



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

**APEC Second/Foreign Language Standards and their
Assessment:
Trends, Opportunities, and Implications**

APEC EDNET SYMPOSIUM

APEC Human Resources Development Working Group

January 2008

HRD 01/2006

Produced by
Dr. Patricia A. Duff
University of British Columbia
Canada
patricia.duff@ubc.ca

For
APEC Secretariat
35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace Singapore 119616
Tel: (65) 67756012 Fax: (65) 67756013
Email: info@apec.org Website: www.apec.org

© 2008 APEC Secretariat

APEC#208-HR-01.1

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	2
II.	Contextualizing Policy/Standards Trends	2
III.	Observed Policy/Standards Trends across APEC Economies	3
	1. Theory vs. practice in policy/standards implementation	3
	2. Ideologies related to language pedagogy and objectives: Toward communicative and intercultural competence	4
	3. Use of English for content (subject matter) instruction	4
	4. Age of introduction of English and other S/F languages	6
	5. Better alignment needed between (high-stakes) assessment practices and standards	6
IV.	Exemplary Standards “Frameworks”: Language Learning Proficiency Scales for S/FL Learner Profiles	7
	1. Some advantages of CEFR	8
	2. Some limitations of CEFR	9
V.	Other Issues Related to Assessment and Standards	10
	1. Assessing language learners across APEC economies	10
	2. Standards for teachers	13
	2.1 21 st century professional standards and competencies	13
	2.2 Teachers’ L2 metalinguistic knowledge and proficiency	15
VI.	Conclusion	16
	References	16
	Appendix	18