CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

The *core emphasis* of the ELLTA Conference is on Exploring Leadership and Learning Theories in Asia. After three successful international conferences in Malaysia in collaboration with the top universities (details at the end), the 4th International Academic Conference, ELLTA 2017, invites contributions to address the main theme above. The three questions below form the crux of the conference, which the submissions must address:

1. *Relevance of Existing Theories*: Are the west-inspired theories on leadership and learning (and Social Enterprise) relevant for Asia in general and different contexts in Asia in particular?

2. *Need for Theory Development/ Enrichment*: Is there a need to develop theories specific for Asia in general and different contexts in Asia in particular?

3. *Acknowledging Theories with Asian Origin*: Are there existing theories on leadership and learning (and Social Enterprise) with an Asian origin, which have not received much attention or have not been acknowledged so far?

Leadership and learning, like various other concepts, are often treated as global. Is it, however, wise to assume that the theories and insights related to these concepts (and similar others, such as 'Social Enterprise'') are universal in nature and could be equally applied to all contexts? The question becomes particularly significant when there is also a growing recognition that the majority of these theories that claim to have global application mainly originates in different parts of the Western world (see Dimmock, 1999; Easterby-Smith & Araujo, 1999)?

Let us take the example of Asia, which constitutes of a landscape of diverse geographical, cultural, religious (e.g. Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, etc.), social, socio-economical and socio-political heritage. Most of the civilizations are ancient, and have long-standing traditions of learning and knowledge. The contexts are unique in their multi-dimensionality and so are they in terms of the breadth and nature of challenges faced by the region. Such socio-cultural factors are bound to have their impact on the leadership and learning styles, behaviour, performance and outcomes that cannot be ignored by taking a simplistic, universal approach.

There is, thus, a need to examine/challenge generalizations related to learning and leadership across cultures and geographical boundaries, between East and West, but of course between Eastern contexts as well. That is where the conference invites your contributions. The key strands identified provide specific elaboration of the conference themes.

Key Strands (*potentially,* leading to *Special Issues* of journals):

1. *Leadership in/ and Context (Asia)*

    This theme invites contributions on:
    - Applicability/application of general theories on leadership and/or management in Asia;
    - The adaptation of general leadership and/or management theories to particular Asian contexts;
    - Leadership in Asia: Examples of contextually relevant models;
    - Reviews of existing, but not acknowledged, leadership and/or management theories that have Asian origins, including studies of the use of locally developed theories and ideas, and of the spread and impact of Asia-developed theories in various parts of Asia as well as in other parts of the world;
    - Study of leadership in context: Relevant methodological frameworks;
    - Leadership and/ or management insights based on Asian philosophies (e.g. Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Taoism, Christianity, Jainism, others);
    - Comparative insights/ studies (within or in relation to Asia);
    - Comparisons between how concepts in the leadership and/or management areas (e.g. 'leader', 'manager', 'delegation', 'decentralization', 'human resources') are defined in Asia and other parts of the world, and among different contexts in Asia;
    - Suggestions for new perspectives on leadership and/or management, which when applied, could contribute to improved leadership and/or management in Asia;
    - On differences in leadership styles throughout Asia;
    - Exploring/examining leadership and management in social movements and/or learning embedded in community social action in Asia;
    - General well-grounded thoughts on globalizations on the basis of experiences from Asia, including reflecting upon concepts like imitation, adaptation, innovation and legitimization of theories and ideas.
2. *Learning Organisation/ Organisational Learning in Context (Asia)*: The submissions under this theme could focus on topics such as:
    - Applicability/application of general theories on LO/ OL in Asia;
    - The adaptation of general LO/ OL theories to particular Asian contexts;
    - Reviews of existing, but not acknowledged, LO/ OL theories that have Asian origins, including studies of the use of locally developed theories and ideas, and of the spread and impact of Asia-developed theories in various parts of Asia as well as in other parts of the world;
    - Contextual models of LO/OL in Asia;
    - Relevant methodological frameworks for studying LO/ OL in context;
    - Applications of Asian philosophies (e.g. based on Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Taoism, others) to the existing understanding of LO/ OL;
    - Comparative insights/ studies (within or in relation to Asia);
    - Comparisons between how core concepts in the LO/ OL (e.g. 'Organisation', 'Learning') are defined in Asia and other parts of the world, and among different contexts in Asia.

3. *Enterprise-led Development, Social Business and Transformation: Perspectives from Asia*

Contributions under this theme will, preferably from cross-disciplinary perspectives and based on experience, primarily focus on:

- Applicability of current theories of "development" in Asia to the emerging discussion on enterprise as a driver of change.
- Specific local or regional experience on how development theories can be adapted to enterprise-driven models for Asia.
- Contextually relevant examples or models of social transformation in Asia, emerging from market driven approaches.
- Developing from within: Cases or vignettes of spontaneous emergence of enterprise-led community initiatives from Asia.
- Development Studies in the enterprise-led development (ELD) context: Applicable methodological frameworks.
- Review of observed, or hitherto unacknowledged ELD approaches originating in Asia, their spread and impact.
- Philosophical underpinnings of ELD inspired social transformation in Asia e.g. Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Taoism, others.
- Comparative insights into traditional development approaches in relation to ELD initiatives within or in relation to Asia.
- Comparing how concepts such as Sustainable Development, Capacity-Building, Social Business, etc. within and outside Asia.
- Implications of Social Enterprise, Social Business or ELD on sustainable development approaches and outcomes in/ for Asia.

4. *Researching Context/ Context-based Research*

The contributions under this theme will, for instance, focus on
- Varying conceptions of context;
- Relevant methodological frameworks for studying context/ context-based studies;
- Innovative tools for context-based studies;
- Ethics in Research: Universalistic assumptions versus context-dependence
- Cross-cultural comparative insights (within or in relation to Asia)
- Comparisons between how concepts in research (e.g. 'ethics', 'participatory approaches', 'observation', 'plagiarism', 'data', 'validity', 'reliability', 'researcher's role', others) are defined in Asia and other parts of the world, and among different contexts in Asia;
- Publishing and plagiarism: Role/ influence of context and culture;
- 'Impact factor' versus 'social impact' - Relevance of research for Asian contexts.

5. *Learning and Change: Asia in Focus*

The contributions under this theme will focus on learning in both, formal (e.g. schools, higher education institutions) and informal (e.g. learning at home), settings. Submissions could take up themes, such as:
- Is there a need to challenge universalistic assumptions about learning, and develop contextually relevant models of learning in/ for Asia?
- Applicability/application of general theories on learning, education in Asia;
- The adaptation of general learning theories to particular Asian contexts;
- Reviews of existing, but not acknowledged, learning and/ or education theories that have Asian origins, including studies of the use of locally developed theories and ideas, and of the spread and impact of Asia-developed theories in various parts of Asia as well as in other parts of the world;
- Relevant methodological frameworks for studying learning and change/ transformation in context;

- Applications of Asian philosophies (e.g. based on Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Taoism, others) to the existing understanding of learning;

- Leadership learning/ education in Asia;
- Comparative insights/ studies (within/ vis-à-vis Asia);
- Comparisons between how concepts in the learning and/or education domain (e.g. 'learning', 'education', 'schooling', 'curriculum', 'assessment', others) are defined in Asia and other parts of the world, and among different contexts in Asia;
- Suggestions for new perspectives on learning and/or education, which when applied, could contribute to improved learning and/ or education in Asia;
- On differences in learning styles and teaching styles throughout Asia;
- Asian perspectives on the role of learning technologies;
- Exploring/examining learning, education in social movements and/or learning embedded in community social action in Asia;
- 'Learning to live together (LTLT)' (cf. UNESCO 2013, 'Toward Universal Learning') – What does it mean in/ for Asia?

Submission: Across Disciplines and Geographies

Academics from various fields, with an interest in leadership and/or learning (and 'Social Enterprise), are welcome to present their papers. The conference has a multidisciplinary emphasis and, therefore, inviting contributions from across disciplines, e.g.
- Social Sciences,
- Development and Sustainable Development Studies,
- Education,
- Science and Technology,
- Business and Economics,
- Management,
- Philosophy,
- Psychology,
- Sociology,
- Political Science
- Others.

Papers are welcome on formal as well as informal leadership, and on adult learning as well as school education. Moreover, the submissions should not be limited to examining learning in formal/ institutional settings only; we look at learning contexts more broadly so as to include the informal settings, the community or extra-institutional spaces as well.

Contributors should feel free to choose to focus on Asia in general OR any particular part, region, culture or religion in Asia. Comparative studies (across cultures and countries), involving Asia, are also of great interest to the conference.

Originality of Contributions in Multiple Formats:

Any kind of academic work is welcome, such as case studies, other empirical work, literature reviews, conceptual papers, etc. However, in the contributions, we look for original work that has not been published already or submitted elsewhere for any such consideration.

Research Collaborations and Publications

This year, based on earlier experiences, the 4th conference puts more *explicit* attention to *Collaborative Research and Publishing* in the domain of leadership and learning in Asia, and also on bridging the gap between academia and practitioners.

Publishing and Publications

The design of the conference is such that it creates opportunities for explicit discussion regarding publishing and publications. For instance:

- Paper presentations are generally followed by question/ answer and discussion session. However, at ELLTA 2017, the follow-up session on paper presentation will explicitly take up discussions related to enhancing the presented papers' potential for publications.

- Moreover, the conference will also be offering capacity building workshops on this issue. The potential themes/ topics are:
    1. 'Designing Innovative Tools for your Research'
    2. 'If your paper is a ship, it needs 'ANCHORING' – Learn the Strategies!'
    3. 'Developing Researchable Ideas, Rooted in 'Your' Interest and Experiences'
    4. 'Enhancing the Impact and Impact Factor for your Paper'
    5. 'Studying Context: Approaches and Methods'
    6. 'Review and Synthesis of Literature – Developing and Situating the Knowledge Contribution'
    7. Designing Collaborative Research/ Development Projects: Key Considerations

Research Collaborations

The design of the conference includes a variety of opportunities for discussing collaborative research. For instance, the paper presenters will have to identify and explicitly state the areas (with respect to their work) where opportunities for collaborative work are evident. Furthermore, the following are some other possibilities:

- Those who are interested in collaborative research must share their respective interest and area of work in advance. We will connect them to their relevant counterparts so that the collaborative conversations can begin much before the physical event of the conference (Flipped Conference).

- There will be dedicated time within the conference where the people can negotiate mechanism/ participation for collaborative research.

- Some potential collaborative research projects (for cross-cultural) insights will be announced for participants with relevant expertise and required commitment to join in.

- A practical session/ workshop will be organised around design principles or considerations for collaborative research projects.

- If you have a concept note ready, ELLTA can help in circulating your call for collaboration.

Who Can Participate

ELLTA brings together academics such as Deans Research and Innovation, Research Supervisors, Leaders of Specialized Research Interest Groups, Active Researchers, Research Educators, PhD Scholars; and Practitioners such as Policy Makers, Managers of Higher Education, Management Consultants, Project Managers, Social and Business Entrepreneurs, and similar others – to develop and share meaningful insights in relation to what constitutes leadership and learning in/for Asia.

Based on our understanding of the cumulative experience from the last three conferences regarding the potential knowledge contribution and respective learning needs of the two sectors - the Academia and Practitioners, ELLTA 2017 focuses on addressing the need to bridge the existing divide between the two Participants from both the sectors are, therefore, invited to this conference to gather at the same platform, and through building the capacity of each to share knowledge and engage with the other.

Specific Guidelines for Contributors

Abstract Submission for Papers/ Poster Presentations

In relevance to the conference themes, the interested contributors are required to submit an abstract of 250 to 300 words. Abstracts should clearly specify the title, the focus and thematic emphasis of the Paper/ Poster presentation; identify the methodology employed, the sources of data from where the findings emerge (wherever applicable); highlight key findings presented as well their implications for theory, policy and practice.

Proposal/ Concept Note for Symposia

In relevance to the conference themes, the interested contributors are required to submit a proposal or concept note (between 450 and 500 words) for a Symposium (90 minutes session; limited to five presenters, including the session facilitator/ chair). Unlike an individual paper, a Symposium provides a unique opportunity to allow presentation of multiple perspectives and experiences on a particular topic.

Proposal and Outline for Workshop

In relevance to the conference themes, the interested contributors are required to submit a proposal - inclusive of title, abstract (intended purpose, learning objectives/ outcomes and target audience for the workshop), and detailed outline (key content and methodology) - for the proposed Workshop (between 500 and 700 words), limited to an overall 90-minute session.

The final date for **abstract submissions** is **April 30th, 2017**.

The abstracts will be reviewed by the international advisory board members, and **acceptance notification** is due by **May 15, 2017**.

If your abstract is approved, you will be required to **submit a Full Pape***r* by **July 01, 2017**. A failure to do so may result in exclusion from the conference. More specific guidelines for full paper submissions will be uploaded later. Please keep visiting conference website for updates and information.

Important Dates

Abstract Submission:	By **April 30, 2017**
Acceptance of Abstract:	By **May 15, 2017**
Registration	
Early Bird:	By **May 30, 2017**
Standard:	By **June 20, 2017**
Full Paper Submission:	By **July 01, 2017**
Conference Starts:	On **July 25, 2017**

Conference Language

The official language of the conference is English; however, people presenting in any other language would need to arrange on their own for an interpreter/ translator.

More details to be added soon.

About the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

The Asian Institute of Technology promotes technological change and sustainable development in the Asian-Pacific region through higher education, research and outreach. Established in Bangkok in 1959, AIT has become a leading regional postgraduate institution and is actively working with public and private sector partners throughout the region and with some of the top universities in the world.

Recognized for its multinational, multicultural ethos, the Institute operates as a self-contained international community at its campus located 40km (25 miles) north of downtown Bangkok, Thailand.

Besides the usual labs and academic buildings, the main campus includes housing, sports, and medical facilities, a conference center, and a library with over 230,000 volumes and 830 print and on-line periodicals.

All serve to fulfil AIT's Mission which is:

To develop highly qualified and committed professionals who play leading roles in the region's sustainable development and its integration into the global economy.

Source: http://www.ait.ac.th/about#.WGjtc1N97IU

About ELLTA

ELLTA, which stands for Exploring Leadership and Learning Theories in Asia, came into being as a reaction against the pre-dominant assumptions and the tendency to treat most of the theories as if they are universal. It responds to the need to examine/ challenge generalizations related to learning and leadership across cultures and geographical boundaries, between East and West, but of course also between the Eastern contexts.

With an outreach in 60 plus countries, ELLTA is an academic organisation of credible domain experts drawn from diverse fields and disciplines across the globe, with the core purpose is to explore, recognize, strengthen, and promote theories (and thereby policies and practices) in Asia in the broader domain of leadership and learning.

ELLTA has been passionately engaged in developing knowledge and learning networks around its central mission through
- Providing venue for research dissemination (organizing conferences, publications);
- Strengthening networks of researchers and scholars, organisations, associations and institutions in Asia;
- Identifying future directions for research and collaboration in Asia; and
- Capacity building for leadership and learning and related research in Asia.

ELLTA Publications provide an important venue for disseminating the Asian perspectives to a wider audience, and extended opportunities for scholarly publication; these include, for instance:
- Special Issues in prominent international, peer reviewed journals,
- Edited books, and
- Conference abstract books

The last three conferences of ELLTA have been instrumental in challenging the hegemonic presence of the West-inspired theories and their basic assumptions, and promoting understandings of Asian perspectives on leadership and learning.

ELLTA Conference is a truly "International", academic conference which has outreach in 60 plus countries, and is widely recognized for its
- Academic rigor,
- Multi-disciplinary emphasis,
- Diversity – countries, cultures and disciplines,
- Significant theme/ emphasis,

- Knowledge artefacts – publications, etc.
- Innovative conference design, and
- Sustained and engaged community.

Conference Website: ellta.org/ellta-2017/