



**Spreading the word at TESOL Greece  
TESOL Macedonia-Thrace Northern Greece  
by Paul Shaw**

The Disabled Access Friendly campaign was privileged to be present at the 31<sup>st</sup> TESOL Greece International Convention, in Athens, March 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>. The campaign, which aims to raise awareness through ELT of people with mobility/disability, was represented by Paul Shaw and had the support of other central members of the team, Dr. Luke Prodromou and David Gibson.

The board during the run up to the convention, as well as during and after it, were active members in supporting the campaign and spreading the word. The campaign would like to thank the board for both allowing the campaign's aims and a sample of a lesson plan to be placed in the Welcome packs, as well as placing our leaflet in the convention brochure.

The main aim of our presence in Athens was to raise the campaign's profile. Throughout the convention building there were posters showing part of a sample lesson, where members had to find ten of the problems that people with mobility/disability on a city street would find.

It was encouraging to see teachers repeatedly stopping to have another look until they could find the ten. This was only part of a lesson. Underneath each picture there was a form where teachers could fill in their email addresses so as to receive the rest of the lesson and its lesson plan. Lessons such as these will be on our website [www.disabled-accessfriendly.com](http://www.disabled-accessfriendly.com), online soon. We would also like to thank ELTnews and Burlington books for agreeing to collect emails as well.

It was also a great occasion for networking and many promises were made about writing lesson plans for the site. We look forward to those lesson plans and worksheets being sent to us. And there were many promises!

The following weekend 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> the Disabled Access Friendly campaign had been invited to take part in the 18th TESOL Macedonia-Thrace, Northern Greece International Convention. The campaign had been kindly allowed to place its information material in the Welcome packs and posters showing the lesson of 'Spot the problem with the city street' around the convention.

We would particular like to thank the Chair, Julia Tanner, for her kind help and her board's invitation to allow the campaign to make a brief presentation before the board's feedback to its members.

Katie Quartano and Paul Shaw presented a brief powerpoint about the campaign's aims, the need for such sensitization in our ELT classrooms, our supporters, and crucially how members of the ELT world could get involved in the campaign. During the talk, members of the team managed to collect a sizeable number of emails from attendees who all agreed that they wished to be involved in either using the material, producing material or helping in whatever way they could.

For the team, both events were highly rewarding in that it was pleasing to see that the majority of the ELT community had already heard about the campaign. Secondly, the overwhelming support we received at both conventions gave the Disabled Access Friendly team, which is a voluntary campaign an added boost.

Already, all attendees in Athens and Thessaloniki who gave their emails have already received the full lesson and lesson plan and will be informed of our latest developments. If you would like to receive the full lesson and plan if you missed the chance at the TESOL conventions and of future developments then send your request to [disabledaccessfriendly@hotmail.com](mailto:disabledaccessfriendly@hotmail.com). You are more than welcome to contact us if you feel that you can contribute to the Disabled Access Friendly campaign no matter how small.

Once again the team would like to thank both boards for their ongoing help and cooperation.

The Disabled Access Friendly campaign team