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The 4th Other Language Educators Conference Presidential Address

First of all, thank you all for coming, and a warm welcome to the 4th O.L.E Conference. I must apologize for not being in attendance for this wonderful selection of lectures and presentations.

O.L.E is a very important part of JALT, and I want to show my appreciation for the hard work of all the presenters, experts in their field who are promoting languages other than English throughout the world today, thus opening doors into cultures different from our own.

It seems to be the current consensus that English is the language that will be most frequently spoken both in business and on the international stage in the future. However, it is important that we do not forget that there are certainly far more beautiful languages that must continue to be taught no matter what that future may bring.

I would have quite liked to deliver this address in a language other than English, but as a native speaker, I have come to realize that on the whole, we are the people most notoriously bad at learning another language, let alone two or three.

As President, I must therefore take my hat off to the instructors and lectures who are striving, sometimes against the tide to promote these other languages, and hope that language teaching as a whole, rather than just English language teaching continues to thrive and prosper in the future. In short, as the French would say, “Vive la difference!”

Thank you once again and enjoy the conference.