

The Language Training and Testing Center **ITTC**[®]

Keeping Up with the Times in Serving Learners, Teachers, and Partner Institutions

Introduction

◆ Who is the LTTC?

The LTTC is a non-profit educational institute founded in 1951 and currently registered with the Ministry of Education (MOE) of Taiwan. For more than 70 years, it has dedicated itself to fostering locally appropriate foreign language training and testing in Taiwan. The LTTC is:

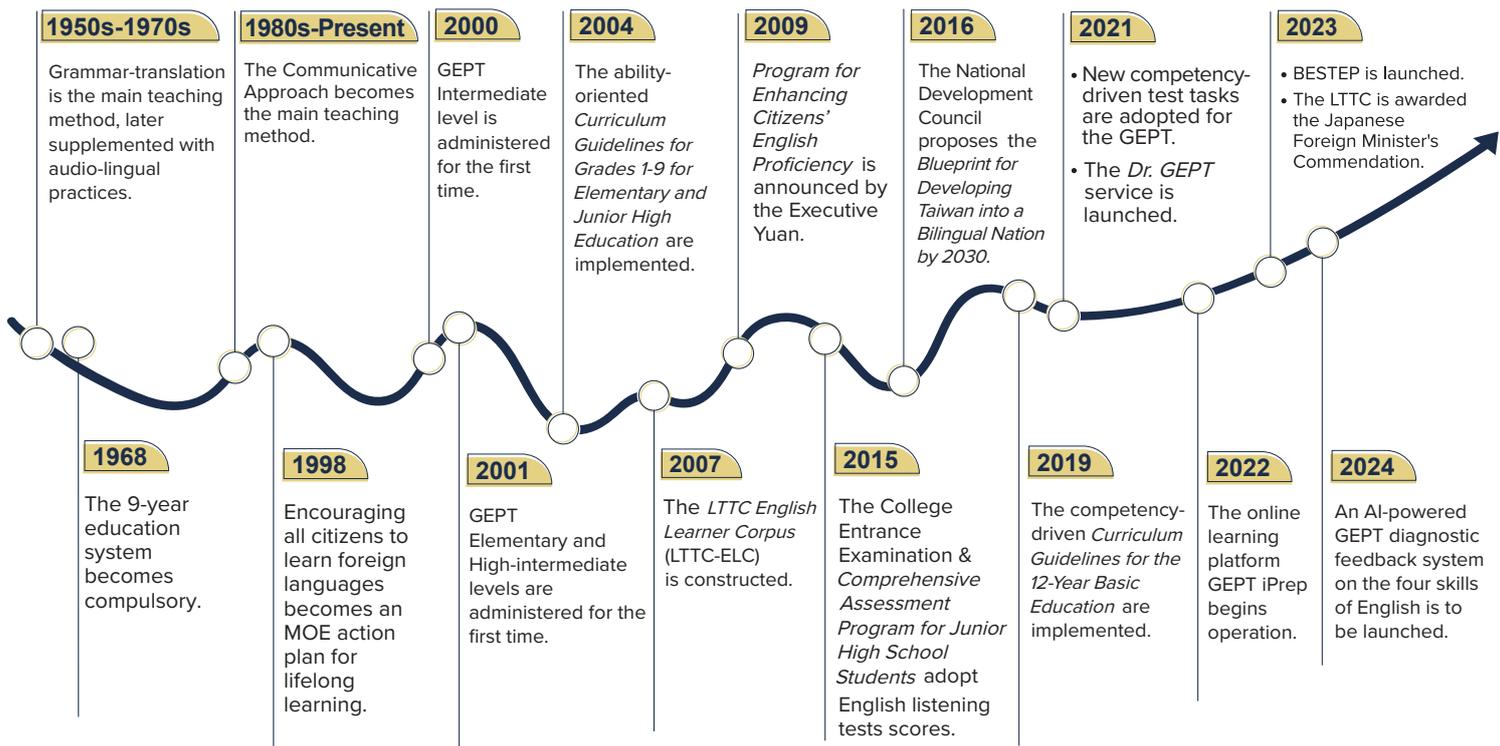
- The only institution in Taiwan that provides formal language training and testing services in six languages (English, Japanese, Korean, French, German, and Spanish)
- The training institution of choice for government agencies and hundreds of organizations
- An active contributor in research, publication, and collaborations with academic institutions at home and abroad
- A source of expertise and resources shared through a wide range of public engagements

◆ Key Partner in Bilingual Education

A driving force in foreign language education in Taiwan, the LTTC endeavors to keep pace with the country's education reforms. This is illustrated by the development of the General English Proficiency Test (GEPT):



A Chronicle of the GEPT and English Education in Taiwan



- To address challenges arising from the Taiwan government's 2030 Bilingual Policy, the LTTC has established the LTTC Task Force for Bilingual Education.
 - The task force focuses on innovations in three major areas—training, assessment, and research—and works closely with experts and stakeholders to tailor its products and services to the needs of students, educators, and government agencies.

Innovations in Training, Assessment, and Research

◆ Training

To meet the training demands of the government's bilingual policy, the LTTC offers targeted English language courses and teacher training courses.

• English Language Courses

- Competency-oriented courses for middle and high school students
- EAP courses for students at the tertiary level, such as writing training programs designed for researchers at Academia Sinica and writing and speaking courses that enhance college students' readiness for EMI courses

• Professional Development for Teachers

◆ Primary and secondary education

- Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) teacher training workshops for junior high and elementary school teachers, e.g., workshops conducted in cooperation with the Department of Education of the Taipei City Government

- Courses integrating English language test preparation, language training, and classroom English training to prepare CLIL teachers for certification at the CEFR B2 level
- ◆ Higher education
 - Faculty-training collaboration between the LTTC and universities around Taiwan, e.g., the EMI Skill Enhancement Workshop held at National Taipei University of Technology in 2021

◆ **Assessment**

The LTTC is committed to meeting the need for an expanded standardized testing capacity, as specified by the government. It has also met the demand for valid, reliable, and localized assessment tools for classroom use.

• **Standardized Testing**

- ◆ The BEST Test of English Proficiency (BESTEP)
 - Funded by the Ministry of Education
 - A norm-referenced assessment program to evaluate university students' English communication skills, from the CEFR A2 to B2 levels, in academic settings
- ◆ The General English Proficiency Test (GEPT)
 - New tasks added in 2020 to better reflect the concepts and skills contained in the revised competency-based English curriculum (2019) in Taiwan
 - Embodying the ideal of Learning Oriented Assessment through “Dr. GEPT,” an online service providing test takers with individual feedback on their strengths and weaknesses, to ensure assessment leads to further learning
 - Expanding the available test venues and test administration frequency in response to the need specified by the government
 - GEPT iPrep jointly launched by the National Development Council and the LTTC in 2022: a free, digital learning platform offering personalized diagnostic feedback on learners' listening and reading proficiencies in English.

• **Classroom Assessment**

- ◆ Primary and secondary education
 - Sets of CLIL classroom assessment tools for the elementary school subjects of life and science, developed under commission by the Taipei City Government's Department of Education



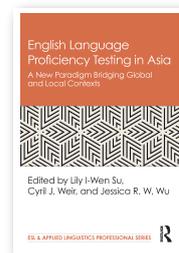
◆ Research

The LTTC grounds its endeavors in up-to-date research findings. It actively engages the academic community through publications, exchanges, and the LTTC Teaching and Research Grants.

• Recent publications

◆ *English Language Proficiency Testing in Asia* (2019)

— An edited volume discussing locally designed and adapted language tests throughout Asia and their impact on language teaching and learning

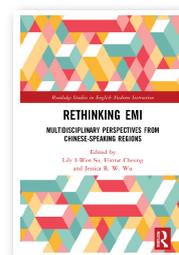


◆ *General English Proficiency Test: Realizing Glocalization in English Language Proficiency Testing* (2021)

— A two-part volume tracing the historical context of the development of the GEPT and reviewing key validation endeavors undertaken in support of the test

◆ *Rethinking EMI: Multidisciplinary Perspectives from Chinese-speaking Regions* (2021)

— A collection drawing on the current practice of EMI in diverse disciplines and university settings and examining ways to address challenges, both pedagogical and learning-related, that arise in implementing EMI at tertiary institutions in Chinese-speaking regions



• LTTC Teaching and Research Grants

- ◆ Intended to support research related to linguistics, applied linguistics, language teaching, and language assessment
- ◆ Offering researchers at all levels of education financial support and/or access to materials and data from tests developed by the LTTC
- ◆ Providing opportunities for educational and research institutions, based either in Taiwan or overseas, to conduct joint research with the LTTC

LTTC website



GEPT information



BESTEP website



LTTC instagram

