

# Sarawak English Literacy Conference (SELC) 2025

17 – 19 September | Hikmah Exchange Event Centre

The Laya Education Development Committee (LEDC) is the founding organisation of this conference and the driving force behind Systematic Synthetic Phonics in Sarawak and Malaysia. As pioneers in this field, they implemented Systematic Synthetic Phonics in public schools within the Laya Constituency of Sarawak in 2019 to ensure students achieve English reading and writing proficiency upon entering primary school.

The inaugural Sarawak English Literacy Conference (SELC) 2025 aims to bring together educators, policymakers, researchers, and community stakeholders to explore innovative, evidence-based strategies for advancing literacy education. The conference will emphasize collaborative approaches to fostering foundational reading and writing skills, with a focus on:

- **Phonics-Based Instruction:** Exploring systematic, multi-sensory techniques for teaching letter-sound relationships, decoding, and blending to support early literacy development.
- **Sequential Skill-Building:** Designing curricula that introduce linguistic concepts in a logical progression, prioritising early mastery of high-frequency sounds and words.

- **Active Learning Frameworks:** Integrating play, movement, and creative activities to engage diverse learners and reinforce literacy skills.
- **Holistic Literacy Integration:** Connecting reading, writing, speaking, and listening through interactive, cross-disciplinary practices.
- **Community and Family Collaboration:** Sharing tools to extend learning beyond classrooms, empowering caregivers to support literacy growth at home.

SELC 2025 will feature workshops, panel discussions, and resource-sharing sessions to address challenges in multilingual and multicultural contexts, with an emphasis on adaptable, research-backed solutions tailored to regional needs.

The conference will feature an impressive line-up of keynote speakers—Malaysians, regional, and international—who are recognised experts in the fields of literacy and educational innovation. Their contributions to innovative approaches in literacy skills development, along with their commitment to transformative education, will undoubtedly inspire and empower attendees to embrace new paradigms in literacy learning.

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Target Audience	: 1,000 pax
Exhibition	: 12 booths/table tops
Conference Elements	: Keynote Presentation, Keynote Address, Panel Discussion, Workshops and Study Tour

## Day 1, 17 September 2025 (Wednesday)

Time	Programme
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Registration and Networking Breakfast
8:00 AM – 8:20 AM	Welcome Remarks by <b>Mr. Paul Langgang</b> <i>Chairman</i> <i>Layar Education Development Committee</i> <i>Co-organiser of Sarawak English Literacy Conference (SELC) 2025</i>
8:20 AM – 8:55AM	Keynote 1: An Introduction to the Global Literacy Revolution <b>Speaker: Gilbert Jolly</b> Chief Executive Officer <i>Jolly Learning, Ltd</i>
8:55AM – 9:30 AM	The Impact and Challenges of Implementing a Synthetic Phonics Intervention in South Africa <b>Speaker: Natalie Southgate</b>
9:30 AM – 10:05 AM	The Science of Reading, What the Latest Research Is Telling Us <b>Speaker: Dr. Susan Whittaker</b>
10:05 AM – 10:20 AM	Coffee Break
9:45 AM – 10:20 AM	Arrival of VIPs and Invited Guests
10:30 AM	Arrival of Guest of Honour <b>The Right Honourable</b> <b>Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg</b> <i>Premier of Sarawak</i>
	Welcome Address by <b>The Honourable Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn</b> <i>Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development Sarawak (MEITD)</i> <i>Advisor of Sarawak English Literacy Conference (SELC) 2025</i>

	Keynote Address by <b>The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg</b> <i>Premier of Sarawak</i>
	Official launch of Sarawak English Literacy Conference (SELC) 2025
	Presentation of Premier's Memento Photo Opp
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 1:35 PM	The Author of Jolly Phonic and Jolly Literacy Exploring the Successes of The Program, Research and Outstanding Literacy Successes Globally <b>Speaker: Sara Wernham</b>
1:35 PM – 2:10 PM	Lessons Learned from Country Scale Literacy Interventions <b>Speaker: Dr Louise Gittins</b>
2:10 PM – 2:45 PM	Jolly Literacy – An Overview of The New Programme, The Transition from JP To Next Stage and Expectation Using Them. <b>Speaker: Yvonne Dalorto</b>
2:45 PM – 3:20 PM	Using Jolly Classroom to Teach in A Digital Classroom <b>Speaker: Gilbert Jolly</b>
3:20 PM – 3:50 PM	Coffee Break
3:50 PM– 4:15 PM	Short Video Presentation Break from India and Betong
4:15PM – 5:15PM	Panel Discussion

## Day 2, 18 September 2025 (Thursday)

Time	Programme
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Registration and Networking Coffee
8:30 AM – 9:05 AM	Keynote 2: The Journey of Jolly Phonics in Betong, Sarawak (2019 – 2025) <b>Speaker: Creena Alison Wong, Kong Pei San and Magdalena Bte Uming</b>
9:05 AM – 9:40 AM	Using Systematic Synthetic Phonics to Accelerate Rural Indigenous Children's Acquisition of Early Literacy Skills <b>Speaker: Dr Jia Rong Yap</b>
9:40 AM – 10:15 AM	Phonics Awareness among Rural Primary School English Language Teachers in Sarawak <b>Speaker: Dr Joseph Ramanair</b>
10:15 AM – 10:50 AM	Coffee Break
10:50 AM – 11:05 AM	Keynote 3 <b>The Honourable Datuk Dr. Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee</b> <i>Deputy Minister I (Higher Education and Innovation)</i> <i>Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development (MEITD)</i> <i>Patron of Sarawak English Literacy Conference (SELC) 2025</i>
11:05 AM - 11:40 AM	Big Scale Implementation of Programme: The Malaysian Experience <b>Speakers: Creena Alison Wong</b>
11:40 AM – 12:15 PM	Integrating Synthetic Phonics, with a STEM Curriculum <b>Speaker: STEM UK (Sarah Dagnell)</b>
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM – 1:50 PM	Curiosity in Sciences and English Language Learning <b>Speaker: Dr. Suneel Sheik (NASA)</b>
1:50 PM – 2:25 PM	Inspiring Our Children's Interest in a Green Future, through STEM <b>Speaker: Davrell Esmond Bhola</b>
2:25 PM – 3:00 PM	Curriculum Planning: What is Missing? <b>Speaker: Diego Zaffaroni</b>
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Coffee Break
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Panel Discussion

### Day 3, 19 September 2025 (Friday) Breakroom session

Time	Teacher Training (6 Sets)	School Leader Training	Government Leader Training
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Registration and Networking Coffee		
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Jolly Phonics Training	Jolly Phonics Training	Jolly Phonics & Literacy Overview
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Coffee Break		
10:15 AM – 12:15 PM	Jolly Phonics Training (Continued)	Jolly Phonics Training (Continued)	Implementing a Successful Large-Scale Training
12:15 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch		
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Jolly Literacy Training	Jolly Literacy Training	Assessment, Monitoring and Mentoring
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	Coffee Break		
3:45 PM – 5:15 PM	Jolly Literacy Training (Continued)	Jolly Literacy Training (Continued)	Building Community and Teacher Networks
5:15 PM	<b>SELC 2025 Closing Ceremony</b>  Valedictory Address by <b>The Honourable Dato Gerald Rentap Jabu</b> <i>Deputy Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development Sarawak</i> <i>Patron of Sarawak English Literacy Conference (SELC) 2025</i>  Closing Address by <b>The Honourable Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah Abdullah</b> <i>Minister of Women, Early Childhood and Community Wellbeing Development, Sarawak (KPWK)</i>		