

My experience at the 5th BELTA International Conference 2011

I live in Lalmonirhat. It is a rural area of Bangladesh. I teach in Bangladesh Railway Govt Children Park High School, which is situated in Lalmonirhat. My school is a part of EIA intervention. On May 2011, EIA has jointly hosted the 5th BELTA International Conference and I was a lucky participant of this conference. This was the first conference that I have attended in my life. Before this I didn't know anything about conferences. Therefore, I was afraid as it was my first time and I was thinking what to do in the conference. On the inauguration day, I arrived at 9 am at the BIAM Foundation, Dhaka. At first, I did the registration and completed other formalities. I entered into the auditorium at 10 am. I was surprised to see the huge gathering and everything was very new to me. The conference started with an opening ceremony and a presentation by the Keynote speaker- David Graddol.

By realizing the size and importance of this conference, I thought, I am a very small person for such a big conference. Just after the inauguration session, the main conference started with five simultaneous presentation sessions. I was very excited to attend different workshops and presentations. Before this conference I never talked to people in English all the time. But here, I prepared myself to talk to another person in English and I was successful. I adjusted with the environment and slowly started to understand everything in the conference. I joined many sessions such as Judith Hudson's 'Classroom Observation' session and enjoyed myself and learnt many systems. On the second day, I attended a very important session of Dr Amol Padwad 'Teachers as lifelong learners' and I think this was the best session of the conference. I hope to use many things that I have learnt from this conference to develop my professional activity and my own status. During these three days, I got to know many people. I spoke in English with all of them and this time I was not afraid. It was wonderful to be a part of the experience sharing of many national and international English Language Teaching (ELT) experts. I will apply the techniques that I have learnt in my classroom. I am proud that I have attended the conference. My English speaking power has developed. At last, thanks to EIA for giving me such an opportunity.

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