

A brief account of ASIALEX 2017



Hai Xu

The 11th International Conference of the Asian Association for Lexicography (ASIALEX 2017) was organized by the National Key Research Center for Linguistics and Applied Linguistics at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies and held in Guangzhou, China from June 10 to 12. As the organizer of its first international conference in 1999, we were proud to host the ASIALEX conference again after it had traveled around nine Asian countries and regions.

The year 2017 is a milestone for the Asian Association for Lexicography, celebrating the 20th anniversary of its foundation. For ASIALEX 2017, we received felicitations from the presidents of our global sister associations AFRILEX, AUSTRALEX, DSN, and EURALEX.

The keynote speakers included:

- Prof. Jianhua Huang of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, (the First President of ASIALEX)
- Prof. Andrea Abel of EURAC Research, President of EURALEX
- Dr. Julia Miller of Adelaide University, President of AUSTRALEX
- Dr. Michael Rundell, Editor-in-Chief of Macmillan Dictionary

We also organized two workshops, on Sketch Engine and DPS5, run by Miloš Jakubíček, of Lexical Computing, and Holger Hvelplund, of IDM, respectively.

The theme of ASIALEX 2017 was Lexicography in Asia: Challenges, Innovations and Prospects. The time is ripe to recognize Asian achievements in lexicographic research and practice over the past 20 years, and to look ahead to see how we can respond to new challenges of the revolutions in corpus linguistics and digital lexicography. In the keynote speeches, Huang and Abel spoke on the common theme of the dictionary user's orientation/participation in the digital age, and Rundell and Miller discussed extended units of meaning, or phraseology, which lexicographers are increasingly aware of as representing the norm, rather than the exception, in language. The issues addressed by these speakers consist of cutting-edge concerns, and most certainly deserve our closest attention.

The conference was met by high enthusiasm of scholars and publishers from Asia and beyond. As one of the largest conferences in its series, ASIALEX 2017 hosted around 160 participants from 75 institutes over 24 countries and regions in Asia, Europe, Africa and North America. Of the 130 abstracts submitted, the total number of papers accepted was 111. The talks roughly covered the following topics: digital lexicography, general-purpose lexicography, cognitive approaches to lexicography, bilingual lexicography, pedagogical lexicography, specialized lexicography, and historical lexicography. We were truly indebted to the contributors and reviewers for their hard work in bringing together such a remarkable meeting.

While preparations for this grand event were under way, we sadly lost two great lexicographers who were highly influential in both China and abroad: Professor Gusun Lu of Fudan University, who passed away on July 28, 2016, and Professor Boran Zhang of Nanjing University, who passed away on May 26, 2017. They both made enormous contributions to our field. To honour their achievements, we set up a special session in their memory on the topic of unabridged Chinese-English and English-Chinese dictionaries.

Hai Xu

Guangdong University of Foreign Studies
Convener, ASIALEX 2017

ASIALEX
The Asian Association for Lexicography

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LEXICOGRAPHY Journal of ASIALEX

Shigeru Yamada (Waseda University, Japan) and Hai Xu (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, China) were appointed Co-Chief Editors as of June 2017.
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Next Conferences

ASIALEX 2018 will be held in Krabi, Thailand on 8-10 June.
ASIALEX 2019 will be at Istanbul University, Turkey in June 2019.
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