school on top of a mountain where the graduating class consisted of only two students. As he was leaving, he asked the principal how the school was able to attract foreign language teachers. "He laughed and said, 'We have one of the best Spanish instructors in the country.' And I said, 'How could that be possible here on this mountain?' And he pointed to a satellite dish and he said, 'She comes in every day at 10 o'clock from San Antonio, Texas.' "That's when I learned the power of distance learning," said Wise, now the president of the Alliance for Excellent Education. Many states are increasingly learning the same lesson. A combination of higher proficiency standards and tighter budgets are prompting school officials to look more closely than ever at online education.

Philippine DepEd offers HS students more foreign languages courses

Deped's Bureau of Secondary Education chief Director Lolita Andrada said the Special Program in Foreign Language is designed for schools whose students have demonstrated competence first in English before they start to learn another foreign language. "Studies have shown that facility in just one foreign language is now perceived as a disadvantage in a global market that is culturally and linguistically diverse," added Andrada.

ECOLT Call for Papers

With the support of the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), Second Language Testing, Inc. (SLTI), Georgetown University, and the National Capital Language Resource Center (NCLRC), the East Coast Organization of Language Testers (ECOLT) will hold its tenth annual conference on **October 28-29, 2011** in Washington, D.C.

As Thomas Jefferson adds help for poor English skills, some Va. parents fume

As Northern Virginia became home to more immigrant families in recent decades, Fairfax County officials say they started programs to teach English as a second language at every school — about 200 of them. Except one. The holdout was the region's hallowed magnet school, [Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology](#), where many assumed that steep admissions standards rendered such a program for English language learners unnecessary. But next year, at the behest of the school's teachers, Thomas Jefferson — often called TJ — plans to hire its first instructor to cater to a growing number of students who thrive in math and science classes but sometimes struggle with English.

[Institute fosters Chinese relations](#)

China will no longer seem 9,200 kilometres away from Saskatchewan, thanks to a new institute at the University of Regina. Vianne Timmons, U of R president, announced that a Confucius Institute will be established in Regina. The institute will help promote Chinese language and culture in the city, while strengthening Saskatchewan's relationship with China. "Canada-China relations are critical as we move forward in the future," Timmons said on Friday at a media conference to announce the establishment of the institute.

[Moscow plays host to Russian language contest](#)

The First International Russian Language Contest among foreign students has come to a close in Moscow, bringing together more than 300 kids from the far and near abroad who competed in Russian language skills for three weeks. The award ceremony took place at the Moscow Et Cetera Theatre.

[Using a Foreign Language](#)

Back in Vietnamese classes again and meeting the age-old problems. The Asian teachers and [students](#) seem to be mired in a single [dictionary definition](#) for each English word, and they can't seem to accept that, in this situation, the translation is one thing, but in another situation, the same word needs to be translated differently.

[Teacher recognized for excellence in her field](#)

Maria Schiele was awarded the Ohio Foreign Language Beginning Teacher Award last week by the Ohio Foreign Language Association. Schiele, who was nominated by a colleague in the world language department at the high school, will be recognized at the organization's state conference next month. "I felt truly honored, excited, and humbled to be selected for this award," Schiele, 27, said. "Maria was chosen for her leadership and innovation in delivering instruction in French," said Doreen Osmun, director of curriculum and instruction. "She immerses her students in the language and culture."

[Afghan pilots graduate aviation English course](#)

More than 80 Afghan Air Force pilots graduated from an aviation English course at a ceremony on the Afghan Air Force Base in here March 14. The course, split between varying levels of language proficiency ranging from elementary to intermediate, taught aviation-centric English meant to help the airmanship of Afghan pilots. English is the universal language for aviation, and by upgrading the understanding Afghan pilots have of English, the AAF will be able to improve safety measures and operability with regional and global partners, said Flight Lieutenant Henry Wilkinson, the air attaché for the British Embassy in Kabul.

[Patz expands opportunities for people to build language skills](#)

Patz works on two initiatives to increase training in critical languages: the [Boren Scholarships and Fellowships](#) program and [Project Global Officers](#). Boren brings civilian students with regional experience and language skills into the federal government. Project Global Officer targets students with an interest in military service who may not have had language or study abroad experience. "Both are scholarship programs that provide funding for undergraduate and graduate students to study internationally; they focus on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study that are critical to U.S. national security, broadly defined, and underrepresented in study abroad," Patz says.

[Education and Training: The Foreign Service's Challenge](#)

The American Foreign Service has long been known for its resistance to and disdain for systematic training, with the single notable exception of language training, a skill universally recognized as essential to the success of a diplomatic career. In recent months the American Academy of Diplomacy with the support of the Stimson Center carried out a [study of this problem](#) and made substantial recommendations to improve the quality of training and to reverse this anti-training attitude.

[Can America Lead Without Learning Other Languages?](#)

It's no secret that these are troubled times for foreign language programs in the United States. Despite the historic high number of students taking languages other than English, some institutions are making choices to curtail or close programs, to take away opportunities to major in certain languages and, in the most benign version, to fail to invest in the structure necessary to sustain and grow languages as a field

of study. Even with all the recent public rhetoric about globalization, some leaders on and off campus think that as a nation we can participate or even lead without having to learn the languages or know about the cultures of the rest of the world. It's enough, they say, to study the economics, politics and histories of other nations and peoples — all in English — to function well on the global stage.

MAKING LANGUAGE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE MEANINGFUL: THE NEED FOR A FEDERAL HEALTH CARE INTERPRETERS' STATUTE

In Miami, Florida, the misinterpretation of a word delays treatment for Willie Ramirez and results in the eighteen-year-old-year old living the rest of his life as a quadriplegic. At a doctor's office in Merced, California, Ker Moua's son, acting as the communication conduit between the doctor and his non-English speaking mother, mistranslates the doctor's instructions with respect to the prescription medication, and she overdoses. In Queens, New York, Moon Chul Sun, a Korean speaking patient, is unable to communicate with doctors for three days until an interpreter that "spoke little Korean" tells him, while he is being discharged, that the only course of treatment was to take Tylenol. He dies a month later. These cases illustrate a significant challenge facing a health care system that is unable to comply with federal regulations designed to address the needs of patients who are unable to communicate proficiently in English.