

On May 21st of this year Bruce Lander gave a short presentation about Storyline to fellow foreign language instructors at an educational conference in Matsumoto, Japan. The main objective of Bruce's talk in Matsumoto was to give an insight into the Storyline Approach, which for the most part is unheard of in the region. The talk was based on a previous meeting with Steve Bell who kindly spared a few hours of his time back in the summer of 2010 to inform Bruce of the value and learning experience that Storyline provides. Steve introduced Bruce to his colleagues in Germany who currently use Storyline in the English as a Foreign language (EFL) context.

The presentation was very well attended, with an audience of around 25 fellow teachers, all of whom listened intently and provided several post-presentation questions. Questions raised after the talk, involved aspects of negotiating between teachers and students with regard to the line the story takes. A very valid point as in Japan traditionally no form of negotiating would occur between the students. Students here, for the most part accept their learning goals, whatever they may be. Such learning goals, usually test based that follow strict guidelines, have a tendency to prevail in Japan. In a land where education runs under a very much reformist style, students have little autonomy in the classroom with regards to what and how they learn. Traditionally students here are quite passive learners and may not be adapt to learning with the Storyline approach.

However it was stated by one attendee that Storyline, with appropriate guidance and understanding could be utilized at first in the mother language context then later introduced into EFL. Bruce intends to continue his research into the fabulous world of Storyline and develop a base here, first in the primary school context then at a later date as a valid methodology in EFL.

For further information on the foreign language industry and encompassing research in Japan click here for the Japan Association of Language Teaching (JALT). <http://www.jalt.org>

To read the published paper introducing Storyline to educators in Japan with the title

Approaching Teaching and Learning through Collaborative Storytelling: An Interview with Steve Bell - Bruce Lander: click here: <http://ld-sig.org/LL/18one/2011a.pdf>

Pics below are:

1. The symbol of the Conference at which I presented.
2. Matsumoto Castle a famous landmark in the town where I presented.
3. the same castle but with me and a colleague in front!



May 21st and 22nd

1. Shinshu University, Matsumoto, Nagano



2.



3.