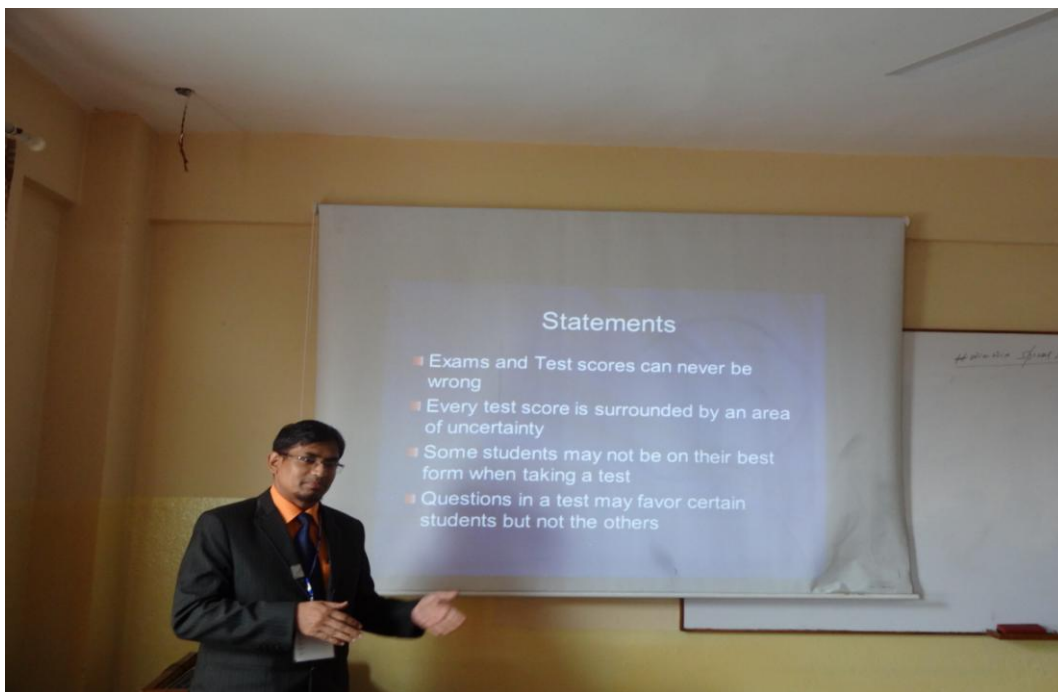


Takad Ahmed Chowdhury Presented a Paper and a Workshop at the 19th NELTA International Conference

Takad Ahmed Chowdhury, Associate Professor, Department of English, UAP presented a paper and a workshop at the 19th NELTA International Conference held on 27th February-1st March, 2014 in Kathmandu, and 2nd March-4th March, 2014 in Hetauda, Nepal. Organized by the Nepal English Language Teachers' Association (NELTA) as its most important annual international event, the conference offered a professional get together of a large number of ELT practitioners, experts, textbook/material writers, teacher trainers, etc. from both Nepal and many other parts of the world. Titled "**Integration of Technology in Language Classroom: Some Guiding Principles**", Mr. Chowdhury's talk advocated that technology-mediated language learning, as a substitute to traditional classroom activities, promises a rich language learning environment if there is a variety of carefully chosen, well-presented and easily accessible resources. It can effectively facilitate communication, reduce fretfulness, hearten oral discussion, increase student motivation, ease cross cultural awareness and improve writing skills. After reviewing the factors affecting language learning, his paper suggested some working guidelines for effective use of technology in language learning.



His workshop was titled "**Performance Assessment in EFL classroom: Methods and Practices**". Presented jointly with Md. Zulfeqar Haider, a research student at Monash University, Australia, it first introduced the key features of performance assessment and then engaged the participants in applying the idea of performance assessments in EFL classrooms. The workshop also discussed the three important variables of performance assessment e.g. directness, context and authenticity and finally offered hands on practices for developing performance test items for EFL learners.

It is to be noted that, this time NELTA was proud to have Professor Stoyhoff (Prof with Distinguished Faculty Scholar designation) from Department of English, College of Arts and Humanities, and Interim Dean of International Affairs, Minnesota State University, USA, Professor Keith Morrow from the UK, the editor of ELT Journal for 17 years who has worked in teaching and management roles in

both the university and private sector of ELT and now a consultant and trainer with a focus on curriculum and materials development, and language testing and assessment, and Dr. Z. N. Patil, Professor and Head of the Department of Training and Development of the *School of English Language Education, The English and Foreign Languages University*, Hyderabad, India. The theme of this year's conference was **'Authentic Assessment: A Paradigm Shift from Traditional to Alternative Evaluation'**.