

## Dear COTSEAL Supporters:

My name is Bac Hoai Tran <bact@calmail.berkeley.edu>, and I am the President of the Council of Teachers of Southeast Asian Languages (COTSEAL) <<http://cotseal.net/>> for the current term. The other two COTSEAL Officers are Chhany Sak-Humphry <sak@hawaii.edu>, our Vice President, and Maria Theresa C. Savella <mts12@cornell.edu>, our Secretary.

First of all, on behalf of our organization, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for your continued/future financial support, without which COTSEAL could not maintain all of its activities and grow professionally. We are proud to serve our members and would like to give you a brief report on COTSEAL annual events and, of course, our achievements.

In general, for the past twenty-four years we have tirelessly organized annual conferences on language teaching and learning, mostly as a joint effort with SEASSI <<http://seassi.wisc.edu/>>, as well as sponsoring panels at AAS <<http://www.aasianst.org/>> annual meetings. We have also published our own *Journal of Southeast Asian Language Teaching* (JSEALT), which went from hard copy to an electronic version in Spring 2006 and can be accessed at <<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/jsealt/>>.

Despite its many ups and downs, COTSEAL now has its own website <<http://cotseal.net/>> once again, featuring its constitution, its bylaws, its history, and its conferences. We are hoping to be soon in a position to publish an online newsletter, perhaps within the next few months, and more importantly, to co-organize more language workshops if the Directors of Language Programs across the U.S. are willing to include us in their grant proposals. Also, the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL) <<http://www.councilnet.org/index.html>> has invited COTSEAL to become a permanent component of its annual conference by giving us a 3-hour time block for our own activities. Having accepted this generous offer, we are now co-organizing a workshop on proficiency testing or STAMP tests at this year's NCOLCTL annual meeting.

In brief, in 2009 and beyond, with such financial assistance as yours we will be hosting and/or sponsoring these events:

- (1) The COTSEAL Business Meeting at AAS 2009 in Chicago in March;
- (2) The panel titled "The Contribution of Pop Culture to Foreign Language and Culture Competency: Examples from Thailand and Cambodia" at AAS 2009;
- (3) The workshop on proficiency testing at NCOLCTL 2009 in Madison in April;
- (4) The COTSEAL/SEASSI 2009 conference in Madison in July;
- (5) More language workshops, hopefully in the near future;
- (6) And in addition to putting together an online newsletter, we will continue to solicit refereed articles for our E-JSEALT and more PowerPoint presentations to be shared with teachers and learners of SEA languages.

Thus, we do hope you can see that your monetary contribution will always be well spent and crucial to the development of the field of SEA language teaching, and that COTSEAL can rely on your support. It is your generosity that enables COTSEAL members and their colleagues -- who are professional teachers for the most part and have always paid their dues as well as unstintingly sharing their expertise -- to have the much needed venues where they can come and present their well-researched papers before having them uploaded online or refereed to be published in our E-JSEALT.

We thank you very much for all that you have done or will do for us and we remain

Yours faithfully,

Bac Hoai Tran, Chhany Sak-Humphry, and Maria Theresa C. Savella