

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **CAMBRIDGE ESOL CHAMPIONS SOUTH AFRICAN TEACHERS**

**Cambridge, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009:** Cambridge ESOL, part of the University of Cambridge and the world's leading provider of English language assessment, recently enabled a group of South African teachers to participate in a Hornby School initiative.

Part of the A.S Hornby Trust, the project, which was organised by the British Council, specifically focused on English for work. The teachers from Vaal University of Technology were able to directly engage with a number of English language teaching experts and benefit from their extensive knowledge and expertise over the course of the five day event held in Cape Town.

One of the participants, Christelle Oleofse, lecturer at Vaal University of Technology explains: "Having the opportunity to share experiences and network with other teachers in Africa was extremely stimulating and helped to boost my confidence. With the mother tongue considered to be Afrikaans and Tswana for 99.9% of our students, it is vital that we best prepare them for the global business environment. Thanks to Cambridge ESOL and the Hornby School Project my colleagues and I can ensure that a model of good practice is developed and implemented so as to guarantee our students are better equipped when they make the move into the world of work."

The project recognises that a suitable command of English can be a vehicle for professional, social and economic empowerment in the region. Separate sessions were carried out looking more closely at curricula, materials and methods providing real life examples of best practice in the UK and internationally, in order for valuable lessons to be drawn for Southern Africa moving forward.

Paul Woods, Regional English Manager for British Council, Southern Africa comments: "Through its generous sponsorship, Cambridge ESOL has helped these teachers to better understand the role of English for work and how a long-term strategy can be formulated and sustained. We hope that this will equip the teachers to cascade the acquired knowledge and ensure that a common standard is implemented which benefits the students as they move into the commercial environment."

Mike Milanovic, CEO for Cambridge ESOL comments: "Cambridge ESOL is an organisation that cares deeply about integrating teaching, learning and assessment. Being able to support the Hornby School Project and allow these teachers access to the numerous subject matter experts gives us enormous pride, and fully aligns with our goal to help set an internationally recognised standard for English language teaching. We look forward to helping other teachers in the Southern Africa region benefit from similar events in the future."

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors:**

**About Cambridge ESOL**

University of Cambridge ESOL examinations is the world's leading language assessment provider. It provides [exams in English language](#) for over 2 million people every year, in more than 130 countries as well as a range of [qualifications for language teachers](#). Around the world, thousands of universities, employers and government ministries rely on Cambridge ESOL certificates as proof of English language ability. A Cambridge ESOL certificate can determine whether the career is progressed or a university place offered, while the broader examination results can help to determine a nation's education and investment policy.

It is a not-for-profit department of the [University of Cambridge](#) and is part of the [Cambridge Assessment group](#), Europe's largest assessment agency which provides exams and tests covering a huge range of subjects and levels; more than eight million are taken every year. University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations is a founding member of [the Association of Language Testers in Europe \(ALTE\)](#) and works closely with testing organisations, schools and academics throughout the world to support the development of language testing in theory and practice.