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### Abstract for Concurrent Session

#### *World Englishes Across Cultures: Implications for the ELT Curriculum and Materials Development*

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The most common role of English in Asia is as a lingua franca, where it has been estimated that there are up to one billion users of English. This means that the great majority of English speakers are multilinguals who use English to communicate with fellow multilinguals from the region. This lingua franca role of English has recently been enshrined by the ASEAN Charter, which states that English is the sole working and official language of ASEAN. In this paper, I shall argue that the English language curriculum should therefore become a curriculum of inter-cultural communication whereby students can learn about the cultures of their fellow multilinguals. This cross-cultural curriculum could include a course in ASEAN literatures in English and cross-cultural pragmatics. In this way, an ASEAN English language curriculum can become a curriculum which provides an in-depth study of ASEAN cultures. I shall conclude the presentation by describing the 'Asian culture-based project', in which Indonesian colleagues and myself developed a college English language textbook for Indonesian learners of English based on local and regional cultures.