

# English Teaching Skills Seminar

## Task-Based Learning and Student Motivation for JET Program ALTs and JTEs

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 7-8:30 p.m.

At the Fukuoka American Center, Tenjin

Speaker: *Thomas W. Santos, Regional English Language Officer, U. S. Department of State*



Free of  
charge!

It is a constant challenge to motivate and stimulate our students. We want to coax them into engagement with the material so that they will learn to read, write, and speak English. Unfortunately, we are not always able to do this. Due to the external pressures of social responsibility, our young learners are not always mentally or emotionally present. This presentation will look at educational motivation theory and its relation to actual classroom practice. Task-based learning (TBL), as described by Jane Willis, is one strategy to motivate our students extrinsically if intrinsic motivation is not present. The built-in aspect in TBL of the requirement of students to produce something as well as reflect on their learning process can help push students to engage with the language. This extrinsic motivation can be a powerful tool for teachers to arrive at their ultimate goal, learning.

In this presentation, there will be an opportunity for participants to discuss the applicability of TBL. They will also look at student textbooks and experiment with how to adapt them to a task-based model.

**This program is open to Japanese and foreign teachers of English (of any nationality) associated with the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program.** Seating is limited so please register early.

If you have time, join us at the Fukuoka American Center from 6:30-7:00 p.m. for an informal reception with Mr. Santos, the American Center staff, local JETs, and JET alumni working at U.S. Consulate Fukuoka.

**When: March 4, 2013, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**(doors open at 6:30 for informal reception)**

**Where:**  
**Fukuoka American Center**  
Nishitetsu Parkside Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Fl  
Adjacent to Tenjin Mitsukoshi  
Dept. Store, connected by  
walkway on Mitsukoshi 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
2-2-67 Tenjin, Chuo-ku  
Fukuoka 810-0001

**Please call or e-mail to register:**  
**Tel: 092-761-6661**  
**E-mail: FACRS@state.gov**

**Please bring photo ID**



Thomas Santos serves as Regional English Language Officer (RELO) for Korea, Japan and Taiwan, based in the US Embassy, Seoul. His previous posts were Kyiv, Ukraine and Moscow, Russia. He holds a MAT degree in Language Education from the School for International Training and a MFA degree in Theatre from the University of California, San Diego. Over a more than 20-year career, Thomas has been a teacher and teacher trainer in Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Morocco, and Bangladesh. He taught linguistics and classroom practice at the SIT Graduate Institute before joining the US Department of State. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Budapest, Hungary and a Senior English Language Fellow in South Korea. His main areas of interest are effective classroom practice, curricular reform, and the use of the arts in language education.

This Program is Free of Charge